

Dakota Datebook

CHRISTMAS HOUSE

By Sarah Walker

December 11, 2025 – A home is a sacred place. Home is where your heart is, after all. And for the many immigrants of North Dakota, home is where you hang your heritage, old and new.

The Hoghaug family, from Norway, began to build their new home in 1965. The house would tie together what they had built up in America with what they had come from in Norway. Within a year, it was finished, and on this date in 1966, their home was spotlighted as a unique house among the many residences popping up along the Red River.

Large and lavish, but lovely, the finished product was quite a bit removed from the "shell of a house under construction" the year before. Then, a lonely, "forlorn" Christmas tree glittered away, not foretelling the current delight.

Grand Forks Herald writer Marilyn Hagerty looked into the mix of dreams come true, reporting that the house had a suggestion of country living, with a touch of the rich. All of the rooms were irregularly shaped. Everything was soft and rosy, and the house was decorated with pillars, a stained glass window above the mantel, a plethora of colors, even a cupid light fixture.

There was a sauna room, a dressing room, a room with eight windows built into the roofline to let in a lot of sunshine for Mrs. Hoghaug. The

house had rich décor, a grand piano and an oak dining room set, carved with decorations of Vikings. However, the beds were covered with hand-made quilts, and a hand-carved Norwegian kubbestole, a chair made from a tree stump, stood in a spot of honor by the fireplace.

Even the exterior was marked by their work. Mrs. Hoghaug searched for three years to find two streetlights to place in her yard. She ended up buying them from the city of Sioux Falls, where they were being replaced. She brought them to Grand Forks, had them stripped and refinished in white, then set one up on each end of the yard.

The reporter said it all mixed "the Norwegian 'Vellkommen'" with the "Grand Forks 'linger awhile...come back again.'"

However, Dr. Hoghaug, the proud new owner of the house, said that it was merely an incarnation of his and his wife's dreams – especially his wife's.

Her friends said, "Mar knew what she wanted." And, from the glowing review of her house, that's what she got.

"Dakota Datebook" is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the "Dakota Datebook" podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shopprairiepublic.org.



• Is it a great price? Before you rush to stock up, read the signs in the grocery stores to make sure the item that looks like such a good deal really is. Oftentimes, products are "featured" with a tag that looks like a sale price, when the real price is only pennies more or no savings at all!

• Honey has antibacterial properties? Yep! Try rubbing a bit of it over a small cut for faster, more natural healing.

• "To keep egg whites and not yolks, simply crack eggs into a shallow bowl and "suck" the yolk out using an empty plastic water bottle. Squeeze the bottle slightly, then position the mouth of the bottle at the yolk and let go. It will magically slip into the bottle, and leave behind the whites." — T.T. in New York

• You can make your own gift wrapping from everyday items like newspaper, children's drawings that can be glued together along the edges or inexpensive fabric.

• "This time-tested tip will keep your houseplants in the green when you're away from home: Set plants in the bathtub in an inch or less of water. If your flowerpot does not have drain holes, get a short length of cotton rope and feed it from the topsoil to the tub. This will keep plants alive and thriving for a week or so." — D.R. in Florida

• Unmatched socks are handy dandy cleaners and have so many uses. Keep one by the lint trap to get all the lint off. Shake it out or pop it into the wash when needed.



1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
2. HISTORY: Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?
3. MOVIES: Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?
4. MUSIC: Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?
5. ANATOMY: What's another name for the patella?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Chile?
7. FOOD & DRINK: Who perfected the Champagne method?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the national flowers of Japan?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
10. SCIENCE: Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

Answers

1. Duke.
2. The Ming dynasty.
3. "Holes."
4. "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel.
5. Kneecap.
6. Santiago.
7. A Benedictine monk named Dom Perignon.
8. The cherry blossom and the chrysanthemum.
9. Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
10. Black, although red also can be hot in two-wire circuits.



