

Nordak North Publishing expands with acquisition of McClusky Gazette

Publisher says growth strengthens local journalism, creates new opportunities for readers and advertisers

BY KELLI AMELING
Associate Publisher

Nordak North Publishing has acquired the McClusky Gazette, ensuring the continued publication of a newspaper that has long served McClusky and Sheridan County while also expanding the company's network of community newspapers across central North Dakota.

Publisher Kelsey Majeske said the opportunity arose through discussions with the newspaper's previous owner, Alan Tinker, who was looking toward retirement and wanted to ensure the newspaper's future.

"The opportunity came about through conversations with the newspaper's previous owner, who was looking toward retirement and wanted to ensure the Gazette's future," Majeske said. "We understood the importance of the Gazette to McClusky and Sheridan County and felt it was a natural fit alongside our latest set of newspapers based in McLean County."

Majeske said Nordak North Publishing viewed the acquisition as an opportunity to preserve local journalism in a rural community at a time when newspapers continue to disappear across the country.

"When the opportunity presented itself, we saw a chance not only to preserve a long-standing newspaper but also to continue serving a community that was about to lose its newspaper," she said. "Local newspapers are disappearing across the country at an alarming rate, especially in rural communities. We believe towns like McClusky deserve access to community news, public notices, community information and coverage of local government."

The acquisition expands Nordak North Publishing's reach while creating additional opportunities for businesses and organizations that advertise throughout the region.

"Adding the McClusky Gazette

gives local advertisers another platform to reach new potential customers," Majeske said. "Many businesses serve customers across county lines, and being part of the Nordak North family creates more opportunities for regional advertising while still maintaining a strong local focus."

She said advertisers will continue to reach hometown audiences while benefiting from the resources and marketing opportunities available through a larger newspaper network.

"Advertisers will continue to have access to hometown audiences, but they'll also benefit from the resources, expertise and marketing opportunities that come with being part of a larger network," Majeske said.

While the newspaper family continues to grow, Majeske said readers should not expect significant changes to the local focus of existing publications.

"Our commitment to each community remains the same," she said. "We try to have every newspaper maintain its local identity and focus on the stories, people and issues that matter most to its readers."

She added that adding another publication strengthens the organization as a whole by allowing newspapers to share resources, ideas and best practices.

"The goal isn't to change our current papers; it's to make all of them stronger and more sustainable," Majeske said.

The purchase also aligns with a broader strategy to ensure the long-term viability of community journalism.

"Growth is important because the continuation of community newspapers depends on it," Majeske said. "By expanding our network, we're creating a larger foundation that helps support community news, local advertising and public notices for years to come."

She said growth also allows the company to invest in employees and products while helping

preserve local news coverage in communities that might otherwise lose it.

"Growth allows us to invest in our staff, improve our products and preserve local news in communities that might otherwise be at risk of losing it," Majeske said. "At the end of the day, our mission is to keep local journalism thriving, and growth helps us do that."

Majeske stressed the acquisition is about more than adding another publication to the company's portfolio.

"Acquiring newspapers is about more than adding publications to our company; it's about protecting an important community institution and ensuring local stories continue to be told," she said.

Looking ahead, Majeske said her vision for the newspaper remains rooted in local coverage. Readers can expect continued reporting on local government, schools, businesses, organizations, sports and community events.

"My vision is simple: to strengthen the Gazette as a community newspaper focused on its readers," she said.

"We also want to highlight the positive stories happening throughout the area and celebrate the people who make Sheridan County a great place to live."

The transition also includes new staffing support for the newspaper. Majeske expressed appreciation for Amanda Saueressig as she takes on a larger role in serving Gazette readers.

The McClusky Gazette joins the Leader-News, Central McLean News-Journal, McLean County Independent and Xtra as part of the Nordak North Publishing family.

"Our mission is to ensure these communities continue to have strong local newspapers for generations to come," Majeske said.

Garrison council approves reorganization, court agreement, reviews public works projects

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
tyson@nordaknorth.com

Since this was the first meeting of the Garrison City Council since the election, the initial order of business was the reorganization of the council.

