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REVIEWS SUBMITTED BY JEANINE PAHL

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The Things We Never Say

by Elizabeth Strout

Artie Dam seems to have a normal, happy life—he teaches high school, spends time with his wife, and enjoys his weekends. But inside, he feels lonely and disconnected, questioning how little people truly understand each other. One day, he discovers a secret that changes everything. It forces him to rethink his relationships and face life's uncertainties. In *The Things We Never Say*, Elizabeth Strout explores loneliness, connection, and love, showing how one man's struggles reflect what many of us feel.

The Calamity Club

by Kathryn Stockett

Oxford, Mississippi, 1933. Eleven-year-old Meg Lefleur was abandoned by her mother and now lives in an orphanage, where she has learned to rely only on herself. Birdie Calhoun arrives in town hoping her wealthy sister can help her struggling family, but she soon learns her sister's life is not what it seems. When Birdie meets Charlie, a woman with nothing left to lose, the

three come together and form a bold plan to change their lives. But in a time when women have little freedom, even small acts of courage can be dangerous. The Calamity Club is a heartfelt story about strong women finding hope and new beginnings.

The Country Road Murders

by James Patterson

Silas returns to his small hometown in North Carolina after facing hard times. His father was murdered, and the family farm is struggling. He reconnects with his best friend, now married. Soon, Silas gets caught in a dangerous fight with a local crime group involved in drugs and violence. To survive, he follows one rule: never travel these country roads alone—especially at night.

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)

Nature can positively affect mood and mental health

Increasing time spent outdoors enjoying nature can positively affect mood and mental health. Generally speaking, outdoor enthusiasts tend to be happier overall.

The American Psychological Association says spending time in nature is linked to both cognitive benefits and improvements in mood, mental health and emotional well-being. Both green spaces and blue (aquatic) spaces benefit overall well-being.

Several years ago, the University of Derby in the United Kingdom conducted a study titled, "The 30 Days Wild." The study encouraged people to do something wild once a day for

30 days. Participants shared that their connection to nature and doing things in nature created a significant increase in happiness and health.

People who spend more time outside can experience greater self-esteem, less stress, increased memory retention, and more positive body image. Natural environments also lower activity in the rumination area of the brain, decreasing negative, repetitive thoughts.

Also, those who are outside more tend to be engaging in physical activities, and exercise directly correlates to better mental health.



Public Notices

www.ndpublicnotices.com

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 9, 2026

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

Public Hearing Zoning Amendments:

1. Conditional Use Request, Moore: this request was for temporary seasonal occupation of a recreational vehicle on a residential lot. Council was concerned about the possible increase in requests for such use if allowed. Also, noted that there is a specific zoning ordinance for campgrounds that would allow such occupation. Kelly moved, Day second to deny the request for conditional use, carried.

2. Conditional Use Request, Meehl & Seyer: this request was for permanent occupation of recreational vehicles on a residential lot. This request included a site plan and connection to city water and sewer infrastructure. Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to deny the request for conditional use, carried.

Engineer Report: Reber and Roehrich provided an update on water treatment plant improvements. We are currently down to one well and have moved up the installation schedule for the project. J Hollingsworth moved, Day second, to approve contractor's application for payment 1 for work completed and the purchase of the membranes, carried. All contracts for the manhole replacement have been executed. Raatz has been able to keep up with pumping as needed, contractors are still scheduled to be in town in late July.

A draft of the connectivity study on highway 1 was sent to all committee members for review, pending any input from them a final draft will be presented to the council in July. Water metering at the east trailer park was discussed. There are several known issues in the area and multiple options for fixing this we're discussed. Another option presented was to bill all units based on average usage for such parks. Will continue to work with engineers and park owner to resolve the situation.

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

Gaming Site Authorization/Gaming Permit: D Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to approve raffle permit for the Oakes Archery Club, carried. Day moved, Harris second to approve gaming site authorization for the Hole in One Foundation at The Angry Beaver Lodge and Harvest Inn, carried.

Building Permit: J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve permits as presented, carried. Location of curb stop for the new home was questioned, will inspect tomorrow.

