

GREFF
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creativity in developing unique North Dakota offerings.

In its recognition, Greff was cited for transforming the small town of Regent.

“Nearly four decades ago, he dreamt of attracting visitors and defied doubters by building the world’s largest metal sculptures along a 32-mile stretch of highway. From welding and painting these massive artworks himself to establishing the Enchanted Castle hotel and gift shop, Gary has poured his heart and soul into the project,” the recognition states. “Even today, he welcomes guests, cooks meals and maintains the sculptures. His dedication doesn’t stop there, as a fire-breathing dragon and knight are his latest creations, and Gary is always willing to share his story with media across the globe. Gary’s tireless innovation has secured the Enchanted Highway’s place as a must-see attraction, boosting tourism, and breathing new life into Regent.”

“It’s just a remarkable dream and I’m really glad he could make this happen for all of us,” said Ted Uecker, who serves on the Friends of the Enchanted Highway Foundation board. “I think Gary is the ultimate trailblazer.”

Greff’s dream continues as he completes his eighth set of sculptures, a 41-foot-tall knight and the knight’s nemesis, a dragon measuring 42 feet tall and 100 feet from nose to tail, which stand on the grounds of the Enchanted Castle. The Enchanted Castle opened in 2012 after Greff refurbished the former school in Regent into a hotel, steakhouse and tavern resembling a castle.

When completed, the dragon will breathe real fire, blow smoke and screech a battle cry.

“I’m the knight of the castle, here to defend the castle,” the knight will reply with bravery. The animation will be activated with a credit card payment to help fund the costs of the propane needed for the flame-throwing dragon. And a voice will tell the

mythical tale about a peasant with a magical potion to help “Sir Albert,” the kingdom’s best knight, slay the dragon.

The Enchanted Highway, a 32-mile stretch of highway from Exit 72 on I-94 to Regent in southwestern North Dakota, features some of the world’s largest scrap metal sculptures, from giant grasshoppers to a fisherman’s dream to a complete tin family and other sculptures.

Greff started sculpting his dream in 1989, eventually crafting seven – and now eight – metal sculpture scenes placed along the Enchanted Highway with the intention of reviving his hometown of Regent. The “Tin Family” was raised in 1991 as the first group of sculptures.

The Friends of the Enchanted Highway Foundation has now been established to help keep the Enchanted Highway financially sustainable.

Six Governor’s Travel and Tourism Awards were during the North Dakota Travel Industry Conference in Fargo.

“Tourism is a pillar of North Dakota’s economy, and we’re thrilled to honor these exceptional leaders who tirelessly build and promote our legendary state,” Gov. Doug Burgum said. “Their creativity and dedication are what draw so many visitors each year. We owe a debt of gratitude to the 3,011 businesses and 43,877 individuals who work in the travel industry and set North Dakota apart, create unforgettable experiences and contribute to our economic diversity.”

For more information and to view videos of the 2024 Governor’s Travel and Tourism award winners, go to <https://belegendary.link/2024GovTravelAwardWinners>.

INVASION
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underneath the lockers in the high school wing to attend to the area, Slayton said.

“We did have the kids clean their lockers out. That’s just the first thing that you do, because kids will leave food and things like that in their lockers and the mice come in looking for the food. They’ve gotten rid of most of the sources of food that they could go in and eat,” Slayton said.

“While walking around the building, I did notice some of the outside doors did have gaps in them large enough to allow mice into the building. It would be a good idea to try and close these gaps, especially by this fall when mice will be trying to enter the building for the winter,” Pavlish stated in his report as well.

“The school staff is addressing the mouse infestation in a responsible manner and will hopefully continue to do so after the current school year is completed. Continue to discourage students from keeping food in their lockers and if mice are caught in any traps, only allow school staff to remove the mice and/or trap from the area and dispose of them properly. Discourage leaving any outside doors open, especially when deliveries are being made to the school,” Pavlish stated. “I also encourage setting enclosed mousetraps outside the school building, especially around delivery doors and other doors that may be left open. Outside garbage bins should be kept closed and the area around them be kept as clean as possible so that the area does not attract mice. When school is

out for the summer, you may also want to increase the number of mousetraps in the building, particularly in areas of the school where traps can’t be located during the school year due to the presence of the students.”

Most of the sightings of mice have been in the older portion of the building.

In 2017, new construction built a two-story elementary school to replace the 107-year-old current building as well as upgrades to the existing high school. The high school was constructed in 1935 and the latest major expansion was an update in 1964.

“This is a large building and it may take several months to take care of the problem. Whenever removing dead mice or cleaning out infested areas, make sure that precaution is taken to reduce the chances of exposure to hantavirus and other diseases associated with these rodents. Wearing protective gloves as well as disinfecting the affected areas will go a long way in preventing the spread of disease,” Pavlish stated.

“We’re in a good spot with it,” Slayton said. “It’s the priority in the building right now.”



Mouse droppings have been found in high school lockers at the Mott-Regent Public School. | SUBMITTED PHOTO

CALL FOR BIDS
NEW DOORS AND HARDWARE AT DOOR C ENTRANCE AREA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Hettinger School Board will receive bids for replacement of the external doors located at Door C and the internal doors located in the same area. This bid is for the doors/glass and all hardware needed for operation of said doors.

All bids must be submitted to the Hettinger Public School Business Manager’s Office in a sealed envelope marked “Hettinger Public School Door C door replacement” on or before 3:00 pm, May 13, 2024. Bids will be opened at 6:20pm, May 15, 2024, in the HPS Board Room. Final bids may be awarded at a later date. Interested parties may contact HPS Superintendent, Darin Seamands at 701-567- 4502 to obtain additional information.

The Hettinger School Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Heather Ebert, Business Manager

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