

Oakes Lions Winners	
3/18-3/24	
Mikayla Mclean	\$50
Hunter Bauer	\$50
Jessica Larson	\$50
Sam Engle	\$100
Brackin Awender	\$100
Kathern Kraft	\$50
Miranda Gentzkow	\$50

Public Notices

REQUEST FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Oakes, North Dakota will receive sealed bids for screened gravel for the City of Oakes to be delivered to the Oakes City Shop. Sealed bids must be submitted to the City Auditor at City Hall, 124 S 5th St by 4:00 pm April 10th, 2026. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
(Submitted to the Oakes Tmes 04/02/2026, 04/09/2026)

PORT EMMA TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
Port Emma Township will hold their annual meeting on Monday, April 13th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Guelph School. The tax equalization meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. immediately following the annual meeting.
Marty Visto, Clerk/Treasurer
Port Emma Township
(Published in Oakes Times, April 2, 2026, April 9, 2026)



OAKES TIMES

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- Be signed and include your address. Unsigned letters will not be considered.
Letters may not be used to thank specific people or organizations.
- The Oakes Times reserves the right to edit for length, taste and libel considerations. Letters must be 250 words or less and deal with only one topic.
- Be legible.
- Preference will be given to letters from the Dickey County area. Letters from outside the area will be considered if they are of sufficient interest.
BUSINESS HOURS
Mon-Thurs: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm,
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Local Chruch Group are Heading to Chimbote, Peru



Father Tim Schroeder and Bishop John Folda blessing the fish before it was distributed. Both were taken on Father's mission trip to Peru last year.

Submitted by: Monica Heimbuch
This summer, a group from St Charles in Oakes and St Mary's in Forman, led by Father Timothy Schroeder, will be travelling to Chimbote, Peru, where we will partner with the organization Friends of Chimbote. This organization is dedicated to supporting programs that uplift and transform the lives of those in need in Chimbote and the surrounding communities. During our time there, we will engage in a variety of projects, including building homes, providing furniture for families, working with children at a learning center, distributing food through a "Fish & Loaves" program, helping in local soup kitchens, and offering prayer and spiritual support to our brothers and sisters in Peru.

families. They often create make-shift shelters from estera (woven reeds), cardboard, and plastic on the outskirts of the city. With no running water, electricity, or government aid, these families live in harsh conditions, longing for hope, dignity, and opportunities to escape poverty.]

To help us make the greatest impact possible while in Peru, our group is actively fundraising. Barbeque, Bingo, and Baskets will be held at St. Charles on April 11th with a free will meal beginning at 5:15pm. Bingo will start at 6pm with cash prizes, along with a silent auction with many great items and baskets to bid on. On April 18th, St Charles will be hosting a German meal beginning at 6pm.

Proceeds from our annual rummage sale on April 23rd and 24th at the Oakes Community Center. Please follow St. Charles Oakes Facebook page for more information on all these events. If you'd like to donate directly to the mission, please contact the church at 742-2418 or scan the QR code



Chimbote is home to more than 400,000 people, many of whom live in extreme poverty. Located approximately 250 miles north of Lima, it lies in a coastal desert region. Every year, thousands of Peruvians migrate to Chimbote in search of a better life for their

(please note 'Peru trip'). We are witnessing a community transform, as its people grow in confidence and begin to see that they have the hope and ability to step out of poverty. Together, we are making a difference.

Oakes Senior Center What's Happening:

Thursday, April 9th: Birthday Dinner Day! Let's celebrate the February birthdays! Call 742-3509 by 9:15 AM to sign up for lunch that includes cake and ice cream.
Monday, April 13th: National Peach Cobbler Day will have peach cobbler for lunch.
Tuesday, April 16th: National Wear Your PJs to Work Day... Wear your PJs.
Wednesday, April 22nd: Join us for Brew Crew at 2:00 PM! Coffee and treats provided by Senior Center. If you're not a coffee drinker, we have lots of teas to choose from as well, and conversation.
Thrusday, April 23rd: Craft day... We will be doing a craft at 1:00 PM. Craft yet to be determined.
Tuesday, April 28th: Dickey County Health District will be offering foot care at the Oakes Senior Center. Call 349-4348 for an appointment. The fee for this is \$30.00
Bingo: Every Monday after lunch at 1:00 PM. Play for cash and other prizes! The more people that

play, the greater the cash prizes. Come Join Us!



