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First Father/Daughter Wrestling Ref Duo

By Jessica Wald

They are the only father/daughter reffing duo in the state, but it didn't start there. Chris Weigel and his daughter Jazlyn, rural Kintyre, have always had a connection in the sport of wrestling; athletes, coaches, and now referees.

Chris started wrestling in elementary school and continued throughout high school. The season after graduating in 2003, he said Randy Piatz approached him, as they were short an official for the Napoleon Early Bird tournament. "So, crazy me said yes to help Randy and Shannon Johnson out. The rest is history, as currently, Chris is in his 19th season of reffing, taking off a couple years in between for a back surgery and coaching the Imperial girls' wrestling team. He noted his first state tournament he reffed was in 2007.

Chris and Nikki Weigel's oldest daughter, Jazlyn has been around wrestling her entire life, with her dad reffing, watching her brother throughout his career, and also watching her uncle Andy Nolz compete for South Border. Then, during her sophomore year of high school in 2021/22, she joined the wrestling team, as girls' wrestling became a sanctioned sport in the state and a team was formed in Napoleon.

During Jazlyn's senior year of wrestling, Chris became the girls' wrestling coach and continued in that position for two years.

After she graduated Jazlyn

said her dad encouraged her to sign up to officiate. "I've always wanted to stay involved with the sport that gave me so much, so I decided it would be good for me to give back and start officiating. I've always wanted to be a positive role model to younger girls and even guys when it comes to succeeding in the sport," she said.

During her freshman year of college in Bismarck, she not only followed in her dad's footsteps by reffing wrestling, but she also became the assistant coach for the Napoleon/Gackle-Streeter girls' wrestling team, while her dad was the head coach.

"I reffed a few junior high tournaments last year, but I was mainly coaching in Napoleon so I didn't start full time. This [2025/2026 season] is my first full time reffing year with many varsity, JV, and jr. high tournaments/duals," she noted.

Chris and Jazlyn are the first father/daughter duo to be wrestling refs in the state. "Watching her from little on - wrestling, then coaching her and now to reffing with her: the love she has for the sport is second to none and has probably reffed more events in the state this year than many other officials. From junior to JV tournaments, girls and boys varsity duals, as well as, in her spare time and after college, she goes into Bismarck schools to officiate wrestle-offs in the varsity practices for boys and girls; just to help out where she can and to be on the mat," said Chris.

Jazlyn said she's getting lots of experience as she's reffed every weekend except one, due to the dual being postponed. "I've definitely had a lot of reps this year, which is time consuming, especially with being a full-time college student, but I know it helps me become a better official," she noted.

The father/daughter duo said while they enjoy reffing, it also comes with its chal-

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Father/daughter Imperial duo Head Coach **Chris Weigel** and Imperial senior athlete **Jazlyn Weigel** have a conversation during a match during the 2023/2024 wrestling season, when Chris was voted East Region Coach of the Year and Jazlyn was voted East Region Senior Wrestler of the Year.



Father/daughter Imperial coaching duo Head Coach **Chris Weigel** and Assistant Coach **Jazlyn Weigel** have all eyes on the mat during the 2024/2025 wrestling season.



First father/daughter reffing duo in the state: **Chris Weigel** and **Jazlyn Weigel** during the 2025/2026 wrestling season.

Public Comment On Setbacks & Roads; Office Email Hacked

By Jessica Wald

Commissioners heard several views and suggestions during the public comment portion of the regular Logan County Commissioners meeting last Wednesday, February 11, when all board members were present including Chairman John Wald, Bryan Batsch and Blanche Schumacher.

All public speakers were told they have a strict three-minute time frame to give their comments, as a timer was set for each and they were notified when the time was up. Paulette Jacobson spoke, via phone conference, how the distance should increase for setbacks between future wind towers and a resident dwelling. She gave several examples of safety concerns such as flying ice chunks, long term pollution, malfunction safety, electric magnetic field, etc. Jacobson also gave a concern of other setbacks for different projects.

Tim Rath also gave his feedback on suggestions for zoning setbacks. He said there is a petition to begin the process of changing the zoning laws and asked if someone

could describe the process to get a change made. He, along with several other land owners were in attendance, agreed something needs to be done so residents are more protected. He gave several safety concerns, along with others giving nuisance examples- such as blade noise, blade shadows and blinking red lights. Rath suggested a change be made for all set backs of wind turbines, battery storage centers, data centers, etc., to be at least three miles from a residents' home and two miles away from dwellings.

State's Attorney Grant Walker was on hand and briefly described how a zoning ordinance can be changed. He noted a petition needs to be submitted, then a public hearing notice must be published in the official county newspaper for two weeks, a hearing would be held, then commissioners can vote on whether to adopt a change to the zoning ordinance or not. Rath asked

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