



Max community member, **Bonnie Lee**, took her autographed copy of **Julie McElwain's** book, "Echo's in Time." **Karen Finkbeiner** waits in line for her copy. (Photo by Robin Hennings)

Max Library draws in readers with book sale and author visit

BY ROBIN HENNINGS

MAX - The Max Library Used Book Sale was Sunday, Jan. 18, at Max City Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There was a wide selection of used books for sale.

People were encouraged to fill up a bag with as many books, DVDs, and CDs that they wanted for a free will donation. The proceeds of the used book sale will go to the Max Library Partners for various library projects and programs.

There were also fresh baked goods and fresh fruit, coffee and juice with the free-will donation

proceeds going to the Max Over 55 Club for its activities.

Author Julie McElwain was at the event signing her books. Her books were also available to purchase.

She gave several very informative book talks throughout the event, answering the audience's questions.

McElwain shared many interesting facts she gathered while researching stories for her books. She brought a medical device for the audience to guess what it might be. It turned out to be a wooden stethoscope used in the early 1800's.

Unfortunately, attendance was hindered by the winter weather.

The people that attended had a very good time.

Bonnie Lee of Max said, "I like to collect McElwain's books and love that she personally autographed them."

Community members that were unable to attend the event but would like a personal autographed book they are still available directly from McElwain. Contact her at juliemcelwain@aol.com.

Buffalo Feed brings community together for annual meal

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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GARRISON - The 46th Annual Fireman's Buffalo Feed will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Garrison City Auditorium.

Dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Garrison Auditorium.

Take Out meals will be served out of the auditorium.

This year, along with the do-

nation for a ticket, there will be a drawing for a \$300 meat bundle and (2) \$100 fuel cards.

They will also be having a bucket raffle and bingo provided by GAIA.

For more information, to set up a home delivery inside city limits or to set aside tickets to be picked up at the door, please call 701-463-2345 before Friday at 4 p.m.

Advance tickets can be pur-

chased through any of the Garrison Firefighters, BNC Bank, Cenex, Chase Pharmacy, Garrison Insurance, Krause's Market, RTC, S&J Hardware and TruCommunity Bank.

The annual Buffalo Feed is the Fire Departments largest fundraising event. The funds are used for equipment replacement and ongoing firefighter training.

Your voice matters: Share your thoughts on North Dakota schools

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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BISMARCK - State School Superintendent Levi Bachmeier is asking North Dakotans to help shape the future of education by participating in a new state-wide survey open to families, students, educators, and community members.

The online survey, available through Friday, Feb. 6, aims to gather perspectives on key issues affecting students and schools across the state. Bachmeier said the feedback will play a central role in defining what educational success should look like in North Dakota.

"With a shared definition of success, I believe North Dakota can lead the nation with America's best schools," Bachmeier said. "This survey provides an

opportunity for citizens across our state to share their priorities so we can ensure that our definition of educational success considers the perspectives of those inside and outside our schools."

Bachmeier said hearing from a wide range of community members is essential as the state looks ahead.

"Every community has unique experiences and expectations for its schools," he said. "Listening to those experiences will help us build a statewide vision that reflects the values of all North Dakotans."

Once the survey closes, Bachmeier will compile the results and share them with state boards and committees that guide long term education strategy. The public input will help shape future decisions aimed at improving student outcomes and

will be used to update the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction's strategic plan.

"I don't feel surveys hurt, but anymore they seem to get fewer and fewer participants," Garrison Schools Superintendent Nick Klemisch said. "Looking at the survey, I believe Superintendent Bachmeier is doing this to help refocus and assist in a strategic plan moving forward as he is new to his role."

He added, "Given there are only six questions, there's no real way to drill down the data to our district. I'm thinking he is gauging the public's perception of schools."

Residents from all communities are encouraged to participate in the survey for the best outcome.

City Council Round-up

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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BENEDICT

A regular Benedict City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Tomlinson on December 8, at 7 p.m.

Discussion was held on violations of Ordinance #35. Tomlinson will contact the McLean County Sheriff's Office to notify those property owners who are non-compliant.

Red Skies Bar and Grill, LLC was approved for its 2026 liquor license in the amount of \$600.00 for January through June 2026.

