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## Oakes High School Competes at ND Cyber Madness State Finals



Pictured Left to Right: Grayson Dorsner, Easton McHarry, Ava Thompson, Rebecca Schlader, Kaia Heimbuch

The Oakes Cyber Tornadoes earned a fifth-place finish at the 2026 ND Cyber Madness State Finals held February 9-10 at Bismarck State College.

Competing in their first year at the high school level, the Oakes team joined nine other schools from across North Dakota in the statewide cybersecurity competition. Teams raced against the clock to solve hands-on cybersecurity challenges, earning points by identifying vulnerabilities, analyzing threats, and applying technical problem-solving skills.

Competition was strong throughout the two-day event, with students demonstrating technical knowledge, critical thinking, and teamwork under pressure.

"This competition really tested our students' cybersecurity knowledge in a hands-on, real-world way," said the team's coach, Virginia Gramlow. "Cybersecurity is one of the fastest-growing career fields, and experiences like this help learners see the skills and critical thinking required in the industry. I'm incredibly proud of how they represented Oakes in our first year competing."

ND Cyber Madness is a statewide competition designed to introduce students to real-world cyber defense scenarios and career pathways in information technology. The event is hosted by the North Dakota Information Technology Department in partnership with industry leaders, with CYBER.ORG serving as the game master this year.

**Accepting Bids**  
 for mowing for Glover Cemetery for summer of 2026. Send Bids or questions to  
 Bruce Skjefte at:  
 8063 104th Ave SE  
 Oakes N.D. 58474.  
 (701) 710-0685

## Oakes Crop Shop Talk set for March 17



The event will provide farmers an opportunity to engage with NDSU researchers and graduate students through demonstrations, presentations and a roundtable-style lunch.

Farmers, crop consultants, agriculture professionals and industry partners are invited to attend the Oakes Crop Shop Talk at North Dakota State University's Oakes Irrigation Research Site. The free event will be held March 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Graduate students and NDSU Extension specialists will present on research projects being conducted in Oakes. Graduate students will be presenting on topics such as evaluating biological products for the management of white mold of soybean, the efficacy of N fertilizer applications and the identification of tar spot on corn. Extension specialists will also provide updates on canola agronomy, fungicides for corn disease management and a demonstration of using

the white mold predictive models integrated into the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network.

"Several research programs from NDSU main campus spend a lot of time down in Oakes running research trials. This is an informal meeting that allows us to demonstrate what research is currently being done to local farmers and stakeholders with the opportunity for them to give us feedback and opinions on any research topics that they would like to see at the Oakes Site," says Hope Becton, NDSU Research Assistant Professor of soybean pathology. "The main motivation behind this event is to strengthen ties with local communities and farmers to this NDSU Research Site."

Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and there will be an opportunity to interact with event sponsors. A moderated discussion on local farmers' suggested research objectives at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site will be led by Jeff Stachler, NDSU Extension cropping systems specialist.

For the event schedule and registration, visit [ndsu.ag/crop-shop-talk26](https://ndsu.ag/crop-shop-talk26)

Registration is encouraged. NDSU's Oakes Irrigation Research Site is located at 9251 ND-1, Robert Titus Research Farm, near Oakes, North Dakota.

NDSU Agriculture Communication – Feb. 16, 2026

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## DAKOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY BILLING SUPERVISOR

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 APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 20, 2026

Due to an upcoming retirement, Dakota Valley Electric is seeking a highly motivated candidate for the position of Billing Supervisor.

The Billing Supervisor is responsible for the cooperative's billing, payments, and member inquiries. Reporting to the Business Manager, this role is the subject matter expert in the billing process, processing accurate utility invoices, maintaining customer accounts, resolving complex issues, and providing excellent member service.

The position offers a competitive wage and benefits package including health insurance, 401(k) plan, pension and paid time off. Full details and application forms are available at: [www.dakotavalley.com/employment-opportunities](http://www.dakotavalley.com/employment-opportunities).

Please email [kristins@dakotavalley.com](mailto:kristins@dakotavalley.com) if you have any questions.

Please send resume and application to Kristin Syverson, Business Manager, Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, 7296 Highway 281, Edgeley ND 58433 or by email to : [kristins@dakotavalley.com](mailto:kristins@dakotavalley.com)



DVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



### 2026 REGIONAL CAUCUS MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about your cooperative's operations.

**March 23** – Noon - Montpelier School meeting room  
 Trish Gehlhar, director, West Region, District 2

**March 24** – Noon - Omega Room in Bank North Mall  
 Connie Bitz, former director, Central Region, District 1

**March 25** – Noon - Silver Prairie Saloon, McLeod  
 Neil Olerud, director, East Region, District 1



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