

Washburn
special election
to be held Dec. 2
One person filed
for two seats

BY KELLI AMELING
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

One person has filed to run for two open seats on the Washburn City Commission.

A special election is set to take place Dec. 2 at the Washburn City Hall. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

According to the sample ballot, which is published in this week’s Leader-News, a valid North Dakota ID must be present to cast a ballot.

The only person to officially file to run for the two open seats is Sharla Koslonski.

According to Auditor Chelsey Brandt, the write-in candidate with the most votes will be offered a seat on the commission. If no write-in candidate accepts the position, the commission will have to appoint a candidate to be considered.

Open seats

During the commission meeting, which was held Aug. 11 at the Washburn City Hall, Commissioners Tim Dockter and Miranda Harvey both submitted their resignations to their fellow commissioners, leaving two

Election cont. on 15



THE LEADER-NEWS | PHAIDRA YUNKER

Curtains of aurora borealis ripple above the Edward Yunker farmstead in McLean County, N.D., late Tuesday, Nov. 12. NOAA classified the storm that produced the lights as G4, considered severe.

Brilliant Borealis

Solar storm sparks vivid aurora across US skies

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER
REPORTER

Residents of McLean County witnessed vivid northern lights this week as a solar storm pushed auroras farther south than usual, lighting skies with green, pink and purple waves.

The science behind the sparkle

The northern lights, also known as aurora borealis, have long fascinated observers with their shimmering curtains of color. NASA explains that auroras occur when charged particles from the Sun collide with gases in

Earth’s atmosphere. These collisions release energy in the form of light. Oxygen produces green and red colors, while nitrogen creates blue and purple. The specific colors depend on the altitude of the collisions. Oxygen about 60 miles above Earth produces green light, while oxygen at higher altitudes can produce red. Nitrogen contributes blue and purple tones.

Storm born in space

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Space Weather Prediction Center said the event was triggered by a coronal

mass ejection, or CME, from the Sun. A CME is a large release of charged particles that travels outward through space. When the cloud of particles reached Earth on Nov. 12, it disturbed the planet’s magnetic field and produced what scientists call a geomagnetic storm.

Auroras typically appear in an oval-shaped zone around each geomagnetic pole, known as the auroral oval. The European Space Agency states that the oval expands during geomagnetic storms, sometimes allowing the lights to be seen much farther south than usual.

During the Nov. 12 storm, the oval widened enough to include much of the United States.

Lights on the loose

Auroras from the Nov. 12 geomagnetic storm were visible far beyond their usual northern range, with reports stretching into nearly two dozen states. According to Space.com, the northern lights reached as far south as Florida and Alabama, marking one of the widest U.S. displays in recent years.

Because North Dakota sits

Northern Lights cont. on 11

Washburn Life Presents:

Small Business Saturday
Craft & Vendor Show

Saturday, Nov. 29
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
805 Main Ave., Washburn, ND
Fundraiser Lunch provided by: Washburn Park Board