Wii Bowling:
Tuesdays at 1:00 PM



Bone Builders: Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00 AM. On the first Wednesday of every month, we will be joined by Jamie, from BEYOND THE FLEX, who will observe, teach, and share helpful tips with us OPEN TO EVERYONE!



Bus to Aberdeen will be on the third Friday of each month, beginning on Friday, April 17th. Call 742-3509 to sign up. The fare for this trip is \$10.00.

Letter to the Editor

The views and opinions expressed in the "Letter to the Editor" column do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the staff and management of the Oakes Times.

In The Beginning

Mother of six and grandmother to seventeen.

There are things in this world I do not understand. And for the life of me, I do not understand life issues nor what the issue is. Before the beginning of life, there is no life. We can all agree on that. Life begins at the beginning.

Another way to put it might be to ask, "When were you not alive?" In other words, at which point could you have been taken out of this world, and still enter back in? Once again, my guess is we would all agree that when one is taken out at any stage of development, one cannot move on to the next. I'm no scientist, but I can tell you what happens when my plants dry up and droop to the point of no return. They don't return. Once they are no longer given the nutrients to sustain, they can't maintain life. Babies, too, need their source of nutrients to keep developing. Those are facts.

As of late, there is a term that has been bugging me. It's the word "enshrined" being tossed around within political circles. The definition of the word shrine is, "A sacred place that serves as a focal point for devotion or remembrance, containing relics or images."

Isn't it interesting that many states now "enshrine" into their constitution the right to abortion. Definition of enshrine: "To enclose in or as if in a shrine. To preserve or cherish as sacred. Enshrined can protect the right to an abortion, as if placing in a sacred shrine. It often refers to formally incorporating laws or principles into a constitution or official document." Take note how we, the people, can protect the right to an abortion but we can't seem to protect the rights of the one being aborted? Anyone else think that's just a bit odd?

As if taking away life in the beginning of life isn't enough, now some seek to enshrine the right throughout all stages of development all. Say it's not true say it isn't so. It is so, and it is true. So, what's the issue? The issue no longer is whether one can or cannot have an abortion. The laws are clear on that. However, the root of the issue is whether one should or should not give voice to the developing child who has no voice but yours and mine.

Years later, when the lie of betrayal hits the rail and the mother of the unborn child wants to derail, who will pick up the broken hearted? Can they go back to their abortionist to get the help needed for that which was deeded? Evil gives the guise of solution, but in truth it's merely pollution.

Is this where we are in the stage of development as a nation? We enshrine, as in the worship of lives taken? Have we turned to a new chapter in this Right to Life battle where we know full well what we do but choose to do it anyway? And if the argument is no longer whether it truly is a child or not, because we've always known life begins at the beginning then I suppose we must rethink where we go from here. "Forgive us Father for we know not what we do." And when we do know what it is we do and do it anyway then forgive us for desiring what we want over what You want. Forgive us for putting our own needs over the needs of those who need us. Food for thought.-

-Submitted by Kathleen Kjolhaug 218-280-8831 wemenews@gmail.com

New Criminal Justice Reentry Programs Begin to Take Shape



North Dakota DOCR Director Colby Braun joins Shining Light staff and the first Academy cohort at Missouri r Correctional Center to reflect on the journey and the impact the program has in their lives.

Photo provided by Shining Light.

By Michael Standaert
North Dakota News Cooperative

Two sets of legislative measures approved in early 2025 aimed at keeping people out of the criminal justice system or helping offenders reenter society after time served are beginning to roll out across North Dakota.

"We have an opportunity to help people become healthier, rather than getting trapped or caught in what can be a difficult-to-navigate criminal justice system," said Jonathan Holth, North Dakota's first Commissioner for Recovery & Reentry.

One pilot program, supported by House Bill 1425, provided \$1 million to State's Attorney's offices operating diversion programs in Cass, Grand Forks and Stark counties.

The funding helps offices divert offenders to treatment or other services instead of jail, either before or after arrest.

