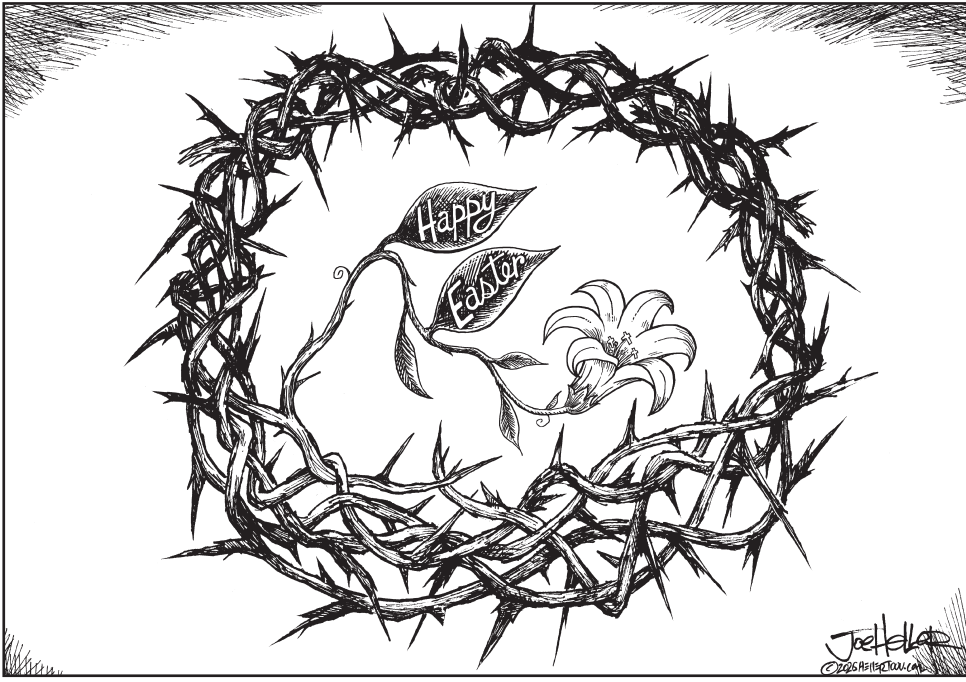


# BACK IN THE DAY

Underwood

COMPILED BY SHELLY WALLACE

from the Files of the Central McLean News Journal



## GOLF

from page 1

players instant feedback. Because the hardware sits overhead, both right and lefthanded golfers can use the same hitting zone without adjustment.

The turf is engineered to mimic real course conditions, allowing putts to roll cleanly and chips to behave naturally. Through GSPRO software, golfers can play virtually any course in the world or join friends across the country for a round.

Staigle walks newcomers through the system, but he says most people pick it up quickly. "All they need to bring is their clubs."

The simulator has also caught the attention of local golf coach Samantha Slavik, who brought her team in for a preseason session on March 27.

"Having Logan be willing to work with the golf team and allow us to book time in the space was great," Slavik said. "Golf in the spring can be especially tricky when we are at the mercy of the weather."

For high school programs, early-season practice is often a race against melting snow and unpredictable conditions. Slavik said the simulator gave her athletes something they rarely get in March: meaningful reps.

The technology, she said, changed the way her players understood their swings. Cameras and lasertracing tools allowed golfers to see their mechanics in real time, not just hear verbal cues.

"If a student is really throwing their weight onto their back heel in their backswing, they will be able to see this on the camera afterward," she said. "Seeing this gives them a visual to the words I am saying to them."

The ProTee system also shows club-head path, contact angle, strike point and ballflight pattern. Those visuals, Slavik said, were "invaluable" for young athletes trying to correct habits before the season begins.

"This not only helped them understand what was happening, but it also

helped me work on creating a practice plan with drills that will help with the common problems that were seen before the season even starts," she said.

The team spent its first session on the virtual range rather than playing holes. Several players booked additional time on their own.

"Having this resource will, without a doubt, be a huge asset to our golf program," Slavik said. "With access to the Blue Cat simulator, we don't have to worry about late starts to the season or losing out on valuable practice time."

Staigle sees the simulator as a space for everyone: families, beginners, seasoned golfers and kids' birthday groups. The precision-oriented setup helps players focus on improving their swing. Kid-themed courses make the system accessible for the youngest players.

He is intentional about keeping Blue Cat a complement, not a competitor, to area golf courses. The simulator costs \$35 per hour, whether one person or four are playing. Memberships run only from October through May.

"I want people to get out and use the local courses when they're open," he said. "Come in and perfect your swing, then show off at Westridge. We really have good courses around here. I do not want to take business away from them."

Blue Cat is hosting a tournament April 4-12, allowing participants to play their round anytime during the weeklong window. Staigle will announce the winner at the end. Those interested can sign up by calling 7013011475.

As the simulator gains traction, Staigle hopes it becomes a winter lifeline, a place where people stay active and stay connected.

"It's something different to do," he said. "Something fun. Something healthy. Something this community deserves."

