



EDUCATION BRIEFS

Minot State fall 2025 president’s list and VPAA honor roll

CONTENT PROVIDED BY MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

Minot State University announced a total of 510 students were named to the Fall 2025 President’s List and 312 students were named to the Vice President for Academic Affairs’ Honor Roll.

Students who earned a term grade point average of 3.8 or higher while enrolled for 12 or more credits during the Fall 2025 semester were named to the list. The honor will appear on the student’s transcript for the semester in which it was earned. Students who earned a term grade point average of 3.5-3.79 while enrolled for 12 or more credits during the Fall 2025 semester were named to the VPAA list. The honor will show on the student’s transcript for the semester it was earned.

President’s list
Melinda Neff, Mercer
Samuel Benson, Underwood

VPAA honor roll
Gracie Fuentes, Riverdale
Madyson Bjorge, Underwood

University of Mary announces dean’s list for fall ’25 semester

CONTENT PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITY OF MARY

Area residents are among the 1,237 students named to the 2025 Fall Semester Dean’s List at the University of Mary, in Bismarck. This number includes students in Mary’s undergraduate program and in adult education (University of Mary Online).

To qualify for the honor, traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.50 or better grade point average while carrying at least 12 credit hours. Students enrolled in the UMary Online program must earn a 3.50 or better grade point average while at a full-time adult learner status.

Dean’s list
Daisy Sparrow, Mercer
Nevada Sorensen, Riverdale
Grace Goven, Turtle Lake
Kayla Swanson, Turtle Lake
Emry Hunt, Underwood

Unified show ring

McLean County aligns with State Fair format

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER
Reporter

McLean County youth showing livestock this summer will navigate a new, unified 4H and FFA system designed to cut down on overlapping shows and long days at the fair.

During the Jan. 8 meeting of the McLean County Fair Board at Underwood City Hall, board member Amanda Huettl, Max School FFA advisor and agriculture education instructor, and 4-H representative Sarah Bedgar led a discussion outlining what the change will mean for local exhibitors.

The statewide merger brings 4-H and FFA livestock shows under a single, unified system intended to streamline scheduling and reduce strain on families, volunteers and fair staff. Under the new format, both youth programs will share barns, show rings and check-in procedures. Fair materials will now list events under joint 4H & FFA” headings, reflecting the integrated structure guiding livestock classes, stalling and daily operations.

According to a joint NDSU Extension and 4-H press release issued in December 2025, the merger is the result of more than a year of review by a committee of 4-H and FFA staff and volunteers. The group analyzed data, gathered input from families and eval-

uated long-standing challenges in the show schedule. Families repeatedly cited overlapping events, rushed timelines and the sheer number of shows as major stressors.

“The overwhelming feedback from youth is that there are so many livestock shows, breed-specific shows, open shows, junior points shows and comeback shows, that they are spread thin,” Bedgar said. “They are so busy throughout the week, and this will streamline the process and save time.”

Huettl said the county’s decision to move forward now is a practical one.

“It’s happening this year at the State Fair,” she said. “It makes sense for us to be proactive and start at the county level.”

Despite the consolidation, both organizations will remain separate, with their own enrollment processes, project rules and award systems. Exhibitors will continue to register through their county Extension offices or FFA advisors. Once they arrive at the fair, they will participate in a coordinated show environment designed to reduce conflicts and create a more consistent experience.

“It’s important to remember that we haven’t eliminated anything,” Bedgar

BACK IN THE DAY

Underwood

COMPILED BY SHELLY WALLACE
from the Files of the Central McLean News Journal

20 years ago, Jan. 2006

Elementary instructors Patti Lawson and Val Rae Swanson wrote a grant application to the North Dakota Council on the Arts to bring the Artist-in-Residence program to Underwood. This is the third year the school has received a grant. As part of this year’s program, Artist-in Residence director Linda Bruning, Minneapolis, and her associate, Brian Proball from Duluth, instructed the elementary school in basics of theatrical performing.

Underwood Economic Development Director Brian Ash, city auditor, Diane Schell, and mayor, Rick Olson, represented Underwood at Marketplace in Fargo on Jan. 18.

There will be a vintage snowmobile show in Turtle Lake February 4.

