

~ Public Notices ~

BOARD OF PEMBINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PROCEEDINGS
www.pembinacountynd.gov
January 6, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Board of Pembina County Commissioners met in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse.

Chairperson Hardy called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call: Patrick Hardy, Scot Becker, Blaine Papenfuss, Darin Otto, Andrew Cull. A quorum was declared.

Also, in attendance were: Zelda Hartje, Rachel Ramsay, Public Health Director; Lisa Keney, Tax Director; Samantha Weeks, IT/GIS; Kelly Cluchie, Maintenance Supervisor; Samantha Diemert, Emergency Manager/Weed Officer; Terry Meidinger, Sheriff.

Motion made by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the agenda with the addition of a flood plain permit. All voting in favor; motion carried.

The public comment section of the meeting started at 9:02 AM. and closed at 9:18 AM.

Motion made by Scot Becker and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve the December 16, 2025 meeting minutes. All voting in favor; motion carried.

Auditor Gapp presented the Pledge of Assets and List of Depositories of Pembina County funds. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the List of Depositories for two years. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Discussion of the TV in the Farmer's Room. Rachel Ramsay informed the commission it is property of the State of North Dakota through the Public Health Department. It is only to be used when approved by Rachel. Discussion held to purchase a TV and system which would be accessible to use by everyone for presentations, etc. Motion by Andrew Cull and seconded by Scot Becker to look into the purchase of television equipment with the input from the extension office. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Kelly Cluchie presented the 2026 Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contract from Dakota Fire Protection, Inc. Motion by Darin Otto and seconded by Blaine Papenfuss to approve and have Chairman Hardy sign the 2026 contract. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Kelly discussed the elevator in the law enforcement center. He stated there has been water problems in the building affecting the elevator. Schindler Elevator came and inspected it. They are putting a quote together for replacing the control cable and repacking the cylinder. Kelly has already put two new pumps in. He said they need to get the water out of the center shaft. He stated they are working on a way to get the water out of that center shaft. Ricard's came and looked and they are not able to handle it. Schindler's inspected the elevator, ran all the safety tests and stated the elevator is safe to use. Commissioner Cull asked about a chairlift platform being installed on the wall for wheelchairs as a possibility. Kelly will wait for the quotes and will move forward after they are received.

Counties Providing Technology contacted the auditor and asked that the auditor get remote access to the program. It will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Samantha Diemert addressed the commission on a flood plain permit application from Minnkota Power for the new build at American Crystal. They will be installing a 24-inch culvert. It is in the flood zone so she is asking for commission approval of the permit. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Scot Becker to approve the permit. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Kelly returned and stated the quote on the elevator would not be available until this afternoon. The commission asked if he knew how long the elevator would be shut down for the repairs and he was told two to three days. The elevator will be put on the agenda to revisit the status at the next meeting.

The commission discussed the mistake by Walsh County certifying the

38 bond mills to the Grafton School District area in Pembina County which is the old St. Thomas School District. Commissioner Papenfuss stated he wanted it on record that it was a Walsh County error and not a Pembina County error. Tax payers are either allowed to remove that portion from their statement when paying or will be issued a refund if they already paid it. Commissioner Cull stated he feels the extra cost should be on Walsh County. Auditor Gapp read an apology email from the Walsh County Auditor. Discussion was held on asking the Walsh County to send letters to the affected properties explaining what happened. Motion by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Darin Otto to revisit this issue at the next meeting. All voting in favor, motion carried.

The Commission reviewed the December payroll and claims. Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss and seconded by Andrew Cull to approve the consent agenda as presented. All voting in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Blaine Papenfuss to adjourn the meeting. All voting in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:09 AM.

/s/ Patrick Hardy, Chairperson
Pembina County Board of Commissioners
ATTEST: /s/ Melissa Gapp,
Pembina County Auditor/Treasurer
(January 28, 2026)

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Case No.: 34-2023-PR-00054
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF PEMBINA COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of Ann E. Stickney, Deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

[*1] NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred, except that the claim of any creditor to whom said personal representative mailed a copy of this notice shall not be barred until three (3) months after the date of such mailing. Claims must either be presented to Ellen L. LaRoche, personal representative of the estate, at PO Box 163, Neche, ND 58265-0163, or filed with the Court.

