

# BACK IN THE DAY

Underwood

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



## HIGH NOTES

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Participating schools included Center-Stanton, Hazen, Hazleton-Moffitt-Braddock, Kidder County, Medina, New Salem-Almont, Shiloh, School of the Holy Family in Mandan, Turtle Lake-Mercer, Underwood, Washburn and Wilton.

“Most of these kids, nine times out of ten, have never played in front of someone who is judging,” Hall said. “They usually practice in front of their peers or perform at small recitals for parents.”

Way said the supportive atmosphere at Turtle Lake-Mercer helps ease those nerves.

“I love the environment,” she said. “When you are playing or singing with these groups of people, you can see that we’ve all worked hard for this.”

Seven adjudicators, mostly music teachers from outside the region and a few college professors, evaluated the performances. Hall said he hires judges he knows will give constructive, encouraging feedback.

“When I hire a judge, I know they have or had a good program,” he said. “I tell them be positive, and if you need to be, be pointed. I’ve seen kids quit because of harsh criticism with no positive reinforcement.”

One parent paused in the hallway to tell volunteer Randy Hanson, “You always do such a good job with this festival,” a sentiment echoed by many throughout the day.

Students who earned a Star rating now advance to the state festival on Saturday, May 2, at Bismarck State College, where they will perform the same piece for a new panel of judges. Washburn music teacher Dustin Moe said the rating scale remains the same — Star, I, II, III — but expectations increase significantly at state.

The festival uses a four-tier rating system, with Star signifying a superior performance, followed by I for excellent, II for good and III for fair. Each judge may also award one Outstanding Performance plaque, reserved for the single best performance that judge hears that day.

Turtle Lake-Mercer music teacher Kailee Wyman said eight students from the school earned Star ratings and will advance to state. Brooklyn Tomlinson and Inaia Way qualified with vocal solos. Nora Fiedler qualified with her alto saxophone solo. The school’s Saxophone Ensemble also earned a Star rating; members include Fiedler (alto sax 1), Lily Christensen (alto sax 2), Hayden Leim (alto sax 2), Zella Anderson (tenor sax) and Vivian Schlafmann (baritone sax).

Underwood also had two students perform at Region VII. Music teacher Tyler Krueger said Raedyn Gallant (bass clarinet) and Levi Repnow (trumpet) represented the school in solo performances.

Turtle Lake-Mercer student Schlafmann, who performed Air de Ballet, said she’s been playing for about six years and enjoys the camaraderie of her group. Heading to state, she said, is “exciting,” especially because she loves “spending time with the girls in my group.”

Way said music has already shaped her beyond the classroom.

“Music takes lots of time and dedication,” she said. “Sometimes music isn’t for everyone, but I think everyone should try it once in their life.”

Hall said the event reflects what music can offer students long after they leave school.

“It’s something they can do for the rest of their lives,” he said. “An instrument, singing, speaking, they’ll carry it with them until the day they die.”

Hall has spent 50 years involved with International Music Camp and said he regularly sees adults in their 80s still attending sessions.

“That’s what music does,” he said. “It stays with you.”

For Way, the trip to state is a milestone she didn’t expect to end her senior year with.

“I’ve never been to state before,” she said. “It really adds to my senior year.”

### 20 years ago, April 2006

It has been decided residents will vote on a one and a half-cent sales tax for the city of Underwood. The city commission approved the amount of tax to be placed on the June 13 ballot at its Tuesday night meeting.

Underwood residents David and Debbie Beck were at the meeting regarding the status of Westridge Estates. The Becks questioned how long it would be before it is developed, because they would like to build on one of the lots. A special meeting was set for April 25 to discuss the development.

Betty Kuhn was at the city meeting concerning burning pots and pits in town. She said she is allergic to smoke, and it makes it difficult to even go for a walk because of all the burning in the city. Kuhn was told the city will check the regulations and take it under advisement.

The Easter egg hunt was held at Prairieview Nursing Home last Saturday. Kids got to play games after the hunt.

The Underwood Senior Citizens invited the UAEDC board of directors to a roast beef luncheon to show their appreciation to the UAEDC for the recent fundraising breakfast, which raised \$807.70 for the seniors.

Kathy Sheldon’s first grade class, assisted by their senior buddies, took advantage of beautiful weather and perfect winds to fly kites April 12.

The Underwood Turtle Lake Mercer Varsity Girls Golf Team traveled to Hazen for their first tournament of the year. Bethany Holm shot an 18-hole score of 122, Cassidy Blotske 127, and Ciara Edwards 129. Holm and Edwards both posted a 9-hole score of 57, to tie for low round between the three golfers.

Service awards were given to members of the Underwood Fire and Ambulance Squads: Dave Pederson, was recognized for 15 years of service; Paul Johannes retired from the board of directors after 22 years; Dave Kapanke received a 10-year service award; and Jerome Kastrow and Jerry Saylor both received awards honoring five years of service.

### 30 years ago, April 1996

Volunteers became surrogate mothers to 10 baby puppies when Jenny, a springer spaniel belonging to Rick and Gail Olson and the mother of the puppies, disappeared.

Peg Brorby has become lead volunteer. With some experience working in a veterinary clinic, she was able to guide others. Gail says Peg’s help and advice has been very valuable. Others who had volunteered through Monday night included the Clayton Ruff family, Hilda Tauer, Norma Tescher,

Jimmy Hatzenbuehler, Debbie Loose, Eldora Olson, Patty Sigurdson, Angie Hovdenes and Lori Gefroh.

The Frontier Mini-Grocery and Bottle Shop of Underwood reported a break-in on April 19. According to McLean County Sheriff Arlin Thompson, about \$1,000 in cash was stolen from the business. Entrance was apparently gained when a side door was pried open.

### 40 years ago, April 1986

Underwood Elementary children entertained their grandparents at a special Grandparents Day.

Becky Brockel was named the winner of the Cooperative Power Scholarship at the 23rd annual Masonic Honor Banquet. Underwood students honored at the banquet in Washburn were Peggy Klemetsrud, Karin Schaffer, Sarah Johannes, Rebecca Larson, Michelle Hummel, Becki Zietz, Galen Hedlund, Steve Cottingham, Brenda Folden, Brook Paulson, Denise Rasmussen, Marnie Gazdik, Kim Landenberger and Becky Brockel.

The Underwood-Riverdale High School Golf Team successfully defended one of the titles it acquired last year. Playing in gusty winds, the team repeated as champions of the Crosby Invitational. A three-way tie for medalist necessitated a playoff between Charles Kranz and Leon Weisenburger of Underwood and Jamie Buck of Crosby. Kranz came out ahead.

### 50 years ago, April 1976

Roughly 1,000 people attended the debut performance of the community concert choir in Underwood. Performing the bicentennial cantata, “I Love America,” the 60-member chorus was accompanied by Mrs. Robert Bickert of Washburn and the Bismarck Elks Brass Ensemble. The choir was directed by David LeRoy. Layton Freborg was the narrator.

On April 24, the Underwood Town and Country Civic Club will be host to a “Recognition Night” for athletes of the Underwood School.

In a unanimous decision, the Underwood Bicentennial Committee voted to support a fireworks display for July 4. The committee contributed \$100 toward the purchase of the display. The donation from the committee puts the total donated for a display at about \$750.

Mrs. Ben Thomsen is quilting her remembrance of America’s 200th anniversary with a quilt entitled “United We Stand.” The queen size quilt is divided into 63 eight-and-a-half-inch squares. Fifty of the squares will represent the different states, with a white star in the middle of each square, on which will be embroidered the name of

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