By Lucie Winborne

• Picasso was once suspected of stealing the "Mona Lisa" from the Louvre. He was brought to court, where it was determined that he was indeed in possession of stolen art, but not da Vinci's masterpiece, and was let off with a warning.

• Ice from seawater melts into fresh water.

• The modern sense of the term "Black Friday" likely originated in the 1950s when Philadelphia police began using it to describe the chaotic traffic of shoppers and sports fans after Thanksgiving and before the Army-Navy football game on Saturday.

• Jimmy Carter was the first American president born in a hospital.

• Pepsi was originally called "Brad's Drink," after its creator, pharmacist Caleb Bradham, who believed it had digestive benefits.

• Volcanoes can create lightning.

• Ulysses S. Grant's middle initial doesn't stand for anything. He was christened Hiram Ulysses Grant, and the initial was added by Congressman Thomas Hamer when he nominated Grant for West Point, thinking it stood for Grant's mother's maiden name.

• Fewer than one in 10,000 people possess the gift of perfect pitch.

• The world's largest beaver dam, located in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park and boasting a length estimated at more than 2,600 feet, is visible from space via satellite imagery.

• Memorial Day's date was first chosen because it was when flowers would be in full bloom.



1. **Zootopia 2** (PG) Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman
2. **Wicked: For Good** (PG) Cynthia Erivo, Ariana Grande
3. **Now You See Me: Now You Don't** (PG-13) Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson
4. **Predator: Badlands** (PG-13) Elle Fanning, Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi
5. **The Running Man** (R) Glen Powell, Alyssa Bemm
6. **Eternity** (PG-13) Miles Teller, Elizabeth Olsen
7. **Rental Family** (PG-13) Brendan Fraser, Paolo Andrea Di Pietro
8. **Hamnet** (PG-13) Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal
9. **Sisu: Road to Revenge** (R) Jorma Tommila, Stephen Lang
10. **Nuremberg** (PG-13) Russell Crowe, Michael Shannon

MRJ Deadline is Friday at

5:00pm Ads, Copy and

Legals can be submitted to

msrvrjnl@srt.com or

mrjads@srt.com

Legals: Your Right to Know

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HARVEY RURAL AMBULANCE BOARD

Harvey Rural Ambulance District and Harvey Ambulance will have a Special meeting on December 15 at the Eagles Club at 7Pm. The meeting is to discuss State guidelines.

(December 3 & 10, 2025)

DRAKE CITY MINUTES

December 1st, 2025

Meeting called to order 7pm, all council present except Uhlich.

Rural water spoke on wastewater assessment.

Minutes approved motion Thorson, 2nd Soderberg. MC.

Old Business

Store wall: repair when able.

Office: obtain quotes

Xray: removal this week.

New business:

Beer/liquor license:

Morris-motion to approve Thorson, 2nd Sable. MC.

Kc hall- motion to approve Soderberg, 2nd Sable. MC.

Enerbase-motion to approve Soderberg, 2nd Sable. MC.

Raises/Holidays:

Black Friday off in place of the floating holiday and Christmas eve off motion to approve Thorson, 2nd Soderberg. MC.

All three employees get a 3% raise effective January 1st, 2026 motion to approve Thorson 2nd Sable. MC.

Effective June 2026 council and mayor will receive the first pay increase in 10 years.

Motion by Thorson to increase council pay from \$75 to \$150 per meeting and Mayor pay from \$100 to \$200 per meeting. 2nd by Sable. MC.

Other Business: Septic tanks not authorized under any circumstances.

Engineer- Motion to eliminate position at this time Thorson 2nd Sable. MC.

Bills- motion Thorson, 2nd Soderberg. MC.

Adjourn: Thorson

(December 10, 2025)

TOWNER CITY MINUTES

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Towner met in regular session November 4th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with Shawn Anderson calling the meeting to order. Commissioners Anderson, Bailey, Berdahl, and Schaff were present. Commissioner Birky was absent.

