

Wrestlers In Tournament Action

The Blue Jay varsity boys’ wrestlers were in action last week at the East-West Tournament in New Salem on Friday, Jan. 30 and Saturday, Jan. 31. The girls’ wrestlers and junior varsity wrestlers were at the 4 Bears Invitational in New Town on Saturday, Jan. 31.

East-West Tournament

The Blue Jay varsity boys’ wrestlers were in New Salem for the East-West Tournament on Friday, Jan. 30 and Saturday, Jan. 31. Often viewed as a preview of the state tournament, most of the best wrestlers in the state show up for this event. Lisbon placed first as a team with 180 points, followed by Velva with 154, Hettinger-Scranton with 133.5, Kindred with 116.5 and Carrington with 114.5. The Blue Jays were eighth with 96.5 team points.

Individual results for the Blue Jays were as follows:

At 114 pounds, Chase Brown placed sixth. He won his first round match by fall at 1:28 over Brody Pelton of Hillsboro-Central Valley, but then lost his quarterfinal match by fall at :43 to John Loegering of LaMoure. He came back in the next round to win by fall at 5:16 over Braden Brossart of Rugby and then won on an 8-3 decision over Gunner Fricke of New Salem-Almont. In the consolation semifinal, he lost by fall at 2:38 to Alex Leier of Velva. In the fifth place match, he lost on a 7-0 decision to Austin Orminston of Hettinger-Scranton to take sixth.

At 127 pounds, Loudon Haugen placed seventh. After a first round bye, he lost by fall at 2:29 to Gavin Swenson of Kindred in quarterfinals. He came back in the next round to win on a 13-8 decision over Easten Baumgartner of Napoleon, but then lost on a 9-3 decision to Isaiah Hackman of Velva in the next round. In the seventh place match, he won by fall at 1:19 over Logan Heid of New Salem-Almont to take seventh.

At 133 pounds, Cohen Bell placed first. He won his first round match on an 8-0 major decision over Afton Ost of Bishop Ryan and followed that up with a quarterfinal win on a 10-0 major decision over Gavin Rude of Kindred. In semifinals, he won on an 11-1 major decision over Burke Vanderpool of Hettinger-Scranton. In the championship match, he won on a 13-2 major decision over Logan Potts of LaMoure to take first place.

At 139 pounds, Regan Gustafson placed fourth. After a first round bye, he lost his quarterfinal match by fall at 2:52 to Choutae Gerhardt of New Salem-Almont. He came back to win his next match by fall at 1:20 over Lleyton Spear of Kenmare/Bowbells/Burke Central and followed that up with a win by fall at 4:43 over Carson Brunelle of Williams County. In the consolation semifinal, he won on a medical forfeit by Cutter Ouradnik of Bowman County. In the third place match, he lost on a 5-3 decision to Ian Anderson of Lisbon to place fourth.

At 145 pounds, Brayden Fritel placed eighth. He won his first round match on an 18-3 tech fall at 3:25 over Kallen Wolsky of Carrington, but lost his quarterfinal match on a 19-3 tech fall at 2:27 to Griffin Greenley of Lisbon. In the next round, he won by fall at 5:07 over Matthew Franciere of New Salem-Almont. He lost his next match on a 21-8 major decision to Levi Jensen of Williams County. In the seventh place match, he lost on a medical forfeit to Emmitt Lagge of Velva to take eighth.

At 152 pounds, Dane Dunham lost his first match on a 17-1 tech fall at 4:44 to Isaiah Dobbs of Bowman County and his next match on a 10-0 major decision to Hudson Buchholz-Casson of New Salem-Almont to end his tournament action.

At 160 pounds, Colter Fladeland placed eighth. He lost his first round match on a 17-2 tech fall at 3:31 to Myles Thielges of Kindred, but came back to win by fall at 3:13 over Jacob Jaggi of Killdeer in the next round. He won his next match on a 6-2 decision over Stone Stadheim of Hettinger-Scranton, then lost his next match by fall at 4:54 to Trevor Dalley of Bowman County. In the seventh place match, he lost on a 9-7 decision to Leo Lahlum of LaMoure to take eighth.

