

No more music for Garrison schools

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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In a letter sent out by Bob Callies Elementary principal Michelle Fuller, it stated, "Due to issues beyond our control, we will need to cancel 5th and 6th grade band for second semester of the year."

For the students that play in

the band or sing in the choir, that's sad news.

Garrison's school administration has found a substitute for 4th grade music for the rest of this semester.

The 5th and 6th graders will stay with their homeroom class during the time when band usually meets.

Garrison High School has se-

cured a substitute to teach band and choir until the end of the semester.

The administration is currently searching for a new music teacher.

The district was contacted for comment, but Superintendent Nick Klemisch declined to respond due to it being a personnel issue.

County seeking candidates for McLean boards

McLean County Commission will appoint at Dec. 29 meeting

BY KELLI AMELING
Associate Publisher

McLean County is looking to fill 11 positions on different boards set to expire Dec. 31.

During the commission meeting held Nov. 4 at the courthouse in Washburn, Auditor Beth Knutson told McLean County leaders they will have appointments available for 10 positions at the end of the year.

The open positions include the following seats:

- McLean County Water Resource Board: One three-year term. Applicants must reside in the county's second commission district during the term. The person currently holding the position is Shannon Jeffers of Garrison, who is eligible for re-appointment.

- McLean County Weed Control Board: One four-year term. Applicants must reside in the Turtle Lake Area. The person currently holding the position is Dalen Schaefer of Turtle Lake, who is eligible for re-appointment.

- Dakota Central Human Services Zone board: One three-year term. The person currently holding the position is Sen. Howard Anderson of Turtle Lake, who is eligible for re-appointment.

- McLean County School Re-

organization Committee: One three-year term. The person currently holding the position is Marshall Maxwell of Turtle Lake, who is eligible for re-appointment.

- Additionally, the county is seeking re-appointment for the following yearly seats:

- Tax Director/Land Use Administrator/Veteran's Service Officer: Todd Schreiner

- E 9-1-1 Coordinator: Richard Johnson

- McLean County Highway Superintendent Jim Grey

- Emergency manager Noelle Kroll

- Clerk of Court Gwyn Bosch

During the Nov. 25 commission meeting, Knutson noted an additional position needed to be added for the Underwood area.

Formerly, the planning and zoning board position representing the city of Underwood was held by the Underwood Auditor Courtney Adams. However, Adams is set to resign in 2026 as she is relocating, and the newly hired auditor appointed to take Adams' position on the board has submitted their resignation, according to Knutson.

With the staffing changes, Knutson asked commissioners if they would like to open the position up to all Underwood residents and add the position

to the listing or keep the position saved for the new city auditor.

Commissioners opted to open the seat to all Underwood residents in hopes of generating more interest for the board.

Knutson asked commissioners for approval to advertise and post the positions, which you can find published in this week's edition, along with approval of the list. The commissioners unanimously approved the motion to advertise the list as presented.

"I think it is a good idea to have (the list) out there," said McLean County Commission Chairman Steve Lee.

Knutson said eligible candidates who are interested in a position can submit a letter of interest and a short background statement.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and in some instances must reside in a specific commission district or geographical area of the county.

Letters of interest can be mailed to:

McLean County Auditor
P.O. Box 1108

Washburn, ND, 58577

They can also email Knutson at baknutson@nd.gov or fax their letter to 701-462-3542

All letters must be received by 4:30 p.m. Dec. 29.

Dakota Datebook

BY CAROLE BUTCHER

12 Million for State Projects

In 1929, America's economy was devastated. The Great Depression had begun, and would continue for the next decade. Manufacturing companies cut production by 50 percent. Stock values plummeted. Sears stock dropped for \$181 to \$10. By 1932, 12 million people had lost their jobs - one quarter of the country's workforce.

While the entire country suffered, a drought made the Depression even worse on the Great Plains. Farmer LeRoy Hankel

remembered, "We was praying for rain." But it just didn't come.

People migrated out of North Dakota as conditions deteriorated. The combination of high farm debt and low commodity prices resulted in a staggering number of foreclosures and bank failures. During the 1930s, North Dakota suffered from dust storms, crop failures, plagues of grasshoppers, drought, economic problems, and a decreasing population.

The Federal government cre-

ated programs to address the country's economic problems, and state governments followed suit. On this date in 1938, it was announced that \$12 million would be allotted for public works projects in the state - a combination of state and Federal funds. Communities had to make requests by January 1, and agree to furnish a portion of the funding from their own budgets.

DATEBOOK
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CRASH

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ing eastbound in his 2007 Toyota Camry on N.D. Highway 37 as he approached U.S. Highway 83.

At that time, Liana Bachar, 32, of Tioga, was traveling southbound on U.S. Highway 83 in her 2025 Hyundai Santa Cruz.

According to Clawson Huibregtse, Lindquist came to a stop and entered the intersection where Bachar struck Lindquist on the driver's side. Bachar's vehicle came to a rest on the highway, while Lindquist's vehicle came to a rest in the east ditch.

Lindquist was pronounced dead at the scene, and Bachar was transported to CHI St. Alexius Health in Garrison.

The press release stated, at the time of the crash, the road conditions were icy and wet on



First responders were dispatched just before 5 p.m. Nov. 28 to the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and N.D. Highway 37 on a report of a two-vehicle, T-bone crash. (Photo by Tyson Matthews)

top of windy and snowy weather conditions.

Assisting NDHP at the scene was the McLean County Sheriff's Office, ND Department of

Transportation, Garrison Fire and Rescue, Max Fire and Rescue, Garrison Ambulance, Underwood Ambulance and White Shield Ambulance.



(Photo by Tyson Matthews)

Catching up with Coleharbor

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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The Coleharbor City Council missed publishing minutes from its Jan through Sept. 2025 meetings.

January 2025

On Jan. 15 Mayor Heith Pochant called the meeting to order.

Pochant announced that he received the resignation letter from City Auditor Amy Owens. The council accepted the resignation.

Pochant also said Shirley Wilson donated dishrags and towels to be used at the Coleharbor Community Center. The council was appreciative of the donation.

February 2025

No meeting notes were available.

March 2025

On March 18 Mayor Heith Pochant called the meeting to order.

Pochant requested \$5,000 from gaming for community improvements, including emergency services, fire hydrants, monuments, improvements to public areas and other items.

The mayor also brought up concerns that the Underwood Fire Department needs to know what fire hydrants work for future fire protection.

Discussion was had on the pro-

posed camper ordinance and the necessity to raise fees to match proposed camper and RV park.

The mayor approved the first reading of the short-term rental agreement.

Councilman Chris Holt moved to accept the resignation of Mayor Pochant. The council agreed to hold a special meeting to reorganize to fill the mayor's vacancy.

April 2025

After the equalization meeting was called to order, Ryan Oberg reported that there will be a 5% increase in real estate for property tax, and 3% increase on commercial properties, .5% decrease on agricultural properties within city limits. This motion carried.

Chris Holt called the regular meeting to order.

The camper ordinance and short-term rental ordinance had their second readings. Both motions were approved.

There was discussion on holding a special election to convert to a Home Rule Charter. The election was set up for June 18.

May, June, July 2025

No meeting notes were available.

August, Sept. Oct. 2025

These meetings were covered in previous editions of the McLean County Independent.

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