

Sports

By Jeff Jacobson



Leeds Trap Team members, left to right: Mason James, Jeremy Van Steenvoort, Grayson Young, Elizabeth Van Steenvoort, Hailey Baker and coach Devin Schwanke.



Leeds Trap Team members, left to right: Sutton Larson, Drew Haagenson, Delaynee Schwanke, Grayson Larson, Grant Haagenson and coach Devin Schwanke.

Leeds trap team competes at state

The Leeds High School trap team competed at the state meet in Horace on Friday, June 19. Of the ten athletes competing, Delaynee Schwanke had the highest finish with a 5th place showing in the female novice division with 74 clays hit. Hailey Baker also competed in the female novice division and hit 44 clays to finish 31st overall. In the novice male division, Grayson Young placed 31st with 57 clays and Jeremy Van Steenvoort was 48th with 50

clays hit. In the junior varsity division, Drew Haagenson led the way hitting 81 clays to finish 20th. Sutton Larson was right behind with 80 clays and a 28th place finish. Grant Haagenson ended in 55th place with 73 clays and Grayson Larson was 66th with 71 clays. The team had one competitor in the varsity division with Mason James hitting 74 clays to finish 109th overall. The Leeds team is coached by Devin Schwanke.

East Team dominates Shrine Bowl

The ND Shrine Bowl was held on the Mayville State campus on Saturday, June 20. The game pits the top athletes in both 9-man and 11-man football from the East and the West. New Rockford-Sheyenne-Maddock quarterback Easton Simon threw five touchdown passes to lead the 9-man East team to a convincing 64-30 win over the West. The East raced out to a commanding 51-16 half-time lead. Four Winds lineman Francis Bellile also competed for the East team, while Four Winds co-coach Mark Bishop helped



lead the East team for the week. The East 11-man team also defeated the West by a score of 48-12.

Pollinator Week observed

Gov. Kelly Armstrong has proclaimed June 22-28, 2026 as Pollinator Week in North Dakota. North Dakota is home to many pollinators, including more than 800,000 honeybee colonies. "Pollinator species such as bees, birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply. In fact, about 35% of the world's food crops depend on pollination," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. "Pollinators contribute nearly \$20 billion to the value of US crop production." "Through best management practices outlined in the North

Dakota Pollinator Plan, farmers, beekeepers, pesticide users and scientists work together to protect and maintain honey bee and other pollinator habitats in the state and protect agricultural activities," Goehring continued. "The plan enhances communication and mitigates risk to honey bees, while minimizing the impact on production agriculture." North Dakota is the number-one honey-producing state in the nation and has been since 2004. In 2024, North Dakota bees produced 36.2 million pounds of honey valued at over \$67.4 million.



Every NFL offseason brings optimism. Every fanbase convinces itself the rookies will hit, the free agents will work out and this is finally the year everything comes together. But before the season starts and hope takes over, it's worth taking a hard look at the roster as it actually exists today.

Over the next eight weeks, we'll break down every position group on the Vikings' roster and rank them from the group I have the most confidence in to the one I trust the least entering the 2026 season. We'll look at the projected starters, depth pieces, offseason additions and biggest questions each group faces.

Coming in at number nine last week was the TE group. This week is a group that surprised me in the rankings . . . running back.

Confidence level: 90%
Current projected starters: Jordan Mason, Aaron Jones, Max Bredeson (FB)

Competing for a roster or practice squad spot: Demond Claiborne, Zavier Scott, Kejon Owens

Why I'm confident: When I was creating this list, I had to keep reminding myself this isn't a list of which groups I think will be the best. This is a list of which groups I have confidence in -- confidence that they'll go out there and we'll know what to expect. No question marks. No roller coaster rides. That almost perfectly describes the running back group. There's a reason the Vikings brought back Jones, who will be 32 years old this season. He's consistent. Jordan Mason? Consistent. And consistency brings confidence.

Last season the Vikings had a fairly even split of the snaps. Jordan Mason got 41% of the snaps; Aaron Jones got 37%. Mason had 173 total touches, averaging 4.7 yards per touch. Jones had 160 total touches, averaging 4.7 ypt. I expect the Vikings will continue to follow

that model until age finally catches up to Aaron Jones.

Cause for concern: If we're strictly talking about concerns when it comes to my confidence in the position, the biggest concern has to be the age of Aaron Jones. He is entering year 10 in the NFL and will turn 32 during the season. Running backs rarely produce over the age of 30, and when they fall off, it's usually a steep decline. But that concern is mitigated by the presence of Jordan Mason. If Jones is out, the Vikings will lose a receiving threat out of the backfield. Luckily, as we've already established, the Vikings have one of the best WR and TE groups in the league.

Another question mark is at fullback. The retirement of C. J. Ham created a hole which the Vikings are attempting to fill with a rookie, Max Bredeson. Rookies are always a question mark, but considering Ham had a grand total of five total touches in 2025, I'm not too worried.