The Comet boys found out the state-ranked Velva Aggies are worthy of the votes they’re getting, as the visiting Aggies boys rolled over the Comets by the score of 76-44. Earlier action last week saw Sheridan County take a win from the Comets, 60-50.

The Underwood Comettes have been busy preparing for the North Dakota Association of Dance and Drill Championships this weekend. The Comettes recently captured first place in jazz and second in high kick at the St. Mary’s Saintiques Invitational.

The girls Comets were nipped in the bud Tuesday night, as the visiting Sheridan County Coyotes edged out the Comets in the final minutes of a District 10 hoops game, winning by the score of 45-42.

Other action this past week saw Velva pour on the offense the second half, outlasting the Comets 46-30 Saturday in Underwood.

30 years ago, Jan. 1996

Firemen responded to a fire at the Howard Busch home. The fire started in the garage and spread to cause significant fire damage to the kitchen and one bedroom. Frigid weather made firefighting more difficult and also slowed cleanup.

The Underwood Comets B-squad boys basketball team claimed first place in the McLean County JV Tournament.

In volleyball action, the Comets handed the Garrison Troopers a 3-1 loss in Garrison, putting their season record at 6-7.

The Underwood Area Economic Development Corporation held a “wake up” meeting. At a brief meeting last week, board members noted the development going on in other area communities, the active involvement of larger numbers of people. Add the loss of two businesses on main street, and they came to a logical conclusion -- they need help, and have more ideas and more community involvement.

Seven board members, all with other involvements, can’t get the job done. More community involvement, more volunteer help and some fresh ideas could make a difference, corporation members feel. So, they are issuing their wake-up call and hope for a good response.

40 years ago, Jan. 1986

The Underwood Park Board was making plans to ask for a mill levy increase. “This summer was particularly devastating. Not only was our income down, but our expenses went up considerably. We were forced to close the pool three days early due to the breaking down of the main pool water heater,” said board president, Ralph Driessen.

Attending the North Dakota Women of Today annual winter board meeting were Jane Beck, Dee Jesser, Deb Hatzenbuhler, Diane Schell, Sandy Landenberger, Peggy Wollmuth, Jan Larson and Cindy Olson.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association heard a resounding “no” to proposed changes in the state high school basketball format. The state will keep its current two-class system instead of going to a proposed three-class format.

Mr. and Mrs. Clements Clark, who are vacationing in Orlando, Fla., report that they watched from their front door as the space shuttle took off and exploded.

55 years ago, Jan. 1971

Robert Koenig, president of the Underwood Jaycees, presented Jerome Ash a certificate designating him the Outstanding Jaycee of the Underwood chapter. Koenig pointed out Jerome was always a willing worker in whatever tasks he was assigned.

Rev. and Mrs. Norman McCall and daughters have arrived in Underwood from St. Louis, Mo., to make their home. Rev. McCall has accepted the call to the pastorate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church here and also of the Dodge church.

Seniors on the high school honor roll were Barb Saylor and Loren Scheer.

Bob Krumwiede is here from Alameda, Calif., to spend a two week leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Art Krumwiede. Bob is in the Navy.

65 years ago, Jan. 1961

Mrs. Rose Muhlbeier sold the business and good will of the Norge Bar to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schacher of Wilton. The name of the business will be changed to Dick’s Bar.

The Turtle Lake Trojans won their first McLean County basketball championship since 1949 when they came from behind in the second half to edge

Central McLean News-Journal

P.O. Box 573, Underwood, ND 58576 • 701-462-8126 • USPS #647540
email centralmclean@nordaknorth.com • website nordaknorth.com
Ethyn Williams-Calvert..... Editor
Shelly Wallace..... Sales Representative
Jackie Kohler..... Production

Published every Thursday by Nordak North Publishing., P.O. Box 309, 59 North Main, Garrison, ND 58540-0309. Periodical postage paid at Garrison, ND. For more information or for a subscription, write Central McLean News-Journal, P.O. Box 573, Underwood, ND 58576.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Central McLean News-Journal, P.O. Box 573, Underwood, ND 58576.



Deadlines
3 p.m. Monday – classifieds
10 a.m. Tuesday – advertisements, public notices, news and area announcements