

NDNA AWARDS

Continued from A6

between state agencies and local governments concerning pipeline approvals, highlighting instances where state authorities have overridden local decisions,” a judge of the contest stated. “Through meticulous research and balanced reporting, the journalist brings to light the complexities of regulatory power dynamics and their implications for communities and the environment.”

This is the third year in a row The Record has brought home awards from the NDNA convention, which Publisher Kelsey Majeske said is a testament to the newspaper’s support from the local community.

“I enjoy seeing each staff member recognized for their

work,” Majeske said. “Local newspapers are a representation of their community, if our reporters, sales team and designers are winning awards that is a direct reflection of the support from our communities. We hope our readers and advertisers are proud of how we represent them each week! We want to thank our subscribers for allowing us to continue to cover your community through good news and bad, and to our advertisers for allowing us to be creative with marketing your advertising campaigns and promotions to reach our readers. Without all of you we could not produce your award-winning newspaper.”

PUBLIC NOTICES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A15

Mr. Dick was contacted by Supt Fraase Wolf to ask his assistance with being Supt for next year. Mr. Dick contacted board members potential leaders and discussed roles these people would take on. He was impressed with the willingness for all to step up and do extra duties to keep the school running smoothly. He also presented two costs associated with facilitating the process for the 2025-26 school year. Supt Fraase Wolf and Jayden Streifel recommended using Option 1 and hiring CREA. Bender made a motion to hire Mr. Dick at a rate of \$100/hour. Anticipated cost will be \$12,000 to \$15,000, this would include 120-150 hours to implement what is needed, second Meidinger and carried unanimously to approve.

New Business – School board election will be June 10, 2025 from 11:00 to 7:00 at the school.

Discussed time for summer school board meetings. Consensus was to hold summer meetings at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting will be June 9, 2025 at 8:00 p.m.

J. Meier made a motion to adjourn, second Meidinger and carried unanimously to approve.

ATTEST:

Joyce Scherr, Business Manager
Francis Meier, President
(05-29-2025)

IN DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY OF EMMONS, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF: XAVIER JOHN LOMMEN 15-2025-CV-15 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

1. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for the above-entitled matter will be filed with the Clerk of District Court for Emmons County, North Dakota, requesting an Order changing the name of Xavier John Lommen to Xavier John Scheurer.

2. Pursuant to N.D.C.C. 32-28-02, thirty days previous notice of the intended application must be given in the official newspaper in this county. You are hereby notified that thirty days after publication, Petitioner intends to file a petition requesting entry of the Court’s Order changing the name of Xavier John Lommen to Xavier John Scheurer. Any objection to granting this name change must be given in writing to the address listed bloew within 30 days of the date of this publication. The written objection must also be filed with the Court. If no objections are given, the Court may respond to the Petition without further hearing.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2025.

O’KEEFFE O’BRIEN LYSON LTD.
/s/ Tasha M. Gahner
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tasha@okeeffeatorneys.com
Attorney for Petitioner
(05-29-2025) (06-05-2025) (06-12-2025)

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 10th day of June, 2025, the annual school board election will be held at the Emmons County Courthouse, Linton, North Dakota, for the purpose of electing members to the Linton School Board and whether to publish a record of the proceedings of the School Board in the newspaper of general circulation of the school district for the succeeding two years.

The polls will be open at 9:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m. of that day.

Marcia King, Business Manager
Linton Public School District No. 36
Linton, North Dakota
(05-22-2025) (05-29-2025)

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday the 10th day of June 2025, an election will be held for the purpose of electing one board member (Berlin District) to the Zeeland School District #4. Election will be held at the Zeeland Public School and the polls will be open at 11 a.m. and will close at 7 p.m.of that day. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the business manager.