Potential upgrades: The free agent market for running backs is slim. There aren't any players who would be a clear upgrade over Jordan Mason and Aaron Jones. However, there are a few players who could come in and handle the starting role if either player misses a significant chunk of time this season. Joe Mixon, Najee Harris and Antonio Gibson all have some tread left on their tires, while Nick Chubb and Austin Ekeler are both on the wrong side of 30 but could fill in just fine for a few games. And hey, worst case scenario, the Vikings could always bring back Cam Akers, who always seems to find a way to end up in purple and gold.

At the end of the day, I'm not expecting the Vikings' RB group to strike fear into the hearts of opposing defenses. But we know what we're getting with them, which is why they are so high on this list.

Crowing counts up statewide

The number of roosters heard during the ND Game and Fish Department's 2026 spring pheasant crowing count survey was 23.2 crows per stop, up 9% statewide from last year.

"Overwinter survival of adult pheasants has been outstanding. Typically, we lose up to 75% of our pheasant population each winter, but that has not been the case as of late," said R. J. Gross, department upland game management biologist.

By region, observers heard 32.7 crows per stop in the southwest, up 5% from 2025; 22.2 crows per stop in the northwest, up 4%; and 23.1 crows per stop in the southeast, up 24% from last year. The count in the northeast, which is not a primary region for pheasants, was 9.3 crows per stop, up 43% from 2025. Crowing counts are just one part of the picture, providing a glimpse of the population going into the breeding season. But Gross expects more good news as the peak of the pheasant hatch approaches.

"Entering the nesting season, residual grass cover looked good," Gross said. "We have received ample precipitation that

has led to increased growth in nesting and brood rearing cover across the state. Combined with high overwinter survival over the past three years and near ideal nesting habitat conditions, things are looking great for pheasants in North Dakota." Pheasant crowing counts are conducted each spring throughout North Dakota. Observers drive specified routes, stopping at predetermined intervals and counting the number of roosters heard crowing. The number of pheasant crows heard is compared to previous years' data, providing a trend summary. As always, the late summer roadside counts conducted in July and August will give a better idea of brood production and the hunting outlook for fall.

Seeking donations

Knox Lutheran Cemetery (North) is seeking donations for maintenance and upkeep. Send them to the treasurer, Karen Tuft, 5995 46th Ave. NE, York, ND 58386

North Dakota Boys State held at NDSCS

Beau Haagenson of Harlow was among the participants at this year's ND Boys State, a gathering of 82 participants June 14-19 at the ND State College of Science campus in Wahpeton. Sponsored by the American Legion, ND Boys State brings together outstanding young men between their junior and senior years in high school. Selected from schools across North Dakota, these delegates come to the NDSCS campus for a week of activities focusing on leadership and government.

At ND Boys State, delegates engage in hands-on learning activities, including city and county government functions, disaster simulation exercises, and the production of daily broadcast media created and edited by delegates. This "learning by doing" process is complemented by speeches and debates from visiting dignitaries, providing delegates with a comprehensive understanding of governmental

operations. Cayle Corey of Grand Forks was elected governor of ND Boys State. Delegates also elected the following state officeholders: Lieutenant Governor Brody Kramer, Bismarck; Secretary of State Kaj Naujokas, Fargo; Agriculture Commissioner Jeran Hughes, Lisbon; Attorney General Eli Ash, Dickinson; State Treasurer Brody Boe, Forest River; State Auditor Jacob Lukaszewski, Bismarck; and Superintendent of Public Instruction Elijah Drummond, Valley City.

NDSCS has been the host of ND Boys State for the last 34 years. Esteemed visitors to the program have included Governor Kelly Armstrong; the Hon. Lisa Fair McEvers, chief justice of the ND Supreme Court; US Representative Julie Fedorchak; Joel Heitkamp, talk radio host; Joe Wiegand, political consultant and Theodore Roosevelt impersonator; and Breanna Koval, director of Wilkin County Emergency Management.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MINNEWAUKAN CITY COUNCIL May 19, 2026

A regular meeting of the Minnewaukan City Council was held May 19, 2026 at city hall.

1. Call to Order -- Mayor Matt Seufert called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. Roll Call -- Present: Kaylee Clifton, Mitch Weed, Don Trnka. Absent -- Niles Short. Staff present: Audrey McCollum, auditor; Sari Babcock, public works. Public present: Aaron and Trish McQuoid; Wanda Bullinger, Buffalo Lake Sportsman's Club; and Mike and Janet Eastley.

3. Approval of Agenda -- A motion was made by Clifton, seconded by Trnka, to approve the agenda with the following additions: debit card for Sari Babcock, building permit for Karyn Neve, tree planting at the Minnewaukan orchard, and an email from Niles Short regarding council pay. The motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes -- A motion was made by Weed, seconded by Trnka, to approve the minutes from April 14, 2026. The motion carried.

5. Public Comments -- No public comments.

6. New Business -- City Attorney Jack Yunker re: abandoned property was not present. Yunker will be present at the next council meeting.

