

Bakken Briefs

Crosby approves \$10.5M bid

The Crosby City Council voted 4-3 to move ahead with a \$10.5 million bid for a controversial water and sewer infrastructure project on the city's north side, with Mayor Kjell Vassen casting the tiebreaking vote.

Three council members voted in favor, while another three voted no. That 3-3 tie left Vassen to decide the fate of the project, as is outlined in state law for cities governed by a city council. Vassen then voted in favor.

Similar tie votes were subsequently broken by Vassen to award a contract to the low bidder; prepare an application for a loan from the State Revolving Fund that includes loan forgiveness; and engage with Interstate Engineering in an estimated \$1.7 million contract for construction engineering services for the project.

--The Journal, Crosby

Wind energy storage sought

NextEra Energy announced it has purchased 20 acres of land adjacent to its wind farm collector substation in Burke County to house a battery storage substation.

The substation would house a 100-megawatt, four-hour battery storage system, with enough electricity to power approximately 82,000 North Dakota homes for four hours.

NextEra is targeting December 2026 for commercial operation, pending permits. Construction can take up to 12 months due to North Dakota's winter weather.

Clay Cameron, NextEra development director, and Sarah Montone, project director, presented the project to the Burke County Commission on May 21. Cameron said the project would be the first of its kind in North Dakota.

--Burke County Tribune, Bowbells Farewell to Centennial Court

A farewell to the Centennial Court independent-living apartments in Stanley was held May 29, with work slated to begin this summer on an expansion project at the hospital campus that will eventually include new apartments.

Mountrail County Health Center has been working over the past four-and-a-half years on plans to add new services to the hospital, expand residences at the Rosen Place assisted-living center and build a brand-new, state-of-the-art nursing home facility.

The first phase of the construction will be a new 36-bed nursing home following the demolition of Centennial Court in July. Once that phase is complete, work can begin to remove the old nursing home, renovate the hospital and add new apartments to Rosen Place.

--Mountrail County Promoter, Stanley

'Mohall Plaza' finds new use

The city of Mohall offices and a new business have both decided

to move into the former Good Samaritan Society nursing home, now called the Mohall Plaza.

The Good Samaritan Society had gifted the building to the city over the winter, and city employees and council members have since spent time cleaning it out and trying to get new tenants into it.

The city is planning to relocate its offices by mid-June, and Shannon Grondahl and Loretta Scott will be starting a pizza business in there later this month.

Grondahl and Scott will be signing a lease with the city for their business, which they will be calling The Hive Pizza. They are waiting for a liquor license from the state.

--Renville County Farmer, Mohall Hearing set for GTL project

The North Dakota Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing in Williston on June 17 regarding a proposal to construct two gas-to-liquid facilities in southwestern Williams County.

According to a release from the commission, Cerilon GTL ND Inc. is requesting a siting permit for a project "which includes two gas-to-liquid facilities on a single site and includes electric power generation as a secondary benefit from excess steam generation."

The project site is located approximately one-and-a-half miles southwest of Trenton. The facilities would be constructed in two phases.

Each facility, the release said, "will be able to convert 240 million standard cubic feet per day of natural gas to 24,000 barrels per day of liquid hydrocarbon products."

--Williston Herald

Minot mulls ag development

Planners who will be researching the Minot region over the next several months to identify the most suitable sites for large-scale animal agriculture met with local government officials and other interested individuals May 28 to outline the process and take input.

Souris Basin Planning Council, working with counties in its seven-county region, obtained a state grant for the study. The 2023 Legislature authorized the grants across the state to advance studies and encourage animal agriculture.

Local officials discussed problems with livestock operators who have not followed local rules and the influence those experiences can have on a community's acceptance of larger livestock facilities. Others said the lack of butchering facilities is a detriment to livestock growth.

--Minot Daily News

Memorials Received By Mountrail Community Food Pantry

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry received a donation in memory of Jack Cvancara from Jeff and Deena Lapica.

Donations are very appreciated and may be mailed to 6989 84th Ave NW, Stanley 58784.

Lignite Energy Council, NRECA File Petition For Review EPA's MATS Regulations

The Lignite Energy Council and the National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA) filed a Petition for Review in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals last Monday against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new Mercury and Air Toxic Standards (MATS). This petition is the initial step in filing litigation. The MATS rule, finalized at the end of April, will tighten the emission standards of mercury and non-mercury metals for existing lignite-fired power plants. Since 2010, mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants have been reduced by 90 percent and non-mercury metals by more than 81 percent.

The lignite industry is a fundamental part of North Dakota's economy, annually contributing more than \$5.75 billion and 55 percent of North Dakota's electricity generation in 2022. The EPA's final MATS rule threatens to jeopardize the stability of the U.S. power grid and impose excessive costs on coal-fired power plants.

U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND), member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, applauded the legal action taken by the Lignite Energy Council and the NRECA. "The Biden administration's

Mercury and Air Toxic Standards are onerous and costly, showing their real goal is to kill reliable, affordable coal," said Cramer. "The American public is already paying drastically more for less dependable energy, and this regulation will accelerate grid unreliability across the country. North Dakota's coal industry must be protected from the liberals who wish to regulate it out of existence. I commend the Lignite Energy Council and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for taking legal action against this discriminatory rule."