At 172 pounds, Kane Reep lost his first match on a 6-3 decision to Walker Sheldon of Williams County. He came back in the next round to win on a 10-1 major decision over Lane Zupan of Northern Lights, but lost in the next round by fall at 5:37 to Tucker Jones of LaMoure to end his tournament action.

At 189 pounds, Asher Batteiger had a bye in the first round. He lost his quarterfinal match on an 8-7 decision to Alexander Sola of Velva, and his next match on a 3-1 decision to Easton Beach of Hillsboro-Central Valley to end his tournament action.

At 285 pounds, Levi Uran placed third. He won his first round match by fall at :54 over Legion Dionne of New Salem-Almont, but then lost his quarterfinal match on a 7-5 decision to Delaney Feldman of Kenmare-Bowbells-Burke Central. He came back to win his next match by fall at :24 over Hendrik Van Zyl of Napoleon and followed that up with a win by fall at 3:20 over Alex Guderjohn of Northern Lights. In the consolation semifinal, he won by fall at 4:30 over Brock Lyons of Lisbon. In the third place match, he won by fall at 7:29 in overtime over

Charles Jorgensen of Carrington to take third.

4 Bears Girls Tournament

The Blue Jay girls were in action on Saturday, Jan. 31 at the 4 Bears Invitational tournament in New Town. As a team, Bismarck was first with 232 points, followed by Williston with 147, Rugby with 112, Stanley with 109.5, and Kenmare/Bowbells/Burke Central rounding out the top five with 96.

Individual results for the Blue Jays were as follows:

At 112 pounds, Kimber Fritel placed first. After a quarterfinal bye, she won her semifinal match by fall at :34 over Abrianna Henderson of Williston. In the first place match, she won by fall at :38 over Emma Shively of Rugby to take first.

At 118 pounds, River DeTienne placed sixth. She won her quarterfinal match by fall at 4:38 over Addi Mack of Rugby, but then lost her semifinal match by fall at :45 to Taley Michel of KBBC. In the consolation semifinal match, she lost on a 22-4 tech fall to Aryonna St. Claire of Bismarck. In the fifth place match, she lost by fall at 1:51 to Addi Mack of Rugby to take sixth.

At 118 pounds, Aubree Bunner placed third. She won her quarterfinal mat on a 17-2 tech fall at 2:48 over Aryonna St. Claire of Bismarck, but lost her semifinal match by fall at 1:49 to Deja Ireland of Bismarck. She won her consolation semifinal by fall at 2:58 over Addi Mack of Rugby. In the third place match, she won on a 17-1 tech fall at 4:17 over Aryonna St. Claire of Bismarck to take third.

At 125 pounds, Justice Belstad had a bye in the first round. She lost her quarterfinal match by fall at 1:51 to Kashlyn Bredahl of DLB. She came back to win her next match on a 16-13 decision over Emmalin Fraunfelder of KBBC, but lost her next match by fall at 1:55 to Aaliyah Laboy of Minot to end her tournament action.

At 124 pounds, McKenzie Bohrer placed fifth. She had a bye in the first round and lost her quarterfinal match by fall at 1:31 to Kaytilane Isom of Williston. She came back to win her next match by fall at :24 over Shae Jensen of KBBC and followed that up with a win by fall at 5:13 over Alyvia Hasbrouck of Hettinger/Scranton. In the consolation semifinal, she lost by fall at 1:35 to Lyla Roehrich of Williston. In the fifth place match, she won by fall at 3:23 over Aaliyah Laboy of Minot to take fifth.

At 130 pounds, Amanda Aguilar placed fifth. She lost her quarterfinal match on a 9-6 sudden victory overtime decision to Braelyn Pfaff of Bismarck. After a bye in the next round, she lost her consolation semifinal by fall at 1:53 to Lexxus Lowman of Bowman County/Beach. In the fifth place match, she won by fall at 5:30 over Braelyn Pfaff of Bismarck to take fifth.

