

# Bakken Briefs

## Stanley finds use for flowers

A group of Stanley area ladies is repurposing funeral flowers into a small ray of sunshine for people who may be in need of a reason to smile.

Petals and Promises collects any extra funeral flowers after services are done and makes small arrangements from those large bouquets to deliver to the sick, the elderly or anyone that could use something to brighten their day.

Glad Meiers said the idea originated 10 years ago after losing her son and having many leftover bouquets. Inspired by a similar group in Hillsboro, Meiers partnered with staff at the funeral home and interested ladies at her church.

So far, the group has helped with two ceremonies. Those involved say it has been wonderful. It gets them out to visit people they would not normally get to see because of their busy lives.

--Mountrail County Promoter, Stanley

## Kenmare airport's wish list

The Kenmare Municipal Airport has constructed a new taxiway and paved an area for new hangars to be built in the future.

The airport's five-member board received slightly over \$1.5 million from the federal and state governments, as well as \$40,000 from both the city's Fund Itt economic development program and the Vet's Gaming club toward the necessary local matching funds for the grants.

The total cost of the project was about \$1.63 million, with \$114,569 coming from local entities.

Board member Derek Peterson said the planned new hangars are next on the board's capital improvement plan once it has the funds.

"We would also like to draw a mechanic into the area who can work on the planes," Peterson said. "It would draw in more traffic."

--Kenmare News

## Williston fire investigated

The cause of an industrial fire that broke out east of Williston on May 9 is currently under investigation by the North Dakota fire marshal.

Matt Clark said that his office is working closely with the Williston Rural Fire Department, Williams County Sheriff's Office and the county's Emergency Management team.

While the cause of the fire remains under investigation, officials believe wooden pallets, industrial totes and drums in the business' outdoor storage yard caught fire.

"They weren't full of material," Williston Fire Chief Corey Johnson said of the 275-gallon industrial totes and 55-gallon drums.

However, Johnson said there may have been residue from "any number of chemicals" inside.

No injuries were reported.

--Williston Herald

## McKenzie's new policing tool

An additional tool to help aid McKenzie County law enforcement is currently in the testing phases and is set to roll out soon.

Automated license plate readers have been added to the fleet of the McKenzie County Sheriff's Office.

Three vehicles currently have the systems installed, with a fourth to be added.

The readers are mounted upon a patrol vehicle and can scan and check license plates of passing or parked vehicles during patrol.

Chief Deputy Michael Ficken said the system "gives deputies faster, smarter access to information connected to criminal activity, improving both officer awareness and community safety."

Each unit has a price tag of \$4,184.63 for setup, training, warranty and hardware, plus an annual \$516 licensing and contract service fee.

--McKenzie County Farmer, Watford City

## Calls for more infrastructure

An energy infrastructure roundtable May 7 in Watford City underscored a single message: North Dakota's economy depends on continued growth and building more infrastructure.

State authorities, utilities, county leaders and researchers walked through the pressures facing the grid, roads and oil fields amid new loads, pipeline projects and enhanced oil recovery.

Bobby Nasset of Basin Electric Power Cooperative detailed how the cooperative has added more than 400 miles of high-voltage lines in recent years and is planning another 400 to 800 miles to keep up with growing load.

North Dakota Pipeline Authority Director Justin Kringstad said the state is currently constrained in how much natural gas it can process and transport, limiting development.

--Western Dakota Energy Association

## Beulah picks \$3.7M project

With a construction company now selected, Beulah's Northside Street Improvement District 27 project is expected to cost \$3.7 million and work is expected to begin June 1.

The Beulah City Council on April 20 awarded Bechtold Paving Inc. of Minot the contract to resurface streets north of Seventh Street for \$2,999,877.90, beating out two other companies.

City Engineer Jerod Klabunde, of Moore Engineering, said Bechtold was also the lowest bidder for four alternate projects the council approved, which added about \$719,900 to the total.

The city has set up funding through the Bank of North Dakota, securing \$4.5 million from its Infrastructure Loan Program, with 2% interest.

Klabunde said the next step for the city is to work with Bechtold to make the contract official.

--Beulah Beacon

## Memorials Received By Stanley Fire Department

In memory of Bud Halverson and Orville Harstad from Fritz and Cheryl Weisenberger, Jamie and Pam Germundson, and Aaron and Ashley Skarsgard.

In memory of Bud Halverson from Wayne and Konni Bohrer.

In memory of Orville Harstad from Steven and Krista Littlefield.

## AARP Fraud Alert: Gift Cards Are For Gifts

Gift cards are popular and convenient for consumers, and for criminals who favor them as easy and hard-to-trace forms of payment.

