

Public Notices

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City Council Meeting January 13, 2026

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center with the following members present: Mayor Sitzler, Council: Harris, Day, D. Hollingsworth, Hernandez-Waite, Kelly, J. Hollingsworth and Mayer. Employees present: Chad Raatz, Matt O'Brien, Fallon Kelly and Zasha Johnson.

Engineer Report: Reber said the street project is considered complete and the GIS Map is updated. Day moved, D. Hollingsworth second to approve invoice 005099 for street engineering, carried. The bid opening for the WTP improvement project will be February 5th at City Hall. The contract amendment for electrical engineering on the project was reviewed. J Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to approve amendment #1 for \$16,700, carried. Reber presented an invoice for WTP assistance that included two in-person visits from a Moore engineer. D Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve invoice 006706 for assistance, carried. The geotechnical company will be in town the week of the 19th to conduct the soil sample testing around the manhole on Main Avenue & 15th Street where there have been ongoing issues. The funding from the state for Lead Line survey has come in, Moore will schedule a few days for door-to-door visits to help people identify their line type.

Minutes, Auditor and Police Reports: Harris moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve minutes, carried. Day moved, Kelly second to approve police report, carried. J Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve auditor reports, carried.

Year-End Financial Statement: D Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve the report as presented showing Year End Financials for 2025 ending cash balance \$5,272,904.44, carried.

Budget Amendment: Kelly moved, Harris second to approve budget amendments for 2025 fiscal year increasing overall budget by \$1,106,251 due in part to usage of grant funds that was not anticipated, carried.

Pledge of Assets and Designate Depositories: Starion Financial, First Community Credit Union, BankNorth are designated depositories with pledges of \$7,706,712.57, \$0.00, \$215,420.30 accordingly; Day moved, D Hollingsworth second to accept report and depositories designation, carried.

Gaming Site Authorization: J Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve application from OEI to conduct gaming at The Last Shot, carried.

Game of Chance Permit: Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve Oakes Post Prom permit for Superbowl board, carried.

Bills: Day moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve bills as presented, carried.

Aflac	613.88
American Welding	40.86
Aqua Pure	949.99
Avid Hawk	200.00
Bear Creek Flying Service	2175.00
City of Fargo	28.00
Colliers Securities	500.00
Column Software	223.44
Computer Express	164.99
Dakota Improvement	5175.00
Dakota Supply Group	117.96
Dakota Valley Electric	1068.00
Dickey County	3,201.53
DRN	4792.51
Economy Oil	846.59
Economy Propane	760.05
Fabian Pest Control	105.00
Fronter Builders Supply	33.96
Information Tech	207.80

John Deere Financial	61.74
Kustom Machine	651.78
MOCIC	100.00
Moore Engineering	16,029.30
Napa	336.89
ND One Call	1.50
NDPERS-Ins.	23,184.94
NDPERS-Retirement	9,542.62
ND Dept.of Quality	14.56
Novak Electric	1,581.89
Oakes Enhancement	12,170.47
Oakes Times	40.00
Oakes Truck & Trailer	4,473.39
Omni Site	2,730.00
Ottertail	8,333.65
Praskas	186.32
Riverside Building Center	399.00
Rod's Cleaning	80.00
Starion Bank	2,407.04
Sweeney Controls	1801.85
Sweets & Stories	33.13
Thein Well	4,160.10
Tornado Stop	6,249.11
Verizon	658.48
Visa-Library	267.87
Visa-City	4,063.24
Vistos	417.06
Waste Management	9,745.70
Salaries	66,944.45
Payroll Taxes	14,976.26

Committee Reports: D Hollingsworth asked about ticketing repeat offenders parking on streets during snow removal. Chief O'Brien asked him to let him know of any vehicles he is concerned about. Harris informed the council that C. Boyle had put in his two-week notice; will start advertising the position immediately. Raatz thanked Jake Kelly and Mike Kelly for their help with snow removal. He also has one individual in town that would be willing to help part time with removal in the future. B. Larson has agreed to start helping at the water plant part time and is willing to take the certification tests. Chief O'Brien has no concerns with this. Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve payment of all expenses for Larson to obtain his certification and enroll in the BSC water program, carried. Harris contacted several individuals about joining the city Board of Adjustment and was able to find 3 additional members bringing the total to 5 members, J Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to appoint all 5 members to the board of adjustment, carried.

