

## VCHS gets all jazzed up

By Paul McDonald  
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The Valley City High School Jazz band entertained the audience at the Hi-Liner Activity Center in the last music concert of the school year.

lected from just about every continent with Antartica and Australia the exceptions.

Ms. Elliott said “preparing for this concert has brought all of us out of our comfort zones and inspired some hands on experience and learning beyond just the notes on the page.” Elliott continues, “I had an absolute blast exposing students to new dances, new stories, and new melodies that are so important to other cultures.”

One of the pieces, “Prayer of Healing” was commissioned by El-

liott, specifically for this group of students from local composer Paul Cravens. This was the first time this piece has been performed anywhere. And as it said in the program, is “for all who have lost a loved one, and for Landon.”

Senior Hadley Thoreson won the Louis Armstrong Jazz Band Award. Senior Nicholas Kruta won the Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence and Senior KaiAna Puckett won the John Philip Sousa Band Award.



“Around the World” Jazz Band concert with Conductor Rebecca Elliott. BELOW RIGHT I-r Hadley Thoreson, Nicholas Kruta and KaiAna Puckett  
Photos by Alyssa Thomsen/Times Record



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## Tips to make a yard less attractive to ticks

*Special to Times-Record*

Backyards are ideal places to spend warm afternoons soaking up some sun. Lazy days in the yard are a big part of what makes warm weather seasons like spring and summer so appealing. But those afternoons can quickly go off the rails when an unwelcome visitor makes its presence known.

Ticks can be found throughout the world, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that only a select few types of ticks transmit bacteria, viruses and parasites, or pathogens, that cause diseases in people. But even if the number of tick species that transmit diseases to humans is relatively low, ticks that can infect humans are a notable threat. Such ticks carry pathogens that the CDC notes can cause a number of diseases, including Bourbon virus, Ehrlichiosis and, of course, Lyme disease, among others.

Human beings can come into contact with ticks in their own backyards. But humans can take various steps to make their lawns less welcoming to ticks.

- Cut your grass short and keep it that way. Black-legged ticks are transmitters of Lyme disease, which the CDC notes is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. Lyme disease also poses a growing threat in Canada, where data from the Public Health Agency

indicates human-reported Lyme disease cases increased from 144 in 2009 to more than 2,100 in 2022. Black-legged ticks do not like environments that are dry and hot, so short grass makes lawns less attractive to this type of tick. Consumer Reports advises homeowners who have let their grass grow a little too high (around five or six inches) to bag their clippings when cutting the grass. Lots of clippings on the grass can provide a respite from the heat for black-legged ticks.

- Create a tick barrier if your property abuts woods. Woods provide a cover from summer heat that black-legged ticks crave. So properties that abut the woods may be more vulnerable to these unwanted guests than yards that do not border woodlands. A barrier of dry mulch made of wood chips between a property and a bordering wooded area can help repel ticks, who won't want to settle in often dry, hot mulch beds.

- Plant with infestation prevention in mind. Some plants can help to repel ticks because they boast certain characteristics that ticks cannot tolerate. The fragrances, textures and oils of plants like garlic, mint, lavender, marigolds, and others create less welcoming conditions for ticks. Homeowners can speak with local garden centers



for advice on tick-repellant plants that can thrive in their particular climate and on their properties.

- Remove yard debris. Piles of wood, leaves and brush can make for good conditions for ticks that transmit disease. After raking leaves and gathering brush, discard the resulting piles immediately.

These measures will not necessarily prevent all ticks from establishing themselves on a property, so individuals are urged to inspect their bodies and the bodies of their pets after a day in the yard.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Barnes County Water Resource District  
PO Box 306  
Valley City, ND 58072  
701-845-8508

**Monday May 13, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.**  
Barnes County Highway Department, Conference Room  
Members of the public unable to attend may participate in the Teams meeting:  
Call: +1 323-457-5870  
Phone Conference ID: 663 266 444#

**Agenda**  
Call to Order  
April Minutes  
**Old Business:**  
Hansen/Hurley Complaint  
Surface Drain Permit Appl. No. 6221-  
Pat Hurley Drain  
VC Little Dam  
NRCS-RCPP: Ten Mile Lake  
Thordenskjold Drain  
Clausen Springs Dam  
Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study  
Stewart-Anderson Drain No.2

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
Drain Tile Appl. - Aaron Larson  
Engineer Report  
Legal Report  
**Bills**  
**Adjourn**

(May 9, 2024)