At 136 pounds, McKenna Jones placed third. She won her quarterfinal match by fall at 4:44 over Preslea Olson of Williston, but lost her semifinal match by fall at 2:56 to Alexandra Langworthy of Watford City. In the consolation semifinal, she won by fall at 3:42 over Arianna Martinez of KBBC. In the third place match, she won on a 17-0 tech fall at 5:50 over Courtney Slaubaugh of Rugby to take third.

At 142 pounds, Natalia Rodriguez lost her quarterfinal match by fall at :15 to Amaya Baptiste of KBBC and her next match by fall at 1:52 to Ashley Camacho of Williston to end her tournament action.

At 148 pounds, Inaani Wilson placed fourth. She won her quarterfinal match by fall at :59 over Kyra Thompson of Williston, but lost her semifinal match by fall at 1:34 to Opal Hackel of Rugby. In the consolation semifinal, she won by fall at :43 over JayVuani White Eagle of Stanley. In the third place match, she lost by fall at 3:26 to Janessa Nelson of Williston to take fourth.

At 148 pounds, JayVuani White Eagle placed sixth. She lost her quarterfinal match by fall at 1:23 to Janessa Nelson of Williston. After a bye in the next round, she lost her consolation semifinal by fall at :43 to Inaani Wilson of Stanley. In the fifth place match, she lost by fall at 3:17 to Kyra Thompson of Williston to place sixth.

At 155 pounds, Alyssa Quesada placed fourth. She lost her first round match by fall at :19 to Julia Araujo of Bismarck and her next match by fall at 1:27 to Elizabeth Sott of Hettinger/Scranton. In her final match, she lost by fall at :43 to Bella Grove of Rugby to take fourth.

At 170 pounds, Nevaeh Whiteshield placed fifth. She lost her quarterfinal match by fall at 5:12 to Emory Williams of KBBC. She came back to win her next match by fall at 1:32 over Amerah Armbrust of Bismarck. She lost her consolation semifinal match by fall at 2:00 to Kynzlee Christopherson of Bismarck. In the fifth place match, she won by fall at 1:27 over Braya Monley of Minot to take fifth.

In the junior high division, Kandice Belstad placed first. She won her first match by fall at 2:35 over Wren Nelson of Williston and followed that up with a win by fall at :38 over Cee Cee Guttormson of Velva to take first.

In the 6A, Angela Ribere placed second. She won her first match by fall at 5:15 over Adelyn Bingham of Watford City. She lost her next

match by fall at 1:06 to Maison Agnew of Mandan to take second.

In the 6B, Jestin Bear placed third. She lost her first match by fall at :49 to Savanna Ireland of Bismarck and her next match by fall at 1:11 to Grace Lynch of Williston to place third.

In the 6C, Annabelle Penaflor placed second. She lost her first match by fall at 1:07 to Wyllow Ann Gendreau of Williston, but won her next match by fall at :38 over Danika Gonzales of White Shield to take second.

4 Bears JV Tournament

Junior varsity boys were in action at the 4 Bears Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 31. Williston took home first place as a team with 312.5 points, followed by Watford City with 120.5, Hettinger/Scranton with 58.5, Velva with 58 and Stanley rounding out the top five with 42.

Individual results for the Blue Jays were as follows:

At 121 pounds, Trent Bohrer lost his first match by fall at 1:03 to Erik Anderson of Hettinger/Scranton. In the next round he lost by fall at 1:42 to Gunner Wahus of Watford City to end his tournament action.

At 139 pounds, Kaleb Belstad placed second. He won his first round match by fall at 5:26 over William Leppell of Velva, but lost his next match by fall at 4:40 to Brysen Parker of Williston to take second.

At 145 pounds, Anthony Nardacci placed second. He won his first match by fall at 2:43 over Lucian Smith of Watford City and followed that up with a win by fall at 4:38 over Colton Richards of Williston in the next round. He lost his final match by fall at 1:04 to Pierce Jacobs of Williston to take second.

At 152 pounds, Thosten Lidstrom placed fifth. After a bye in the first round, he lost his semifinal match by fall at 1:08 to Caleb Storbakken of Williston. In consolation semifinals, he lost by fall at 1:18 to Samuel Mcmillian of Williston. In the fifth place match, he won on a 12-10 decision over Robert Auer of Stanley to take fifth.

