

—AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS—

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

The Lord’s Pantry located at Trinity Lutheran Church in Turtle Lake from 2 to 4 p.m. No referrals or pre-registration required. All in need are welcome to receive food at no cost.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Underwood Civic Club Holiday Craft and Vendor Show located at the City Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch, Door Prizes and Santa Photos.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Community Cupboard of Underwood, 208 Lincoln Ave food distribution from 10 a.m. to noon. McLean County residents in need are welcome. No referrals or pre-registration required.

WEEKLY

EVERY TUESDAY

The Community Cupboard of Underwood Thrift Store is open every Tuesday 1 - 5 pm. 208 Lincoln Ave. Underwood

EVERY THURSDAY

AA Meeting, Turtle Lake Methodist Church on Thursday evenings at 7.

Community Clothing Share-Exchange at 221 Main St. in Turtle Lake has a clothing opportunity at no cost each Thursday from 12:00 -6:00 p.m.

AREA LIBRARY HOURS

WASHBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY - Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
UNDERWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY - Monday & Wednesday -9 a.m. to 3 p.m. -Tuesday & Thursday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
TURTLE LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY - Monday & Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
MCLEAN-MERCER REGIONAL LIBRARY, Riverdale - Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Noon meals are provided for those 60 and over. Call a day in advance to reserve or cancel a meal. 748-2493 for Hazen, Beulah, Stanton, Zap and Golden Valley. 448-2472 for Turtle Lake and Mercer. 734-6426 for Wilton and Washburn. 442-3488 for Underwood and Garrison. Milk, bread and margarine are served daily. Suggested contribution of \$4.00 per meal. Full cost of the meal is \$11.61. Frozen meals are available for weekends and holiday closures.

December 15 through December 19

MONDAY: Italian Pasta Bake, Green Beans, House Salad, Garlic Toast and Peaches.
TUESDAY: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Cabbage and Carrots, Orange Sections and Bread.
WEDNESDAY: Tilapia Ketchikan, Green Bean Oregano, Warm German Salad, Apricots and Bread.
THURSDAY: Cranberry Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Blushing Pineapple and Bread.
FRIDAY: Stuffed Cabbage Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Zucchini, Raspberry Gelatin and Bread.

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank all of our family and friends for the outpouring of love, comfort and sympathy given to us after Gary’s passing. All the beautiful cards, plants, flowers, food, drinks and paper products. It is overwhelming and we thank you. Thank you to all those that visited Gary when he was at the Benedictine Center and the Turtle Lake Hospital, it is very much appreciated.
God Bless all of you.
The Gary Presser Family.


WEATHER

Date	Max	Min	Precip
Dec 1	9	6	.00
Dec 2	34	3	.00
Dec 3	5	1	.00
Dec 4	32	5	.03
Dec 5	26	23	.00
Dec 6	3	2	.18
Dec 7	6	12	.00

Larry Dziuk

Call 462-8126
to place an ad





Will now be taking appointments. Call ahead to reserve a time.

Tuesday, December 23 & Tuesday, January 13

Mobile Veterinary Clinic will be in

Underwood at the Rose 3 - 4 p.m.

and Washburn Cenex 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Surgeries, Exams & Vaccinations
Call 720-8387

McLean County receives cleanest rating for audit

Auditor, staff receive compliments from state

BY KELLI AMELING
Associate Publisher

McLean County received the cleanest rating a county can receive for its 2023 audit report.

During the Nov. 25 McLean County Commission meeting, North Dakota Legislative Auditor Jared Mack presented the state’s findings for the fiscal year ending December 2023, which gave McLean County an unmodified opinion.

“An unmodified opinion is the cleanest opinion,” Mack said.

During his presentation, which he did by phone as the weather conditions made traveling to Washburn difficult during the meeting, Mack reviewed four findings for the commissioners to consider.

Mack noted the financial statements provided from the county to the state auditing team were done on a cash-basis practice. To meet state laws, moving forward, the county will need to prepare financial statements on a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles – or GAAP – basis.

Mack described the Century Code referencing this requirement as “stale,” but noted it still needed to be done, and the 2023 audit would be last year the state accepts cash-basis accounting for financial statements.

“This isn’t a significant finding,” Mack said, noting McLean County is taking

steps for the switch.

Two other findings included getting extra staffing for the county to help segregate duties within the McLean County auditor’s office.