President: Shannon Jeffers
Vice President: David Reinarts
City Auditor: Diane Affledt
City Assessor: Ryan Oberg
City Engineer: Moore Engineering
Airport Authority: Cole Seidler
Housing Authority: Leigh Wagner

Planning & Zoning: Mike Youngs and John Matthews

Library Board: Donna Blanchard and BilleeJo Iglehart
Once reorganization was established, the new council could get busy on the agenda for the evening.

McLean County Court agreement

The Garrison City Council approved a court services agreement with McLean County during its regular meeting, stream-

lining the handling of municipal citations following the city's decision to discontinue operating its own municipal court.

City Auditor Diane Affledt said that the agreement transfers responsibility for municipal citations to McLean County District Court, where traffic citations and other municipal violations will be processed.

Under the agreement, the county will handle citations, court proceedings and collections, with municipal fine revenue expected to be returned to the city.

Council members approved the agreement, noting it will simplify the process for both the city and residents.

Public Works Update

Public Works Director Greg Boucher provided an update on several ongoing infrastructure projects.

City crews continue replacing five deteriorating manholes throughout the city and are addressing curb stop repairs, although two locations in the

trailer court have been delayed because underground sewer and electrical lines complicate excavation.

Additional work includes spraying around the lagoons, mowing parks and cemeteries, and preparing parking areas ahead of Governor's Cup activities.

Surplus equipment approved for sale

Items include a sewer rodder, air compressor, water tank with trailer, a pickup box trailer and more.

Interested buyers will have the opportunity to see the equipment at the city shop before bids are submitted.

The council authorized the sale of surplus city equipment through sealed bids to be opened during the Aug. 3 meeting.

Landfill Hours to Change

Due to staffing shortages, the



The Makoti Threshing Show campgrounds has over a dozen new 50-amp pedestals for the larger campers attending Friday- Sunday, July 10-12. (Hunter Andes)

What's new at Makoti Threshing?

Community interest in show builds

BY TYSON MATTHEWS
tyson@nordaknorth.com

The Makoti Threshing Show has been a summer highlight for the town for the past 66 years.

"Our board is probably closer knit than it's ever been, and we try to work together to keep our town on the map," one of the show organizer Hunter Andes said. "We may not always agree on everything, but unlike it was 10-15 years ago, we are able to find common ground and collaborate on what's best for Makoti. If we don't get along and this event ceases to exist, our town will just kind of fade away with it; it's not like Garrison or Beulah where there are many businesses and other events going on all the time."

With a resurgence in interest in the show, one of the organizers, Hunter Andes, has made some upgrades to the Makoti camping area.

Over a dozen new 50-amp hook-ups on top of the half a dozen they put in last year.

The MTA invested in this because of our growing crowd and growing need for more power for the larger campers coming," Andes said. "It's located on the threshing grounds in Makoti."

There is no sewer available, but there is water, showers and bathroom facilities.

What's going on?

Opening the show on Friday, July 10, the show offers a flea market, steak supper, cornhole tournament, BINGO, a parade and backseat lawnmower races.

Saturday, July 11, is a busy day at the show. The day opens with the NDRA Rodeo Slack at 8 a.m. There are sawmill and threshing demonstrations, a kiddie tractor pull, John Deere Slow Race, parade, kid's water balloon toss and a bike giveaway at the beginning of the Rodeo that begins at 8 p.m.

"The rodeo definitely brought new life to our event. They go hand-in-hand with each other, and as far as we know there isn't another threshing show in the area that does both a rodeo and a threshing bee," Andes said. "Considering all the money families spend at the State Fair, the Makoti Threshing Bee is a pretty affordable event considering kids 18 and under are free and adults are only \$20 for the weekend. That admission covers two parades, a rodeo, a dance, a flea market, and many other activities. That's a pretty affordable deal in my mind."

On Sunday, July 12, the show wraps up with a pancake breakfast from 8-10 a.m., and a City of Makoti Birthday Party from 5:30-8 p.m.

JB Repair
Austin's Alignment and Auto Repair, LLC
GOLF CART SALES AND SERVICE

We are celebrating 5 years in business!

5

Thank You

Throughout the month of July, stop in and register for your chance to win one of three \$50 gas cards.

Drawing held August 3rd, 2026