

## Responders

*Continued from page 1*

ments with his wife Jane in that time period, has seen plenty of change.

“When [me and my wife] started, we had two pickups and a trailer with a little 500-gallon tank in it – now we’ve got four pickups and a 2,500-gallon tanker which New Salem donated,” he stated.

With Almont steadily decreasing in population over the years, however, concerns surrounding the ability to have willing and able-bodied members of the community serve on these departments linger.

“It’s getting tougher and tougher,” Melchior said. “The younger guys, there just [aren’t] any around, or they’ve got full time jobs somewhere else, and they just can’t be around.”

Fortunately, the staff for both departments in

Almont remain strongly manned.

“We’ve been fortunate we’ve got volunteers jumping up every other year. We’ve got a few younger guys coming in now so it’s starting to look better,” Melchior said.

Olson shared the community of Almont understand the sacrifices being made by the town’s volunteer first responders and what it takes to be a part of these departments.

“I have used the ambulance when my husband passed away and fire for my daughter, so I know the care that they give to the families,” Olson said. “The camaraderie we have with each other, we may not see them for a week at a time, but when we can get together, we support them.”



photo | Vicki Olson

**VOLUNTEER MEMBERS** of the Almont Ambulance Department from left to right: Dr. Steven Sonnamaker, Bill Kramer, Grant Johnson, Nathan Harter, Secretary Treasurer Lynne Jacobson, Gene Peterson, Herb Bruington, Tracy Larson, Mark Jacobson, Sheri Johnson, Jane Melchior, Annie Gartner and Frank Melchior.

## Military Gallery Caravan makes a stop in New Salem

By Richard Mendoza

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As part of their tour across the state of North Dakota, the Military Gallery Caravan associated with the State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation made a stop in New Salem at the Golden Nugget Saloon on Thursday, April 23.

Executive Director of the State Historical Society of North Dakota Dale Lennon along with Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Dr. Bill Peterson hosted a presentation sharing the vision and progress of the new Military Gallery addition at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck. All community members were invited to attend and join in on the discussion.

Lennon stated that the tour, which included 48 stops in 45 different communities in the month of April, was designed to get the word out and connect the public to this developing project.

Lennon began his presentation by emphasizing that North Dakota is one of two states to not have a military museum and that the ND National Guard has been trying to construct a museum since 1972.

With New Salem serving as his 30th stop, Lennon shared that regardless of political affiliation, everyone in attendance has been supportive of the project.



photo | Richard Mendoza

**DALE LENNON** tells the story of Major Clifton Emmet Cushman as part of his presentation.

After a short video presentation highlighting the gallery, Dr. Peterson was invited by Lennon to speak to the attending guests. Peterson stated the gallery currently in-construction will highlight individual stories from North Dakota’s servicemembers only.

Described as a two-story building equipped with a new full-service restaurant, the North Dakota National Guard Regimental Room, an outdoor courtyard and amphitheater, the gallery is scheduled to be open to the public in the last quarter of 2027.

Weapons, uniforms, letters, photographs, and state archives from the ND military will be housed in the new gallery. Roughly 3000 oral histories from ND veterans stored in the archives will be showcased in the gallery.

In addition to providing the public with information on the project, the objective of the caravan was to ask the public for information, stories, or historical

objects/memorabilia related to the military that could be stored in the gallery.

Lennon highlighted the story of Major Clifton Emmet “Cliff” Cushman of Grand Forks, who was reported as “missing in action” in 1966 following an aerial combat mission near Hanoi, North Vietnam. Major Cushman, Lennon shared, participated in the 1960 Olympics and received a silver medal before joining the Air Force. With many people along the tour unaware of Major Cushman’s story, Lennon stated the Historical Society are hoping other unknown soldiers and their stories can be found and recognized through the gallery.

Interested parties looking to help donate can visit [www.state-historicalfoundation.org](http://www.state-historicalfoundation.org). The Foundation are also in search of military items such as letters, photos, weapons, records, etc., for use in the gallery.

### MORTON COUNTY News Journal

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Do you have a story idea? Contact us at 843-7567 or [mcnjournal@gspublishing.net](mailto:mcnjournal@gspublishing.net)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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Probate No. 30-2026-PR-00028

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MORTON COUNTY, SOUTH CENTRAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Estate of Edgar H. Hoesel, Deceased

#### Notice to Creditors

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three month after the date of the first publication of mailing of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Keith H. Hoesel, personal representative of the estate at P.O. Box 1266, Mandan, North Dakota 58554-7266 or filed with the court.

Dated this 9th day of April 2026.

Keith H. Hoesel  
Personal Representative

Published April 15-30

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**TUESDAY**  
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Speedy Gonzalez \$10.<sup>99</sup>

**WEDNESDAY**  
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**THURSDAY**  
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**FRIDAY**  
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MON. - SAT.  
11am - 10pm

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