

Step into the past

Memories from Decades gone by



(continued from Page 2)
50 Years Ago (June 17, 1976)

• DC will not be cutting grasses alongside county roads until July 1 to allow farmers to make use of the available grass for hay • Lisa Wolff of Monango wins statewide traffic safety poster contest • A practice for calvary unit horseback riding reenactments during the Whitestone Bicentennial will take place June 20—the cavalry actors expressed doubt in their riding abilities, but Iver Tveit of Forbes said General Sully himself wrote "it was the first fight that nearly all of [the calvary] had ever been in", so the reenactment might be quite accurate! • Jeff Mangin, Jeff Heitmann, Robin Bobzien, Scott Brandenburger, Greg & Dave Gramlow, Alan Coleman, Steve Iverson, Gordy Martin, and John Barstow lead Ellendale Babe Ruth baseball team to 16-8 victory over Cogswell • David Betting and Todd Steinwand attend the National Student Council Conference in Portland Oregon

40 Years Ago (June 19, 1986)

• The city may set up a reward system to catch the thief or thieves who have been robbing live flowers, plants, vases, and urns from graves at the Ellendale Cemetery—in one incident, a person reported that a freshly planted geranium was removed from a grave and the ground smoothed over • Monango Centennial celebration to be held June 27-29 • Coach Tim Steinwand and players Jim Flynn, Jeff Roehl, Todd Tatum, Clay Wagner, and Kevin Gall looking to win their 3rd JB Graham Baseball Tournament title • 2nd annual Ellendale Summer Fest gets underway this weekend

30 Years Ago (June 13, 1996)

• Following an inspection, the Opera House was deemed to be torn down by August due to it being in a "state of collapse that presents a definite hazard to adjacent structures in the event of a fire" • \$200 raised from ice cream social for the Main St. Park project • Rev. Dennis O'Neill installed as new pastor of Zion Lutheran • Shown is Cindy Meidinger helping a student in the Chapter 1 summer teaching program • Paul Mahler & Keith Hafey win school board election

20 Years Ago (June 15, 2006)

• Judy Bertsch runs "Race for the Cure" 5k • Kayleen Rithmiller attends Girls State • 2005 Miss North Dakota National Teenagers Jennifer Hasz & Bridget Rekow crown new winner, Deann Olschlager of Harvey • Carlene Kinzler & Scott Wertz elected to school board with Monica Peldo as mayor • Marcie Thielges places in freestyle swim at State Special Olympics • DRN to sponsor March for Mark 5k

10 Years Ago (June 16, 2016)

• District Judge Narum of the SE District (seated in Ellendale) receives highest rating in all 4 ranking categories by the State Bar Association • Ty Bommersbach receives Dr. of PT from UND • Taylor Olson & Isabel Wedell receive \$500 DRN scholarships

Protests and conflicts surrounding agriculture are not new

By Mychal Wilmes, *Agweek*, June 15, 2026

There are times when controversial issues enflame farmers and rural residents. The decision to locate high-voltage powerlines across farmland in North Dakota and Minnesota was one of those.

More than 33 public hearings were held across North Dakota and 48 more were scheduled in Minnesota to discuss the permitting decision-making process.

Farmers feared the lines would complicate farming practices, reduce land values, and negatively impact their family's health. The concerns were also shared by the nonfarming population.

Political candidates of all political persuasions took differing stands on the issue as emotions remained strong in the leadup to the general elections. The permitting process, which was often contentious, took more than two years to finish.

The eventual approval of the lines did not stop protesters.

Farmers used manure spreaders, tractors and other equipment during protests, which became so worrisome in Minnesota that more than 200 Minnesota State Patrol officers were deployed to quell potential violence over a two-year period.

The protesters, who called themselves Bolt Weevils, destroyed or damaged 14 powerline towers and threatened surveyors plotting the route. The media relished covering the protests, which created national attention.

In recent times and without violence, few issues generated as much controversy as the introduction of bovine somatotropin into milk production.

The Food and Drug Administration ruled in 1993 that milk from rBST-injected cows was safe for human consumption.

Monsanto began selling its rBST- licensed product Posilac in February 1994 with the promise that it could increase per-cow production by 10 - 25% without any impact on milk's taste or nutritional value.

The firm touted the product as a tool to increase farmer profitability and stressed that rBST was the first food product that the FDA had Ok'd through advanced genetic engineering.

Monsanto also published a "Technical Manual for Posilac" that covered milk production, cow nutrition, reproductive and mastitis management.