Agenda: Berdahl/Schaff M/S to approve the agenda with the addition of city fire truck to old business. Carried.

Minutes: Bailey/Berdahl M/S to approve the minutes of the October meeting as presented. Carried.

Bills: Baileys/Bailey M/S to approve the bills as presented. Carried. General Fund – CTT \$160.91, Dave Spies \$286.29, Dakota Fence \$2325.00, Roughrider Industries \$188.74, Plunkett's Pest Control \$151.00, Share Corp. \$235.07, Otter Tail Power Co. \$2139.74, Postmaster \$201.91, Donny Sveund \$147.76, Pat Schaff \$60.00, Robert Mohagen \$92.35, SRT \$248.52, Mouse River Journal \$46.28, McHenry County \$9993.75, Towner Hardware Hank \$171.90, Waste Management \$1841.54, Gooseneck Implement \$366.33, Water Fund – First District Health Unit \$30.00, Mouse River Air \$385.00, Hawkins Inc. \$2119.15, ND One Call \$28.50, Otter Tail Power Co. \$374.64.

Kyle Bailey reported 990,633 gallons of water sold in the previous month. He

also reported that he and Ian had regenerated filters and cleaned the detent tank in the water plant last week. The dump ground will be closed for the season after this Wednesday, November 5th. It will reopen in the Spring. Kyle also informed the board that there was a small water main leak on the southwest side of town that was repaired recently.

Patriot Fire and Safety called to inform the city that the fire truck was finished with repairs and ready for pick up. Robert Mohagen will organize a day to go to Minot and get it and put it back in the Fire Hall.

Berdahl/Schaff M/S to approve a building permit application for NDDOT. Carried.

The board reviewed email correspondence from the city attorney concerning the new emergency response building and provided answers to her questions.

There being no further business to discuss Shawn Anderson adjourned the meeting.

Shawn Anderson, President
Nichole Livedalen, City Auditor
Towner City Commission
(December 10, 2025)

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 4, 2025 9:00 AM

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order. Commissioners Lance Johnson, Brady Nelson, Bryan Bruner, David Schmitt and Armann Anderson present. Also present was Tyler Welstad.

A motion was made by Bruner and seconded by Schmitt to approve the October 7th and 15th minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Lesley Jones and Holly Christianson met with the board to provide a summary of their upcoming activities. Some of them being the Ranchers Night Out on December 5th in Granville and Porch Pots on December 12th in Anamoose. They held an advisory council meeting and received their input on topics for workshops and/or trainings. They also asked the commissioners to vote on their choices.

A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Nelson to approve the liquor license for 1481 Meats. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bruner and seconded by Schmitt to approve the raffle permit for the Velva Wildlife Club. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bruner and seconded by Johnson to issue the proper deeds to the following individuals for the redemption of county property: Jonathan Taveras – Lot 1 Block 5 Original Balfour, Michael Berry – Lots 19-20 Block 18 Original Towner, Eric and Candyece Peters – Lot 7 Buffalo Lodge Cottage 3rd Addition, Jesse Turner – Lot 2 Block 20 Helm's Addition, James Hausken – Lots 11-12 Block 8 Original Anamoose. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Schmitt to rescind the current burn restrictions which were set to expire November 15, 2025. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Bruner to pass a resolution to place burn restrictions on which will follow the ND Fire Danger Index rating. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Bruner to approve abatements 1653-1662. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed an overweight application. A motion was made by Schmitt and seconded by Bruner to deny the permit

due to a bridge crossing. Motion carried unanimously.

No one appeared to contest the county land sale prices. A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Schmitt to approve the prices as set. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the payment from the State for the Back the Blue grant, given to counties for retention and recruitment of law enforcement officers. A request was made by the Sheriff to pay this out in the December 1 payroll. A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Bruner to make a recommendation to the Sheriff to hold 10% back and to pay the balance out quarterly until the term of the grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Cliff Hanretty met with the board to question the gravel bill and the amount of gravel placed on the access route to the West of their residence. Commissioner Johnson stated there are two loads that still need to be placed. Hanretty also had concerns about the price of the gravel and felt a different contractor would've been cheaper.

