



Molly Hansen was the FFA State Star Farmer winner. Courtesy photo.



Abby Lee was one of four finalists for State Star in Agricultural Placement. Courtesy photo.

Two finalists, one winner for Carrington FFA seniors

Molly Hansen and Abby Lee of the Carrington FFA Chapter were named 2026 North Dakota FFA State Star Finalists.

The finalists were selected based on their written application that included their established Supervised Agriculture Experience Program in the areas of agriculture production, agribusiness, agriscience, or agricultural placement, skills learned and FFA involvement.

Each finalist completed an interview to further explain their Supervised Agriculture Experience. The winners were announced during the 97th North Dakota State FFA Convention on June 3.

Hansen was named the

winner in the Star Farmer category. She started her Supervised Agricultural Experience program as a freshman with three sheep and five head of Angus cattle. Over the past four years, she has expanded through the use of artificial insemination and embryo transfer. She markets her lambs to youth to show as projects and has sold lambs in five states. Her cattle are marketed through consignment sales. She has also shown sheep and cattle at the state and national levels, earning many champion honors.

Molly has been a leader in the Carrington FFA Chapter and has earned awards at the district, state, national and international levels through

her involvement in the FFA. She received a plaque, traveling trophy and a \$1,000 cash award for her achievement.

Abby Lee was one of four finalists for the State Star in Agricultural Placement award. Lee began her employment at Foster County Soil Conservation in 2023 and has been employed at the Carrington Research Extension Center starting in 2024. She assists with many aspects in the agronomy department including preparing seed for trials, maintaining trials during the growing season and assisting with harvest.

Abby has served as a chapter officer for the past three years and has been active in several FFA competitions and community service projects.

Carrington down 129 residents from 2020

BY LEASA A. LURA

The City of Carrington is down approximately 129 residents from the 2020 Census, going from about 2,079 to 1,950 in 2025.

During the meeting held on Monday, June 8, Mayor Tom Erdmann told the council that because of the drop in population, he is worried about the decrease in funds for the city from the Prairie Dog Bill. He said it is a significant drop for cities with a population under 2,000.

In other business:

• Erdmann reported that the groundbreaking for the Rainbow Gardens project will take place on Thursday, June 25 at 4:30 p.m.

Committee Reports

FIRE:

• Carrington Fire Chief Ken Wangen reported that all grants for the wildland gear were approved, and the gear is fully covered.

• Wangen reported that May was a busy month for the fire department with five calls in the city limits and two controlled burns on the rural side, plus a semi trailer fire.

FINANCE & LEGAL:

• Erdmann reported that

City Auditor Jennifer Gast will check into an employee assistance program for city employees concentrating on mental health.

CCEDC:

• In the minutes of the last meeting it stated the board will disburse \$6,133 to Central Pharmacy as they have shown invoices and proof of payment for the lighting improvement project in their facility.

• Documentation of project completed, invoices and proof of payment have been received for the refurbishment of the "Big Chief" at the Chieftain. The board will disburse a total of \$5,625.00 as per grant guidelines.

• The board discussed supporting National Night Out and The Market by providing ice cream for children. Motion passed.

• Finally, the board received a Community Connection Grant application for the Safe Sitter program from Foster County Public Health. The program would provide certification training for local instructors, allowing ongoing babysitting, safety, first aid and childcare training opportunities for youth and community members. Motion passed.

CVB:

• The council learned that the CVB board reviewed the KDAK Summer Promotion which will utilize the remaining Carrington Cash from the 2025 Christmas promotion. The campaign will run from May 25 through July 31, with one \$50 Carrington Cash prize awarded each week.

• The board also discussed a promotional campaign to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary. A motion was made to create a Carrington History Trivia Challenge to be hosted through the Carrington ND App. The promotion will feature two trivia questions per week related to Carrington's history, with participants who answer the questions correctly entered into a drawing for \$250 in Carrington Cash to be awarded on July 4. Motion passed.

AIRPORT

• Councilman Neil Fandrich reported that the airport is waiting for grants to be released for the lighting project.

POLICE:

• Councilman Tyler Hogarth reported that the Carrington Police Department received 367 calls for service in May.

