



Braaten named CCEDC Employee of the Month

Page 2



Thunder advance to Division B Tournament

Page 6

The Foster County

Independent

\$2.00

VOLUME 143, NUMBER 48

CARRINGTON, ND 58421

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026

CPS security upgrade bids under review

BY AMY WOBBERA

The bids may not have come in as expected, but the security upgrades to the school are still a top priority. That was the message after Carrington school officials held a bid opening and school board meeting on Wednesday, March 11, and left both meetings with no clear answers on how to make the project a reality.

The bid opening, held at 2 p.m., brought disappointing news. Of the three bids received, only one was "complete," offering a bid for all the work proposed by the board. Hillerud Construction of Jamestown was that contractor, and albeit complete, their bid was quite a bit higher than officials expected.

The estimate from YHR Partners, the school district's engineering firm, was \$477,000, and included a new secure vestibule with reception area, electronic door security upgrades to the high school wing and a remodel of the existing high school office complex.

Hillerud Construction

bid \$527,508 for general construction only, and mechanical and electrical work to be completed by their subcontractor added almost \$200,000 more to the bid, for a total of \$730,881.

The bid from Gleason Construction of Tolna was closer to the estimate provided by YHR Partners, a total of \$485,000, but did not include the electrical or mechanical work.

The third bid, from Gast Construction of Fargo, was not opened, as it did not meet the requirements set out in the bid notice.

The biggest concern was the unexpectedly high cost of the project compared to the engineer's estimates.

After some discussion, school board members pondered a few options to consider with Adam Pangrac of YHR Partners, noting that the bids are valid for 30 days before a decision needs to be made.

- **Option 1:** Eliminate renovation of the existing office complex and get a

See SCHOOL, page 6

Hatch, prosecutors reach settlement in animal case

Neglect charges would be dropped if certain conditions are met —

BY NATHAN PRICE

Dakota Hatch, the Carrington man charged this year for animal neglect, has reached a settlement with the prosecution.

According to court documents filed in January, this story began when a resident called police to report a black lab that was "severely malnourished."

The dog was later seized and a veterinarian said the dog was chronically un-

derweight given its frame, age and breed, and that untreated skin infections were "possibly the result of a past flea infestation, poor living conditions or perhaps malnutrition."

Hatch pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor charge, and has now reached an agreement that will see prosecution of the case suspended for 360 days and the charge ultimately dismissed — so long as certain conditions are met.

"The state and the defendant have considered the factors ... including the substantial likelihood that a conviction could be obtained and that the benefits to society from rehabilitation, which is the primary goal of this agreement, outweighs any harm to society from superseding criminal prosecution," the agreement states.

In order for the charge to be dismissed, the following conditions will have to be complied with:

- Must be under unsupervised probation for 360 days

See HATCH, page 6



Pingree-Buchanan High School students earning induction into National Honor Society (NHS) were, front row (L-R): Madeline Nagel, Violet Bohl, Taylin Zimprich and Shelby Bear. Back row: Terek Kinzell, Chase Ova, Jorgen Tripp, Jacob Bredahl, Brayden Torgerson, Brynn Sorenson, Jasmine Houmann, Aleeya Torgerson and Samara Waldie. The students were presented with their honors Wednesday, March 4 at Pingree Cafe. PBHS restarted their NHS chapter for the 2025-26 school year after 20 years of inactivity. Courtesy photo.

MAKING THE GRADE

Pingree-Buchanan inducts first NHS members in 20 years —

BY ERIK GJOVIK

At a ceremony held at Pingree Cafe Wednesday evening, March 4, 13 new members of the National Honor Society (NHS) at Pingree-Buchanan High School were inducted.

But it wasn't just a normal, routine celebration of academic achievement, at least for PBHS.

This year marks the revival of the NHS chapter at the school after a dormancy of 20 years, and Pingree-Buchanan Superintendent Chris Triggs is proud of the initiative that the students have taken in its reestablishment.

