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City Council Wrap up

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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City of Benedict
The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Randy Tomlinson on Monday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m.
For the upcoming 2026 city elections, there are (two) four-year term council member positions up for election which are currently held by Tyler Hauf and Justin Crum.
Tomlinson indicated he would request permission from the McLean County Sheriff to burn the landfill.
Auditor Amy Ones indicated she will be absent from the February council meeting.
Present at the meeting were council members Teresa Barrette and Tyler Hauf and City Auditor Ones. Absent were council members AshLynn Barrette and Justin Crum.
Next meeting Monday, February 9, 7 p.m. at the Benedict City Hall.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Karna, Stephanie Huus, Chris Huus, Bernie Howell, Brittany Giesen, Ralph Butterfield, Travis Robbins, Dar Huus, Connie Fischer, Joel Fischer, Joan Stafslie, Liz Huus, Mike Larson, LeeAnn Larson, Vonda Rensch, Wayne Gieson, Del Ray Gieson and Howard Enockson.
Many people from community groups including the Legion and Legion Auxiliary, Makoti Development, Park Board, and Threshers Association, were at the meeting to discuss getting a pavilion built in place of the old Legion Hall. A committee was formed and will be in charge of gathering design options, requesting funding from various organizations and seeking out grant opportunities.
After hearing from the Health Department, the city is expected to clean up the derelict property in town.
Dar Huus has finished the online auditors training and will be doing more training with Auditor Stephanie Huus.

It's reported that the Christmas Party was a huge success and a great time was had by all.
Kathy Schatz will continue collecting sewer and garbage payments through 2026.
There was a discussion about the school's heating system and Jodi Gullickson motioned to purchase a mobile thermometer.
Also present at the meeting were Vern Schatz, Perry Moseanko, Jodi Gullickson, Auditor Jen Loken (by phone). Absent from the meeting was Mirissa Anderson.
The next Butte meeting will be on March 2.

City of Ryder
Mayor Jody Reinisch called the Ryder City Council Meeting on Feb. 2.
Ralph Butterfield was hired as the city water operator for 2026. The city will no longer be carrying past due accounts for longer than two months. Past that the water will be shut off.
The Ward County Assessor has scheduled a meeting with the council for April 7 at 5:45 p.m., with the regular City of Ryder meeting to follow.
The next Ryder City Council meeting will be on March 2 at Ryder City Hall.

City of Butte
The regular January 5 meeting of the Butte City Council was called to order by Mayor Amy Nechiporenko.

City of Makoti
Makoti's City Council meeting was held on February 2 at the Makoti Senior Center and was called to order by Mayor Chase Karna.



CHS-Garrison's Senior Director of Operations **Doug Naze** spoke to the attendees of the CHS Annual Meeting on Wednesday night at Totten Trail. (Tyson Matthews)

'Very successful year' at CHS-Garrison

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
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\$1,142,625		
Feed \$	-11,450	\$17,481
Total	\$11,431,845	\$12,947,125
Local Saving	\$6,632,642	
\$7,561,446		
Total Net Savings		
\$6,643,876	\$7,567,960	

CHS-Garrison held its annual meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Totten Trail Bar.
Senior Director of Operation and General Manager Doug Naze ran the meeting after board chair Brenda Hueser opened the meeting.
Naze is also part of CHS-Sunprairie.
As their customers know, CHS-Garrison closed its feed division last year.
"You'll see in our financial results as we disposed of or discarded some obsolete inventory," Naze said.
Feed sales in FY2024 were \$179,493. Even after closing and clearing out the warehouse still sold \$97,422.
Some losses were incurred as sales were down, but Sunprairie still has a feed division with some of the same brand of feed.
Sunprairie will be reaching out to the Garrison customer list.
Approximately two years ago, Naze announced the closing and demolition of its woodhouse.
That is still the plan.
"What we are striving for is to find a little bit more cost-effective way to do it," Naze said.
Local saving for FY2025 were \$6,632,642 compared to \$7,561,446 in FY2024. Net savings were \$6,643,876 in FY2025 compared with \$7,567,960 in FY2024.

"I'm still very happy with 6.6 billion in green margins," Naze said. "Agronomy, even though we were down a little bit in sales, were able to maintain similar margins."
Expenses were down for the year from 5.3 million to 4.8 million.
"Thanks to the team for working hard to manage expenses," Naze said. "Especially as we are still very much in an inflationary world of the expenses and cost, we have to do business."
Even though the overall total net saving was down, Naze still stated that he thought it was a very successful year in the companies' eyes.
"Things are looking good," VP Operation at CHS Keith Schumacher said. "We're looking much stronger into FY2026. We are right on budget through the first quarter."

In other CHS news:

-Jake Saylor board position was open for a 5-year position. The floor was open for nominations. A unanimous ballot was cast for Saylor to be re-elected for the position.
-There were two milestone anniversaries this year. John Rensvold has been with CHS for 20 years, and Frank Friese has just hit 10 years.
-Board members present at the meeting were Brenda Huesers-board chair, Jake Saylor- vice president, John Wilcox-secretary, Jason Hushka and Chris Sobiak.

Finalncials		
Sales FY2025 FY2024		
Grain (units)	11,098,396	10,963,446
Agronomy	\$20,970,864	\$21,346,347
Feed	\$97,422	\$179,493
Margins		
Grain	FY2025	FY2024
	\$6,622,758	\$8,031,158
Agronomy	\$3,733,150	\$3,755,861
Service	\$1,087,387	

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2026

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Hudson High School





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