Critics argued that the last thing dairy farmers needed was a product that increased per-cow production.

Dairy producers had struggled financially throughout the 1980s, which prompted the federal government to intervene to reduce production.

Within a decade, the government purchased \$17.2 billion in dairy products, but surpluses

continued. In 1981, the government began the Milk Diversion Program, which mandated producers voluntarily reduce

milk production by 5 30% over 15 months.

It was a temporary solution, but what would come next was permanent. The Dairy Termination Program required enrolled farmers to slaughter herds or export cattle and not return to dairying for five years.

Milk supports, which were set at 75% of parity, were also sharply reduced.

Many farmers and consumers opposed the product's introduction in the marketplace.

For more than a century, dairy products gained popularity through the successful "Milk: Nature's Most Perfect Food." Some feared injecting cows with Posilac might severely tarnish that image. Indeed, anti-milk crusaders used rBST as a tool against milk consumption.

The issues were highlighted during a public meeting that I covered, which was organized by Monsanto in southeastern Minnesota. It was a packed house, with a young and inexperienced representative of the company leading the discussion. It was clear that she was overwhelmed by those who vehemently opposed the product.

Labeling milk produced from rBST cows was impossible, she said at the time, because it didn't change milk's composition in any way.

From the 1990s into the early 2000s, rBST was used on approximately 20% of the nation's cow

herds. However, under pressure from consumers and retailers, its use declined.

Many retailers refused to carry rBST milk and consumer demand built for hormone-free milk. The product remains available but is little used. Several nations—including New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the European Union ban its use.

The revolt against high-voltage powerlines, which prompted sometimes violent protests, is perhaps only remembered by those who were involved in it. Regulators learned invaluable lessons that shaped their approach to informing the public about other projects that had potential impacts both landowners and non-farmers.

Mychal Wilmes is the retired managing editor of Agri News. He lives in West Concord, Minnesota, with his wife, Kathy.



MYCHAL WILMES
Farm Boy Memories

AREA EVENTS

- June 21 (Sunday): German Meal at Opera House sponsored by Ellendale Historical Society, 11:30 - 1:30
- June 27 (Saturday): 2026 Fullerton Fest
- July 4 (Saturday): 4th of July--come to Forbes for parade and fireworks!
- July 5 (Sunday): Community church service at South Park, 10:00 AM, bring lawn chairs, pot luck to follow
- July 9-12 (Thursday--Sunday): 2026 Dickey County Fair & Rodeo

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ELLENDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Ellendale Fire Protection District will hold its annual budget meeting June 29, 2026 at 8:00 pm at the Fire Hall in Ellendale.

Mike Thorpe
Fire Chief
(June 18 @ 25, 2026)

SPRING VALLEY TOWNSHIP

Spring Valley Township will hold a special meeting at 9:00 am on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at the home of the clerk to hear the second reading, hold a public hearing, and consider a resolution for a moratorium on crew camps (temporary workforce housing) for a period of two years.

Matt Herman, Clerk
Spring Valley Township
(June 11 & 18, 2026)

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP

Hamburg Township is having a Township Zoning Meeting on June 25 at 6:00 PM at the Troy Petersen residence.

Ginger Petersen
Secretary-Treasurer
(June 11 & 18, 2026)

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT, AMEND, AND REPEAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RELATING TO THE NORTH DAKOTA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

TAKE NOTICE that the North Dakota Real Estate Commission will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 1120 College Dr. #204, Bismarck, ND 58501. A copy of the proposed rules may be obtained by writing the North Dakota Real Estate Commission, 1120 College Dr. #204, Bismarck, ND 58501 or calling 701-328-9749. Also, written comments may be submitted to the North Dakota Real Estate Commission, 1120 College Dr. #204, Bismarck, ND 58501 until July 20, 2026. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the North Dakota Real Estate Commission at the above telephone number or address at least three days prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 4th day of June, 2026.

Jeanne Prom, Executive Director

124-FOOT LATTICE TOWER PROPOSED NEAR ASHLEY; HISTORIC RESOURCE COMMENTS DUE IN 30 DAYS

Montana-Dakota Utilities is proposing to construct a 124-foot overall height self-supporting lattice telecommunications structure located near 9173 71st Avenue SE, Ashley, Dickey County, North Dakota (46° 5' 17.7" N, 98° 54' 10.7" W). Montana-Dakota Utilities invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 108 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice. 26-001360/DMG

(June 18, 2026)

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