At 152 pounds, Robert Auer placed sixth. He won his quarterfinal match by fall at 3:10 over Samuel Mcmillian of Williston. In semifinals, he lost on a 19-4 tech fall at 1:10 to Haas Lundeen of Williston. In the consolation semifinal, he lost by fall at 1:38 to Will Langford of Watford City. In the fifth place match, he lost on a 12-10 decision to Thosten Lidstrom of Stanley to take sixth.

At 160 pounds, Briggs Lund placed third. He lost his first round match by fall at 3:25 to Gideon Duckworth of Watford City and his next match by fall at :42 to Brodon Adams of Williston to take third.

At 215 pounds, Jake Germundson placed fifth. After a quarterfinal bye, he lost his semifinal match by fall at 1:40 to Blaytten O’Leary of Williston and his consolation semifinal by fall at 5:23 to Beau Hovland of Watford City. In the fifth place match, he won by fall at :29 over Jayden Odden of Rugby to take fifth.

In the sixth grade division, Brant Sorenson placed first. He won his first round match by fall at :24 over Easton Anderson of Watford City. He won his second round match by fall at 3:34 over Rocky Hager of Rugby and his third match by fall at 3:17 over Colt Lawlar of Watford City. In his final match, he won on a 10-6 decision over Eli Wolff of Hettinger/Scranton to place first.

Up Next: The Blue Jay boys’ wrestlers will be in region dual tournament action on Saturday, Feb. 7 in Tioga and the Blue Jay girls’ wrestlers will be in tournament action in Williston. The individual qualifiers will be held the following weekend with the girls in action at Turtle Mountain Community High School on Friday, Feb. 13 and boys in action in Killdeer on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Oil Activity Report

Permits:
None
Additional Information:
Approved for Confidential Status:

Silver Hill Energy Operating, LLC, K&L Hegstad North W 158-92-3-27-1MBHX, SWSW 3-158N-92W, Mountrail Co.

Released from Confidential Status:

Slawson Exploration Company, Inc., Rebel Federal 6-32-17TFH, NWSE 29-152N-91W, Mountrail Co., Big Bend
Slawson Exploration Company, Inc., Rebel Federal 3-32-17H, NWSE 29-152N-91W, Mountrail Co., Big Bend

Hunt Oil Company, Palermo 156-90-3-31H 3, NWNE 10-156N-90W, Mountrail Co., Ross
Hunt Oil Company, Nichols-Trulson 156-90-10-14H-1, NWNE 10-156N-90W, Mountrail Co., Ross
Slawson Exploration Company, Inc., Rebel Federal 5-32-17TFH, NWSE 29-152N-91W, Mountrail Co., Big Bend

Producing Wells Completed:
EOG Resources, Inc., Ross 39-1606H, SESW 16-156N-92W, Mountrail Co., 959 bopd, 2442 bwpd

More information on oil activity in the state can be found online at <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/>.

Hoeven Secures North Dakota Defense, Housing And Transportation Priorities

Senator John Hoeven issued the following statement after the U.S. Senate passed five additional annual appropriations bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. The Senate has now approved eleven of the twelve appropriations bills, and reduced spending below last year, spending less than under a continuing resolution. At the same time, the legislation increases support for the military and key North Dakota priorities. The legislation, which now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration, includes the Defense; Labor, Health and Human Services and Education; Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; Financial Services and General Government; and National Security, State and Related Agencies funding bills.

“We’ve now passed eleven of the twelve appropriations bills through regular order to fund the government while finding savings and supporting our priorities. Importantly, we’ve spent less overall than last year, while providing more funding for defense and accomplishing vital North Dakota priorities. That includes funding for comprehensive flood protection in the Red River Valley and to advance the water supply project for eastern North Dakota passed earlier this month. The legislation passed today continues these efforts and will enhance our national defense and help strengthen our economy and quality of life,” said Hoeven. “Importantly, this legislation builds upon the historic investment we made into nuclear modernization with the One Big Beautiful Bill to keep modernization efforts in Minot on track. We also continue advancing the SDA’s LEO satellite mission in Grand Forks with funding and legislation to support the development of the transport layer. At the same time, these bills maintain support for programs North Dakota has relied upon to make important improvements across our state, from expanding our airports to building the affordable housing our communities need.”