The board worked on the survey from Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute relating to the cost of road maintenance and upkeep.

Brad Murphy and Frank Anderson with RDO Equipment met with the board to provide information on used blades and the price of a new one.

Jason Mayfield with Wold Engineering met with the board to discuss the Special Road Fund program through NDDOT to provide 80% for projects relating to recreational areas. The commissioners will visit with Egg Creek Township and the overseer for Rose Bush Township to see if they would be interested in providing the 20% match to improve the township roads to Buffalo Lodge and George Lake.

A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Schmitt to advertise the Karlsruhe shop for sale on bids. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bruner and seconded by Schmitt to sign the Maintenance Certification for county Federal Aid projects, stating all federal aid projects are maintained in a good and safe condition for general public use. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Schmitt and seconded by Nelson to permit Granville City to close Main Street on December 6th from 1:00 PM – 5:15 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

A consent motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Bruner to approve the following: Treasurer's Miscellaneous Receipts #50667-50771; the monthly payroll in the amount of \$171,612.65; Clerk of Court August County fees \$731.30, State fees \$22,766.12, Joshua Burlison \$10.00; Clerk of Court October County fees \$1,225.00, State fees \$23,587.26, City of Velva \$80.00, ND Dept of Trust Lands \$250.00; County Recorder August recording fees of \$3,711.00 and misc fees of \$406.67; County Recorder October recording fees of \$3,135.00 and misc fees of \$523.24; Sheriff October statement of fees \$710.00, Sheriff mileage \$775.00.

PAID	AMOUNT
A - 1 Evans Septic Service	300.00
Advanced Business Methods	1,105.37
Amazon Capital Services	390.42
American Welding & Gas, Inc	40.86
Anderson, Arman	72.80

B & J Excavating, Inc	24,485.00
Beall Law Office	10.00
Bismarck Hotel Conference Center	
	654.00
Vollmer, Brian	148.40
Bruner, Bryan	147.70
Cenex Fleet card	4,015.94
Dacotah Paper Company	331.45
Dakota Fluid Power, Inc	58.31
Carpenter, Darlene	587.40
Schmitt, David	378.00
Deere Credit, Inc	2,812.50
Deering City	5,400.00
Dirty Dog Digging & Trucking	847.09
DK Service	2,182.51
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	172.50
Enerbase	3,136.88
Envision Cooperative	101.26
Fredrickson Auto	2,530.00
Gerdau	26.05
HACTC	16,735.55
Hardware Hank	275.25
Heilman, Gary	40.20
Christianson, Holly	107.10
Information Technology Dept	1,364.55
Hansen, Jerry	77.00
John Deere Financial	2,560.65
Torr, Johnna	309.80
Kara Thoman Design	70.00
Slavick, Kathryn	683.68
Siegler, Kelsey	184.95
Lake Hester Twp	2,081.65
Johnson, Lance	837.20
Jones, Lesley	790.43
Linde Gas & Equipment, Inc	105.12
Marshall, Lisa	696.40
Mattingley, LLC	4,487.50
McGuire in Rugby	105.35
McHenry County Treasurer	18.80
McHenry County Treasurer	2,001.00
McHenry County Treasurer	5,876.95
Menards	66.35
Mouse River Journal	353.48
Mouse River Oil Company	6,944.41
ND Dept of Transportation	17,191.42
NDACo Resource	225.72
NDSU Extension	12,248.48
North Dakota State University	180.00
Newman Signs Inc	471.40
Northern Plains Children	100.00
Northside Autobody & Repair LLC	
	1,507.80
Ottertail Power Company	1,768.70
Pomp's Tire Minot	9,193.44
PowerPlan	9,591.01

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

relating to Exploration and Production of Critical Minerals in Coal-Bearing Formations.

