

Schools & AI

(Continued from FRONT)

pecially if the behavior is not repeated, Steiner said.

“Honestly, with something that’s changing faster than anything we’ve seen in education, that’s going to have to be our mentality going forward,” he said.

Bachmeier said school districts are talking with each other about best practices when it comes to defining appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI, and that in a state that values local control, honing those will ultimately be up to them.

He said the DPI can help in providing guidance and assist in building capacity, and will be working to update policy around those in a quick moving environment.

“I think it’s going to be walking a fine line of how do you provide that support that’s relevant, but also, to a certain extent, a bit timeless, because it is evolving so fast,” Bachmeier said. “We want to make sure that any information that’s coming out of here is relevant from the moment that districts are attempting to put it to use.”

Need for time, ethics 101

One thing many teachers would like is simply more time themselves to learn and explore the AI tools school districts have available, to better understand them and potentially use them for greater learning efficiency.

For Loren Nieuwsma, a speech and English teacher at Mandan High School, time is the main crux of the issue for him.

“I think the problem is that when you give so many tools to teachers and say, well here’s AI and how you use it, it’s turned into this thing in the past two years where teachers do not have the time to dive into things,” Nieuwsma said. “It’s literally been so overwhelming for teachers.”

Besides allowing time for a greater understanding of the AI tools at their disposal, teachers also likely need more time to develop policies about how to discuss ethics and responsible use of AI with their students.

“We’ve had a lot of ethical discussions in our department, about what is ethical use, about what we want students to be able to do,” Nieuwsma said. “How are people teaching it? Again, it comes down to time.”

Ethical usage is the hardest part of grappling with AI in the classroom, Dickinson High School principal Jefferey Brandt said, and raises questions about where support ends

and where academic dishonesty begins.

Brandt said teaching students about appropriate and inappropriate uses is possibly an area where educators are falling short, though academic dishonesty policies to address cheating and plagiarizing are only part of the formula.

“Whether a teacher is familiar with how students use AI or not, my hope is that our teachers know our students abilities and skill levels,” Brandt said. “If a student is utilizing something to cheat or plagiarize, a teacher knowing a student well should be able to identify a change in the student’s performance and address that change.”

Grayson Erling, a fifth grade teacher in the Bismarck Public Schools system, said he sees the potential for using AI tools as very helpful, but hasn’t seen a lot of adoption at the elementary level.

He also said there’s been minimal time set aside for training at that level – in his case around 45 minutes during one of the normal teacher training days — but it’s something he thinks would be helpful, particularly in preparing elementary students going on to middle school.

“BPS being such a large district, having a cohesiveness between all levels would be helpful, so how is the middle school using this and what can I show fifth graders to get them ready for middle school,” Erling said.

“I think just having them have an idea about how they can use those tools as a tool, and not just as a copy and paste, I think that’s a huge part of that,” he said.

“These kids, they’re smart, they know their way around a computer, which is a scary thing,” Erling said. “I feel like we don’t do enough for the safety of these kids, there are so many things they’re able to get to on these websites, they’re able to get a workaround, and it’s alarming.”

The North Dakota News Cooperative is a non-profit news organization providing reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. The organization increases the public’s access to quality journalism and advances news literacy across the state. For more information about NDNC or to make a charitable contribution, please visit newscoopnd.org.

Towner FFA attends District Leadership



Greenhand Quiz Team: Back Row L-R: Gracyn Johnson, Hayes Ronglien, Skylar Bohl, Emree Mohagen, Addison Johnson, Paige Jorde.
Front Row L-R: Karly Nelson, Brooke Best, Evi Welstad, Ava Smette, Rylee Thorson.

By Chapter Reporter: Faith Carpenter

On November 19th, eighteen of the Towner FFA members attended the District Leadership Contest in Rugby. Six members participated in the Parliamentary Procedure contest, designed for Chapter Officers. Students participating in the event are evaluated on their ability to conduct an orderly and efficient meeting using parliamentary procedure. Participants are judged on their knowledge of parliamentary law and their ability to present logical, realistic and convincing debate and motions. The officer team members that competed are Abby Jorde, (President) Jorja Smith, (Vice President) Cailyn Takala, (Secretary) Ethen Zimmerman, (Treasurer) Faith Carpenter, (Reporter) and Ayda Christianson (Sentinel). They received bronze as a team.

There were two members who participated in the Advanced Quiz,

Abby Jorde and Cooper Jorde. In this contest, students answer multiple choice questions on all things FFA, including people to know, locations, national officers and initiatives, and much more. Cooper and Abby both placed silver individually. Abby Jorde also participated in Prepared Public Speaking, in which students write and deliver a speech about a current agricultural related topic. She placed silver with a speech about the livestock disease Brucellosis.