Supporters say the programs could reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice system, particularly those facing minor drug and other nonviolent offenses.

Kim Hegvik, Cass County State's Attorney, said it took time for the North Dakota Department of Corrections to finalize details on how the program would operate, delaying the selection of a program navigator until late 2025.

A nonprofit providing rehabilitation services, Centre, Inc. in Fargo, was selected as Cass County's navigator and dedicated an employee to the initiative in early January.

"It's been a slow rollout," Hegvik said.

Officials in Cass County are starting with two cases. One involves a minor cited for alcohol possession or consumption. Completing an alcohol awareness program could lead to dismissal, allowing the offender to avoid court and a potential criminal record, Hegvik said.

Another case involves a driver cited for operating under a suspended license. Navigators will help the individual work with the Department of Transportation to regain driving privileges, which could also lead to dismissal.

Later phases of the program will target simple possession of controlled substances or drug paraphernalia, provided there are no accompanying charges such as DUI, theft or violent offenses.

"I will be excited to see how we can get those people connected with services a lot faster, and then see whether that will lead to them not getting further into the criminal justice system," Hegvik said.

Drug offenders in particular often do not receive chemical dependency evaluations or treatment through the court system, leaving the underlying causes of their offenses unaddressed, she added.

Grand Forks County is taking a slightly different approach, focusing more on cases before an arrest has been formally made.

State's Attorney Haley Wamstad said the program there targets low-level, first-time offenders who may be struggling with mental health challenges or chemical dependency.

The program recently received its first referral a disorderly conduct case to the nongovernmental Grand Forks Community Service & Restitution Program, which will guide the participant through the

diversion process. Failure to complete the program could lead to a formal charge.

"All of us in the judicial system recognize that a significant issue we're seeing is folks dealing with mental illness or chemical dependency, and there really is a lack of resources, a lack of funding, to adequately treat people in that situation," Wamstad said.

"If successful, we hopefully won't see these folks back in the criminal justice system, which is a huge win, not only for the defendant, but for our communities, public safety and a cost savings to the criminal justice system," she said.

A separate bill, HB 1549, awarded "Breaking the Cycle" grants to nine counties to better prepare offenders for life after incarceration.

Holth said counties are using grant funds for substance abuse treatment programs, vocational training and reentry managers who help individuals secure housing, jobs and medical care after release.

"We're really excited about what we're going to be able to learn from that," Holth said.

Robert Werlinger, administrator of the McKenzie County Correctional Facility, secured a grant for his county and has begun using it for substance abuse treatment programs and trauma programs for women offered inside the facility before release.

McKenzie County is also introducing a program called Shining Light, which has been used by the North Dakota Department of Corrections at its facility in Jamestown. Werlinger described it as a mix of faith-based programming, humanities and creative activities.

Programs funded by the grants are expected to be fully operational in late March or early April.

Werlinger said interest among inmates has been strong.

"I was shocked by the numbers that put in for Shining Light," said Werlinger, who has worked in corrections for 49 years. "So if that's an indicator, I'd say we're reaching the pinnacle of success because we've had so many enrolling or attempting to enroll."

The programs differ from many traditional court-ordered programs because they are offered inside facilities before inmates are released rather than after they leave custody.

Cass County was also awarded a grant of just over \$200,000. In December, officials announced the funding would go to Fargo-based F5 Project, an organization providing services and resources to individuals struggling with incarceration, mental health and addiction.

However, recent legal issues involving F5 led Cass County Sheriff Jesse Jahner to halt the grant until another qualified organization can be identified.

F5's legal issues include an expired charitable status and questions about personal loans granted to two executives, matters currently under investigation by the Consumer Protection Division of the North Dakota Attorney General's Office.

"If someone else is able to come forward that meets the parameters set by the state, we would certainly welcome that," Jahner told NDNC. "That just hasn't happened at this point."



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5	7	2	4	1	9	8	6	3
6	8	3	2	5	7	4	9	1
3	9	7	8	2	1	6	4	5
8	5	1	9	6	4	2	3	7
2	6	4	5	7	3	1	8	9

To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

If you like Str8ts check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store.

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.