North Dakota Geological Survey will hold public hearings to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code.

Geological Survey
1:30 pm CST
Tues., Jan. 20, 2026
1000 E Calgary Ave
Bismarck, ND

Copies of the proposed rules will be available December 17, 2025 and may be obtained by writing the Geological Survey at 600 E. Blvd, Dept. 474, Bismarck, ND 58505-0614, or by calling (701) 328-8000. View changes at www.dmr.nd.gov/dmr/ndgs Comment in writing by 5pm January 30, 2026. Submit written comments to the Geological Survey (see address above) or ndgs@nd.gov. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Geological Survey at the above address or phone number by January 12, 2026.

Pro Forms	431.60
Pro IT, LLC	375.00
Runnings	329.43
RV Enterprises	8,300.00
Welsh, Ryan	166.00
Volk, Shelby	166.00
Smette Oil, Inc	5,000.26
SRT Communications	1,002.04
Bailey, Terry	284.90
The Computer Store	130.00
Thomson Reuters West	227.16
Tony's Tire Service	338.00
Towner City	399.26
Towner Health & Wellness	832.00
TransUnion Risk & Alternative	110.00
Skager, Trey	487.54
Tyler Technologies	840.00
Upham City	81.00
Velva Glass & Auto	2,381.35
Verendrye Electric Cooperative	317.23
Verizon Wireless	795.03
Yoder Masonry	1,400.00
At 12:55 PM, there being no further business to come before the board at this time, a motion was made by Schmitt and seconded by Nelson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.	
ATTEST: Darlene Carpenter, Auditor/Treas. Armann Anderson, Chairma (December 10, 2025)	

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 18, 2025 9:00 AM

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order. Commissioners Lance Johnson, Brady Nelson, Bryan Bruner, David Schmitt and Armann Anderson present.

The county land procedures were read and those present were given a copy of the informational document regarding purchasing property. Chairman Anderson conducted the county land sale. All bids were heard. A motion was made by Schmitt and seconded by Bruner to approve the sale of the following tracts of land as bid. Motion carried unanimously. The Auditor and Chairman, on behalf of the County, are to

sign the deeds as same. The unsold parcels will continue to be available for purchase at the advertised price.

Original Simcoe Lot 10 Blk 10
Robert Martinson \$121.22

Orig Towner Lots 18-20 Blk 3
North McHenry Soil Cons District \$7,000.00

Orig Kongsberg E ½ Lot 19 Blk 3
Chase Dinga \$500.00

White's 2nd Add Towner Lot 6 Blk 24

Merle Yoder \$500.00

Unplatted Velva Outlot A of SE ¼ SE ¼

Velva City \$950.00

Sec 22-153-80

Sengers & Boechlers
Add Karlsruhe
Galen Keller \$500.00

Outlot I

A motion was made by Bruner and seconded by Nelson to issue the proper deeds for the redemption of county property described as: Cody and Madison Fleckenstein for Lots 1-5 in White's 2nd Add Towner; Joshua McDowell for Lot 5 Blk 4 Commercial Add Velva; Kyle Vollmer and Jennifer Huddleston for Lot 10 Blk 3 Orig Anamoose; Markaye Brandt-Hanson and Michael Pasch for Unplatted Upham Pt SW ¼ SW ¼ (190' x 172') in Sec 22-159-78; Myron Jr and Brandie Mogard Lots 18-22 of Blk 5 in Stoltzes 2nd Add Deering. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:50 AM, there being no further business to come before the board at this time, a motion was made by Bruner and seconded by Schmitt to adjourn.

ATTEST:
Darlene Carpenter, Auditor/Treas.
Armann Anderson, Chairman
(December 10, 2025)

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The North Dakota News Cooperative conducts the North Dakota Poll to bring the voices of everyday residents into public conversations about the state's future.

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