TREE BOARD:

• Councilman Doug Smith reported that all trees have been received and planted.

PUBLIC WORKS:

• Councilman Troy Roundy reported that they are looking at new lighting for the armory. He said he would like to attach this request to the grant for new air conditioning and furnace in city hall.

• Roundy also reported that the grant for the new crossing on Highway 281 south will be coming soon.

BUILDING OFFICIAL:

• There were nine building permits issued in the month of May.

Don't miss 4-H livestock showmanship at the fair

"How do you give a chicken a bath?"

That was one of the topics Extension agent Carrie Nichols and I discussed last week with several Foster County 4-H'ers who were preparing their birds for the upcoming county fair.

Besides learning how to bathe their birds, the 4-H'ers learned how to properly carry and show a chicken in front of the judge, how to trim their chicken's nails and how to apply a small amount of Vaseline to their combs to help them shine.

Every exhibitor wants their animals to look their best. The judges will compare each animal to breed standards and then select the Grand and Reserve Champions.

After the winning animals are selected, the focus shifts to showmanship, where the judge evaluates the skills of the exhibitor rather than the quality of the animal.

In showmanship, exhibi-

Field and Garden

By
Jeff Gale



NDSU
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tors are judged on how confidently they handle their animal, how well they follow the judge's directions and how effectively they present the animal for evaluation.

This portion of the show can be even more competitive than selecting the champion animals.

This year's livestock showmanship contest will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 20. Once the winners are selected, there will be a short break to get everything organized and then the Round-Robin Showmanship Contest will begin,

around 11 a.m.

In the Round Robin Showmanship Contest, the top exhibitors rotate through five species - beef, dairy cattle, goats, sheep and swine. They are given a different animal in each class and judged on how quickly they adapt their skills to handle each species.

Whether or not you attend the showmanship contests, I hope you will take time to check out the 4-H livestock and static exhibits while you are at the fair. The projects will be on exhibit from Thursday morning until Saturday noon.

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The North Dakota Department of Agriculture's Project Safe Send will offer free collection of unusable pesticides at eight locations across the state this summer.

The program is open to farmers, ranchers and homeowners, and accepts herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides and fungicides.

The nearest collection sites

to Carrington will be in Jamestown on Wednesday, July 8 and in Devils Lake on Wednesday, July 15. Collections at both locations will take place from 8 a.m. to noon.

Additional drop-off events are scheduled in Casselton, Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston, Rugby and Larimore, each on separate dates.

Both large and small quantities of pesticides are accepted. Those planning to bring more than 1,000 pounds are asked to pre-register by contacting John Potts at 701-425-3016 or jpotts@nd.gov at least one week prior to the collection date.

Project Safe Send only accepts pesticides - unwanted fertilizer, paint or oil will not be accepted.

For more information and the full schedule of collection sites, call the Foster County Extension office 701-652-2581 or visit the North Dakota Department of Agriculture website.

PUTNAM —

and the family acclimate to the Carrington area.

"I would say my mission is to just kind of keep things going, to bring some new ideas and events [to the house]," she said.

Ostlie has created a survey, in Google Document format, that can be found on the organization's Facebook page and is accessible by scanning the QR code at the end of this article.

In it, respondents are asked to provide ideas for community events, musical talent, artistic events and classes, fundraising activities, and more.

"We're also looking for people who might be interested in reviving the Culinary Club as well," said Ostlie. "I'm just trying to get ideas and names and also people who might want to volunteer for helping at events."

Schumann's involvement with the Putnam House stemmed from a neighborly relationship with the house's former owners, John and Julie Gardner, and she assisted as the family's realtor when they sold the property to the Historical Society.

"That's when the Putnam House really captured my heart, and it never let go," said Schumann. "It remains



In this photo from 2022, **Lindsay Ostlie** (right) assists a young student at the sewing machine as part of a class taught at the Putnam House. Courtesy photo.

a place that will always hold a special place in my life."

While Schumann said that her time in the coordinator role has been a great experience, it's time for a fresh start and new ideas.

Though she is stepping away from the coordinator role, Schumann's involvement with the Putnam House will not end. She will assist Ostlie as her first committee member, and, along with her husband, Shane, will help maintain the exterior grounds.