The "Application for Open Burning Variance of Clean Wood at Landfills" was reviewed by the council. The City of Max Fire Chief will need to sign the permit and North Dakota Department of Environment Quality will need to approve before the landfill burn.

The city crew stated that the city shop is need of lights.

Discussion about the community Christmas party at the Benedict City Hall was planned for Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting were council members AshLynn Barrette, Teresa Barrette, Justin Crum

and Tyler Hauf and City Auditor, Amy Ones.

Next meeting Monday, January 12, 7 p.m. at the Benedict City Hall.

DOUGLAS

The Douglas City Council met on Friday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. by Mayor Jim Porter.

Porter updated council on needing to contact the city attorney to write up the needed documentation that pertains to the easement, that the city has no records for when it was added. Then, the city can proceed with establishing appropriate property lines at the ballpark lots and abandon it to share with other property owners.

The council discussed the development of the RV Park. Porter will get in contact with the Department of Transportation to get information about obtaining permits and proper development processes. This information will help determine what needs to be done in the spring.

Council members Dusty Zuck and Dylan Nerum were present.

Council members Tabitha Carlson, and Evan Reimer were absent.

The next council meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m.

Pasture potential

Exploring grazing strategies to strengthen acres

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER
Reporter

Farmers, ranchers and landowners interested in integrating crops and livestock will gather in Underwood next month for a Grazing Logic event focused on multi-species grazing, cover crops and regenerative practices.

The program is set for Feb. 2 at Underwood City Hall. A networking lunch begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by a panel presentation and discussion at 12:30 p.m. The event is hosted by the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition, McLean County NDSU Extension, the South McLean County Soil Conservation District and the West McLean County Soil Conservation District.

Event organizer and McLean County Extension Agent Sarah Bedgar said the meeting is intended to help producers explore new approaches to combining crop and livestock systems.

"The goal of the Grazing Logic program is to explore the possibility of incorporating grazing into crop farming to increase profitability and soil health," said Bedgar. She added that the event is also meant to help connect landowners and livestock producers.

"There's a misconception with incorporating livestock into crop farming. You don't have to own cattle," she said. "There are going to be people in the room at the Grazing Logic meeting that can help you connect with livestock grazers that are looking for additional foraging acres."

The panel will feature three mentors from the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition: Dave Bauer, Rob Kramer and Darrell Oswald. The coalition, commonly known as NDGLC, is a producer-led nonprofit that works with ranchers across the state on regenerative grazing practices. Its mission includes soil health, drought preparedness, wildlife habitat and the long-term viability of family operations. NDGLC partners with agencies such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Soil Conservation Districts and North Dakota State University Extension.

A central part of the coalition's outreach is its Mentor Network, which pairs experienced ranchers with producers seeking guidance on grazing strategies, infrastructure planning and business decisions. NDGLC also hosts workshops, field days and educational events throughout the year, including its Grazing Logic series.

The Feb. 2 panel features three seasoned ranchers who serve as NDGLC mentors, each bringing a different background and set of experiences to the discussion.

David Bauer, who ranches near Regan, manages 270 cattle on 2,550 acres of owned and rented land. He rotates his herd to new paddocks every three to seven days and began shifting to regenerative practices after taking holistic management courses in 2011. His family follows five soil health principles aimed at improving the landscape and livestock performance.

Rob Kramer bought his ranch near Denbigh in 1987 at age 22 and now manages a cow-calf herd of about 100 cows, 50 yearlings and 190 sheep. His operation includes high-density grazing with cattle and sheep, bale and windrow grazing, seeding legumes into tame pastures, reducing bluegrass to encourage native plants and using sheep to control leafy spurge. He also avoids calving until May and has extensive experience with sheep management and electric fencing.

Darrell Oswald ranches near Wing with his daughters and his father on the 3,200-acre family operation. A fourth-generation rancher, he took over the ranch in 1993. Since 2007, the family has focused on improving forage production and soil health through intensive grazing management on native prairie, former CRP acres and cover crops. They have used no-till practices since 2006 and rely on cover crops to renovate hay land, improve former CRP ground and extend the grazing season. Oswald also works for the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District.

There is no cost to attend the Grazing Logic event, but participants must register by Jan. 26 at ndglc.com/event or by calling 701-462-9903.