#### **Regional Roundup First House for Crosby Tract**

After several years of inactivity in Southridge Acres, Crosby's subdivision south of state Highway 5, a new residence will be

Robert and Lorie Stewart purchased five lots in Southridge Acres from the city in October last year, according to City Auditor Alexa Kruger. She said the Stewarts are planning to use that land to build a residence and larger garage.

The city of Crosby first annexed the subdivision in June 2012 and planned to eventually have both commercial and residential parcels for sale.

AgCountry Farm Credit Services was the first business to open in Southridge Acres in December 2014. But by 2015, momentum had slowed.

"A lot of the lots are sold, just no interest to build on them," Kruger said. "As far as I know, Stewarts are the only ones looking to build."

--The Journal, Crosby

#### Stanley Full of Construction

Construction will be busy in Stanley again this summer, including a new McDonald's.

Equipment has started arriving and dirt work is underway for the restaurant, which will be located in the lot between Cash Wise Foods and Tractor Supply Co. on Westview Lane.

There will be construction for A Plus Fireworks, Memory Fireworks and a new day care, and work continues on a new nursing home and hospital addition at Mountrail County Medical Center and a Stanley High School addition.

Ceiling tiles, floor tiles and carpet are being installed in the high school addition, Superintendent Tim Holte said April 16. The interior work is anticipated to be complete by May 23, and then the school will have access to start moving things into the new classrooms, Holte said.

--Mountrail County Promoter, Stanley

#### \$12M for New Williston Rinks

A \$12 million pledge toward a year-round indoor ice rink facility in Williston was approved April 15 by the Williams County Commission.

The facility is one of three projects the commission prioritized for funding when the county sales tax was up for renewal in 2024. The other projects are an agricultural programming and meeting complex and a livestock/equestrian arena with stall barns and warm-up space.

The amount is figured from 5% of \$240 million, the estimated 10-year revenue total for the sales tax, County Administrator Helen Askim said.

Of the three projects, the ice facility project has made the most headway so far. Askim said the ice facility was one of the greatest quality-of-life needs as identified in a recent study from the Williston Parks and Recreation District.

--Williston Herald

#### Minot Plans Capital Projects

A new fire station is among projects the Minot City Council will be looking at as the city finalizes a five-year capital improvement plan.

The estimated \$6.4 million station was discussed at a meeting April 17, at which city department heads sought input from council members on a proposed \$955.5 million capital improvement plan for 2026-2030.

"We'd like to move Station 1, which is the headquarters station, down to the south side," Fire Chief Kelli Kronschnabel said.

Council member Mike Blessum said a new south-side station would help provide coverage to growth areas, including around the hospital.

A whopping \$566.4 million in flood control projects make up the bulk of the plan, funded largely from federal funds and city sales taxes.

--Minot Daily News

Fun By The

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have

you hooked from

the moment you

square off, so

sharpen your

pencil and put

savvy to the test!

your sudoku

Numbers

## Long Hours & High Stakes as '25 Legislative Session Nears Its End

## Legislature

S



Senate Mark Enget District 2

As the 2025 North Dakota legislative session draws to a close, lawmakers in both the House and Senate are working long hours — including weekends — to finalize legislation through conference committees and floor votes.

Decision-making has become increasingly difficult, as many bills present compelling arguments on both sides of the equation.

While the volume of legislative work to report on could easily fill a complete newspaper page, here are a few of the major developments.

SB2307: Child Protection or Censorship?

One of the most debated bills this session, Senate Bill 2307, sought to require public and school libraries to relocate or restrict access to materials deemed "explicit sexual material," particularly to protect minors. After months of debate, SB2307 passed both chambers and reached Governor Kelly Armstrong's desk — only to be vetoed.

In his veto message, Governor Armstrong called the bill "a misguided attempt to legislate morality through overreach and censorship," warning it could impose vague, punitive burdens on library professionals and have unintended consequences.

An attempt to override the veto fell short of the required two-thirds majority, with a final vote of 25-20 in the Senate. As a result, SB2307 will not become law this session.

Although I'm very disappointed, I remain committed to protecting North Dakota's children. I have already begun working with the State's Attornevs from Mountrail and Burke Counties to draft stronger, legally enforceable legislation. With lessons learned from this process, I am confident we will

see a new and improved bill next session.

HB1168: Property Tax Relief on the Horizon

Another major focus this session has been Property Tax Reform. I'm happy to report that the Legislature has passed House Bill 1168, a sweeping plan to deliver long-term property tax relief and place stricter controls on future tax increases.

HB1168 creates two new funds — the Legacy Earnings Fund and the Legacy Property Tax Relief Fund − to use earnings from the state's Legacy Fund to offset property taxes. Beginning in 2025, North Dakota homeowners are expected to receive a primary residence property tax credit of up to \$1650.