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2024.

/s/ **Ellen L. LaRoche**
Personal Representative
PO Box 163
Neche, ND 58265-0163
(January 21, 28, February 4, 2026)

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The North Dakota Game & Fish Department announces the following summary of regulations and changes for the 2026 spring wild turkey hunting proclamation.

The season will run from Apr. 11 through May 17. There are 8,490 licenses available in 21 open units. Bag limit is one bearded or male wild turkey.

Deadline to apply is Feb. 11. Only residents are eligible. Apply online at gf.nd.gov. Licenses issued by weighted lottery.

A complete 2026 fall wild turkey proclamation is available from the NDGF Department, 100 N Bismarck Expy Bismarck, ND 58501-5095, Ph: (701) 328-6300, or online at gf.nd.gov. (January 28, 2026)

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Americanisms

"I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger."
— *Harriet Tubman*

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top 10 movies

1. **Avatar: Fire and Ash** (PG-13) Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
2. **28 Years Later: The Bone Temple** (R) Jack O'Connell, Alfie Williams
3. **Zootopia 2** (PG) Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman
4. **The Housemaid** (R) Sydney Sweeney, Amanda Seyfried
5. **Marty Supreme** (PG-13) Timothée Chalamet, Gwyneth Paltrow
6. **Primate** (R) Johnny Sequoyah, Jess Alexander
7. **The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring** (PG-13) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen
8. **Greenland 2: Migration** (PG-13) Gerard Butler, Morena Baccarin
9. **Anaconda** (PG-13) Jack Black, Paul Rudd
10. **The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants** (PG) Tom Kenny, Clancy Brown

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ATTENTION

DRY PEA & LENTIL GROWERS

The North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council election for Pembina County will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:30 AM (CT)** at the Mountain Community Center, 286 2nd Ave, in Mountain, ND. Elections will be held in conjunction with the Pembina County Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting.

ELECTION

Any person who has not applied for a refund for at least three years, plants or causes to be planted a Dry Pea or Lentil crop in which the person has ownership interest with the intent that upon maturity the crop will be harvested is entitled to vote or can be a candidate.

For more information, contact the North Dakota Dry Pea and Lentil Council at 701-355-4458.

★ **NOTICE** ★

In accordance with the St. Thomas Township Zoning Regulations, the St. Thomas Township Zoning Commission publishes notice that a public hearing will be held at **5:00 p.m. on the 9th day of February, 2026** in the St. Thomas City Council Chambers, located in St. Thomas, ND.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to address a conditional use permit from American Crystal to install fans and electrical equipment for pile #1 at the SE1/4 Section 10 159-53.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2026.

Carlton Heuchert, Zoning Administrator
St. Thomas Township
St. Thomas, ND 58276

ATTENTION

WHEAT GROWERS

The North Dakota Wheat Commission election for Pembina County will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:30 AM (CT)** at the Mountain Community Center, 286 2nd Ave, in Mountain, ND. Elections will be held in conjunction with the Pembina County Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting.

ELECTION

Persons who are residents of Pembina County and have been actively engaged in the production of wheat are eligible to vote. A Wheat producer must be present to vote but need not be present to be elected.

For more information, contact the North Dakota Wheat Commission at 701-328-5111.