Joyce Scherr
Business Manager
Zeeland Public School #4
Zeeland, ND 58581
(05-29-2025)

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RELATING TO N.D. ADMIN. CODE CHAPTER 33-03-10.1 HOME HEALTH AGENCIES

TAKE NOTICE that the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code chapter 33-03-10.1 relating to the licensing and requirements of Home Health Agencies at **3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2025, in Bismarck, N.D. in AV Room 210, located on the second floor of the Judicial Wing of the State Capitol.**

Copies of the proposed rules are available for review at human service zones offices and at human service centers. Copies of the proposed rules and the regulatory analysis relating to these rules may be requested by telephoning (701) 328-2311. Written or oral data, views, or arguments may be entered at the hearing or sent to: Rules Administrator, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, State Capitol - Judicial Wing, 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250. Written data, views, or arguments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2025.

ATTENTION PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If you plan to attend the hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Department of Health and Human Services at the above telephone number or address at least two weeks prior to the hearing.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2025.

ATTENTION



USE YOUR VOICE

County’s ‘Roll of Dice’
Destroying Roads

At the January 7, 2025, commissioner meeting – part 1, newly hired Road Superintendent Russ Lawler was confrontational and irrational toward the commissioners and auditor. He made baseless accusations at 1:42:54 and 1:56:06, stating that Emmons County is “old school” and “far behind the eight ball.”

Fast forward to March and April 2025, the surrounding counties, McIntosh, Logan, Campbell & McPherson, started their yearly grading process by cleaning lost gravel and binder from the shoulders, reincorporating it back into the gravel roadways, and rebuilding the crown (center) of their roads.

Instead of Lawler evaluating the county roads and building on the successes of the past, he chose a different route, with the approval of the commissioners, which resulted in damage to a large part of the county road system. At the May 6, 2025, meeting – part 2 – at 10:23, Lawler stated, “I’m just rolling the dice and hoping we will get through this. I’m just trying something a little bit different.”

Lawler instructed the Emmons County grade operators to install pick edges on their graders and to go out and aggressively grade the gravel off the crown of the road and onto the shoulders, forcing them to destroy years of hard work spent crowning and maintaining the roads. In multiple places the crown of the road was lowered and, in many places, even removed. There are also places where the center of the road is inverted, actually lower than the shoulders. The result of doing this is that the majority of gravel is far out on the shoulder of the road and spilling down the slope of the ditch.

This aggressive grading has contaminated the gravel with clay, topsoil, and rock. It has also put a lot of holes in the roads and has pulled out large rocks and fractured them. These large rocks are now laying on top of the road and windrows at the sides of the road. These rocks are driven over by traffic and eventually roll down the ditches resulting in landowners having to either remove them or mow around them. These jagged rocks on the road are causing damage to vehicle, trailer, and implement tires. It is not clear why Lawler chose such an aggressive grading method which goes against common sense and everything that grade operators and road superintendents are taught at LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program) training seminars.

Why would the commissioners make such a reckless decision by supporting Lawler’s grading plan when he told them it was a “roll of the dice”? How did Lawler convince all five (5) commissioners that his plan would work? Commissioners are responsible for millions of taxpayer dollars, assets, and the road system. It is their responsibility to keep the road system maintained for the commerce of the agricultural, commercial, and private sectors, who provide the tax dollars. How many dollars of revenue and commerce has been lost and will continue to be lost? They have allowed Lawler to take a wrecking ball to the county road system, the means by which most rural people make their living.

During the rainy period from May 14-16, this “roll of the dice” aggressive grading caused many gravel roads to be undriveable. During this rain event, water was trapped on the road and along the sides, against the windrows. As water ran down the road, it washed gravel down along the windrows and deposited it at the bottom hills and in the ditches. There were multiple reports that the road department closed the federal aid road west of Strasburg because a semi had jackknifed and was stuck in the middle of the road. There were also reports of vehicles getting stuck on the road.

