

SPEECH:

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Grant County’s trio rose above the competition and carved out a place in school history.

Johnston finds her voice

Sophomore Rachel Johnston qualified in Storytelling with a creative retelling of Sleeping Beauty — a performance that includes such dramatic commitment that she falls to the floor during the speech.

One judge at a previous meet joked that Johnston deserved a separate award just for that moment.

Johnston said qualifying for state was something she never expected when the season began.

“I didn’t think I would make it to state because at the beginning of the season, I wasn’t very confident in this speech at all,” she said. “But then I started placing more and more, and all of a sudden I placed in regionals and another meet. It was very fun.”

Johnston said speech feels like a natural fit.

“I was home-schooled until I was a freshman, and I’ve always had a knack for talking,” she said with a laugh. “In fact, I used to be called ‘life story.’”

She said the activity has become one of the most meaningful parts of school life.

“It’s a competition I get to do and I can excel in it. I really like it and I like the people I participate with. It’s the best part of this whole school experience.”

Zacher reaches long-awaited goal

Senior Aidan Zacher qualified in Speech to Entertain at the Beulah meet on Feb. 10 with an original speech centered around life’s everyday annoyances.

“My speech is about things that annoy me,” Zacher said. “So it’s basically just me going on an angry rant.”

Behind the humor is years of determination.

Zacher said he had come painfully close to state before, missing by a single point in each of the previous seasons.

“Making it to state is really special to me because every year leading up to this, I have been just one point away,” he said.

When he finally qualified early in his senior season, the moment was unforgettable.

“It was one of the greatest feelings of relief and excitement that I had ever felt up to that point because I’ve been working for that for so long,” he said. “It’s such a great feeling knowing all of my hard work has

finally paid off.”

He hopes younger students give speech a chance.

“Speech not only builds up your social skills and allows you to be a fantastic speaker, but it also allows you to meet some really cool people.”

Kauzlarich breaks a 40-year drought

Sophomore Braydon Kauzlarich qualified in Humorous Interpretation at the New Salem meet on March 13 with The Pet Shop by John Cleese and Graham Chapman of Monty Python’s Flying

Circus.

His performance features a parrot owner discovering his bird has died and confronting the person who sold it to him.

Ketterling noted Kauzlarich is the first student from Elgin/Grant County in 40 years to qualify in either Serious or Humorous Interpretation.

For Kauzlarich, the honor is the result of persistence.

“I have been trying for three years to get into the state competition,” he said. “If you keep working, eventually you will get really

good at what you do.”

He said speech gave him something athletics never did.

“Sports were never for me, so I joined speech to be a part of a team,” he said. “I think everyone should participate in speech because it gives you a big sense of competition and you get to meet a lot of great people.”

A proud moment for Grant County

In a small school where opportunities are often measured by effort and determination, Grant County’s three state qualifiers

have delivered something special.

They have made history, inspired younger students and proven that success comes in many forms — sometimes with laughter, sometimes with storytelling, and sometimes through the courage to stand up and speak.

This weekend in Mandan, they won’t just represent themselves. They’ll represent a school and community proud to see its voices heard on the state stage.

PUBLIC Notice

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
Public Notice:
Reissue of an NDPDES Permit
Public Notice Date:
April 23, 2026
Purpose of Public Notice
The Department intends to reissue the following North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) Discharge Permit under the authority of Section 61-28-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.
Permit Information
Public Notice Number:
ND-2026-010
Permit Number: ND0022519
Application Date:
January 22, 2026
Application Number:
HQH-VYF0-9JMJ5
Applicant Name:
New Leipzig City Of
Mailing Address: 18 1st St E
Po Box 128 New Leipzig, ND 585620128
Telephone Number:
(701) 584-2006
Proposed Permit Expiration Date: June 30, 2031

Facility Description
The reapplication is for three waste stabilization ponds which service the City of New Leipzig. The discharge facility is located in the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 34, Township 134 North, Range 90 West, Grant County. Any discharge would be to an unnamed tributary of the Cannonball River.