Biography Celebrates Life Of State's Longest Serving Supreme Court Chief Justice

By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative

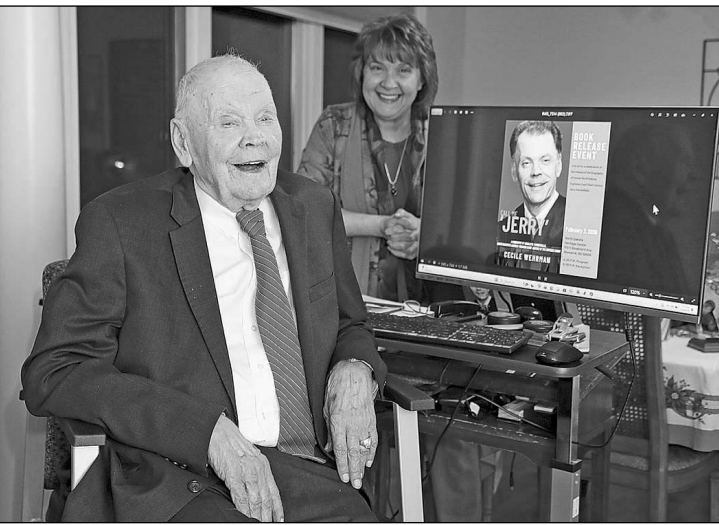
Kind. Dedicated. Humble. Non-partisan. Committed to service.

Talk with anyone who's known former North Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Jerry VandeWalle and those words will usually come out.

Most importantly, they also often point out how VandeWalle's character and remarkable 65-year career in state government, with 45 of those on the Supreme Court bench and over half as "the Chief," can be an example to all public servants in the state going forward.

He set that high of a bar.

Besides his long service within North Dakota, VandeWalle also became well respected nationally, with those character traits driving him to leadership roles in organizations like the American Bar Association and the Conference of Chief Justices.



North Dakota's longest serving Supreme Court Chief Justice Jerry VandeWalle poses with a copy of his biography, "Call Me Jerry" along with author Cecile Wehrman.
Photo by Brad Nygaard, The Journal, Crosby.

Those interested in learning more about VandeWalle will be able to do so when a biography of his life, "Call me Jerry," is officially released on Feb. 2, at a 4:30 p.m. launch event at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

Both VandeWalle and author Cecile Wehrman will be present at the free public book release and give remarks at the event and reception afterwards.

The biography chronicles his life from his start as a son of Belgian immigrants in Noonan, North Dakota in the state's northwest through his formative years studying at the University of North Dakota.

Midway through, the book delves into a detailed account of his decades of service in Bismarck in the attorney general's office and then at the Supreme Court, as well as examining his lasting legacy in the final chapters.

"I'll be interested in hearing what people think about it," VandeWalle said during an interview at his home about the book. "I wanted to come across as just plain Jerry. I didn't try to gain any acclaim, necessarily. And yet it came."

Acclaim did come from his long career.

Besides the many state and national law awards detailed in the book, VandeWalle was also awarded North Dakota's Rough Rider award in 2015, and his portrait stands in the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Hall of Fame at the State Capitol in Bismarck

The book was commissioned

by the Trustees of the John & Elaine Andrist Charitable Trust in 2020, and initially taken on by Pulitzer Prize winning former Grand Forks Herald Publisher Mike Jacobs.

As part of the process, Jacobs conducted six hours of interviews with VandeWalle, as well as video-taped interviews with five attorneys general, two governors, and dozens of legislators, friends and family of VandeWalle.

Wehrman took on the project in November 2024, conducting further interviews and writing the final manuscript.

Wehrman said VandeWalle faced some initial difficulties when he first got to the Supreme Court, which are laid out in the book. One of those was how his position impacted his perception in the eyes of others.

"Personally, he's such a social person, and almost immediately, when he went to the court, he noticed how people reacted to him differently and weren't calling him or speaking candidly with him, and that was a huge adjustment for him," Wehrman said. "At one point, he asked himself, gosh have I made the biggest mistake in my life?"

raised in a devout Flemish Catholic family in a sea of Norwegian Lutherans shaped his character, as well as how his parents and other members of his community were pillars of that formation.

Most impactful throughout his life was the influence of his mother Blanche, who VandeWalle cared for from the early 1970s until her death at the age of 102 in 2006, with much of that time as her caregiver in Bismarck. His father, a WWI hero, was also extremely influential to him, he said.

"He was devoted to her," Wehrman said of his dedication to his mother. "He did so much for her and I tried to make that clear in the book. Without being able to interview her or review writings of hers, I wish there were more about her in the book, because it was all secondhand. She lived with him for 35 years. That's longer than many marriages."

Levi Andrist, who served as a law clerk for VandeWalle in 2010-11 and who spearheaded the commissioning of the biography, said one of the most compelling things for him about VandeWalle was his fidelity to public service.

