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Driscoll Hall Gets Much Needed Attention

By Kelly Krueger

Donations, Grants, and the Will to do good things revitalizes the Driscoll Hall

Many remember playing basketball in the Driscoll Hall, pancake and sausage dinners, dances and celebrations, weddings dances and funerals and so many other very community-oriented activities. As you had seen, especially in recent years, the place was falling apart... broken tiles on the floor, constant power issues, leaky roof... it was in rough shape, and the endless projects and partial fixes just wasn't getting any headway toward an overall solution. That's when Driscoll resident, Ashley Peyer decided to take on this mission. It started when Ashley and friends applied for a 501c3 tax deductible status, and in April of 2025, she went on a media blitz to gain support to raise money to "Save the Hall". "It is the heart of the town," said Peyer. She and some friends did some campaigning and were successful raising funds. What they thought would be a 10-year endeavor was

turned around in just a year and a half when it came to the attention of the ND Legislature. With the help from a grant from the ND Government and the group's fundraising, they surpassed over \$225,000 for updates and renovations. Improvements include new electrical, new

flooring, a reconditioned roof, bathroom improvements, new windows, and so much more. The youth in the community are working on the locker rooms in the basement making it into a storm shelter for the community. One of the best parts is a large portion of the work was done by

local talent.

A plaque is displayed with the names of people and organizations that had donated \$100 or more. The hall is run by the township and can be rented for graduations, weddings, reunions and so much more. A fee and cleaning deposit can secure your spot for any event. Currently, there are flea markets being held monthly and movie nights and

open gym may be coming soon.

Although the projects will continue with things like air conditioning and parking lot improvements, Peyer is ready to show off the venue... and it is time to see what has been done and the first opportunity will be a Hootenanny. A social gathering, meal, and live music!

So get out and be a part of the reveal on May 2nd beginning at 5:00 pm for a social (cash bar), the meal begins at 5:30 and they will serve until gone. The music by the band, Mythtickle, starts at 6 o'clock. Freewill donations will be accepted for future projects. You can also check out the Save the Hall facebook page.

The food is being donated by the Driscoll Wildlife Club, Driscoll Betterment, and Dakota Community Bank. The Mandan Moose Lodge will prepare prime rib and trimmings. There will be a cash bar and also games and prizes. Live music will go until 10:00 pm.

While there, check out the new sign on the front of the building reminding the visitors that it is the "Home of the Driscoll Dragons". See you there and congrats to Ashley... and the community.



The front of the newly renovated Driscoll Hall. (More pictures on page 16)

From Tappen to ... Portugal's Algarve

By: Kami Rangeloff

When it comes to summer vibes, the Algarve region, and particularly its coastline, has some of the best beaches not just in Portugal, but in all of Europe. The Atlantic is warmer here than anywhere else along Portugal's coast, so the turquoise water and pale limestone cliffs are postcard-worthy no matter the season. In

fact, it's been named several times as one of the best places in the world to retire, so anyone looking for alternatives to Florida and Arizona, read on!

If you picture Portugal's coast as a face in profile, Lisbon would be the nose, and the Algarve would be the jawline, a three-hour drive south. Several towns span the Algarve's 125 miles of coastline, each with its own vibe, but all offer fresh sea air, the cries of seagulls, and 300 days of sunshine a year. The Algarve is known for their oranges, wine (since 2000 BC), and summertime crowds (especially from the UK). If you saw the Netflix documentary, you may also recall it as the tragic location of Madeleine McCann's disappearance 17 years ago, unfortunately still unsolved. But it remains a

popular Portuguese destination for people as diverse as spring-breakers and retirees.

Hands down, my favorite activity in Algarve was sailing along its coast. From almost any town, paddle-boards, kayaks, speed boats, and catamarans cater to all levels of adventurers, and no one leaves without a sunburn and a smile. Pick any stretch of coastline and you'll see caves big and little, soft-colored cliffs, and rock formations galore.

Our captain was amazing; he treated the formations like my grandmother did clouds... a challenge to find the shapes! He convinced us the Beatles took their inspiration for "Yellow Submarine" from a local rock (not true) and most interestingly, shell fossils on the roof of the caves (true). Benagil cave is by far the star of the show; light (See "Portugal" on Page 10)



Colorful marina housing in Albufeira

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