



DAKOTA DATEBOOK

Snow Geese at Tewaukon

BY JACK DURA
March 23 -- North Dakota is a popular stopover for migrating waterfowl. Even endangered whooping cranes make a pit stop here, but the migrating snow geese at Lake Tewaukon are one of the most impressive sights. They'd give Alfred Hitchcock's movie *The Birds* a run for its money. The little lake and the sky above it become a cloud of white as hundreds of thousands of snow geese swirl and swim. The geese flock to Lake Tewaukon in March, usually around this time of year, at times totaling more than 700,000 birds.

The snow geese migration also marks the start of movement for other waterfowl. Ducks, giant Canada geese and teal show up at Tewaukon in early April, with shorebirds like sandpipers and plovers arriving in May. Bald eagles and great horned owls also nest in the area.

The snow geese's journey from wintering in southern Texas to their breeding grounds in Nunavut Territory, Canada is more than 3,000 miles. Stops along the way might include cornfields near Urbana, Illinois, sloughs near Cleveland and the ditches along I-94 -- small wetlands that are some of the first bodies of water to warm up in spring. In North Dakota they enjoy a paradise provided by the state's prairie potholes.

Lake Tewaukon is part of the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge. This hotspot for naturalists offers another spectacle in May and June when it features a chorus of wildflowers.

Cold War Education
BY LANE SUNWALL
March 24 -- To some, the Cold War carried the specter

of nuclear Armageddon, the end of life as we know it. While humanity dodged that particular bullet, efforts to build more effective bombs spurred both American and Russian intellectual curiosity and scientific prowess. The "space race," the other epic mid-century contest between the US and the USSR, was intimately tied to nuclear arms development. Indeed, the first rockets to send men into space were converted warfare missiles.

Even before 1957, when the launch of Sputnik caught the United States off-guard, the US government knew that if it were to retain the edge in military technology, it needed to improve American science. Toward that end, the government made massive investments in scientific research and education. The result put America on the moon, but perhaps of greater importance was the modern scientific revolution that the investment in scientific study made possible.

Not everyone who was involved with the government's "space race" education initiative became rocket scientists. Many branched off into other sciences and provided America with a myriad of inventions we now take for granted. North Dakota was intimately tied to this renaissance in American ingenuity. As funding to the universities increased, citizens across the state took up the challenge to advance American technological innovation.

In the fall of 1956, a young Bill Isaacson enrolled in the pre-engineering program at Minot State Teachers College. The program, part of the government's scientific initiative, propelled Mr. Isaacson to Montana State University and to a doctorate

of engineering in 1963. Isaacson launched his career at 3M. Combining his expertise with his inborn business acumen, Isaacson played an important role in the invention of multifocal permanent contact lenses, a new generation of Olympic diving boards, and even 3M's most ubiquitous product, the "Post-it" note.

Bill Isaacson has neither forgotten his home state nor the difference his education played in his life. This week in 2011, Isaacson traveled back to his alma mater, now Minot State University, to speak to aspiring inventors, scientists and entrepreneurs. His purpose: inspire a new generation of North Dakotans to push the boundaries of science to bring the newest technologies to market, applying their knowledge toward a better tomorrow.

Weather History

BY SARAH WALKER
March 25 -- Avid fans of weather history may recall that in mid-March 1941, a blizzard swept across the upper Midwest, leaving death in its wake. Out of more than 70 victims, at least 35 fell in North Dakota.

Reports of the dead and the close calls flew everywhere. The Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in Fargo reported that 2,500 long-distance calls were placed following the blizzard -- the greatest number of long-distance calls placed in a single day in the history of the office.

On this date, only 10 days after the storm, North Dakotans were trying to deal with what had occurred.

In Devils Lake, hundreds of motorists were marooned in their cars overnight. In Grand Forks, at least 11 people were still listed as missing two days after the storm. Near Fort Ransom, a father and son froze to death while out walking. Two cousins near Hannah died while walking home from a 4-H club meeting.

The Weiner family, from near Langdon, had just arrived at their farm home when the storm broke. Their driveway was blocked, so they parked along the highway -- but upon opening the car door, the oldest daughter was swept away by the wind. By the time her parents caught up with her, they were all lost. They did eventually bump into a fence post that Mr. Weiner recognized as his own. He left his family behind and followed the fence to his sheep shed. He returned, but his wife was unable to move, so he took his daughter and young son to the shed, then returned once more and half-dragged, half-carried his wife to safety.