“This is a pretty common finding,” Mack said, adding about 90 percent of audits in North Dakota at the government level show this as a finding. “I don’t expect you to fix it.”

Mack said only bigger cities like Bismarck, Minot and Fargo tend to not have these findings in their audits, as they are bigger cities with more personnel to divey up the duties.

“This is not something we are expecting (McLean County) to elevate,” Mack said.

The last finding Mack discussed with commissioners was a material journal entry to show money from court activities within the financial statement.

McLean County Auditor Beth Knutson asked Mack the best way for the county to incorporate that line item, as the court system is contracted through the state with their own accounting system.

Mack said she could make a new fund or find a place within a fund to add the line item. He said there are no specifics on how often she has to show activity on the fund, adding it could even be a yearly entry strictly for auditing purposes.

At this time, Mack said the only county he is aware of

in North Dakota doing this is Williams County, but it is something McLean County could start doing so it is not a finding on future audit reviews if they chose to do so.

After presenting the audit, Mack acknowledged Knutson and her team and thanked them for their hard work, flexibility and patience.

“Sometimes, it’s not as clean where we get to work from start to finish - (Knutson and her team) were very forthcoming with information, paid attention to us and, frankly, they had patience with us,” Mack said. “They did a very nice job and it was a pleasure to work with them – (McLean County) is one of our better county clients on preparedness.”

Looking ahead, Mack said there might be some bumps in the road when switching accounting principles and then with auditing those principles, but he was positive and optimistic about the outcome of it.

McLean County Commission Chairman Steve Lee thanked Mack and his team for preparing the audit, noting he didn’t hear any complaints from the county side.

Commissioner Curt Olson agreed, thanking Mack for going over the audit report.

“I am glad to hear our staff is doing a good job,” Olson said.

The commissioners unanimously accepted the audit report.

McLean County Sheriff’s Department Calls Of Service

COMPILED BY KELLI AMELING
Associate Publisher

Nov. 15

Deputies performed a traffic stop at about 11:15 a.m. on U.S. Highway 83 northbound near mile marker 143 after a driver failed to maintain lanes. Upon approaching the driver, the deputy noted the driver’s glossy blood shot eyes and open can of Busch Light in the center console. Cole Verbruggen, 32, of Minot, was arrested for driving under the influence.

Deputies responded at about 2:15 p.m. to the 80 block of Seven R Street Northwest on a report of suspicious activity. The reporting party stated on two different dates, vehicles approached their home at the location where a person came into the gate area. The homeowners requested deputies run the plates and find out why the people were there. It was advised deputies would do extra patrol. Deputies did check out the property and noted there were no signs of broken entry.

Deputies responded at

about 3:50 p.m. to the 30 block East Second Avenue in Turtle Lake on a report of criminal mischief. A reporting party stated a female defaced a sign at the American Legion. It was determined a sign had a trash bag taped over it, causing a little bit of damage to the sign after removing the bag. Deputies spoke with the accused individual, however, they denied it was them. The case is being investigated.

Deputies performed a traffic stop at about 7:50 p.m. on U.S. Highway 83 northbound near mile marker 159. Upon pulling the vehicle over, deputies could smell marijuana. The vehicle’s occupants gave the deputies some paraphernalia for marijuana before a search of the vehicle ensued. An 18-year-old female of Minot was cited for being in possession of a controlled substance – marijuana less than 5 ounce, possession of drug paraphernalia and having expired registration.

Nov. 16

Deputies performed a traffic stop at about 12:30 a.m. on

N.D. Highway 37 westbound near mile marker 55 for having a taillight out. Upon pulling the vehicle over, deputies noted the driver having bloodshot eyes, slurred words and “falling out of the truck.” Deputies could also smell alcohol. Javier Francisco, 32, was arrested for driving under the influence.

Deputies performed a traffic stop at about 9:15 p.m. on U.S. Highway 83 near mile marker 153 after a driver was going 85 mph in a 70-mph zone. A 31-year-old female, of Garrison, was cited for speeding.

Nov. 18

Deputies responded at about 8 a.m. to the 500 block of Selton Street in Turtle Lake for a civil standby. The reporting party stated they were going through a divorce and wanted their stuff back from their ex.

Nov. 21

Deputies performed a traffic stop at about 8:50 a.m. on Lincoln Avenue in Underwood. Cory Vorce, 45, of Washburn, was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

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