Coal plants have made significant capital investments to outfit their facilities with technologies to reduce pollutants. Under this stricter rule, the same coal plants will now have to comply with new, costly regulations, threatening the viability of lignite power plants.

Senator Cramer and U.S. Representative Kelly Armstrong (R-ND) sent a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan last year, requesting the withdrawal or significant revision of the then-proposed regulation rule. In the letter, the members expressed concerns about the consequences MATS would have on North Dakota's lignite coal fleet.

Hoeven Outlines Importance Of Crop Insurance

At a hearing of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator John Hoeven outlined the importance of providing beginning farmers and ranchers with tools to ensure the success of their operations as part of the next farm bill. Specifically, Hoeven made the case for incorporating provisions he authored as part of the Farm Bill, including:

- The Federal Agriculture Risk Management Enhancement and Resilience (FARMER) Act, legislation to strengthen crop insurance and make higher levels of coverage more affordable for producers.

- The Producer and Agricultural Credit Enhancement (PACE) Act, legislation Hoeven introduced with Senator Amy Klobuchar to improve farmers and ranchers' access to credit by modernizing loan limitations for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan programs.

"We need to support the next generation of farmers and ranchers so American families continue to have access to the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world," said Hoeven. "The average producer is currently close to 60 years old. We need to encourage young people to get into agriculture and to help make sure they're successful. That includes ensuring that they are able to access affordable crop insurance, as well as the capital necessary for their operations. We have a good opportunity to do just that in the upcoming farm bill, which is why I've introduced legislation to bolster these important tools."

Hoeven's FARMER Act:

- Increases premium support for higher levels of crop insurance coverage, which will enhance affordability and reduce the need for ad-hoc disaster assistance.
- Improves the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) by increasing premium support and expanding the coverage level, providing producers with an additional level of protection.
- Directs the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to conduct a study to improve the effectiveness of SCO in large counties.
- Would not require producers to choose between purchasing en-

hanced crop insurance coverage or participating in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, giving them flexibility to make decisions that work best for their operations.

The PACE Act:

- Increases loan limitations for the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs for Farm Operating Loans and Farm Ownership Loans by the following amounts:

- o Direct Operating: Increase from \$400,000 to \$750,000
- o Guaranteed Operating: Increase from \$2.04 million to \$2.6 million

- o Direct Ownership: Increase from \$600,000 to \$850,000
- o Guaranteed Ownership: Increase from \$2.04 million to \$3 million

- Changes the inflation benchmark for guaranteed ownership loans to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Ag Land Values land survey.

- Indexes the Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Program to align with current loan limitations, helping support beginning farmers and ranchers to finance the purchase of a family farm.

- Increases loan limitations for the FSA microloan program from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

- Directs FSA to promulgate rules allowing distressed borrowers to refinance guaranteed loans into direct loans.

Memorials Received By Stanley Park District

In memory of Jack Cvancara from Aaron and Ashley Skarsgard, and Randy and Bonnie Nichols.

In memory of Jack Cvancara from Mike and Tammy Littlefield, Gayne and Barb Meiers, Gene and Carol Hanson, Ardis Afseth, Glad Meiers, Amy Frandson, and Candice and Gary Ruden, for the outdoor pool.

Memorials are appreciated and can be mailed to PO Box 901, Stanley, ND 58784.

Three Vehicle Crash Results In Several Serious Injuries

A three vehicle crash occurred on Highway 23 at mile marker 33, approximately 14 miles west of New Town in McKenzie County on Thursday, June 6. According to information from the ND Highway Patrol, the crash occurred at 2:39 p.m.

A 1969 Ford Mustang, driven by Ronald Klimpel, age 76 of Michigan, ND, was stopped near the fog line facing west with its left turn signal activated, waiting to make a left turn off Highway 23 onto a gravel road. Klimpel was waiting for a 2022 Ford F150 traveling east on Highway 23, driven by Philip Tyra, age 38 of Minot, before turning left onto the gravel road. A 2005 Nissan Murano, driven by Richard Booker, age 45 of Minot, was also traveling west on Highway 23 behind the Mustang. Booker's vehicle struck the rear of the Mustang which came to rest in the north ditch of Highway 23. The Murano entered the east lane of Highway 23 and struck the F150. The Murano came to rest in the middle of Highway 23 while the F150 came to rest on the shoulder of the road.

Ronald Klimpel, driver of the Mustang, sustained serious injuries and was flown to Sanford Hospital in Bismarck. His passenger, Linda Klimpel, age 76 of Michigan, sustained minor injuries and was released on scene. Both were listed as wearing their seatbelts.

Richard Booker, driver of the Murano, sustained serious injuries and was transported to McKenzie County Health in Watford City and later transferred to Sanford Hospital in Fargo. His passenger, Ausha Scales, age 42 of Minot, sustained serious injuries and was flown to Sanford Hospital in Fargo. The eight year old juvenile male passenger in the vehicle sustained serious injuries and was flown to Trinity Health in Minot and was later transferred to Sanford Hospital in Fargo. Both passengers in the vehicle were listed as using their seatbelts, while the driver was not.