The remaining eleven members participated in the Greenhand Quiz. Those members were Gracyn Johnson, Hayes Ronglien, Skylar Bohl, Emree Mohagen, Addison Johnson, Paige Jorde, Karly Nelson, Brooke Best, Evilynn Welstad, Ava Smette, and Rylee Thorson. This contest is designed specifically for students in grades 8 and 9 and is composed of a multiple choice question covering FFA history, people, and the basics of FFA.



Advanced Quiz: Cooper and Abby Jorde.

Legals: Your Right to Know

NOTICE OF BIDS

Notice is hereby given McHenry County will be accepting bids for the purchase of Lots 11-12 of Block 1 in Sengers & Boechlers Addition Karlsruhe.

Each bid is to be labeled on the outside of the envelope: “Sealed Bid” and show the hour, date and item bid on.

Bids should be submitted to the McHenry County Auditor, 407 Main St S RM 201, Towner, ND and must be filed with the County Auditor no later than 4:00 PM on January 5th, 2026.

The board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By order of the McHenry County Board of Commissioners, Towner, North Dakota. Dated this 8th day of December, 2025. Darlene Carpenter, County Auditor (December 17 & 24, 2025)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING BOTTINEAU AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD

Meeting Date: Friday, Dec 19, 2025
Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: 323 Bennett Street Bottineau, ND 58318
Agenda:
Agenda Item 1: Call to Order
Agenda Item 2: Election for Vacant Board Seat
Agenda Item 3: Adjournment
Date of notice: Dec 9, 2025
Notice prepared by Katie Tamburrino (December 17, 2025)

ANAMOOSE CITY MINUTES

Mayor Ewert called the regular meeting of the Anamoose City Council to order this 8th day of December 2025, at 7:10 pm. M.Schmaltz, Mertz, and B.Schmaltz were present. Lund was absent. Also present was Laurel Schnase, City Auditor.

Minutes of the 11-10-2025 council meeting were read and approved. Mertz/M.Schmaltz. AIF

Treasurer’s Report for November was submitted and accepted as submitted. B.Schmaltz/Mertz. AIF

The council reviewed the Loan Resolution received from the USDA-RD which included the statement that the city will raise a portion of the cost of the Sewer & Lagoon Rehabilitation Project by issuing its bonds in the principal amount of \$1,030,000.00, and that the project is intended to serve an area lawfully within its jurisdiction to serve. Motion to accept the

Loan Resolution. M.Schmaltz/Mertz. AIF

Schnase shared information on what still needs to be completed before Moore Engineering can begin the bidding process for the project.

Four ‘Slow – School Zone’ signs have been received, and Vetsch will install them at intersections near the Anamoose School when the weather permits.

The council reviewed the Anamoose City Council meeting calendar for 2026. Motion to approve the calendar. B.Schmaltz/M.Schmaltz. AIF

Doris Holen, Anamoose City Assessor, contacted City Hall to request information on tax-exempt buildings in the city including the year built, the years additions were added, and the square footage. Schnase will work on this project with the help of the people responsible for the buildings.

The dilapidated old grocery store on Main Street is being sold by McHenry County due to unpaid taxes. Schnase received information from the county that the city could buy it for a lesser amount than what is due. Motion to purchase the property from McHenry County. Mertz/B.Schmaltz. AIF

Schnase will continue researching grants to help with the cost of demolition and future construction of a green space in that area. Mertz suggested that the old stone building in the rear of the grocery store be salvaged, as doing so may have a historical value when researching grant possibilities.

M.Schmaltz informed the council that sand and salt need to be ordered for the streets. He also mentioned that the city owned spreader is getting worn and could use replacement. B.Schmaltz will research the cost of a new spreader and bring estimates to the next meeting.

The next meeting for the Anamoose City Council will be held on Monday, January 12th, at 7:00 PM.

The following bills were paid in November:

NAME	AMOUNT
HAV-IT	\$82.50
NDTC	\$130.37
NPRWD	\$65.00
Zeigler Oil	\$214.60
Anamoose Park	\$418.18
Mouse River Journal	\$113.03
Heringer Lumber	\$21.96
ND One Call, Inc.	\$14.40
Otter Tail Electricity	\$827.46
FSB – VISA	\$336.89
Moore Engineering	\$5,742.00
Circle Sanitation	\$1,599.50
Anamoose Park	\$404.65
Frank Ewert	\$92.35
William Vetsch	\$103.44
Laurel Schnase	\$2,216.49
Brady Schmaltz	\$32.32

NPRWD \$65.44
Michael Schmaltz \$129.29
IRS \$507.05

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. upon motion by M.Schmaltz/Mertz. AIF

Laurel Schnase, City Auditor
Frank Ewert, Mayor
(December 17, 2025)

GRANVILLE CITY MINUTES

December Meeting Minutes Monday, December 1, 2025

Council Members: Mayor Anthony Zimbelman, Rod Swallers, Joni Anderson, Lorie Werle, Griffin Gessner.