During the rainy period from May 19-21, there were multiple reports of undriveable roads in a large part of the county. Lawler even brought the US Postal Service rural delivery to a standstill, despite their motto of “neither rain, nor snow, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.” The Strasburg and Hague Postal Services were unable to have their rural carriers deliver mail, in many areas, for multiple days, because of the muddy road conditions. UPS, FedEx, and other delivery services were also affected. There were reports of people getting stuck on the roads, as well as people stranded in town because they were unable to get home. Again, there were road closures, including 9th Ave SE between Strasburg and Westfield.

What would happen in the event of an emergency? How would an ambulance or fire truck get down these gravel roads? It was even challenging for anyone to travel down the gravel roads with 4-wheel drive. These road problems were not caused by a rainy weather event but rather “a roll of the dice” grading method by Lawler, with the commissioners’ support.

When you see a grade operator out on his route, think about the cost associated with that. The cost to taxpayers is approximately \$50 an hour for wages which include health insurance and benefits, \$55 an hour for grader depreciation at trade-in time, and \$15 an hour for diesel fuel. These amounts equal approximately \$120 per hour, per operator, or \$9600 per 10-hour day for eight (8) operators. So, over the course of 1-1/2 months (24 working days), the cost is approximately \$230,000 to operate eight (8) graders. This amount does not include the expensive pick edges, or any other costs associated with running the graders.

Has Lawler spent \$230,000 taxpayer dollars to tear down the roads, which made them undriveable in wet conditions? Should we assume another \$230,000, and possibly substantially more, in man and machine hours, will have to be spent to repair some of the damage that has been done and try to rebuild the roads to the same condition that they were prior to Lawler’s hiring? The \$230,000 also does not factor the hundreds of thousands of dollars of gravel and binder that is now contaminated with clay and has washed down the hills and into the ditches.

There could be hundreds of miles of federal aid, primary and secondary roads that need major rebuilding. It could take years to rebuild the crowns, reincorporate the gravel back into the roads, and pack them. In a matter of approximately 1-1/2 months, Lawler and the commissioners have destroyed the surface and profile of our gravel roads. The roads will probably never be the same without hauling new gravel onto them. Gravel that the county may or may not have. This is the problem when the road superintendent and all the commissioners, except one, Commissioner Jim Vander Vorst, live either on a paved road or in close proximity to Highway 83. They are out of touch because they don’t drive the gravel roads daily nor do they understand the costs associated with maintaining them.

Since commissioners and taxpayers can no longer trust Lawler’s leadership and “methods,” should he still be employed with Emmons County after showing his lack of experience and irrational decisions that damaged a large part of the Emmons County road system? This is why Lawler should not have been hired without a probation period. Lawler has shown that he is not qualified and does not understand road maintenance and grading methods. Chairman Dan Materi and Commissioner Craig Miller, who interviewed and recommended Lawler for the road superintendent position, felt he “rose to the top,” which has made them the laughingstock of Emmons and the surrounding counties. Do they still feel that way today? To refresh taxpayer’s memory, in 2023, there were approximately 900-1000 loads of gravel hauled, valued at approximately \$250,000-\$300,000. Is that gravel also contaminated and lost? The county paid RTS Shearing \$178,950 for hauling most of that gravel, which does not include trucking cost for gravel hauled by the county or anyone else.

Unfortunately, Lawler and the commissioners do not personally pay for their incompetence or negligence, taxpayers do. Will \$1-million cover damages, lost gravel, and rebuilding of the county roads caused by Lawler’s “roll of the dice”?

Ironically, it isn’t Emmons County that is “old school” and “far behind the eight ball,” it is Lawler’s leadership and methods that have put the county there. In fact, Lawler has taken a large part of the county road system back to the horse and buggy days.

The county cannot afford to waste taxpayer dollars and resources like this. We don’t need perfectly smooth, flat roads, with gravel out on the shoulders, we need properly crowned roads with gravel embedded in them, that shed water quickly so that they can be driven in wet or rainy conditions.

Advertisement paid for by Francis Krumm