Unfinished Business: Mayor Sitzler commented that all members had recently been served with a petition for writ of mandamus from Great Plains Oil Company. No council action will be taken at this time. Attorney Kelly asked that an official motion be made to direct his response to the petition. Kelly moved, Harris second to direct Attorney Kelly to resist the writ of mandamus, carried.

New Business: A snow removal bid for the flat portion of the Community Center was received. Most of the snow has melted since the last meeting so full removal is not currently needed. Discussed getting an hourly rate from the bidder if removal is needed later in the season. Harris moved, D Hollingsworth second to reject the bid and request an hourly rate, carried. Employee pay rates were discussed; an increase of 4.5% was included in the budget. Harris moved, Day second to approve increase for all employees as budgeted, carried.

Announcements & Correspondence: Email from L. Novak was received and distributed.

Mayor Sitzler presented invite to meet with the new state Superintendent of Public instruction at the school January 16th at 12:30pm.

J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to adjourn the meeting at 6:52PM. (Submitted to the Oakes Times, 02/19/2026)

The University of North Dakota Announces Winter 2025 Graduates

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (February 11, 2026) – Nearly 900 students graduated from the University of North Dakota (UND) at ceremonies in which host UND President Armacost and keynote speaker and alumna Jill Cholewa delivered powerful messages of gratitude and congratulations, on Dec. 19, at the Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center on campus.

Three separate ceremonies were held: the Professional & Graduate Ceremony in the morning, and two Undergraduate Degrees ceremonies in the afternoon on a day when Mother Nature tried to deliver a wintry message of her own.

“Today is a day of celebration, and you braved the slick roads out there, the snow and the wind, and we’re so glad that you would be here,” Armacost said. “But, our students this day is for you.”

The Winter Commencement address at all three ceremonies was given by Cholewa, a 1977 and 1979 graduate of the University, a 2015 recipient of the Sioux Award for Distinguished Achievement & Leadership and a longtime supporter of UND academic and athletic programming. She is a retired business owner currently serving as a SCORE Certified Mentor for small businesses and resides in San Luis Obispo, California.

About The University of North Dakota

The University of North Dakota is instilling a sense of wonder, a love of discovery and a commitment to serve within its more than 15,000 students. Founded in 1883, six years before North Dakota’s statehood, UND is among the nation’s premier regional public research universities and is at a

momentous point of growth and transformation in its 143-year history. Classified as an “R1” Doctoral University: Very High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, UND is characterized by a foundation of liberal arts, high quality students and faculty, a diverse curriculum, a widely recognized program of graduate education and research, law and medical schools praised for quality and innovation, rich cultural resources and an outstanding record of alumni support. Its major academic divisions are Arts and Sciences, Aerospace Sciences, Business and Public Administration, Education and Human Development, Engineering and Mines, Nursing and Professional Disciplines, Medicine and Health Sciences, Law, and Graduate Studies. UND also is an emerging global leader in artificial intelligence innovation, autonomous systems integration, space and national security research, and energy exploration. Also, a pioneer in virtually delivered education, UND has developed a robust online presence with a national reputation. Learn more at und.edu.

HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME, DEGREE, MAJOR, HONORS (if listed)

Oakes, ND

Samantha Hermes, Bachelor of Business Administration, Management, Summa Cum Laude

Samantha Hermes, Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs, Public Affairs, Summa Cum Laude

Grace K Wood, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nursing, Cum Laude

Cooper’s Corner

by Martha MacLeod

Dickey Rural Network (DRN) Not long after lunch one afternoon last week we heard a man’s voice talking outside. I thought it was at the neighbors but we couldn’t see anyone. Then the voice came closer and I heard it say, “I’ll knock on Martha’s door and see if she’s home.”

The knock was at the kitchen door. It was John, the Dickey Rural technician. Cooper was first to the back porch and clamored at John’s leg while he spoke to me and asked if he could do the changeover to the television. When I said yes John went to his truck parked in the alley. As he went out Cooper turned to me with a curious look on his face that asked, “Is this man ok? Should we let him in?” I nodded OK.

Cooper looked out the kitchen window while John went to his truck and picked up a couple of small boxes.

When he came back in Cooper was at the back door. I told John he had to get past the dog to come in. He immediately started talking to Cooper, making friends with him and petting him. I could see that he knew how to handle a dog and Cooper let him come in. It was like we were not just two beings and a dog but three beings.