1. Remodel, Lot 8 & 9 Ex. N. 20' Of Lot 9 Blk 2 Baldwins Addn.
2. Deck, Lot 2 & N 1/2 Of Lot 3 Blk 28 Western Town Lots
3. Fence, Lots 1 & 2 & N 10' Lot 3 & Vac Alley Blk 3 Kootsika's Addn
4. New Home, Lots 7 & 8 Blk 23 Washburn's Addn

Special Event Permit: D Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to approve special event permit for Harvest Inn at The Edge, carried.

Annual Alcohol Licenses: Harris moved, Day second to approve special event permits as listed, carried.

1. Angry Beaver Lodge; On & Off Sale for Beer & Liquor
2. The Last Shot; On & Off Sale for Beer & Liquor plus Sunday Openings
3. Shadow Lanes; On Sale for Beer Only plus Sunday Openings
4. Scoops Liquor; Off Sale for Beer & Liquor plus Sunday Openings
5. Harvest Inn, On & Off Sale for Beer & Liquor plus Sunday Openings
6. American Legion Sportsbar; On & Off Sale for Beer & Liquor plus Sunday Openings

Bills: Kelly moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve bills, carried.

Aflac	591.64
Advanced Business Methods	192.35
American Welding & Gas	39.41
Aqua Pure	9,258.64
Avid Hawk	200.00
Bear Creek Flying Service	804.05
Bobcat of Gwinner	19354.00
Chads Electric	142.50
City of Fargo	28.00
Computer Express	516.98
Corner C Store	95.02
Dakota Improvement	6140.94
Dakota Valley Electric	425.00
Darrick Nitschke	932.50
DRN	859.64
Economy Oil	1676.17
Fabian Pest Control	105.00
Hach Company	6152.17
Heritage Ins.	609.00
Information Tech	175.85
Interstate Power Systems	2088.69

Jones & Kelly Attys. At Law	892.74
Napa	113.88
ND One Call	18.00
NDPERS INS	23,192.98
NDPERS-Retirement	9,631.11
ND Rural Water	275.00
ND Sewage Pump Lift station	12565.00
Oakes Area Chamber	4300.00
OEI	13,579.04
Oakes Fire District	175.98
Oakes Times	676.64
Otter Tail Power	8,997.90
Pitney Bowes	313.97
Praska's	583.64
Rod's Cleaning	110.00
Starion Bank	2,407.04
Stryker Sales	260.68
Sweets & Stories	156.39
Tornado Stop	4089.96
Verizon	478.22
Visa Credit Card-City	2735.24
Visa Credit Card-library	637.30
Vistos	520.16
Waste Management	16117.29
Payroll Taxes	15,509.89
Salaries	68,690.90

Visitors: J Hollingsworth moved, Hernandez-Waite second to approve tourism fund request from Oakes Chamber for summer concert series, carried. Council discussed uses of the tourism funds and the desire to use funds for more permanent options, not only one time/annual events.

Committee Reports: Kelly and J Hollingsworth we're notified of unauthorized use of a city hydrant to fill a bulk water truck. Raatz will get the information needed to bill the company appropriately. Discussed options to prevent this in the future. Harris expressed thanks for his time on the council and the opportunity to serve the city and its residents. He was able to work with many different people during his time and enjoyed his tenure. Mowing of a property in Burlwood is needed but the house is being sold so will continue to monitor the situation. Day also voiced thanks for his time served on the council and thanked everyone he worked with. He talked about tough projects that the council took on but were able to get through and leave the city better than before. He thanked city employees for all the hard work they do.

Hernandez-Waite was thankful for his time on the council and stated that he learned a lot in the process.

Chief O'Brien let the council know that Tim Jordan will once again be helping for Irrigation Days and also in the next few weeks when officers are out of town for training or time off. Raatz announced

the hiring of Levi Nagel as a full-time employee, he is already working to learn things at the water plant as well as other areas around town. Raatz also presented the information for Jason Grzadzieski, a certified water operator who is offering to contract with the city to be the licensed water operator in compliance with state requirements. He will also help teach the employees water operation and help with certification testing. Harris moved Kelly second to approve the contract pending a city attorney review, carried.