The bill also caps most local property tax levy increases at 3% annually, unless approved by voters. It requires clearer public notices for budget hearings and tax proposals, expanding transparency for taxpayers.

HB1168 responsibly uses North Dakota's oil wealth to provide meaningful tax relief while protecting taxpayers from unchecked local government growth.

While not perfect, it is a strong foundation to deliver real relief and signals a commitment to continue expanding tax benefits across all sectors of our state's economy.

As of today, HB1168 still awaits the governor's signature — so stay tuned!

HB1454: Protecting Medical Freedom

Finally, another important bill soon to reach the floor is House Bill 1454, which would create an opt-out procedure for newly required vaccines, especially experimental or rapidly developed vaccines.

Having lived through the 2020 COVID-19 era, I became deeply concerned by how quickly personal freedoms were eroded by government mandates. HB1454 seeks to preserve individual rights while still respecting public health

Key points of HB1454: •Protects Freedom: Allows individuals to opt out of vaccines

for health, religious, or philosophical reasons. •Respects Public Health: Maintains exemptions for

high-risk settings like hospitals, correctional facilities, and schools. •Builds Trust: Encourages voluntary participation in pub-

lic health initiatives instead of forced mandates.

This bill is scheduled to come forward on Monday, April 28, and will undoubtedly be a hotly debated topic. The debate was live at NDLEGIS.NET. Looking Ahead

As we head into the final days of the session, I remain firmly committed to fiscal responsibility, limited government, and thoughtful policymaking. I am grateful for the engagement and support from constituents across District 2 and beyond.

Please continue to stay informed, share your thoughts, and stay active in the legislative process.

Your voice matters.

CRAIG MONUMENTS

FIFTH GENERATION MONUMENT BUILDER

100's OF DESIGNS ON DISPLAY

Custom Designs Available in Minutes

PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

craigmonuments.com

338-2463 • VELVA, ND • 800-558-5271

VACCINATION CLINICS

Saturday, May 10

**LIGNITE AMBULANCE BAY** 

Cats: 8:00-9:00; Dogs: 9:00-11:00

Cats: 11:30-12:30; Dogs: 12:30-2:00

**Northwest** 

**Veterinary Service** 

#### **Area Brief Home & Garden Show May 4**

in Powers Lake

A Home & Garden Show is set for Sunday, May 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Fit for Life Fitness Center in Powers Lake.

Join in on welcoming the gardening season with vendors, kids' activities, classes, soup and sandwiches.

#### **Coming Events**

**MEETINGS** 

**Crimson Cruiser Red** Hats: Tuesday, May 6, 5:00 p.m., Caddy's Shack in Bowbells; 20th anniversary party to follow at Dee's.

**Burke County Histori**cal Society: Sunday, May 4, 3:00 p.m., Powers Lake Senior Center.

**Powers Lake Civic** Club: Thursday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. Everyone welcome.

**Powers Lake School** Board: Tuesday, May 13, 4:30 p.m. (walkthrough), 5:30 p.m. meeting in the science room.

**Bowbells Senior Citi**zens: Thursday, May 8 at 2:30 p.m. Come join us for coffee at 2:00.

**EVENTS Bethel Baptist Church** (Powers Lake) Senior **Recognition and Pot**luck: Sunday, May 4 following the worship service.

Kids' Club Program at Bethel Baptist Church in Powers Lake, Wednesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.

**VA Telehealth Open** House: Wednesday, May 7, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m, third floor, Burke County courthouse, VA office.

**Wedding Shower for** Jayden Nygard and Katie Bramblee: Sunday, May 4, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, Columbus.

**SERVICES Powers Lake Food Pantry:** open third Tuesday of the month, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., basement of

Legion Hall, 201 1st Ave. W. Society of St. Stephen Food Pantry: open Tuesday, May 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m., 10 Washington Ave,

**Children's Clothing Pantry:** open Tuesday, May 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bowbells.

Bowbells.

## **PORTAL COMMUNITY ROOM CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS** 377-2626



: H3WSNA

3

#### Here's How It Works:

6

SUDOKU

3

6

8 9

4

8

4

3

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3 8

9

4

5

6

week	2	8	3	7	L	6	G	9
3	9	6	9	2	8	L	anda	Þ
Þ	9	2	G	- dans	6	3	8	S
6	unda	G	Þ	3	2	9	L	8
2	8	S	Z	Ç	9	Þ	6	goon
Z	Þ	9	6	8	mak	2	ε	S
9	L	V	8	6	ç		2	3
S	6	deme	2	9	ε	8	ħ	L
8	3	2	done	L	Þ	Ĝ	9	6

# Wednesday, May 7th • 3:00 to 4:30pm NCC Office in Ray

