

Congratulations CLASS OF 2026



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★ Velva *area* Voice

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Velva, North Dakota 58790

\$1.50

Word on the Street

FOOD PANTRY:
May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15
The food pantry is open from 5:45-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of OVLC, Main Street. The pantry is short of these items: canned meats, canned fruit, personal hygiene products and laundry pods and can be dropped off at OVLC Mon.- Fri. 9am-3pm.

PURDY GOOD OL BAND:
If you're interested in joining the Purdy Good Ol Band for the Velva 4th of July, please call Carmen at 340-9513 or Marlowe at 626-1724.

Sunshine, Rainbows, and all things Spring

Reporter Heather Tudor



Kindergarten - 1st Grade



5th Grade Band



Abigail Heinrich and Graham Benson.



6th Grade Band



2nd - 3rd Grade



4th - 6th Grade

Sunshine, Rainbows, and all things Spring was the theme to this year's Elementary Spring Music Concert held on Thursday, May 7th at the Velva Public School Gymnasium. Girls in spring like dresses and boys with their hair slicked back and nicely combed and showing they clean up nice too.

Under the direction of Ariel Oster, the Kindergarten and 1st Grade started off the show, singing songs titled Bees are Buzzing and Spring is coming soon. What stole the show was the excitement of the Kindergarteners receiving their graduation certificates.

Next the 2nd and 3rd grades sang songs such as "Singing in the Rain",

"The Rainbow Connection", "Here comes the Sun" and lastly "True Colors".

After a brief intermission to let students get in their places, Ashley Mogard led the 5th and 6th grade bands showing off their talents with songs such as the "Mexican Hat Dance" and another titled "Invaders", "Can-Can" and "Alouette".

Then the 4th, 5th and 6th grades took their turn at showing off their singing talents under the direction of Ariel Oster again. Singing a bit more contemporary songs such as "Shine Your Way", "Umbrella", "Over the Rainbow", and "Halo"

Opportunities abound for women in agriculture in North Dakota

Generational shifts, markets, interest in regenerative practices drive shift

By Michael Standaert, North Dakota News Cooperative



Ashley Bruner, manager of Dakota Angus near Drake, displays a cut of beef from the ranch she operates with her family. - Submitted.

While a little over a century ago women obtained the right to vote in North Dakota, it took decades more to be treated as equals at traditionally male occupations like agriculture.

Today, around one-third of agriculture operations in the US are operated by women. Opportunities to lead agribusinesses and farming operations continue to grow, particularly as Baby Boomer farmers retire or pass away.

More than half of graduates of agricultural science programs are now women, a shift starting over a decade ago. At many programs now, more than 60% of graduates are female.

Jill Vigesaa, 65, raised on a farm near Lakota, and recent winner of the first ever Legacy of the Land Award created by the North Dakota Farm Bureau Foundation, has seen those changes.

When growing up, it was traditionally her brothers who would drive the tractors.

That changed after they grew bored of the monotonous back-and-forth and paid her a bit out of their hourly wage if she would ride along to keep them company.

"Well, pretty soon it was like, 'You can drive it, why are you just sitting here?'" she said.

That began her own farming journey, even if her father was a little embarrassed because of neighbors gawking.

"They would literally sit at the end of the field and watch me, and not watch any of the guys," Vigesaa said of neighboring farmers. "They weren't unkind, but it was like women aren't supposed to be out here doing this kind of stuff."

That's changed dramatically, and interest and opportunity abound in North Dakota and across the Midwest.

The United Nations declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer as well as the Year of Rangelands and Pas-

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