

Basketball

two early turnovers into four points. Answering with two three-pointers, the Bearcats managed to stay within 10 points of the Holsteins for a short while, but the NSA side began to ride the hot hand and allowed Smith the opportunity to continue his first half offensive production. Adding four points down the stretch, Smith and senior forward/center Kolter Miller, who knocked down a three-pointer, helped the Holsteins finish the third quarter with a 43-30 lead.

As the fourth and final quarter of play got under way, it would be Gilbert and Smith once again leading the way offensively for the Holsteins. While

the Bearcats as a team would score 17 points in the quarter, Gilbert and Smith would combine for 21 points.

The pair traded back to back three-pointers early on to help grow the Holstein lead to 19 points (51-32) before the Bearcats responded with a 5-0 run. Smith then added seven points on three consecutive made field goals to negate the short run by the Bearcats, and Gilbert converted three of four free throws to continue growing the Holstein lead. Smith would close out the scoring and win for the Holsteins by also converting three of four free throws down the stretch.

Smith and Gilbert finished the game with

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34 and 21 points respectively, Nelson added four points, Miller scored three, and sophomore forward/center Justin Sanders scored two points.

The Holsteins will play again on Saturday, January 3 against the White Shield Warriors at White Shield High School. Game time is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. CST.

Note: At the time of writing, the game against the Standing Rock Warriors had not yet been played. Coverage of this game will occur on our Facebook, and a recap in writing will be available in our paper that releases on January 7.

Giving Back

people.”

In total, by the end of 2025, the 100 Acts program resulted in donations to 24 community organizations- including food pantries, humane societies, youth programs, and medical support groups- as well as five local emergency service departments throughout the Bismarck, Mandan, and New Salem areas. More than \$1,400 was donated to local schools, and three area servers were given \$100 tips for their work. Other employees used their funds to buy food and gas for their community members, or helped pay for necessary expenses.

“Everyone chose opportunities that were important to them,” said Sandberg, “or that they felt a personal connection to in some way. Our personal banker in New Salem, Casey, had her four kids help, giving each of them \$20 to do with as they wished. One of our insurance agents in Mandan gifted \$100 to a single mother

in her parish who needed some extra help. She and her husband also gifted the mother a meat bundle to help her out.”

In addition to these generous gifts, the bank also hosted several parties throughout its locations that were open to the public. While a different form of gratitude than the donations, they still help to stress the ideas of gratitude and togetherness that inspired the campaign to begin with- and likewise, the bonds that will continue to make Security First a crucial part of the ND community for years to come.

“The everyday simple acts of kindness are everything,” said Sandberg, “and wholeheartedly align with who we are as a community bank. Great customer service to us is all the little things, like greeting our customers by name and asking how their daughter’s basketball game went last week. We know our customers and their families and their pets;

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those relationships mean everything. We genuinely care about your personal and financial well-being, and that guides everything we do. We want to share that sentiment out in the community, not just in our bank lobbies.”

Even though the 100 Acts of Community campaign has ended, Security First Bank notes that it will not be the end of their local outreach affairs, and that they aim to keep sponsoring and aiding with community events throughout 2026 and beyond. More information on the bank and its outreach programs can be found on security-firstbank.bank.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Abandoned Mine Lands Division (AML) of the North Dakota Public Service Commission will hold a public meeting on January 21st, 2026, at 1:00 pm (CST) at the North Dakota State Capitol, 12th Floor Commission Hearing Room, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota, 58505. The meeting will also be held virtually at <https://www.psc.nd.gov/meetings-news/meetings-agendas-minutes>. The AML Division is seeking input on the proposed reclamation of the abandoned underground mines near ND Old Highway 10 in New Salem. Anyone interested in this project or with information or concerns about any abandoned coal mine in the area is encouraged to attend this open forum discussion. If you are interested in learning more about the AML program, please visit the Public Service Commission’s website at <https://www.psc.nd.gov/jurisdictions/abandoned-mine-lands>.