## COUNTY

from page 1

pensation for emergency volunteer service may be retained by the employee if the employee is on authorized McLean County annual leave."

The policy goes on to note, accrual for benefit calculations like annual leave, sick leave and holidays remain unaffected.

"Not only do I move to approve (the request) but I thank her for doing it," said Commission Vice Chairman Steve Cottingham.

Commissioner Steve Lee agreed stating many of the volunteer services are "really struggling" when it comes to help.

"I think as a county we should do whatever we can to encourage participation," Lee said.

Chairperson Curt Olson concurred with his fellow commissioners, saying their service is vital to the McLean County Community.

**20 years ago, April 2006**  
The benefit breakfast held by the Underwood Area Economic Development Corporation on March 19 was a success. Proceeds of \$730 to \$750 will go to the Underwood Senior Citizens Center.

A picture of Esther Thomsen of Underwood was recently placed in the Underwood Public Library to honor Esther for her contributions in starting the library and serving as the librarian for 16 years.

Three positions will be up for election on the Underwood School Board and discussions regarding that election took place at the March 21 meeting of the board. The resignation of Dan Leidholm, who is planning to build a home on Wolf Creek, leaves the two-year unexpired term in Underwood open, along with a three-year rural seat currently held by John Fransen, and the at-large seat currently held by Doyle Johannes.

The school board agreed to extend a full-time contract to Kim Wirtz, the school's guidance counselor.

The Underwood City Commission was a little short staffed at the March 21 meeting, but the three commissioners that were present tended to a lengthy agenda, which lasted nearly three hours. The Commission heard bonding requirements for street and water projects, and Ron Hefta was at the meeting to thank the commission for the recent job fair, which led to seven applications for new positions at the Farlkirk Farmers Elevator, from which three will be hired; and the commission approved radio upgrades for the fire department and reviewed a disaster policy.

Senator Byron Dorgan visited the Underwood School, speaking to grades 7-12 students, teachers, AEDC committee members and the public.

**30 years ago, April 1996**

If a Minnesota administrative law judge's ruling stands regarding coal "externalities", any plans for new facilities or further expansion might be held off at Coal Creek Station. That's what plant manager John Weeda told a room of area businessmen at last week's Coal Creek Station Business Day luncheon. But Weeda stressed that it would not mean anybody would be laid off. "It probably wouldn't affect our current operation, only expansion," he said.

The economic impact of Coal Creek Station on the area was also noted during last week's luncheon. Coal Creek has a payroll of \$12,323,500, with overtime paid about \$435,000. It was noted that nearby Falkirk Mine has a payroll of \$16,550,000.

**40 years ago, April 1986**  
Students from Underwood High

School exhibiting at the state science fair include Megan Gazdik, Stephanie Garceau, Michael Guenther, Robin Shupe, Sarah Johannes and Brooke Paulson.

Underwood voters approved a five mill increase in mill levy for the park board at the April 1 election. Tom Repnow and Glen Opp were re-elected to the city commission. With three park board seats up for election and no candidates on the ballot, 54 people received write-in votes. Jim Scheer and Leon Weisenberger, who ran write-in campaigns, came out on top. Darrel Wilke won the third seat.

In Coleharbor, 34 voters turned out to elect Harry Pochant Jr. as mayor. In Riverdale, William Lawson was elected mayor.

The first track meets to be held on the new track at the Underwood Sports Complex are being scheduled for this spring. Two invitationals and the first annual McLean County meet are planned, as well as some junior high events. Volunteers will be needed to assist at the meets.

**55 years ago, April 1971**

One step in the beautification of Underwood was completed when the old creamery building was knocked down by the Underwood Coal Crew Co. crew. The debris was hauled out of town by the coal company, and that corner lot is now ready for someone to purchase and build on.

After completing 16 years as chief of the Underwood Fire Dept., Fred Eman has turned in his badge and will sit back and take it easy. Mr. Eman told the department he would stay on the active list for a year or so to help with the details of running the ambulance service, etc. George Werre was elected chief for the ensuing year, and Carl Bader, Assistant. Leo Strecker was re-elected secretary/treasurer, and Harold Lutz, the rural department secretary. The department has 30 volunteers. During the past year, they answered nine calls.

Tony Stockert at Olson's Hardware has put in a new display area where he can display his stock more easily, and the public can find it soon. Don Oie was the carpenter in charge of the project.

The Wagon Wheel Inn at Big Bend was advertising live music by the Rangers of Dickinson for Saturday night.

**65 years ago, April 1961**

Lorell Buchert, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Buchert, and Terrance Lee Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.V. Nelson, Coleharbor, enlisted in the U.S. Army March 29, according to the local army recruiter.

# Central McLean News-Journal

P.O. Box 573, Underwood, ND 58576 • 701-462-8126 • USPS #647540  
email [centralmclean@nordaknorth.com](mailto:centralmclean@nordaknorth.com) • website [nordaknorth.com](http://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