

Mandan Progress Organization celebrates record-breaking fireworks show

By Brendan DeLuca-Rodenberg
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The beginning of a new year is always a cause for celebration, and this is especially the case when said year is also the 250th anniversary of the United States. Typically, Mandan enjoys celebrating the last day of December with a fireworks show- but in 2025, the city went above and beyond with a record-breaking display in every sense of the word.

Originally advertised as a ‘Patriotic Pyro-Musical’, the twenty-minute display took place outside of Mandan High School on the evening of Wednesday, December 31. Here, despite chilly weather, citizens from all across the city gathered to watch a combination of music, smoke, fireworks, and other pyrotechnics designed to help illustrate the victories and sacrifices that made America what it is today.

However, it is not necessarily the theme that made New Year, New Light particularly special among 2025’s final fireworks displays. During the show, fireworks teams attempted- and succeeded- to set a new world record for the most stars launched from Roman Candle fire-

works in sixty seconds. During one minute of the show, approximately 2,802,195 stars were fired, a number that has been confirmed by Guinness World Records officials who were on the scene.

While the results of the pyro-musical were already impressive at a glance, the MPO would have a chance to confirm this during the following City Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 6. Here, Executive Director Matt Schanandore offered his thanks to everyone involved in the event, noting that it was only through the combined efforts of Mandan High School, Pegasus Fireworks, and plenty of visitors that their world record attempt was truly successful.

Pegasus Fireworks was not the only group responsible for this monumental event, either, and two other groups (US-based Spirit of ‘76 Fireworks and Cowboy Fireworks from China) were also mentioned in the announcement. Cowboy Fireworks reportedly endured 70 hours of air travel to ensure they could help make history in Mandan, an act worthy of special thanks from the other teams and the city itself.

Overall, Schanandore



photo | Brendan DeLuca-Rodenberg

FIREWORKS help ring in the New Year during Mandan’s record-setting ‘Patriotic Pyro-Musical’ on December 31, 2025. estimates that 4,000 to 4,500 people attended the event, resulting in a total of \$30,000. These funds will be distributed to both the Wounded Warrior Project and the North Dakota Honor Flight, furthering the theme of supporting veterans by helping them deal with the trauma they may have experienced. A portion of the funds will also be allocated to the Mandan High School Marching Band to initiate fund-raising efforts aimed at sending them to London in 2027, where they will participate in the annual New Year’s Day Parade.

The record and finances are nothing to scoff at, but more important than the show are the various messag-

es it conveys. The musical’s colors and sounds were designed not only to celebrate the United States, but to honor the sacrifices that veterans of all wars have made. Through performances like New Year, New Light, we can reflect on the past while looking forward to a new (and hopefully brighter) future, and there is no better way to signify that than lighting up the night sky.

The New Year, New Light record can be viewed on Guinness-WorldRecords.com, and is listed as ‘most firework stars launched from Roman Candles in one minute’. More information on Pegasus Fireworks and the Mandan Progress Organization, meanwhile, can be found on their respective websites.

Event Calendar

February Western Plains Public Health Clinics

2 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health in Mandan. Call 667-3379 for appointment

4 Footcare & Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for appointment

9 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health in Mandan. Call 667-3379 for appointment

10 Footcare & Blood Pressure for Seniors 60 and older at Elm Crest Manor, New Salem 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Call 667-3370 for appointment

11 Footcare & Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for appointment

12 Footcare at Hebron Senior Center 8:30 a.m.-

11:30 a.m. Call 622-3591 for appointment

12 Footcare at Glen Ullin Senior Center 12:30 p.m.-1:30p.m. Call 794-8867 for appointment

17 Footcare & Blood Pressure for Seniors 60 and older at Elm Crest Manor, New Salem 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Call 667-3370 for appointment

18 Footcare & Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for appointment

18 Footcare & Blood Pressure at Library Square, Mandan 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 667-3370 for appointment

23 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health in Mandan. Call 667-3379 for appointment

25 Footcare & Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for appointment

January Western Plains Public Health Clinics

26 Immunizations at Western Plains Public Health in Mandan call 667-3370 for appointment

28 Footcare and Blood Pressure at Mandan Senior Center 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Call 667-3370 for appointment

Have a meeting notice? Email Us at mcnjournal@gspublishing.net

Mandan Parks & Rec Winter Daze

Free Swim- Mandan Aquatic Center, Wednesday Jan. 21 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Bunco- Mandan Golden Age Center, Jan. 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Pinochle Party- Mandan Golden Age Center, Jan. 22 at 12:45 p.m.

Free Play at Mandan Tennis Center, Jan. 23 from 5-8 p.m.

Eagles Sledding-warming house, Jan. 24 3-5 p.m.

Ice Skating & Hot Chocolate- Legion Ice Rink, Jan. 25 1-3 p.m.

VOTE TO RE-ELECT

Representative
KAREN ROHR
DISTRICT 31 HOUSE

SUPPORTS:

- Property Tax Relief
- 2nd Amendment Gun Rights
- Pro-Life & Pro-Family Legislation
- Military & Veterans
- Public Safety & Law Enforcement
- Agriculture & Energy Industries
- Policies That Reduce Regulation on Business
- Private Property Rights
- Adult & Youth Behavioral Health
- Senior Care & Prescription Drug Studies
- Rural Health Access

YOUR CONSERVATIVE CHOICE

PRIMARY Election - June 9th

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- Life-long resident of Mandan, Morton County
- Mother of 3 grown children in ND
- Board-Certified Nurse Practitioner
- Governing Board - Jamestown State Hospital
- Human Services Committee
- Health Services Committee
- Rural Health Transformation Committee
- Government & Veterans Committee

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GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL POLITICS!

Make your voice heard and help elect our District 31 Republican leaders.

NOTICE OF MEETING

All District 31 Republican Precincts Caucus and District Reorganization

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Noon MT (1:00 p.m. CT)

Knights of Columbus Hall (315 Brown Ave., Mott, ND)

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. MT (12:30 p.m. CT)

Alternate dates: In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be rescheduled to February 8 or 15. Updates will be posted on our Facebook page: facebook.com/NDGOP31

Business to be conducted

- Election of the district committee officers
- Election of and at-large district committee members.

District 31 includes parts of Mandan and Morton County, as well as all of Sioux, Grant, and parts of Hettinger counties.

paid for by District 31 Republicans, Mary Graner, Chair