

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

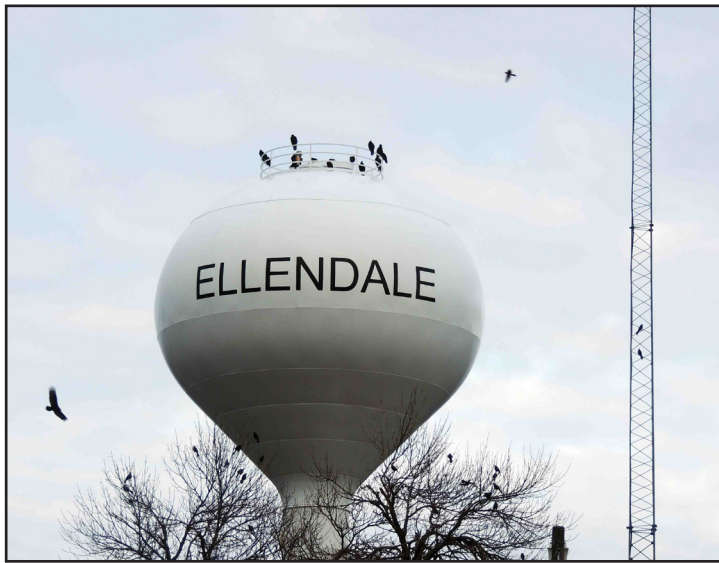
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Big birds return

Another sign of spring that comes from looking upward--in addition to Canada goose migration--is the annual arrival of turkey vultures. Thanks to Peggy Gilbert for pointing out this small flock that rested on our town's water tower last week.

While turkey vulture's faces are quite unappealing (unlike the attractive face of an eagle), these birds have enormous wingspans. Watching them soar on updrafts and alighting on trees and other structures can be quite satisfying. Plus, when one thinks about it, eagles also share many of the feeding habits we associate with vultures. Both, for example, often feed on the carcasses of deer and other animals that were victims of winter kill.



Turkey vultures, and smaller birds of unidentified species, hanging out on a warm April 8, 2024 evening (photo by Ken Smith)

School Board election set for Tuesday, June 4

Four candidates have stepped forward to run for two open seats on the board of the Ellendale Public School, District #40. While often overlooked, the responsibility of serving on the school board is of great importance, as board members help chart the course for the future of countless individuals, families and the community. Their decisions involve a great deal of taxpayer money, and their main reward is the satisfaction of serving.

The *Leader* is extending invitations to each of the four candidates to explain in writing the qualifications, ideals, goals, and other information that will help voters make informed choices as to how to cast their votes.

Candidates for a 3-year term as East rural member are Valerie Wagner (incumbent) and Myron Myers. Candidates for the Rural at large position (also a 3-year term) are Cresta Miller (incumbent) and Tyler Hokana.

Every election is determined by the people who show up.

LARRY J. SABATO

Official Ballot

Ellendale Public School
District No. 40
Dickey County
State of North Dakota
Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Vote for Two (2) Members for the ELLENDALE SCHOOL BOARD.

Area: EAST RURAL for a term of three (3) years.
Vote for ONE (1) name only!

Valerie Wagner -----

Myron Myers -----

Write In
Fill in Name -----

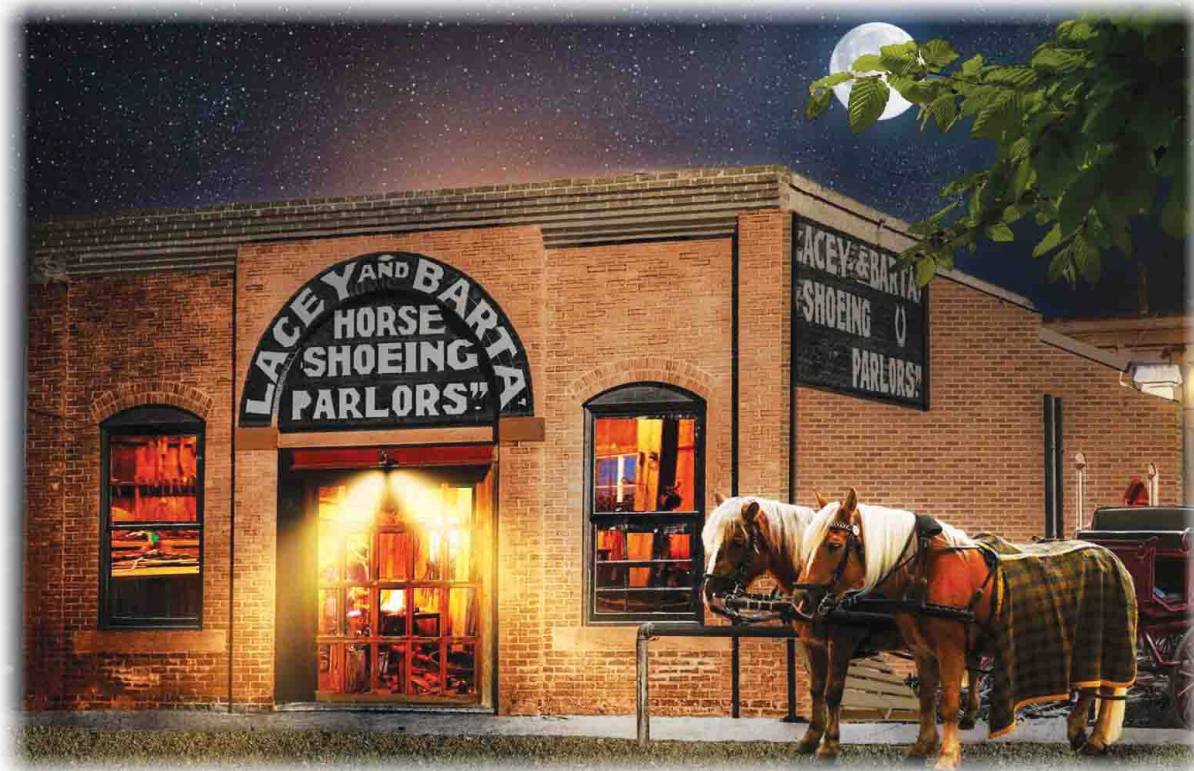
AREA: RURAL AT LARGE for a term of three (3) years.
Vote for ONE (1) name only!