For more information, please contact Brett Job, Project Manager, Abandoned Mine Lands Division, North Dakota Public Service Commission, 600 E. Blvd. Ave., Dept. 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480 or by calling 701-328-4073.

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Santa Run

Run was still created with a goal in mind- and even after moving, that purpose has not changed. Funds raised from the event, its website claims, have been and always will be sent to recovery programs. This year, proceeds went to supporting Hope Manor, a group in Mandan’s hub area that supports those who struggle with alcohol and other addictions.

“We still hold the goal of the Santa Run close to our hearts,” said Kosek, “and Hope Manor is helping to fight the disease of addiction in our community. They have been a long-standing beneficiary of the Santa Run, largely because they’re a ‘boots on the ground’ outreach program. They work directly, personally, with those struggling with addiction, and need people to do so. Being able to not only facilitate recovery experiences but also personal recovery is extremely valuable, and we aim to continue supporting it every year just as Judge Reich intended.”

The 2025 Mandan Santa Run was originally scheduled to take place on December 14, but was unexpectedly moved to December 20 due to extreme cold conditions. Thankfully, this did little to dissuade attendees, who promptly arrived on Sunday ready to run. Even if the second attempt did fail, though, guests would still have the opportunity to complete a 5K on their own schedule through the virtual run program, ensuring that both the runners and Hope Manor still receive everything they’re racing for.

“I think people understood that we needed to make changes,” said Kosek. “The city was supportive, and many were thankful, but there were some who travelled from as far as Fargo and Dickinson who couldn’t make it to the rescheduled event. We’ve done our best to adapt by mailing people their medals and suits, and there’s still the option to submit times virtually. Either way, they’ll make an impact supporting the cause while participating in their own way.”

Thank you for supporting local journalism!

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photo | Brendan DeLuca-Rodenberg

SANTA CLAUS and some of his North Dakotan believers prepare to race for a good cause in the 2025 Mandan Santa Run.

The missions of Reich, RADD, and the MPO all have one thing in common: a desire to help people in need, especially those who are struggling with problems beyond financial ones, in their communities. The Santa Run serves as a perfect way to not only do just that, but also celebrate the days leading up to Christmas in a manner that gets community members out of their homes and enjoying everything Mandan has to offer.

“Our mission is to create diverse experiences that bring people together,” said Kosek. “The Santa Run is one of those unique, special

activities that is fun for the entire community. Being able to put on a fun costume, relax, enjoy yourself, and do it in a way that benefits those in need is the best way we have of doing so, especially during the holidays.”

Even if the Santa Run has since ended, Hope Manor and its surrounding recovery community are always accepting more donations. RADD, meanwhile, is still open to all who wish to join, and will meet every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. in the Bismarck YMCA until April. More information on both groups can be found at VisitMandan.com.



HELP WANTED

Plant Operator

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Applications can be found on our website www.abrasivesinc.com or call 701-348-3610.

Braves Gymnastics

The Braves gymnastics team competed in the Mandan Christmas Meet on December 19. The Braves took third place with a team score of 137.450 which is the highest team score in Braves history.

Mandan Christmas Meet

Minot United 142.3
Century 139.2
Mandan 137.450
Legacy 129.8
Bismarck High 66.05

Mandan results (Top 16)
All-Around: 3. Haylee McGrane, 35.500; 9. Jaci Savageau, 34.350; 12. Camryn Gierke, 33.900
Vault: 3. J. Sauvageau, 9.000; 6. C. Gierke, 8.950; 9. H. McGrane, 8.900
Uneven Bars: 5. J. Sauvageau, 8.650; 6. H. McGrane, 8.450; 9. Taylor Arnegard, 8.350; 15. C. Gierke, 7.800
Balance Beam: 9. H. McGrane, 8.500; 11. C. Gierke, 8.250; 13. T. Arnegard, 8.150; 15. J. Sauvageau, 8.100
Floor Exercise: 3. H. McGrane, 9.650; 9. C. Gierke, 8.900; 13. Peyton Holje, 8.700; 14. J. Sauvageau, 8.600