"[Lindsay's] looking forward to building a great

team, and welcomes others who may be interested in getting involved," Schumann said.

Schumann thanks all who have helped support the Putnam House over the years, and looks forward to seeing the community at future events and allowing the organization to continue to thrive for many years to come.

About the Putnam House
Built in 1907 and located at 533 Main St. in Carrington, the Putnam House was the stately residence of lumber magnate Thomas Nichols Putnam (1855-1931) and

his wife, Clara Belle Rood Putnam (1861-1937). It is an American Foursquare house with Classical Revival architectural elements in the Neoclassical tradition, including Doric pilasters, Palladian windows, and a wrap-around porch.

Thomas Putnam also served as Foster County treasurer from 1892 to 1898, as a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives from 1910-1912, and in the state Senate from 1914-1930.

Upon his death, the house remained in the Putnam family's hands until 1955, and was privately owned by several individuals, including the Gardners, until November 2001. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

The Putnam House is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and is a rural cultural and community center. The contact number for the Putnam is 701-421-9779.



Scan the above QR code to access the Putnam House survey.

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PRIMARY —

earned 63.4% to Ariston Johnson's 36.2%.

In the General Election, Michael Howe (R) will face Ryan Braunberger (D) for Secretary of State; Drew Wrigley (R) vs. Tim Lamb (D) for Attorney General; Doug Goehring (R) vs. Vern Thompson (D) for Agricultural Commissioner; Brian Kroshus (R) vs. Mark Nelson (D) for Tax Commissioner; Haugen-Hoffart (R) vs. John Pederson (D) for a full term on the PSC; and Kringstad (R) vs. Scot Kelsh (D) for the unexpired two-year term on the PSC.

Constitutional Measure No. 1, which would change state law to mandate that initiated ballot measures consist of a single subject and give the Secretary of State the discretion to determine which measures would qualify, passed statewide by an unofficial 66.43% yes (77,072 votes) to 33.57% no (38,955) result. In Foster County, the measure passed by a 72.52% to 27.48% margin, 388 to 147.

District 29 legislative races saw House candidates Kevin Wolsky (51.38%, 1,660 votes) and Craig Headland (47.73%, 1,542) advance out of the Republican primary. They will face Democratic-NPL opponent Dianne Norris, who ran unopposed in her primary race, in the general election.

Terry Wanzek ran unopposed for State Senator in the District 29 Republican primary, and will face John Kelly (D) in the general.

In county elections, Paul Roller retained his District 4 seat on the Foster County Commission, and former District 29 representative Chet Pollert has earned election to the commission for District 2.

In other positions within

the county, Kara Brinster retains her role as Foster County State's Attorney, Lynelle Lyman Hoppe as County Recorder and Justin Johnson as Sheriff. All ran unopposed.

In the Carrington city offices, Thomas Erdmann ran unopposed for Mayor, receiving 90.72% of the vote (264 total votes to 27 write-ins), and Tyler Hogarth and Troy Roundy received 307 and 160 total votes, respectively, to retain their council seats. An uncontested seat on Ward 1 will need to be filled, as 15 write-in votes were cast.

For Park Board, Tonja Erickson, Josh Sherman and Randy Hooey won seats, and an uncontested seat for a 2-year unexpired term had 85 write-ins.

In Grace City, John Cunningham (55%) and Loren Larson (40%) earned seats on the city council, and Cindy Meehan and Katie Larson each received nine votes for election to the two park board spots.

In Glenfield, Dalton Ehlers and Aaron Johnson, with 12 votes apiece, will sit on the city council.

Things are less certain in McHenry, where nobody ran for the mayor position and only Montana Hoyt was a declared candidate for one of the two council positions.

Eleven write-in votes were cast for mayor, while Hoyt received eight total votes to 17 write-in votes for an inconclusive result at press time.

Unofficial CPS school board voting numbers are listed in this week's board article. Jacie Volk ran unopposed for the seat vacated by Angela Kutz, and Dr. Ben Garr ran unopposed to retain his seat on the board.

An official abstract of election will be published once it is submitted to the Independent.

Deadline for Ads, Legals, Classifieds, press releases, and photos is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.