"This exciting milestone was driven by a dedicated group of student leaders who

are committed to strengthening the focus on academic excellence within our district," Triggs said.

The ceremony featured the students receiving their inductions in front of proud parents, families and community members.

"It was a meaningful celebration of their hard work, leadership, and commitment to scholarship," Triggs said.

Inductees for 2025-26 are Shelby Bear, Violet Bohl, Jacob Bredahl, Jasmine Houmann, Terek Kinzell, Madeline Nagel, Chase Ova, Brynn Sorenson, Aleeya Torgerson, Brayden Torgerson, Jorgen Tripp, Samara Waldie and Taylin Zimprich.

Looking ahead, the Na-

See NHS, page 6



Madeline Nagel speaks during the ceremony. Jorgen Tripp and Terek Kinzell are pictured behind Nagel. Courtesy photo.

County creates creek committee

Planning and zoning board to consider 1-year moratoriums —

BY NATHAN PRICE

During their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, the Foster County Commission created a committee to look at a potential "snagging and clearing" project for the Carrington and Kelly Creeks.

Commissioner David Utke told his fellow commissioners that Foster County Water Board Member, Doug Zink, had approached him about having two members from the water board and two from the

county commission come together to form a committee.

A motion was carried unanimously to establish the committee, and Pat Copenhagen and Paul Roller were selected by the commission to be their repre-

sentatives.

The committee is expected to speak to someone who has experience with such a project.

Generally speaking, a snagging and clearing project involves removing trees, debris and vegetation from streams and banks to improve the flow of water.

However, whether such a project will ultimately be pursued by the county is still unclear. The new committee is expected to report back to the full commission at a future meeting.

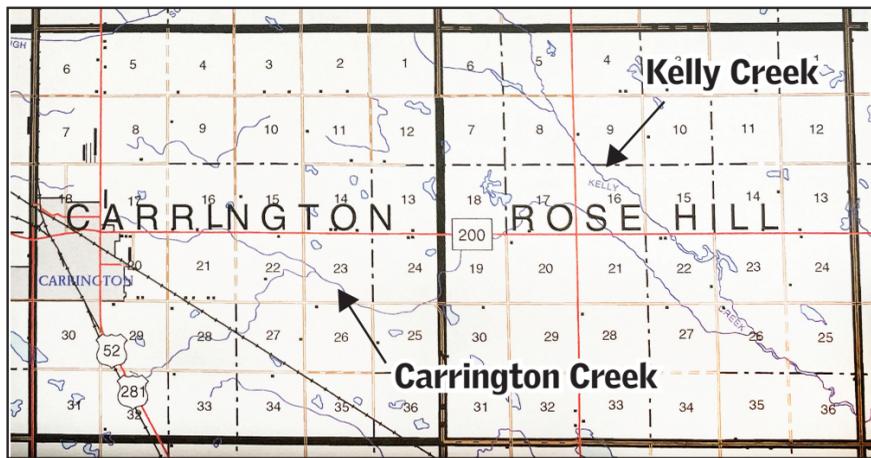
In other business from Tuesday's meeting, the board approved minor changes to the county's zoning regulations after recent legislative changes were made regarding flood plain management.

They also heard from Karen Evans, a member of the county's planning and zoning committee, who said they may soon propose a morato-

See COUNTY, page 6



ADDRESS LABEL GOES HERE



A "snagging and clearing" project for Carrington and Kelly Creeks in Foster County was discussed on Tuesday, March 17, with a committee approved by the county commission to tackle the issue.



Professional Eyecare Centers...Clearly the Best!

Dr. Douglas Frohlich
Dr. Briana Bohn
Dr. Jordan Thomas
Dr. Jordan Jangula



Complete Eye Care

6712 Highway 200 E.
Carrington, ND
701-652-2222

Mon. - Fri. 9-5 • closed 12:30-1:30