They may claim the fastest way to fix an urgent financial problem is to go to a store, load a specific amount of money onto one or more gift cards (sometimes called electronic vouchers), and then share the activation numbers from the back of the card. No legitimate government agency or business will ever accept payment this way.

If you or someone you love has

experienced this financial crime, turn the card over and call the issuer at the number provided; they may be able to freeze the card before some or all of the funds are drained. You should also report this crime to law enforcement to document what happened should there be a means of restitution down the road.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of AARP's fraud specialists about what to do next.

## Annual Memorial Day Ceremony To Be Held At The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

The 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony will begin at noon (Central Time), Monday, May 25, at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery, 6.5 miles south of Mandan on North Dakota Highway 1806. This annual event, hosted by the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery and North Dakota National Guard, honors all deceased American servicemen and women and is free to the public. The first observance was held in 1993.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early because of expected large crowds and the motorcycle honor run. Since seating is limited, bringing lawn chairs is recommended.

Those who are only dropping off flowers for Memorial Day grave decorations we encourage to be finished and exited facility by 9:30 a.m.

Handicap-marked vehicles are encouraged to arrive before 10:30 a.m. Drivers should ensure handicap credentials and decals are readily visible to parking attendants. Shuttle vehicles will be available to transport attendees from parking areas to the ceremony area. Attendees are encouraged not to drive large vehicles, such as recreational vehicles, campers, or tow trailers due to constrained parking.

The keynote speaker is U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Mitch Johnson, the North Dakota National Guard adjutant general.

Governor Kelly Armstrong, Senator John Hoeven, and Senator Kevin Cramer are also scheduled to render remarks.

The emcee is retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Shelly Sizer. Sizer retired from the North Dakota Army National Guard as the command chief warrant officer and served in the military for 40 years. She also was appointed as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army in 2021 and held that position until the program ended in 2025.

The North Dakota Army National Guard's Fargo-based 188th Army Band's "Cover Down" Brass Quintet will perform "How Great Thou Art" as well as pre-ceremony music. Also participating in the ceremony are local Veteran and civic organizations.

The national anthem will be performed by U.S. Army Sgt. Ben Helfrich and U.S. Army Sgt. Natalie Helfrich, both with the 188th Army Band, Taps performed by Colton Friesz, and the Dakota Leathernecks will render a rifle-salute volley.

The North Dakota National Guard Military Funeral Honors

Team will execute a 21-gun cannon salute with a World War I-era French 75-millimeter cannon. Father Dustin Johns of Ascension Catholic Church will provide the opening and closing prayers.

In support of this ceremony, the Viet Nam Vets/Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club will organize a motorcycle Honor Run at "The Shop" (131 Airport Road) in Bismarck. Participants will leave Bismarck at 11 a.m., head west on Main Street, and cross the Liberty Memorial Bridge to Mandan's Memorial Highway. After turning west on Mandan's 3rd Street SE, the motorcyclists will head south on North Dakota Highway 1806 until they reach the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. All motorcyclists and passengers are invited to participate, and no pre-coordination is required. Please arrive on your motorcycle between 10 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Bus transportation will be available for the public to and from the ceremony.

Mandan: Family Fare Supermarket parking lot, 500 Burlington Street, SE. A 30-passenger bus, donated by Nightlife Limousine. Bus will arrive at 9:15 a.m. and depart at 10:15 a.m.

In honor of Memorial Day, Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park will host a Military Appreciation Day by offering free admission and tours to military members, Veterans, and their families. This state park is located adjacent to the Veterans cemetery. For additional information about Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, please call 701-667-6340.

The ceremony will also be live streamed at ndguard.nd.gov through the North Dakota National Guard YouTube page. The event can also be found on Facebook.

The North Dakota Veterans Cemetery was established by an act of the 1989 North Dakota Legislative Assembly. The cemetery was opened in July 1992 and is operated by the Office of the North Dakota adjutant general.

## Card of Thanks

Thank you to the Pursuit Church for the beautiful bouquet of flowers I won on Mother's Day. Also, thank you for the delicious breakfast we had.

God Bless you all,  
Debbie Alvstad

## NDFU Welcomes U.S. House Passage Of Year-Round E15

North Dakota Farmers Union President Matt Perdue said the recent passage of year-round E15 legislation in the U.S. House is a win for family farmers. "We've been on the 1-yard line for years, trying to get this common-sense legislation passed. Growing domestic demand for renewable fuels is not only important for agriculture, it's important for America's energy security and for consumers, who will pay lower prices at the pump."

The Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act of 2025 will allow year-round E15 (gasoline with 15 percent ethanol). Current law limits its summertime use due to outdated volatility standards. For the past five years, EPA has issued summertime E15 waivers.