* Aaron and Trish McQuoid asked if the city would consider selling the land at 330 C Ave. Tabled until the next meeting.

* Clifton made a motion to approve gaming site authorization for Leeds Economic Development at Dakota Spirits, 110 Main St., Minnewaukan, ND, July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Weed seconded; the motion carried.

* Trnka made a motion to approve gaming site authorization for Buffalo Lake Sportsman's Club at Old 281 Tavern, 241 6th St. SE, Minnewaukan, ND, July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Weed seconded; the motion passed.

* Clifton made a motion to sell Lots 29-31 of Blk. 4, Bill and Rose Streifel First Addition, Minnewaukan City, for \$1,050 per lot, total \$3,150, to Michael Eastley. Trnka seconded; the motion carried.

* Clifton made a motion to accept the addendum to purchase agreement and earnest money agreement between the city of Minnewaukan and Jeanie and Terese Rolland. The total balance was due on or before April 1, 2026; addendum made to reflect a closing date on or before Aug. 15, 2026. Weed seconded; the motion carried.

* Weed made a motion to accept the building permit for Karyn Neve, 241 Main St. E., for a garage. Trnka seconded; the motion carried.

* Request from Short regarding council pay -- tabled until Short is present.

* Clifton made a motion to issue a debit card to Sari Babcock, public works. Trnka seconded; the motion carried.

7. Unfinished Business -- Clifton made a motion for full-time employees to receive a 7% raise. Weed seconded; the motion carried.

8. Reports -- Sheriff Report: Included in packet. Public Works: Babcock will be flushing hydrants and exercising gate valves the third week in June. A crew from Storms Construction will be fencing the lagoon, dump and repairing the clarifier overflow pipe, drain tile and riprap.

KLJ: None. Auditor: The city will plant trees on June 10 at 10 a.m.

9. Approval of Bills -- A motion was made by Trnka, seconded by Clifton, to approve the following bills. The motion carried. BC Tax Equalization \$1,300.00 Lakeside Surveillance

Lock & Key 254.00 US Postal 278.00 Iron Hide Equipment 14,000.00 BlueCross 2,106.17

Advanced Business Solutions 91.45 Floodwater Properties .. 1,234.00 USA Bluebook 202.10 Payroll 736.67 US Postal 8.05 Aqua-Pure 2,250.00 A. McCollum 40.00 BC Sheriff 300.00 CenDak 97.23 Double M Sanitation 5,000.00 GF Farmers Press 315.80 BC Utility 44.00 Mac's 45.99 NAPA 206.97 ND Telephone Co. 264.23 Northern Plains 488.04 One Call 9.90 Otter Tail Power Co. 2,633.05 S. Babcock 239.15 Storms Construction 8,750.00 USA Bluebook 330.70 NAPA 144.49 Dept. of Environ.

Quality 183.41 S. Babcock 1,000.00 USA Bluebook 31.39 Payroll 10,045.42 ND PERS 1,303.43 US Treasury 1,359.14

10. Portfolio Reports -- Clifton: Reported there was a hole by Old 281 Tavern; Babcock will take care of it.

* Weed: None. * Short: None. * Trnka: None. * Seufert: Would like to see the city website taken down.

11. Adjournment -- A motion was made by Clifton, seconded by Weed, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. Next council meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Audray J. McCollum City Auditor

Matt Seufert Mayor

DEVILS LAKE ANIMAL CLINIC
8310 Hwy. 2 | Devils Lake, ND

My VetStore Online.com

Flea & Tick Season

Ticks are starting to show up. Order today to safeguard your pets.

Peter Tjelta, DVM
For appointments call **(701) 662-3321**

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Order online today at:
www.dlanimalclinic.com

Ships to your home. **FREE SHIPPING** on orders over \$75.

Shop On Website from our Facebook page

HOMETOWN PLUMBING LLC
License # MP2113

Professional plumbing services by **SCOTT KORFF**

Office: (701) 947-5995
Cell: (701) 230-5060

PLUMBING SERVICES

Residential
Commercial
Drain Cleaning
Sewer Camera & Locating

Heartland HEARING PROFESSIONALS

Now Open!

Dr. Megan Thorson, Au.D.

We provide thorough, personalized hearing healthcare to help keep you connected to the life you love.

701-251-4014

4680 South Washington St. Ste. D • Grand Forks, ND

www.heartlandhearingprofessionals.com

TUCK POINTING BRICK REPAIR

CALL 701-990-1407

elitetuckpointing.com

Livestock Risk Protection

(LRP) protects your calves against a decline in the market price.

For details and information stop by the office or give us a call.

RICHARD SAGER
CROP INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Rich Sager :: Amy Lee :: Morgan Fee

PO Box 933 - 308 4th Ave. - Devils Lake, ND 58301

Email: info@rscropinsurance.com

Phone: **(701) 662-2299**

Equal Opportunity Provider