Four brothers from near Dazey, aged 17 and younger, had been out roller skating, and on the way home were caught in the storm. Donald, Lee and Dickie perished. Only "Bobbie" Taylor survived -- and only because his twin brother Dickie had been holding him in the snowdrift in which they had sought shelter.

Bobbie was in the hospital for a while. He lost his left foot and the toes and heel of his right

foot. However, he kept a good attitude, telling his nurse, "I don't think I will be able to play football because of my feet, but I think I will make it all right in basketball."

The reports of the Taylor family tragedy spread far and wide, and Bobbie unexpectedly received an autographed photo from movie star Robert Taylor -- written on the photo was "To Robert Taylor from Robert Taylor. Best wishes."

Spuds' Day of Firsts

BY MERRY HELM
March 26 -- It was a day of firsts across the river in Moorhead, Minn. As reported on this date in 1928, Moorhead High had won its first major sports title by taking the 16th annual Minnesota high school basketball championship. They beat a Minneapolis team, the Edison Inventors, before a record-breaking crowd of 7,200 spectators in the U of M Fieldhouse.

A reporter wrote, "In the championship game, Edison's vaunted passing play, which baffled Northfield Friday, was no puzzle to the Moorhead Spuders after they got going in the second quarter.

"Moorhead, which has made frequent appearances in the state tournament as representatives of their section, used a cautious slow approach in invading the Edisons' territory, but once past the middle of the floor, they uncorked clever passes and some accurate shooting that brought them into favor with a majority of the rooters that were from outside the home city of the Inventors."

Moorhead fans showed up in droves to welcome home their young heroes. Newspapers reported, "From the moment Clifford Halmrast, doughty captain and all-state forward, alighted from the train bearing the championship trophy, until a monster mass meeting was called to order in the high school auditorium, the cheers of the rooters, the blare of the bands, and the shrill cries of the [factory] whistles and [fire] sirens predominated. The victorious players and their coach, Glenn Hanna, were loaded on a fire truck with prominent city officials and were paraded through the main streets of the city."

Halmrast scored 20 points -- the most in any championship round between 1922 and 1944. Both he and guard Earl Moran were selected by newspapermen and officials for the Minnesota all-state team. Moran didn't know it at the time, but he was on the way to becoming the first player to make all-state three times.

The Spuds won the state final again the following year -- the first team in Minnesota history to win back-to-back championships. They hoped to make it three in a row the following year, but one of their players, all-state forward Pat Hilde, had just turned 20, making him ineligible.

Moran and teammate Carroll "Shorty" Malvey were the only Minnesota players to get to three state finals prior to 1971. After graduating, Pat Hilde, Earl Moran and Shorty Malvey enrolled at Concordia in Moorhead, where they continued to make basketball history by leading that college to its first Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Title. All three teammates made all-state again -- this time at college level.

By the way, the final score in that first state championship game played by Moorhead in 1928 was pretty low by today's standard: Spuds 29, Edison Inventors 16!

Pig Lady of Hollywood
BY SARAH WALKER
March 27 -- Edith Hughes was a big-city/little-city girl. She was born as Edith Wakeman

in New York state, but she was raised in Bismarck. When she was older, in 1930, she took her parents to California and they made their home in Los Angeles. Until 1941 she made it her custom to visit her home city at least once a year.

In the early 1940s, however, Edith began to lose her sight. One Easter Sunday before World War II began, she described her worsening vision as the way the stage looks "when they lower a gauze curtain between the scene and the audience." Her condition grew worse, and all the doctors she went to disagreed on a solution.

But she was a go-getter, and after Pearl Harbor, she reported to a volunteer agency to offer her services. Sightless or not, she was determined to help as best she could. She proposed collecting small donations from people. The director of the agency did not go for the idea, but Edith persisted on her own. Her charitable efforts focused on the issue of blindness, in hopes that the war would improve medical knowledge in that area. Later she said, "I humiliated everybody by starting a penny-a-day campaign." She chose the slogan, "A penny a day drives the darkness away."

Her vision continued to worsen, but she turned her energy to other worthwhile causes. Soon she began circulating Mexican piggy banks to collect funds for the Braille Institute. But she wanted a better design, so she bought a live pig (for \$10) and commissioned a sculpture of a life-size pig seated on a pedestal, its front hooves folded in a porcelain plea for funds. She christened this statue "Aurora, goddess of dawn and foe of darkness." This new, large piggy bank was placed in the Los Angeles Farmers' Market to make its plea to the thousands of people who passed through the gates daily.