Cresta Miller -----

Tyler Hokana-----

Write In
Fill in Name -----

Reviving local blacksmithing history with Lacey & Barta/Gerling property



The colorized enhancement above by Kevin Kendall-- which adds a pair of horses, a coach, starry sky and full moon, is based on a 115-year old photo of Ellendale's most famous blacksmith shop. The building is still standing. It's located on 1st Street South and Railroad Avenue, right next to the Touch of Class salon. The unique historic signs on the shop signify just one of the specialties of the shop, whose workers were also adept at sharpening and repairing plows,

fixing wagons, and almost any type of welding.

In 1938, Ellendale native Otto Gerling (1906-1980, depicted at right) bought the shop and moved his blacksmithing business into it. Gerling applied his vast array of skills and techniques to the trade, gaining the admiration of townspeople and farmers alike for his integrity and work ethic as well as his craftsmanship. By Gerling's time, cars had mostly replaced horses, so the art of the farrier (horse shoer) was much less in demand. But Gerling never lacked for other business. It was widely said of him that "he can fix anything."

Last fall the Gerling family made the generous decision to donate the blacksmith shop and its property to the community by deeding it to the Ellendale Historical Society. Already plans are underway to repaint the historic signs, preserve the original windows and wood on the front, and beautify the property by clearing overgrown shrubbery and an overgrown cottonwood tree.

The Historical Society intends to use the blacksmith shop to revive interest in the history of a trade that

Standout Cards athlete Reis, now with the Wolves, sets Northern State University javelin record

Aberdeen, S.D. - Northern State's Levi Reis (men's track and field) was one of last week's South Dakota Army National Guard Athletes of the Week following his recent performances.

Reis recorded a strong day in the javelin from the USD Early Bird with a personal record, school record, and nationally ranked toss. He took second and was the top Division II placer with his toss of 62.29 meters (204.4 feet). The freshman broke the 2011 school record by almost two meters. Reis ranks 18th in the country with his provisional mark.

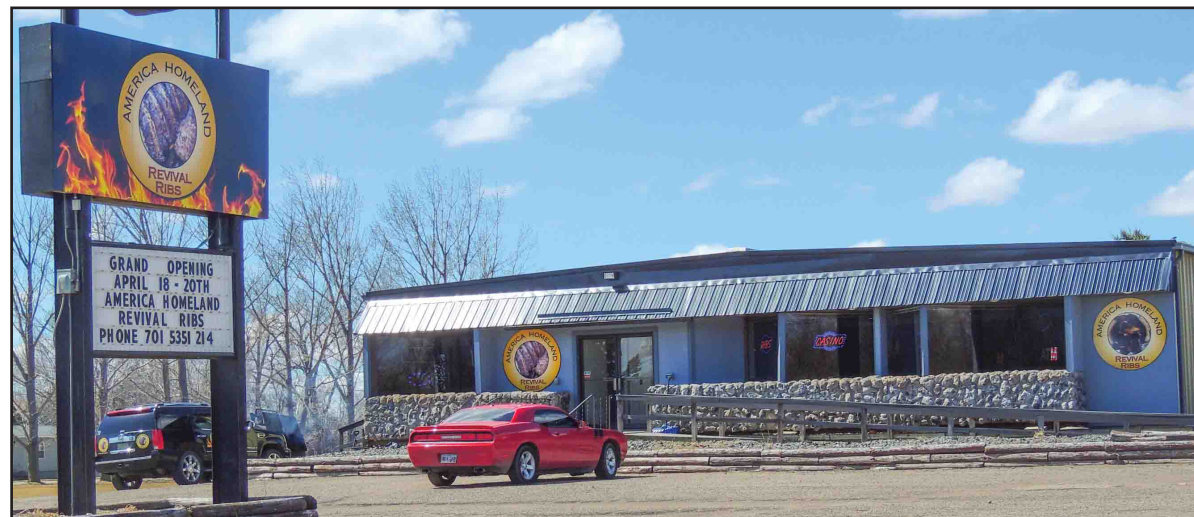
In the photo at right, Levi Reis shared a triumphant moment with his mom (Nicole) and his dad (Richard) at a recent track and field event. Under his father's coaching as a Cards athlete, Levi was the top javelin thrower at the North Dakota state track meet in both 2022 and 2023. Levi and Kaylin Slivoskey were both state track champs the last two years, and Kaylin is now a senior.