Phillip Tyra, driver of the Ford F150, sustained minor injuries and was released on scene. He was also listed as wearing his seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol. Other agencies involved included the McKenzie County Sheriff's Office, McKenzie County Ambulance, New Town Ambulance and Keene Fire Department.

Memorials Received By Ina Mae Rude Aquatic Center

In memory of Grace Johnson and Marvin Johnson from Jan Aardahl.

In memory of Jack Cvancara and Raymond Iverson from Roger and Renae Gjellstad.

In memory of Jack Cvancara from Ken and Donna Ranum.

Card of Thanks

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry would like to thank the Veteran's Gaming Funds and the Beach Bar for choosing our pantry as a recipient of their gaming funds. Thank you so much! And thank you to the patrons that support the games. These funds make a tremendous difference for so many people.

Thank you, and God bless you!
c Mary Dennis, Director

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

As a North Dakota resident and longtime resident of District 2, I have always cherished the close-knit community spirit and the genuine, neighborly way we conduct our local elections. It is disheartening to witness the increasing prevalence of negative political ads in our local races, which have traditionally been difficult to fill due to the demanding nature of public service and the modest rewards. Candidates from out of state, or those who haven't lived here for decades, are now throwing their hats into the ring, seeking voter consideration. I have been involved in district politics for nearly two decades and we now have candidates wishing to represent us that I have never met or seen at a district meeting. Big city politics have found their way to North Dakota and these candidates, who often lack a deep understanding of our community's needs and values or the challenges of the oil boom we have endured, don't even respect us enough to change their out-of-state phone numbers on the backs of their mailers to local ones. This in itself is a representation of their disconnect from North Dakotan's everyday realities.

For decades, candidates in our local elections have run based on their commitment to improving our community, focusing on issues that truly matter to us like education and the economy. However, recent trends have shown a troubling shift. Big-money interests, recognizing the high rate of return on investment in local races, have begun to target our hometown elections. These external influences have brought with them a barrage of negative political ads, funded by shadowy groups (which they will deny) whose primary goal seems to be disruption rather than the enhancement of our community's quality of life.

It is particularly distressing to see how these negative ads, often filled with personal attacks and very misleading information, have overshadowed the substantive discussions that our local elections once centered on. Instead of fostering an environment where candidates can debate policies and propose solutions, we are now subjected to a flood of divisive and harmful rhetoric that serves only to polarize our community.

The value of money invested in local races may be higher than in national elections, but this should not come at the expense of our community's integrity and cohesion. Our local elections should be about choosing experienced leaders who genuinely care about our community and are dedicated to serving their neighbors, not about who can spend the most money (often raised from out-of-state) to produce the most damaging attack ads.

As residents, we must remain vigilant and demand better from those who seek to influence our local politics. Let us support candidates who run positive campaigns, focusing on their vision and plans for our community rather than those tearing down their opponents. By doing so, we can preserve the spirit of our hometown and ensure that our local government remains a force for good, dedicated to improving the quality of life for all.

Sincerely,
Dennis A. Lindahl
Stanley, ND

Dr. Susan Asheim
is now seeing patients
on Mondays and Wednesdays
from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
inside the Optometry Clinic of Stanley!
Located at 102 S Main Street, Stanley ND 58784.

PREMIER
CHIROPRACTIC

Call and
schedule
your
appointment
today
701-838-0090



Oil, Gas & Mineral Law



PRINGLE & HERIGSTAD, P.C.
SCOTT M. KNUDSVIG
ATTORNEY AT LAW
2525 ELK DRIVE
PO BOX 1000 · MINOT, ND 58702
Phone (701) 852-0381
1-800-735-4064
www.pringlelaw.net

MISSOURI RIVER ROYALTY CORPORATION (MRRC)

*Leasing and Buying
Core Bakken minerals!*



Please contact Sander Kopseng at 701-226-6128
or at skopseng@unitedenergycorp.com



SONSHINE
CARWASH

Truck Wash ~
Car Wash ~ Dog Wash
911 4th St. SW, Stanley
Dog Wash Now Available!
Exterior and Interior
Detailing Available
Cars, Trucks, Campers, etc.
Call for Appointment:
(701)629-8960



Shade Tree Experts Business since 1974

R & C Tree Service
Now Working in the Area
Complete Tree Service:
Trimming & Removal
Stump Removal


Modern Equipment
Excellent Work - Fair Price - Free Estimates
License & Bonded Insured

CALL J.P. Roberge 701-334-0381
or toll-free 1-800-334-1518


Credit Cards Accepted



AKN020775



HAPPY 21ST KAYLE!
Love, your family



Facts Matter

Our founding fathers knew
knowledge was power when
they made "Freedom of Speech"
our first amendment.

Now more than ever journalism matters.
Facts matter. Real news matters.

**For facts and real news,
read your local newspaper.**

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
View NDNA's "Real News vs. Fake News" video:
http://bit.ly/ndna_real_news