John asked where the router was. That was easy, it was behind the tv. He went to the tv to change out the router. Cooper watched every move but didn’t interfere. John detached the old router and put in the new one. Then we had to wait for the equipment to “do its thing” and install itself.

John sat in a living room chair and Cooper got up in his lap. Cooper was being so friendly and enjoying the attention he



was getting. When the router was installed John said, “OK Cooper. Time to go back to work,” and Cooper moved away as if he understood everything.

John was down on the floor opening a box when Cooper started helping him. Cooper is in fact very good at opening boxes. John took out a couple of pieces and then reached in to pull out the remote control. But it wasn’t there. That was strange. A moment later we looked over at Cooper in his daybed and he was chewing on it. He was pretty quick because he got the remote without John or me noticing it.

The whole time Cooper was so pleasant and easy to get along with. “He’s a very nice dog,” said John who owns a Bernedoodle. That’s a Berenese Mountain dog combined with a poodle.

When John was ready to leave he got up to go and Cooper gave him a look that said, “Do you have to go already? Can’t you stay a little longer?”

But John had to go to another DRN customer so he returned to his truck parked in the alley. Cooper sat at the kitchen window and watched until the truck was completely out of sight before he sighed and turned around.

LIBRARY CORNER

REVIEWS SUBMITTED BY JEANINE PAHL

HOURS: MON, TUES & THURS 1:30-5:30PM, WED 1:30-7:30PM, FRI 1:30-3:30PM. PLEASE FOLLOW THE OAKES PUBLIC LIBRARY ON FACEBOOK FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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The Hadacol Boogie by James Lee Burke.

When a cloaked, disfigured man leaves a murdered woman on Dave Robicheaux’s property, the seasoned deputy knows a new darkness is closing in. Joined by Valerie Benoit—an incisive detective battling sexism and racism within the Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Department—and his volatile but loyal partner Clete Purcel, Robicheaux is thrust into one of the most perilous investigations of his career. Their search leads them through the eerie edges of the Louisiana bayou, where a cryptic handyman warns of restless ghosts and a ruthless New Orleans button man draws ever closer. Gangsters from the north add to the mounting threat, placing Valerie and Robicheaux’s daughter Alafair in deadly jeopardy.

It’s Not Her

by Mary Kubica.

Courtney Gray’s vacation turns tragic when she discovers her brother and sister-in-law murdered in their lakeside cottage, their daughter Reese missing, and their young son Wyatt mysteriously unharmed. As police descend on the quiet resort town, buried secrets about Courtney’s family and the community begin to surface. With every revelation casting new suspicion, Courtney is left questioning whether Reese is a victim—or possibly the killer. Racing against time and surrounded by people hiding the truth, Courtney must uncover what really happened before the mystery destroys what remains of

Hard Line by Mark Greaney.

(Grey Man #15) Court Gentry—The Gray Man—works with Ghost Town, a covert action team led by former CIA deputy Matt Hanley. When global intelligence networks come under attack, a safe house in Tunis is destroyed and Court barely survives an ambush in Nicaragua. Soon, key U.S. counterintelligence officials are assassinated, and with federal agencies compromised, Ghost Town must stop a wave of professional hit squads. But the deadliest threat is Whetstone, a legendary assassin drawn out of retirement by a personal vendetta. Now targeting Court and those he loves—including the father he hasn’t seen in twenty years—Whetstone turns the mission into a deeply personal fight.

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We continue to have a generous collection of Large Print books from NDSL. Stop by and look!

Bookworm Discovery Class - 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in the library. (Year round)

Lego Lovers - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00. (September-May)

Library hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 1:30 to 5:30, Wednesday 1:30 to 7:30, Friday 1:30 to 3:30.

During the Winter months the Oakes Public Library board has decided to follow the plan of the Oakes Public School. Snow days at the school will also mean a snow day for the library.

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& LOSE IT.



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### CITY CORNER WASTE DISPOSAL SITE

**Landfill Closed for the Winter**

From Oakes: The Disposal Site/Compost Pile is located 2 miles west on County Rd 3 - then 3/4 of a mile south on 108th Ave

Waste will now be disposed of in large metal containers: trees and branches must be separated as they are no longer allowed in compost area. Recyclable metal items should be separated from other waste.

Contact City Hall at 742-2137 for more info



701-742-2013

604 Main Ave, Oakes, ND



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