Johnson is seeking quotes for replacement of the air conditioner units in multiple offices and the meeting room at City Hall.

Unfinished Business: NDIRF Sewer coverage endorsement was discussed. D Hollingsworth moved, Day second to obtain the \$10,000/claim coverage, carried, Harris voting nay. Harris moved, Day second to approve the 2nd reading of the Ottertail Power Franchise Agreement, carried. Reviewed the properties that were presented as needing to be cleaned up or have junk items removed. Mayor Sitzler expressed his desire to begin with the removal of junk vehicles. The mayor's list along with properties on West Elm Avenue will be the first addressed, with others to follow. When city hall is informed about individuals blowing grass clippings into the street, a warning letter will be sent from the city first before escalating to a letter from the city attorney.

New Business: After earlier approving the renewal of existing alcohol licenses for the city, the council discussed their idea to limit the number of licenses available in the city. Kelly moved, Harris second to approve resolution for a moratorium on the issuance of any new alcohol licenses for two years while ordinances are updated, carried.

Announcements & Correspondence: Johnson updated the council on the process after the election votes were counted, she will update them as soon as the official count is received. City Attorney Fallon explained he has been in correspondence with attorneys for Great Plains Oil regarding their infrastructure plans including a private sewage disposal system.

Harris moved, Hernandez-Waite second to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM.

Attest: Zasha Johnson
(minutes subject to correction and approval at the next regular meeting)
(Published in the Oakes Times June 25, 2026)

OAKES SENIOR CENTER

What's Happening in June

Thursday, June 25: Pinochle tournament starting at 1pm. \$1.00 to play with cash prize for the winners. Grab your partner and we'll see you here!

Tuesday, June 30: Dickey County Health District will be at the center for foot care. The fee for this service is \$30.00. If you are interested, please call 349-4348 to schedule an appointment.

Tuesdays in June: Wii Bowling at 1:00PM

BINGO: Every Monday after lunch at 1:00 PM.

Play for cash and other prizes! The more people that play, the greater the cash prize. Come join us!

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.

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SOUTHEAST WATER USERS DISTRICT CCR REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025

Southeast Water Users District Annual Water Quality Report/Arsenic Trioxide Fact Sheet is ready to view on-line at our web-site address of <http://seh2o.com> at the quick link on the front page of our website. This report contains important info about the source and quality of your drinking water.

For a translation or any questions or concerns, please call 800.400.8888 toll-free ND only or 701-242-7432 Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

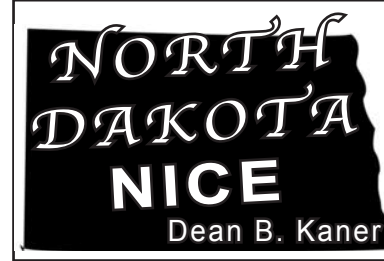


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Be careful what you say in the field, because the corn has ears.



HOW YOU CAN HELP THE OAKES AREA FOOD PANTRY

DONATE FOOD

- Host a food drive with your work or organization
- Food can be dropped off at 115 S 5th St
- Food should be non-perishable and not expired



DONATE MONEY

- The Food Pantry is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation could be tax deductible
- Host an event like a bake sale and donate the proceeds to the Food Pantry
- Monetary donations can be dropped off at Starion Bank or mailed to the Oakes Food Pantry PO 203 Oakes, ND 58474



VOLUNTEER

- Property maintenance (snow removal, cleaning, small updates)
- Put away and organize donated food
- Help work the Saturdays the Food Pantry is open



PROMOTE:

- Like and follow the Oakes Area Food Pantry on Facebook and share our posts
- Help get the word out to those in need that the Food Pantry is open the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month, 10am-noon



REACH OUT:

- If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to a board member or message the Oakes Area Food Pantry on facebook
- Learn more about the Food Pantry and share your ideas by attending a meeting, meetings are posted to the facebook page



Together with your help, we can fight food insecurities in our community.

OAKES TIMES

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Dickey County: \$42 • In-State: \$44

Out-Of-State: \$47 • eSubscription: \$46

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Ethel Erickson, Production & Sales

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The Oakes Times welcomes letters to the editor on issues of public interest. To be published, letter must:

- 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

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