



Falkirk Mining Company received the 2025 Award for Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation during the November Lignite Energy Council's annual meeting. (Photos provided by Falkirk Mining Company)

Falkirk Mining Company receives Reclamation Award

COMPILED BY KELLI AMELING
Associate Publisher

Falkirk Mining Company was recognized for its “extraordinary efforts” in maintaining public access to local establishments within McLean County.

In a press release issued by the North Dakota Public Service Commission at the end of the year, the NDPSC awarded the mining company with the 2025 Award for Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation.

“The PSC’s Reclamation Division recommended the company be recognized for extraordinary efforts in maintaining public access to the Birka Church and cemetery in McClean County while mining around the church from 2010-

2015,” the release stated.

Over the years, the church and mine have maintained an “unique relationship,” the PSC noted.

“The compassion and empathy shown by Falkirk for the people of this little church on the prairie enhances the reputation of the entire coal industry,” stated PSC Chair Randy Christmann in the release.

The NDPSC explained as the mining progressed toward the church and cemetery, maintaining access and utilities was described as a challenge.

“But with the mine’s efforts to limit hours of operations and to maintain access roads and facilities, along with the congregation’s patience and willingness to adapt, the little church on the prairie

was able to carry on its identity without missing a service and today enjoys a vibrant and supportive membership,” the release stated.

According to history provided by the Falkirk Mine, the Birka Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Weller was founded in 1906. For several years, services were held in the nearby Leidholm and Carlson School buildings. In 1913, a church was built on the current site on five acres donated by Carl J. Carlson. Services were held there until 1953, when the church steeple was struck by lightning and a fire destroyed the church and most of its contents. The church was rebuilt and by the spring of 1954 services were being held in the building you see there today.

Temps to start increasing this weekend

No records set in McLean County during cold snap

BY KELLI AMELING
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Temperatures are expected to climb to warmer numbers after a cold snap left much of McLean County with dangerous wind chills.

According to National Weather Service Meteorologist Connor Smith, McLean County experienced dangerous wind chills between Jan. 22 and Jan. 27.

Smith noted, the farther north people were in the state, the colder they experienced.

On Jan. 25, the NOAA recorded -39 degrees at the NDAWN station located at the Internation Peace Garden in Dunseith before wind chill temperatures kicked in.

Despite the cold snap, Smith said

3 Hourly Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)														
	Sat			Sun						Mon			Minimum	
	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	
Ashley	-13	-16	-17	-19	-27	-34	-34	-33	-31	-34	-34	-33	-33	-34
Bismarck	-9	-11	-17	-19	-29	-32	-32	-26	-21	-23	-23	-24	-24	-32
Bottineau	-20	-28	-39	-44	-47	-48	-48	-37	-32	-36	-37	-37	-34	-48
Bowman	-9	-14	-18	-21	-30	-31	-31	-27	-20	-25	-27	-25	-21	-31
Cooperstown	-14	-16	-20	-29	-36	-41	-41	-37	-35	-35	-34	-34	-33	-41
Crosby	-23	-29	-34	-40	-43	-45	-42	-34	-30	-33	-30	-28	-24	-45
Devils Lake	-14	-18	-28	-34	-38	-41	-41	-36	-36	-36	-35	-34	-32	-41
Dickinson	-4	-12	-17	-20	-27	-31	-32	-26	-22	-24	-25	-24	-21	-32
Elgin	-6	-10	-15	-20	-28	-34	-34	-30	-22	-26	-27	-26	-25	-34
Fargo	-15	-17	-17	-18	-29	-37	-41	-35	-31	-32	-29	-31	-31	-41
Grand Forks	-18	-20	-22	-35	-42	-46	-43	-33	-30	-33	-35	-35	-32	-46
Harvey	-14	-17	-26	-32	-39	-43	-43	-37	-30	-32	-33	-33	-29	-43
Jamestown	-12	-11	-15	-21	-30	-36	-36	-30	-28	-30	-30	-30	-28	-36
Langdon	-19	-33	-36	-42	-49	-50	-51	-42	-41	-41	-39	-38	-36	-51
Lisbon	-9	-10	-10	-13	-26	-32	-34	-28	-24	-26	-29	-29	-30	-44
Minot	-15	-25	-32	-35	-40	-41	-41	-32	-25	-32	-32	-29	-24	-41
New Town	-9	-18	-24	-29	-33	-39	-38	-34	-26	-26	-25	-23	-20	-39
Pembina	-20	-31	-43	-50	-50	-50	-49	-33	-31	-36	-40	-39	-35	-50
Washburn	-7	-15	-20	-25	-32	-35	-34	-30	-24	-26	-27	-25	-25	-35
Williston	-14	-21	-27	-34	-38	-40	-39	-31	-26	-29	-29	-27	-22	-40

These wind chills were projected across North Dakota during a cold spell last weekend – leaving most of the area under a “dangerous” wind chill advisory. (Photo provided by the National Weather Service)

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Looking back at 2025

A year in review of the Central McLean News-Journal

Editor’s Note: This is the fifth part in a multiple-part series outlining the stories of the McLean County News Journal in 2025:

COMPILED BY KELLI AMELING
Associate Publisher

May 15

After competing against 16 other teams, the Central McLean boys and girls varsity track team each placed first and fourth at the Parshall Meet. Parshall hosted 17 teams total during

the Parshall Varsity meeting on May 8, which included Minot Bishop Ryan, Central McLean, Des-Lacs Burlington/Lewis and Clark, Divide County, Garrison, Powers Lake-Burke Central, Southern McLean, Stanley, Surrey, Trenton, Kenmare-Bowbells-Burke, Mandaree, Max-South Prairie, Nedrose, Parshall, Williston, Trinity Christian and White Shield.

The Supreme Court of North Dakota has ruled the position of Judgeship No. 1 at Bismarck in South Central Judicial District “necessary” and will remain

after a retirement was announced.

In a matchup that featured two teams at different points in their season trajectories, the Central McLean Cougars showcased a dominant performance at the plate and in the circle to defeat the Max-South Prairie Cossacks 23-2 in five innings May 12.

The Cent ral McLean Cougars softball team closed out their road trip with an emphatic 12-4 victory over Enderlin on Saturday, May 10, behind an offen-

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