

Calendar of Area Meetings



- **O.P.E.R.A. Inc. (Ellendale Opera House)** board meets the second Thursday of each month at noon in the Lobby & Gallery (and online). To join the meeting remotely, email gah@gah.com and request a link.
- **Coleman Museum** Closed for the season. For visits by appointment, call Ken Smith at 701-320-2794 or 349-3222.
- **Ellendale City Council** meets every second Monday of the month at City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- **Ellendale Area Arts Council** meets the 1st Tuesday of every month 6:00 p.m. - Call 701-320-2794 for details.
- **Ellendale Park Board** meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.
- **Ellendale Public School Board** meets the second Monday of every month 7:00 p.m.
- **DICKEY COUNTY WIC** In Ellendale the program is administered by Dickey County Health District Office on the 2nd Thursday of the Odd months. Appointments are made through Central Valley HD. Call 701-252-8130 for appointments. For more information call DCHD at 349-4348.
- **Dickey Co. Commissioners** meet in Ellendale the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Courthouse.
- **Dickey County Health District** Foot Clinics held at Dickey County Health District office in Ellendale. For appointment call 349-4348.
- **Ellendale Masonic Lodge** meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- **American Legion Auxiliary** meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Legion Clubrooms.
- **American Legion and Sons of the American Legion** meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m.
- **The Fire Department** meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- **Ellendale Lions Club** meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 12:00 noon at the bowling alley.
- **Ellendale Public Library Board** meets the 2nd Thursday of each odd month at 10:00 a.m. at the library.

— Compliments of —

Ellendale Pharmacy

For all your Pharmaceutical needs visit Ellendale Pharmacy 117 Main St.

Ellendale Temps Last Week		
November 30	15	-2
December 1	10	-2
December 2	34	-5
December 3	17	-11
December 4	33	-11
December 5	33	-18
December 6	18	-3

Ellendale Temps Last Year		
November 30, 2024	12	-2
December 1, 2024	16	-2
December 2, 2024	14	1
December 3, 2024	36	7
December 4, 2024	38	4
December 5, 2024	17	-3
December 6, 2024	45	12

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

— Established in 1882 —

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF DICKEY COUNTY

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Transitions column by Ken Smith, Editor of the Dickey County Leader

Mission Statement for the Dickey County Leader in the Year of Statehood (1889)
Last week at the Newcomers Welcome Dinner, held at Christ the King Church, representatives of a number of businesses and organizations stood up to talk about their role in the community. As a representative of the Leader, I mentioned that we are one of 73 weekly newspapers in North Dakota, and that contrary to some popular opinion newspapers, books and other printed things are not going extinct.
I mentioned also that the Leader is the oldest continually operating business in Dickey County, having been first published June 2, 1882. I also said that seven years later, the same year North Dakota became a state, the two owners, E. H. Moore and Fred Goddard, published a "mission statement" explaining the purpose and goals of the paper.
This week, we again publish the piece from 1889, with the preface we used when we first presented it the July 11, 2019 Leader. We believe it is still the best mission statement for a newspaper that we have ever come across.

Doing the work of a local historian presents challenges and rewards. Perhaps the biggest challenge is that even among those who value the study of history, "local" history is sometimes regarded as a backwater. It's sometimes thought of as a rather boring realm inhabited mostly by small-minded people with a narrow vision of things. That stereotype sometimes gets amplified when the history in question has to do with a small rural town.

Readers of the *Leader* should be assured, though, that these stereotypes are both inaccurate and misleading when it comes to the Ellendale area. I've learned this slowly, in fits and starts, by getting to know the town and its people in the more than twenty-five years I've lived here. Nearly every time I open an ancient copy of the *Leader* or if its little-known but high quality sister paper, the North Dakota Record (published in Ellendale between 1894 and 1916), those stereotypes dissolve further.

A case in point is an editorial that appeared

OUR EIGHTH YEAR
(Published in the Dickey County Leader, May 24, 1889)

The present issue commences the eighth year of the existence of the LEADER, the first paper ever published in Dickey County, and today in its circulation and make-up, without a rival in any point of comparison.

The LEADER, while it opposes the republican tariff policy, has never believed in a radical return to free trade, partisan exclusion in county, township, and municipal elections; or anything which tends to secure through an appeal to party, race, sectarian or social prejudices, the control of public patronage, or political promotion. It will do all that it can to expose and defeat monopolies, rings and trusts, but will not be made a tool of demagogues, who seek to deceive the public for their own selfish ends.

It will support good, honest, and able men for office, but does not propose to be dictated to by cranks or to be managed by would-be "leaders of the people." It will suggest, support and encourage all liberal, worthy and practical enterprises, reforms and improvements; but will not see to forestall, control, or defeat the will of the sovereign people.

It will strive to extend social courtesy and happiness among the whole people; to induce its readers to feel that life is too short, and the struggle for a happy existence too engrossing to be frittered away in foolish antagonisms, and will

endeavor to induce the present generation to work together for the common good, and to be content with that share which each is enabled to attain by his own natural ability, enterprise, industry and good fortune. It will draw no despondent pictures of human existence; teach no immoral or blasphemous doctrines; seek no public patronage except by fair competition in its field of industry, nor cater to cliques and castes, forgetful of the larger interests of the masses of the people.