"He never married, he took care of his mom, and he literally dedicated his whole life to the state and the country," Andrist said.

"I think kind of setting that as like an almost unattainable goal, or benchmark, in 2026 and beyond is perhaps a little overwhelming for those thinking about public service, but I think that's worth celebrating and pursuing," he said.

Born Aug. 15, 1933 during one of the driest years on record, Gerald VandeWalle said that besides his parents and his immediate family his egalitarian childhood among the farmers and miners in the Noonan community was also formative. Most in the tight knit community were neither rich nor poor, he said.

VandeWalle vividly remembers the owner of the local drugstore telling him as a child, "If you ever go out, if you embarrass yourself, you embarrass the whole community," which he said surprised him.

"That stuck with me all the years," he said.

Bismarck-based attorney and lobbyist Jack McDonald, who has known VandeWalle since helping him with his first Supreme Court election campaign in 1978, said that besides his importance in the state and through national legal organizations, what impressed him most was "the Chief's" kindness.

"What stood out all the time is how attentive he was to everybody, and how kind he was to people, even though he was Chief Justice," McDonald said. "It constantly amazed me."

The other aspect was his sincerity and honesty, he said.

"He was extremely well respected by legislators no matter what and no matter what party it was," McDonald said.

VandeWalle's deep respect for the law and the standards of the legal system, as well as his egalitarian, humble and non-partisan nature, give him pause when looking at how the Supreme Court and other influential courts are now perceived at the national level, he said.

VandeWalle said framing by the national press over the years about liberal versus conservative judges – with stories often referring to the president and the politics of that president who appointed them instead of focusing more on the issues or decisions they preside over – is something that's bothered him for some time.

It hasn't helped that in recent years presidents have been playing into that and politicizing the courts.

"I'm concerned about the stature of courts generally after all this is through, because I think they're going to be considered just another branch of government," VandeWalle said.

Copies of the book will be available at the North Dakota Heritage Center and online.

ATTENTION

CORN GROWERS

The North Dakota Corn Utilization Council election for Pembina County will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:30 AM (CT)** at the Mountain Community Center, 286 2nd Ave, in Mountain, ND. Elections will be held in conjunction with the Pembina County Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting.

ELECTION

A Voting Producer is a person who plants, or causes to be planted a Corn crop in which the person has an ownership interest, with the intent that upon maturity the crop will be harvested in the next available or immediately preceding growing season. Producers have to reside in Pembina County and have not requested a Corn refund during the preceding year.

For more information, contact the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council at 701-566-9322.

ATTENTION

BARLEY GROWERS

The North Dakota Barley Council election for Pembina County will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:30 AM (CT)** at the Mountain Community Center, 286 2nd Ave, in Mountain, ND. Elections will be held in conjunction with the Pembina County Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting.

ELECTION

Each person, landlord, tenant, husband and/or wife who planted Barley in 2025 or intends to plant Barley in 2026 and who has not claimed any barley tax refund within the past year (except for duplicate payments), are eligible electors and can be candidates.

For more information, contact the North Dakota Barley Council at 701-929-0123.

ATTENTION

CANOLA GROWERS

The North Dakota Oilseed Council - Canola election for Pembina County will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 10:30 AM (CT)** at the Mountain Community Center, 286 2nd Ave, in Mountain, ND. Elections will be held in conjunction with the Pembina County Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting.

ELECTION

Anyone who has planted Canola in 2025 or intends to plant in 2026 and is a participating producer who resides in Pembina County is eligible and encouraged to vote.

For more information, contact the North Dakota Oilseed Council at 701-328-5107.

— The —

Cavalier Chronicle

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Official newspaper of Pembina County and City of Cavalier in the state of North Dakota. Post Office address: P. O. Box 520, Cavalier, ND 58220.

Periodical postage paid at the Post Office at Cavalier, ND 58220 and published weekly from its office at 207 Main Street West, Cavalier, ND, 58220.

Member of NDNA and NNA
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
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POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
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P.O. Box 520
Cavalier, ND 58220