She was known as "the pig lady of Hollywood," and for good reason: she pushed people to donate their pennies to her piggy banks.

On this date in 1950, it was reported that Edith Wakeman Hughes was blind no longer. She had undergone surgery by a San Francisco surgeon who restored her sight. She could now see!

Nonetheless, even in its absence, her blindness inspired her, and she continued to push forward and even increase her efforts. This "pig lady" was a business woman and a humanitarian, a go-getter and an inspiration.

"*Dakota Datebook*" is a radio series from *Prairie Public* in partnership with the *State Historical Society of ND* and with funding from the *ND Humanities Council*.

NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE MINNEWAUKAN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing to have a candidate's name printed on the ballot for the Minnewaukan Public School District #5 is Monday, April 6, 2026 by 4 pm. The following offices are up for election:

Three (3) at-large seats with a four (4)-year term

A candidate for a school district office must prepare and sign a document stating the candidate's name and the position for which the individual is a candidate. A candidate also needs to file an SFN 10172 Statement of Interest form. Both of these documents must be filed with the business manager at the Minnewaukan Public School District #5 by the deadline stated above.

Applications are available at the Minnewaukan school or may be obtained at the link below:

www.nd.gov/forms/Doc/sfn10172.pdf

Minnewaukan Public School District #5 annual school board election will be held Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

Tracie Volk
Business Manager
(Publish March 19 & 26 & April 2, 2026)

Maddock school menu, events

March 30: Pancake on a stick; pizza, breadsticks, marinara, green beans, pears.

March 31: Omelet w/sausage patty; chicken wraps, peas, peaches.

All breakfasts served with cereal, toast, juice, fruit and milk. All lunches served with salad bar and choice of milk.

March 28: ND State Class B indoor track meet at NDSU; prom.

March 30: State Mathcounts competition.

March 30-April 2: Artist-in-residence visit.

March 31: ACT test for juniors.

April 1: Vocal music contest in Langdon.

April 3 and 6: No school; Easter break.

Grain market

March 23, 2026 Prices at CenDak Co-op Esmond

Corn	3.72
Soybeans	10.27
Wheat (HRS)	5.42

Hamburg

Corn	3.82
Soybeans	10.36
Wheat (HRS)	5.53

Harlow

Soybeans	10.26
Wheat (HRS)	5.43

Leeds

Barley	3.25
Canola	20.75
Soybeans	10.26
Wheat (HRS)	5.43

Maddock

Corn	3.72
Soybeans	10.22
Wheat (HRS)	5.43

Niles

Corn	3.82
Soybeans	10.36
Wheat (HRS)	5.53

Oberon

Soybeans	10.26
Wheat (HRS)	5.42

Shenney

Corn	3.72
Soybeans	10.36
Wheat (HRS)	5.43

Minnewaukan RFPD mtg. dates

The Minnewaukan Rural Fire Protection District holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the new fire hall in Minnewaukan. Meeting dates for 2026 are April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15. Times and dates are subject to change.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) will receive bids for the construction of the following project(s):

Job No.: 23928
Project No(s): NH-RAI-3-999(058)
Length: 14.404

Type: GRADING, AGGREGATE BASE, HOT MIX ASPHALT, SHARED USE PATH, ADA IMPROVEMENTS, CULTVERTS, BIKE LANE, RIPRAP, LIGHTING, INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, PAVEMENT MARKINGS, RRFB & SIGNING
County(s): BENSON & RAMSEY Cos

Location: ND 57, NEAR 72ND AVE NE TO JCT ND 20; ND 20, JCT ND 57 TO NEAR JCT US 2 - DEVILS LAKE

Job No.: 24771
Project No(s): NH-3-002(182)224
Length: 12.294

Type: HMA, MILL & OVERLAY
County(s): BENSON Co
Location: US 2, W OF KNOX E TO W OF LEEDS - WB

Job No.: 24781
Project No(s): HES-3-999(064)
Length: 0

Type: PAVEMENT MARKING
County(s): BENSON, EDDY, & RAMSEY Cos
Location: VARIOUS US/STATE HIGHWAYS - SPIRIT LAKE RESERVATION