“We’ll continue working to pass the final appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security, which funds FEMA, TSA and other national security needs while also funding equipment like bodycams and measures to improve officer safety and training.”

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Hoeven worked to advance key priorities for North Dakota as the legislative package was negotiated between the House and Senate. Among other priorities, Hoeven worked to ensure the legislation:

Defense

- Funds a nearly 4 percent pay raise for service members.
- Advances nuclear modernization, including at Minot Air Force Base. The bill provides:
 - \$2.6 billion for the development of the Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
 - This comes in addition to the \$2.5 billion that Hoeven worked to secure for Sentinel in the One Big Beautiful Bill.
 - More than \$1 billion for development and procurement of the B-52 upgrades.
 - Nearly \$800 million for the Long Range Stand Off (LRSO) development and procurement.
 - \$67 million for procurement of the MH-139 Grey Wolf helicopter.
- Supports the Space Development Agency (SDA) low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite mission in Grand Forks.

- This includes \$50 million in additional funding that Hoeven worked to secure for the LEO transport layer of satellites, which will be operated by Grand Forks Air Force Base.

- \$98 million to develop a hybrid electric propulsion system for next-generation military unmanned aerial systems (UAS) platforms.
- \$43 million to bolster UAS and counter-UAS research, development and operations in the state, including:

- \$25 million to support UAS research and testing activities by eligible entities in North Dakota, including Ideal Aerosmith, the University of North Dakota, Q-Station, Space Dynamics Laboratory, Anno. Ai and Vidrov.
- \$10 million and report language to advance the goal of conducting U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) MQ-9 operations to Grand Forks.
- \$8 million to develop military applications for UAS and counter-UAS technology through initiatives like Senator Hoeven’s Project UL-TRA.

- \$22 million to support development of protective coatings for DoD equipment and vehicles, as well as training the workforce required to meet this need, through eligible entities including Technology Applications Group (TAG), NDSU and Elinor Coatings.
- \$18.5 million for research and development of hypersonic technology through eligible projects and entities in North Dakota, including Aerovironment, Stratolaunch, NDSU and a partnership between UND and Auriga.
- \$37.5 million for additional defense research and development projects in the Red River Valley:

- \$10 million in additional funding for battery research and manufacturing for the Navy through

Packet Digital.

- \$8.5 million to support proposed research projects at UND and NDSU.

- \$7 million in additional funding for the development of fuel cell electric engines for the Army in conjunction with the Energy and Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota.

- \$7 million for the development of graphene applications, including the graphene-based firefighting foam developed by Vorbeck.

- \$5 million to evaluate technology for upgrading the PARCS Radar at Cavalier Space Force Station.

Housing

- Includes a Hoeven-authored measure allowing the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to forgive or restructure Grand Forks Housing Authority’s \$2 million loan for the LaGrave Place project.

- Directs HUD to automatically renew expired and soon-to-expire Continuum of Care (CoC) grants, which enable local providers, like the YWCA in Fargo, to offer comprehensive support services and housing to homeless individuals and families.

- Maintains funding for programs that have supported construction of affordable housing in the state, such as Monterey and Brighton Place in Fargo and Century View in Bismarck. These programs include the:
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
 - Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).
 - Housing Trust Fund (HTF).
 - Native American Housing

Free Public Forum Brings National Voices To North Dakota

As North Dakotans prepare to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, The Study is inviting residents across the state to participate in a rare, timely civic conversation focused not on political talking points, but on the moral ideas that shaped American democracy itself.

On Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. CST, The Study will host a hybrid public event titled “The Moral Foundations of Political Thought,” bringing together philosopher Susan Neiman and conservative writer Peter Wehner for a moderated discussion examining the ethical roots of left and right political traditions, at their best, and where both have faltered.