Perdue said the legislation also reforms Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) exemptions for small oil re-

fineries, which have lowered the overall production of ethanol and other renewable fuels. By law, the RFS requires oil refiners to blend specific volumes of renewable fuels into the U.S. fuel supply. The Act will limit exemptions to companies and their affiliates that produce less than 75,000 barrels of oil per day.

While retailers would not be required to sell E15, the expected increase in ethanol demand could require an additional 2.4 billion bushels of corn annually.

"This legislation provides market certainty for farmers, retailers, ethanol producers and consumers," said Perdue. "We can use what we produce here at home to grow renewable fuels markets, expand use of higher-level blends of ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel. It's time now for the Senate to pick up the ball and get it over the line."

## Constitutional Initiative Related To Funding Of School Lunches Approved For Ballot

North Dakota Secretary of State Michael Howe has reviewed petitions submitted to his office on April 9, 2026, by proponents to initiate a constitutional measure on the ballot related to funding of school lunches. A total of 49,338 signatures were accepted, 18,174 signatures over the required threshold of 31,164 signatures, which qualifies the initiated measure for inclusion on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot.

Below is a breakdown of the signatures accepted and rejected:

- Required Signatures: 31,164 signatures (4 percent of state population in the last census for an initiated constitutional measure)
- Submitted Signatures: 57,419 signatures
- Rejected Signatures: 8,081 signatures (due to incorrect or insufficient information)
  - o Insufficient information breakdown:
    - 1,837 inadequate signature
    - 1,950 out-of-state address or missing both city and zip code
    - 243 no date
    - 0 notary error
    - 553 circulator error
    - 3,603 address omission

The constitutional measure related to funding of school lunches will appear on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot and be assigned as Measure 3 according to the provisions of N.D.C.C. § 16.1-06 09. The Office of the Secretary of State had thirty-five days to review petitions and determine the adequacy of signatures to place the measure on ballot according to N.D.C.C. § 16.1-01-10.

The 2026 General Election ballot will also contain two additional ballot measures. Constitutional Measure 1 related to term limits in the legislative assembly was placed on the ballot through the passage of

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4008. Constitutional Measure 2 related to the threshold for approving a constitutional amendment was placed on the ballot through the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 3003.

The constitutional initiative title related to funding of school lunches is as follows:

This initiated measure amendment would add a new section to article VIII of the North Dakota Constitution. Under this section, all public school districts, public schools, and public charter schools are mandated to provide one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day to enrolled students; nonpublic schools, the Bureau of Indian Education schools, and other tribal schools have the option to provide the same. This section does not apply to schools of higher education. School districts and schools that provide these meals are eligible for reimbursement by the state if they maximize federal reimbursement, participate in applicable federal programs for school breakfast and lunch funding, and encourage parents and guardians to apply for free and reduced-price meals. The state shall reimburse eligible school districts and schools at one hundred percent of the current rates used by the state for free meals. This reimbursement is mandatory and shall be adjusted annually for inflation. If the legislative assembly is unable to identify a source of funds for the reimbursement, funds will be appropriated from the legacy earnings fund. Laws may be enacted to facilitate, safeguard, expand, or implement this section but not to hamper, restrict, or impair it. In the case of any conflict between provisions of this section and North Dakota law, the provisions of this section shall control.

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 ATTORNEY AT LAW  
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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING- MOBILE FOOD PERMIT**  
 Take notice that Emmanuel Villa has applied for a Mobile Food Permit to allow a mobile food unit at 911 4th Street SW (Sonshine Car Wash LLC property).  
 The public is hereby notified that the Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission will hear comments on **Monday June 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota.** The Stanley City Council will then hear comments on **Tuesday, June 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota.**  
 All persons who would object to the mobile food unit should be present at the meetings or submit any objection in writing before the date of the meetings to Amanda Dennis, Planning & Zoning Administrator, PO Box 249 Stanley, ND 58784.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - REZONE REQUEST**  
 Take notice that the Mitchell Fitzgerald has made a request to the Stanley Planning & Zoning Commission to change the use of the property from C- Commercial District to R1 Single Family Detached District.  
 The property is located at 8403 62nd Street NW and is described as: Sublot A of Outlot 4  
 The public is hereby notified that the Stanley Planning and Zoning Commission will hear comments on the proposed zoning change on **Monday, June 8, 2026, at 5:35 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota.** The Stanley City Council will then hear comments on **Monday, June 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at 221 S. Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota.**  
 All persons who would object to the proposed zoning change should be present at the meetings or submit any objections in writing before the date of the meetings to Amanda Dennis, Planning & Zoning Administrator, PO Box 249 Stanley, ND 58784.  
 Amanda Dennis, Stanley Planning & Zoning Administrator

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