Its columns of correspondence are always open to the people, regardless of party, creed, or race, subject only to the necessity of properly utilizing its space, and the avoidance of offence to law, courtesy, and decency. It will encourage local contributions of news, statistics, history and literature both as matters of interest, and to encourage those who wish to commence a life of literary effort; and should the time arrive when the management can do so with credit to themselves, such work will receive fitting remunerations. The LEADER is here to stay and, as its name implies, to lead in its line of usefulness and influence, and it proposes to effect its purposes by being just, fearless, enterprising and active in everything which can secure to its readers prosperity and happiness.

North Dakota Game & Fish: Sport Fish Restoration Act funding for fishing celebrates 75 years

Rep. John Dingell Sr. and Sen. Edwin C. Johnson modeled the legislation after the Pittman-Robertson Act, which funded wildlife conservation through federal excise taxes on firearms and ammunition.
By Doug Leier, West Fargo, October 21, 2025 — When I see kids balancing a rod and tackle box while riding a bike to a nearby river or fishing hole, I pause and smile. Years ago, I did that. So did my son. And it's reassuring to know, with all the distractions and noise in this digital age, a remnant remains drawn to a worm, a hook, friends and fishing. Generations before me grew up with the same, and hopefully so will many more.


Before the age of two-lane concrete boat

ramps, steel fishing piers and state-of-the-art fish cleaning stations, a Sunday fishing trip was sliding down muddy banks of the river, spinning rear-wheel-drive sedan tires on the metal ramp planks and filleting fish on an old newspaper.

Just like indoor plumbing, electricity and air conditioning, knowing what we didn't have makes us appreciate what we sometimes take for granted. While we smile and acknowledge the memories, nobody wants to go back to out-houses. The same goes for modern-day fishing.

We've come a long way and should be thankful for the 75th birthday of the Sport Fish Restoration Act, also known as the Dingell-Johnson Act.

(continued on page 4)



Fishing is one of the most versatile of all outdoor sports, as it can be pursued in summer and winter, and both outdoors and indoors, as this January 2018 scene on Elm Lake shows *(photo by Ken Smith)*

Jessie Veeder: What we're made for

It's not screens and chairs and noise but rather the sky and dancing and love, Jessie Veeder writes.

"Suddenly I was struck with the urge to go chase that sunset down, to catch it and hold it and marvel at it before it sunk below the horizon, as if it were the last sunset on earth," Jessie Veeder writes. Contributed / Jessie Veeder

Jessie Veeder, Watford City, N.D., December 5, 2025

I don't think we're meant to sit on chairs all day.

I don't think we're meant for these screens and these lights and the noise that comes from all of it. Sometimes it's so much, we're told too much. We know too much. We see it all, but we don't see what's right in front of us.

Beside us.

I've been working a lot lately. It's a busy time for me, and I feel incredibly blessed or lucky or whatever it is that helps get us to the places we're going. My head is spinning with to-do lists that get me through the day and a

few steps closer to some of my goals. My house is a mess, my desk unrecognizable as a piece of furniture, and most days I add more to that list than I check off.

I'm happy and exhausted and it's December, and I haven't even thought about Christmas.

I love Christmas.

But I'm a human. And as a human I want things. I don't know where it started or how to stop it, but don't try to argue with me. I know it's true for you, too. If it's not a physical luxury — it is the luxury of time. If it's not time, we want more love or more quiet, more food to put on the table, more money to buy us nice things, more children to teach, more land to cultivate, more music to hear and more space for dancing.

I try not to think about the things I want. I try to focus on what I have while I run frantically from one appointment I set up for myself to the next.

And then I wonder what on earth I'm doing when the only thing I really want is to sit under the tree by the dam with my kids and watch the water freeze over.

I was tired today and disappointed in myself because I have let slip the one thing I promised I wouldn't let slip when I moved back here — my connection to the sky.

So I stood up from my 12-hour computer perch this afternoon, oblivious to the fact that I'd had enough until I looked out the window at the sun turning the sky pink and realized I hadn't looked outside since it made its first appearance this morning.


Suddenly I was struck with the urge to go chase that sunset down, to catch it and hold it and marvel at it before it sank below the horizon, as if it were the last sunset on earth.

I don't know what got into me. For two weeks I've been on an agenda that had nothing to do with the sun.

Perhaps I was lonesome for it.

So I pulled on my muck boots and my winter coat, grabbed my camera and raced down the steps and up to the hill.

The sunset out here can be breathtaking when it feels like it. And the beauty is that it



"The sunset out here can be breathtaking when it feels like it. And the beauty is that it doesn't last long," Jessie Veeder writes. *(Photo by Jessie Veeder)*


If you watch closely, turning your head to take it all in, you will see it move and swell and change like a painting, colors splashed across the sky in hues that don't exist anywhere else in the world but up above.

Sometimes I try to be so many things that I feel like I can't do my best at anything.