Mayor Zimbelman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance was said.

November meeting minutes were reviewed. Discussion on meeting minutes about being long.

Werle made a motion to approve the November minutes that was emailed to them, Gessner 2””,

Roll call: All – yes; motion passed.

December vouchers approved to pay. Discussion on the acme bill about the battery adapter.

Swallers made a motion to approve the Decembervouchers, Werle 2””, Roll call: All-yes; motion passed.

December Agenda reviewed. Gessner made a motion to approve the December

agenda, Werle 2””, Roll call: All-yes; motion passed.

Public: County shop purchase of 1/2 acre tabled for January meeting.

Engineers Report: N/A, Emailed available to the council regarding questions.

Mayor’s report: Getting into cold season would not hurt to leave a trickle on sinks to save from freezing up.

Cemetery and Ordinances: Nothing for cemetery. Discussion was made on the junk ordinance.

Swallers made a motion to approve again, Anderson 2””, Roll call: All-yes; motion passed.

Parks/EDC: Nothing on parks. EDC has Christmas event on Saturday. Discussion from EDC to put up lights outside community center and plug into building and the new location of tree. Discussion about poles on main street and the electricity to them.

Planning and Zoning/Police: Never received a police report. Have nothing to report for planning and zoning.

Sewer, Water, Roads: Discussion on the snow removal for the streets.

Auditor: Discussion on grant money for the siren. McMahon mentioned a bill from 103 Sherman Ave that comes up as a bill on RVS and was collected from county on taxes and paid to the city.

Anderson made a motion to clear, Swallers 2””, Roll call: All-yes; motion passed.

Midwest assistant program had been in

office the week before and went over 2024 and 2026 sewer and will be back in January for 2025 sewer report. Discussion on unclaimed property the city has and backtaxes.

Public Works: A curb stop got replace because leaking when on and off. Discussion was made on the water loss report that the council was asking for and the water tower if ever a loss of power to it.

Public works is signed up to take a certification test on December 30.

Old Business: Discussion was made about the fire hall to come back after the discussion of the siren. Discussion was made about the siren being moved to the community center and the new quote of \$36,783 with the donations currently have city still owes just over \$20,000. Werle made a motion to accept the bid with the move and have Julie to continue to search for grant opportunities with the finance of it, Anderson 2””, Roll call: All-yes; motion passed. Gessner will keep same position until the siren is moved over and functional to table the fire hall purchase it till then and do not talk about it because something could come up between now and then and can make that motion, Swallers 2””,

Roll call: All-yes; motion passed. Discussion was made on the shadow box for the pistol and holster and cost of \$300. Anderson to give him the \$300 and if he wants

more he can ask, Werle 2””, Roll call: All – yes; motion passed. Swallers will check with Scheels to remove the fire pin out of the pistol.

New Business: Discussion on how much the food panty is payingfor rent for community center at \$720 per year and checking into grants to offset the cost of the five freezers and two coolers running. Discussion was made on the employee handbook and to have Julie and Shane review the job descriptions.

Next meeting is January 5, 2029, at 7:00. pm

Motion adjourned at 7:37, Werle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Anderson 2””, Roll Call: All-yes; motion passed

Bills: NDPERS \$951.47, Mouse River-Journal \$178.89, NPRWD \$7749.00, SRTS\$159. 17, V/V \$175.00, Ottertail \$1220.81, Verizon \$39. 75, Adobe \$20.99, Advanced Business Methods \$114.13, Menards \$63.02, Circle Sanitation \$3452.75, Payroll \$6632.42, EFTPS \$1673.16, Acme \$229. 00, First District \$30.00, Kevin’s plumbing \$210.00, ND DEQ \$183.52, Transfer \$2151.53 from general to lagoon reserve savings, Shadow box \$300.

(December 17, 2025)

REWARDING CAREER IN AGRONOMY AWAITS IN CENTRAL N.D.

Hefty Seed is hiring sales agronomists in New Rockford and Wilton, ND. In an area that boasts some of the region's best hunting and fishing, the right candidates will be able to enjoy acreage for hunting and many beautiful lakes nearby. Some great housing options are available. We are looking to invest in individuals who will be a great fit with our established, yet growing team of agronomists. These positions include top pay and benefits. If you are looking to work in an enjoyable environment while providing top notch service to our valued customers, we invite you to send your resume and cover letter to matt.elder@heftyseed.com or call Matt at 701-425-8384. We look forward to working with you.

Don't Forget About the 40% Tax Credit!

When you give \$5,000 or more to a qualified ND endowment fund, you receive a 40% CREDIT on your state income tax! Contact NDCF for more info.

www.NDCF.net | 701-222-8349