Job No.: 24790
Project No(s): HES-3-999(065)
Length: 0

Type: PAVEMENT MARKING
County(s): BENSON, CAVALIER, EDDY, FOSTER, GRIGGS, NELSON, PIERCE, RAMSEY, ROLETTE, TOWNER, & WELLS Cos
Location: VARIOUS US/STATE HIGHWAYS - DEVILS LAKE DISTRICT

Bids will be received via the Bid Express on-line bidding exchange at www.bidx.com until 09:30AM, April 10, 2026. Bids will be opened at that time at the NDDOT building on the capitol grounds in Bismarck and the bid results will be distributed and posted online at <https://www.dot.nd.gov/business/bidinfo.htm> approximately 30 minutes after bids are opened.

The proposal forms, plans, and specifications are available on the NDDOT website at <http://www.dot.nd.gov> and may be inspected at the Construction Services Division, 608 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota.

All bidders not currently prequalified with NDDOT must submit an online Contractor's Prequalification request to the Department at least ten (10) business days prior to the bid opening. The online application can be found on the NDDOT website at <https://www.dot.nd.gov/business/contractors.htm>

NDDOT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, waive technicalities, or to accept such as may be determined in the best interests of the state.

For disability/language assistance, call 701-328-2978.

Requested by:
Ronald J. Henke, P.E., Director
North Dakota Department of Transportation

ROAD RESTRICTION NOTICE

Benson County Road Restrictions will go in effect on ALL county roads on **Monday, March 30, 2026.**

All roads will be classified as a No. 2 load restriction which allows 6 tons per axle, not to exceed 65,000 lbs. total per loaded truck.

Woods Rutten Road will be classified as 8 ton per axle.

Listen to local radio stations KZZY of Devils Lake and KZZJ of Rugby for more information. Please remember these roads are yours as well as ours, so let's abide by the restriction and take care of our roads.

By order of the Benson County Board of Commissioners
Copy sent to ND Highway Patrol

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project CP-0300(026) Benson County, North Dakota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County Commissioners of the County of Benson, North Dakota, will received sealed bids for **Benson County Project: CP-0300(026) – Chip Seal Coat on various paved County Roads in Benson County** at the office of the County Auditor of said County until **8:00 A.M., CDT on April 21, 2026**, at which time said proposals will be opened and read aloud.

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.woldengr.com or www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$30.00 by inputting Quest project #10122646 on the website's Project Search Page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. An optional paper set of project documents is also available for Non-Refundable price of \$30.00 per set.

Please make your check payable to:

Wold Engineering, P.C., 915 East 11th St., PO Box 237, Bottineau, North Dakota, 58318. Please contact Wold Engineering, P.C. at 701-228-2292 if you have any questions.

The improvements consist of the following approximate quantities of materials:

Seal Coat	168,720 SY
Incidentals	

Each bid is to be submitted on the basis of cash payment for the work and is to be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the undersigned County Auditor. Each bid is to be accompanied by a Bidder's Bond in the amount of five (5) percent of the bid, as specified by the North Dakota Century Code Par. 11-11-28, to be forfeited to Benson County should the bidder fail to execute a contract within ten (10) days after notice of an award. Bidder will effect and effect a contract in the amount of the bid and a Contractor's Bond as required by law and regulation and determination of Benson County.

The work on said project shall be started on a date set by the County Commissioners, and shall be completed by **September 1, 2026**, from such date liquidated damages shall be paid.

The right is reserved to reject all proposals, and to waive any informality in any bid, and to hold the bids for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of opening bids.

SIGNED: Bonnie Erickson

Benson County Auditor
PO Box 206
Minnewaukan, ND 58351

DATED: March 17, 2026

Bids for Spraying

Wells County Weed Control Board is accepting bids for spraying Wells County State Highway and county highway right-of-ways for 2026 spring and fall season.

Required equipment will have the capability of a minimum of 35 feet and a smaller ATV/UTV for spot spraying.

All chemical and surfactants provided by the Wells County Weed Control Board.

Bids should be submitted on per hour basis on approximately 300 miles; more or less.

Applicator must be commercially licensed right-of-way sprayer and insured for a minimum of two million dollars.

If you have any questions, contact Dale Schmitz at 701-693-6099.

Bid must be submitted by April 17, 2026 to:

Wells County Weed Control Board
PO Box 2
Fessenden, ND 58438

The Wells County Weed Control Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.