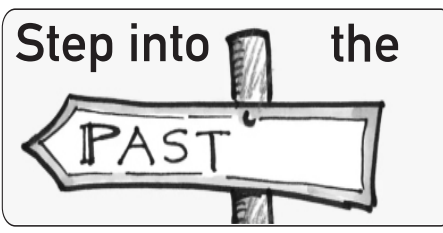
Sometimes I think I might do it on purpose.

But the sun is the sun, and it was made to move across the sky.

And I don't know much about much today, but I know I was not made to sit in chairs all day.



Greetings from the ranch in western North Dakota and thank you so much for reading. If you're interested in more stories and reflections on rural living, its characters, heartbreaks, triumphs, absurdity and what it means to live, love and parent in the middle of nowhere, check out more of my Coming Home columns. As always, I love to hear from you! Get in touch at jessieveeder@gmail.com.



60 Years Ago (December 9, 1965)

- 3 local bar owners pleaded to the city council, asking them to lower the cost of local liquor licenses (allowing bar owners to sell alcohol) to \$600 per year instead of \$2000 per year—the council agreed
- EPS Supt. Richard Eberly and the school board agreed to install a 37-unit intercom system in the school buildings early next year—they also agreed they should update the telephone system to more modern technology
- The ND public service commission approved the discontinuation of 2 area railways, that being the line from Rutland, to Ellendale, to Forbes, and the line from Aberdeen to Breckenridge, MN—they also set a date on a public hearing for an area power line construction program
- The Dickey County Crop Improvement association met in the basement of the Zion Lutheran church last Thursday to discuss the best crop varieties to use in 1966
- 8 EHS students were nominated to the National Honor Group, a group that employers referenced who were interested in securing the top area students for employment—Jane Bokelheide, Barbara Anderson, Debby Gackle, Peggy Schock, Steve Hamar, Bartley Davis, Gordon Kendall, and Tom Evenson were the nominees

50 Years Ago (December 11, 1975)

- Employees Mary Webster, Dorothy Lynde, Otto Steinwand, and Dorothy Hatfield of the DC Memorial Hospital (now Evergreen Place) were honored for their 20+ years of service since the hospital opened in 1952
- Todd Ost netted 13 shots to lead the Cardinal basketball team to a 66-58 victory over Enderlin in the Cards' opening match of the season
- The 1976 District 3 girls basketball tournament was announced to be held at the Roy Wead Field House at TBI next year—TBI President Roy Wead and EPS Supt. Kirk Hansen felt it would be good for local business
- Ronald Eskildsen, an escapee from the Dickey County jail Nov. 15, was finally caught in Medina after weeks of searching—Ronald entered a bar, then wrote a check that the bar owner was suspicious of, which led the owner to contact a Medina deputy to finally arrest him
- Guns stolen from Lisbon resident Tom Carlson on Nov. 15th or 16th were found in Forbes, laying behind the community garage and town house—it was not known for certain how they had got there
- Mark Thielges, EHS basketball coach, says the upcoming season will be "as tough as ever," stating that LaMoure was the kingpin of the conference
- The Cardinal wrestlers tied with LaMoure 31-31 to bring their season record to 1-1-1
- Dr. Richard Marshall of Forbes received a Silver Medal at the Honor Awards Program in Washington, D.C. for his contributions to the methodology of measuring and analyzing the effect of wind loads on buildings

40 Years Ago (December 12, 1985)

- TBC announced they will soon be offering the course "Introduction to Computers"
- Jim Billy, local farmer, was named a ND Master Sheep Producer for commercial sheep—he owned around 150 sheep
- The state of ND will be conducting an audit of the city in January
- Grant Crabtree ran the New York City Marathon and shared his experience with the marathon and his thoughts on running in general—Crabtree, then 31, said "I'll be running as long as I enjoy it," now in his early 70's, Crabtree can still be seen around town running
- The 1985-86 wrestling team opened their season with a win over Edgeley 46-15

30 Years Ago (December 7, 1995)

- Residents on the west side of Ellendale were complaining about the odors emitted from the livestock supplement manufacturing plant—MLS decided to install a 22 foot extension to the exhaust vent to help the situation
- Dr. Craig Kendall is planning to build a new chiropractic clinic at lots he purchased from the city—the building was completed and still exists just north of Casey's
- Kevin and Casey Blumhardt purchased the Hot Stuff Pizza business from owners in Aberdeen and will bring the business into Ellendale

20 Years Ago (December 8, 2005)

- Kent Schimke was promoted to the position of the DRN Plant Manager
- The 7th annual soup kitchen was announced to be held Dec. 11 at the Senior Citizen Center—attendees had a choice between 10 different homemade soups and homebaked breads

10 Years Ago (December 10, 2015)

- Local WWII vet. Alex Steinwand attended the ND WWII Victory Program & Dance in Bismarck
- Tom Davis of Ellendale composed a Christmas song "Softly Spoke the Angels" that landed itself in the 2015 CD album *Christmas Celebration*
- The 17th annual soup kitchen was announced to be held Dec. 13 at the Senior Citizen Center, and once again included a variety of delicious soups
- *Business Insider* named EHS the best school in the State of ND according to a nationwide survey