

Your Weather



Friday - Dec. 27
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A special hi, hello & how are you doing to our

Subscriber of the week:
Gary Hanson
Cavalier, ND

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STATE: Cross-state partnership to boost drone use. **PG. 6**



AGRICULTURE: \$300 million in automatic assistance for farmers **PG. 3**



SPORTS: A look back at spearing in North Dakota **PG. 8**

Titans **TOP** Mustangs at home

By Mike Alan Steinfeldt

The Drayton-Valley-Edinburg Titans picked up a big win in Region 2, District 3 girls' basketball action with a 45-39 win over the Midway-Minto Mustangs on Dec. 17 in Drayton.

The Mustangs led 11-10 after one quarter, but the Titans managed to tie the game, 23-23 at the half.

After being outscore 9-6 in a defense-driven third quarter, the D-V-E finished strong, outscoring M-M 16-7 in final quarter to pick up their fourth win of the season.

Senior Aleah Pokrzywinski led three Titans' players in double figures with 16 points, followed by Brooke Gullickson and Jacey Nelson with 11.

Maddy Korynta and Bre Hurt led the Mustangs with 14 points each.

For the game, the Titans shot 7-for-12 from the free-throw line, good for 58 percent. M-M shot 5-for-11 from the charity stripe for 45 percent.

D-V-E - 10 13 6 16 - 45
M-M - 11 12 9 7 - 39

D-V-E - Aleah Pokrzywinski 16, Brooke Gullickson 11, Jacey Nelson 11, Alyssa Hoyles 4, Jaelyn Johnson 3.

M-M - Maddy Korynta 14, Bre Hurt 14, Sadie Armbrust 5, Jadeyn Albrecht 4, Emma Grabanski 2.



Greta Burrell looks for an open teammate in action against Midway-Minto in Drayton last week. Photo by Lyle Van Camp

Property tax reform leads long list of legislative to-dos

Number of bills complicates, steepens learning curve for new legislators

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative

The first third of the biennial 69th Legislative Assembly session convening Jan. 7 in Bismarck is likely to see property tax reform as the main challenge for legislators, according to leaders from across the political spectrum.

Most don't expect the more than 50 anticipated property tax reform measures to engulf the proceedings, but the large number of bills expected will complicate matters during committee meetings, particularly for newer legislators just getting their feet wet.

"We will settle on the correct policy as soon as we achieve a consensus," on the raft of potential property tax reform measures, said Senate Majority Leader David Hogue, R-Minot.

"I think there's strong consensus on the idea that we need to cap property tax revenue spending at the local level, while at the same time providing some safety valve for extraordinary expenditures that the people vote for," Hogue said.

Property tax reform

Hogue said he thinks there is "good consensus" on expanding the primary property tax credit as the means to provide tax relief to residents across the state, as well as simplifying the Homestead Property Tax credit which targets further relief for those over 65 years of age to make it more effective.

House Majority Leader Mike Lefor, R-Dickinson, said property tax reform that goes beyond just providing relief will be the top priority.

This could include looking more deeply at the tax assessment and valuation process across the state to ensure it is consistent, fair and transparent. It could also include helping counties better manage their spending processes, Lefor said.

Another possibility could include a range of property tax percentage caps as well as potentially including life estates and trusts in what's covered under property tax relief.

"There's a lot of ideas floating around out there that will be given serious consideration," Lefor said.

Sen. Hogue said workforce development is another top priority of his, particularly related to childcare and whether attraction campaigns like "Find the Good Life" are effective. When it comes to the \$65 million expenditure on childcare during the last session, the legislature really needs to "roll up its sleeves and

November Students of the Month at DPS

The Drayton Education Association would like to announce the November DEA Students of the Month. The following students were nominated by Drayton Public School faculty and staff and voted upon by the Drayton Education Association to recognize them for their academic achievements, citizenship, setting a good example, and overall character.

The November DEA Students of the Month are as follows:

High School- Shawn Patterson, Grade 7:

Shawn works hard, participates in class, and is quick to help others. He does his best to include everyone, showing kindness to those around him. Shawn gives it his all, both in the classroom and through his involvement in other activities. Shawn is a great example of positive leadership.

Elementary- Misha Fleishman, Grade 1:

Misha works hard in class. He is a good learner and tries his best in activities. Misha loves music and motivates the class to get excited and interested in what they are doing. He has a positive energy that spreads to those around him. Misha is an amazing example of enthusiasm for learning.



Bill submitted to legislature to strengthen rural North Dakota communities

Submitted by Megan Langley, Executive Director of Strengthen ND

A transformative piece of legislation aimed at bolstering the vitality and sustainability of rural communities across North Dakota has been introduced to the state legislature. Sponsored by Senator Tim Mathern (Fargo), Senator Terry Wanzek (Jamestown), and Representative Mike Brandenburg (Edgeley), this bill will establish North Dakota's Rural Community Endowment Fund, a \$50 million permanent resource dedicated to empowering rural communities with fewer than 1,000 residents.

The Rural Community Endowment Fund will serve as a self-sustaining financial resource to provide grants for essential projects, including housing development, workforce initiatives, infrastructure improvement, and economic revitalization. The fund's annual interest will support competitive grantmaking, with the principal amount preserved for long-term sustainability.

"This legislation is an investment in the heart of North Dakota's communities," said Megan Langley, Executive Director of Strengthen ND. "By establishing a permanent funding source, we can empower rural towns to build their futures on their terms, addressing critical needs like housing, infrastructure, and workforce development. This bill is about ensuring that every corner of our state has the tools and resources to thrive."

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From Valley News & Views



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