The conversation will be moderated by Jerod Tuft, a North Dakota Supreme Court justice and lifelong North Dakotan. Together, the speakers will explore how ideals such as justice, freedom, human nature, institutional trust, and responsibility have shaped political thought long before today’s polarized climate.

“This program is exactly the kind of civic engagement North Dakota needs right now,” said Brenna Gerhardt, Executive Director of Humanities North Dakota. “Rather than amplifying division, this conversation asks deeper questions, about ethics, values, and shared moral ground. As we approach America’s 250th anniversary, it’s an opportunity to reflect on where our democratic traditions came from and how we can carry them forward together.”

Unlike political forums, Neiman and Wehner each bring a willingness to critique their own ideological traditions while engaging respectfully with opposing viewpoints. Their dialogue models principled disagreement rooted in moral reasoning, not identity or outrage.

“At a time when political identity often replaces political thought, this event invites people to slow down and think,” Gerhardt said. “It’s not about winning arguments, it’s about understanding the ideas that make democracy work.”

The event is part of a broader slate of humanities and civic programming connected to ND250/America250, encouraging thoughtful reflection on democracy, citizenship, and community as the nation approaches its semiquincentennial. It is also part of The Study “Brave Conversations,” which honors the legacy of Marilyn Hudson, a North Dakota historian and MHA Nation Elder.

The program is free and open to the public, with options to attend in person in communities includ-

Block Grants.

- \$10 million to help house and provide wrap around services for Native American veterans.

- Provides an additional \$366 million in funding to help local service providers assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This supports programs such as:

- Continuum of Care.
- Emergency Solutions Grants.
- Youth Homeless Demonstration Programs.

Transportation

- Provides \$3 million for UND’s Vets2Wings program, which expands and helps cover the costs of flight training for veterans.
- Continues the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) exemption for livestock haulers.
- Maintains funding for programs that support improvements to transportation infrastructure and services in North Dakota, including the:

- Airport Improvement Program (AIP), to support the redevelopment and improvement of airports, including the Fargo Airport Terminal project.

- Competitive Bridge Bundling grant program, to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of bridges across the state.
- Essential Air Service (EAS) program, to ensure continued air service to the communities of Jamestown, Devils Lake, and Dickinson.

- Small Community Air Service Development program, to support new air service routes, including in Grand Forks.

ing Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot and Williston or online virtually. The Study also encourages libraries, schools, faith groups, and community organizations to host group viewings to create space for local, in-person discussion following the event. Register: <https://www.thestudynd.org/event-details/the-moral-foundations-of-political-thought>.

About the Speakers

Susan Neiman is an American philosopher and author of *Left Is Not Woke*. Born in Atlanta during the Civil Rights Movement, she studied philosophy at Harvard University under John Rawls and Stanley Cavell. She is currently the director of the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany, and is widely known for making moral philosophy accessible, urgent, and relevant. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Die Zeit*, and other international publications.

Peter Wehner is a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*, where he writes on politics, faith, culture, and democratic life. He served in three presidential administrations, including as deputy director of presidential speechwriting for President George W. Bush, and later as director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives. He is the author of several books, including *The Death of Politics*, praised for its moral clarity and civic hope.

Justice Jerod Tuft was born in Minot and raised in West Fargo. He holds a computer engineering degree from Case Western Reserve University and a law degree from Arizona State University, where he graduated first in his class. His career spans service as a computer engineer, attorney, county state attorney, Judge Advocate in the North Dakota Army National Guard, legal counsel to the governor, district judge, and now justice on the North Dakota Supreme Court.

About The Study

Humanities North Dakota rebranded its public-facing programs as The Study in 2025 to ensure continued public access to humanities education following reductions in federal funding. The Study is a collaborative online platform offering lectures, classes, book discussions, podcasts, and Study Clubs focused on civics, history, culture, and lifelong learning.

By pooling resources with other state humanities councils, including partners in Washington, Iowa, and Montana, The Study expands access to high-quality programming while keeping civic dialogue accessible to communities of all sizes.



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of North Dakota adults read public notices in print or digital newspapers.

85%

believe that publishing public notices in newspapers should be required.



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*2024 North Dakota State Study. Conducted by Coda Ventures