Tentative Determinations
Proposed effluent limitations and other permit conditions have been made by the department. They assure that State Water Quality Standards and applicable provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) will be protected.

Information Requests and Public Comments
Copies of the application, draft permit, and related documents are available for review. Comments or requests should be directed to the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck ND 58503-1324 or by calling 701.328.5210.

All comments received by May 23, 2026 will be considered prior to finalizing the permit. If there is significant interest, a public hearing will be scheduled. Otherwise, the Department will issue the final permit within sixty (60) days of this notice.

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) will consider every request for reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility or other accommodation for people with disabilities, language interpretation for people with limited English proficiency (LEP), and translations of written material necessary to access programs and information. To request accommodations, contact the NDDEQ Non-discrimination Coordinator at 701-328-5210 or deqEJ@nd.gov. TTY users may use Relay North Dakota at 711 or 1-800-366-6888.
NDNA Published 4-23-2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Selfridge Public School Secure Entrance Addition

Project: Selfridge Public School Secure Entrance Addition Owner:Selfridge Public School District

Sealed bids for construction of the above referenced project will be received by Comstock Construction, Inc. until May 7th, 2026, at 2 pm local time at the Selfridge Public School District Board Room, 210 2nd Avenue South, Selfridge, North Dakota 58568 where bids will be publicly opened and read. Mailed sealed bids should be addressed to Selfridge Public School District, 210 2nd Avenue South, Selfridge, North Dakota 58568. Sealed bids may be delivered to Comstock Construction Fargo office prior to 5pm, May 6th, 2026, after which, bids will only be accepted if delivered to the bid opening location.

Bid Group:

- 03A Cast-In-Place Concrete
- 05A Metals (Supply & Install)
- 06A General Construction
- 07A Metal Wall Panels
- 07B EPDM Roofing
- 07C Firestopping & Joint Sealants
- 08A Openings (Supply)
- 08B Aluminum Entrances & Storefronts
- 09A Steel Framing/Gypsum Board Assemblies
- 09B Tiling
- 09C Acoustical Ceilings
- 09D Flooring
- 09E Painting
- 12A Roller Window Shades
- 22A Plumbing
- 23A Mechanical
- 26A Electrical, Communications, Safety & Security
- 31A Earthwork
- 31B Seeding, Fertilizing, & Mulching
- 32A Concrete Paving
- 33A Utilities

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Secure entrance addition to existing school facility with some minor remodeling of the existing facility.

PROJECT SCHEDULE:

Construction Start June 2026. See project schedule.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS:

PDF Plans and specs are available by contacting the office of the Construction Manager:
Comstock Construction, Inc.
1003 Progress Drive
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Terry Lider
Phone: 218-332-7363
Email: tlider@comstockconst.com

Bidding documents may also be examined at the following Builders Exchanges: Fargo-Moorhead Builders Exchange, Bismarck-Mandan Builders Exchange, Dickinson Builders Exchange, Grand Forks Builders Exchange, Minot Builders Exchange, Aberdeen Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls Builders Exchange, Minneapolis Builders Exchange, Bismarck Builders Exchange

All bidders are required to submit bids for a complete bid package described in section 003105 – Bid Packages on the bid form provided in section 004100 – Bid Form in the project specifications. All bidders are required to include applicable state and local taxes in their bid. Each sealed bid shall be accompanied by bid Security in the form of a certified check, cashier’s check, or a bidder’s bond in a sum equal to 5% of the full amount of the bid made payable to the owner. Each bidder shall be prepared upon bid acceptance and contract award, within ten days after notice of award, to effect and execute a contract in accordance with the terms of these specifications.

Comstock Construction, Inc. and the School District reserve the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding. No bid will be read or considered which does not acknowledge project addendums or fully comply with the above referenced provisions, and any deficient bid submitted will be resealed and returned to the bidder. Bids may not be withdrawn or modified within thirty (30) days after the closing time and date.

RE-ELECT Representative Karen Rohr

June 9, 2026 ▪ District 31

paid for by Friends of Karen Rohr

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