Levi's winning javelin throw at the state meet last year was 182' 7" (55.5 meters). In another testament to skilled, experienced coaching in addition to hard, sustained training, Levi's NSU coach Jon Evenson was the previous NSU javelin record holder, setting the 2011 mark of 60.03 meters (196.9 feet).



In his commencement address as the EHS 2023 salutatorian, Levi expressed appreciation to his parents (his biggest fans) and to the countless people who made a difference for him: "In addition to the community," he said, "the school has put me and my classmates on a path to succeed in life."

Revival Ribs grand opening, April 18-19-20



Kelly and Patricia Hinton (profiled last week in the *Leader*) are big fans of anniversaries. Their relocated headquarters of America Homeland Revival Ribs (at the former CBS/Fireside restaurant) was first opened on Kelly's birthday, December 11, 2023. And the grand opening, featuring free samples of Revival Ribs, associated cuisine and other goodies, starts on April 18, which is Patricia's birthday.

The shift from a state-of-the-art barbecue wagon, which for years has greeted motorists driving into Ellendale from the south, to a full-size building is big one. But Kelly has been working and operating restaurants and food services since he was a kid in Chicago, and he's enthusiastic about the new location.

The revamped main floor is equipped with a digital gaming studio, a bandstand for live music, a new ATM, and plenty of seating. More details are in last week's story in the *Leader*.

Most of all, Kelly and Patricia seek to create a unique atmosphere that touches people on a deep level. "It's not just food," Kelly said, "but an experience rooted deep within one's sense memories while sharing moments around delicious meals shared together as family or friends which can never be replicated anywhere else except here on American soil."

In reminiscing about their nearly two decades of living in Ellendale, they also recalled the high point in the high school athletic career of their son Kellemon, who nine years ago (May 2015) won the North Dakota state championships in both the long jump and the triple jump. As a NDSU Bison track and field athlete, he continued to excel. A 2019 feature story in *Bison Illustrated*, titled "Pride of the Prairie," stressed Kellemon's Ellendale roots.

"Hinton has always had greatness inside of him," the article began. "While most of that is thanks to his want and vigor to get better, some of it stems from his hometown of Ellendale, North Dakota. Hinton says the support of his town is what taught him the values to be successful in athletics and beyond. 'One thing I learned from being around the people in Ellendale was that they supported me and it kind of balances back,' he said. 'When someone does something for you, you learn to do it back to others. Whether it was through the things I was involved in or embracing the family aspect of a small town. That was very big.'

"The senior was a stellar athlete for Ellendale High School. Hinton won three consecutive North Dakota Class B state titles in the triple jump, winning the event in his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. Add to that, two long jump titles in his junior and senior seasons for the Cardinals. Even when he did not win the state title, he was runner-up, earning second place in the triple jump as a freshman and in the long jump as a sophomore. To date, he has the fifth-longest triple jump in North Dakota high school history."



State champion Kellemon Hinton became one of the most dominant triple jumpers in North Dakota Class B track and field history. (DC Leader photo by Paul Wedell)

was at one time one of the most important small town businesses. As most of Otto's equipment is still in the shop, the Society hopes at some point to hold public demonstrations that will educate and inform young and old alike about the blacksmith's art.

As part of this historical undertaking, the *Leader* is planning several articles on blacksmithing in Ellendale, tracing its evolution from 1882 when the first blacksmith ad appeared in the *Leader*. These articles will not only highlight the importance of the blacksmithing trade, it will demonstrate that far from being old-fashioned, stuck-in-the-mud metal-pounders, blacksmiths were among the most innovative and adaptable professionals in a town of any size. They didn't just shoe horses and sharpen plows: they were literally the first auto mechanics. They were clever inventors as well as repair specialists. And no town could easily get by without one or several blacksmiths.

We begin by reproducing a front page story about Otto Gerling which was featured in the June 17, 1971 edition. **Please turn to page 9 to read this story.**



Otto Gerling created hundreds of lovely handmade railings. The front entrance to Starion bank still has one of them.

Recycling Pick Up		Recycling Dumpster Pick up					
Garbage Pick Up		Garbage Dumpster Pick Up					
April							
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
B		1	2	3	4	5	6
A	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
B	28	29	30				