

Honor Flight
Fundraiser Held Benefit
Page 3



State Qualified
Raiders Track and Field
Page 12

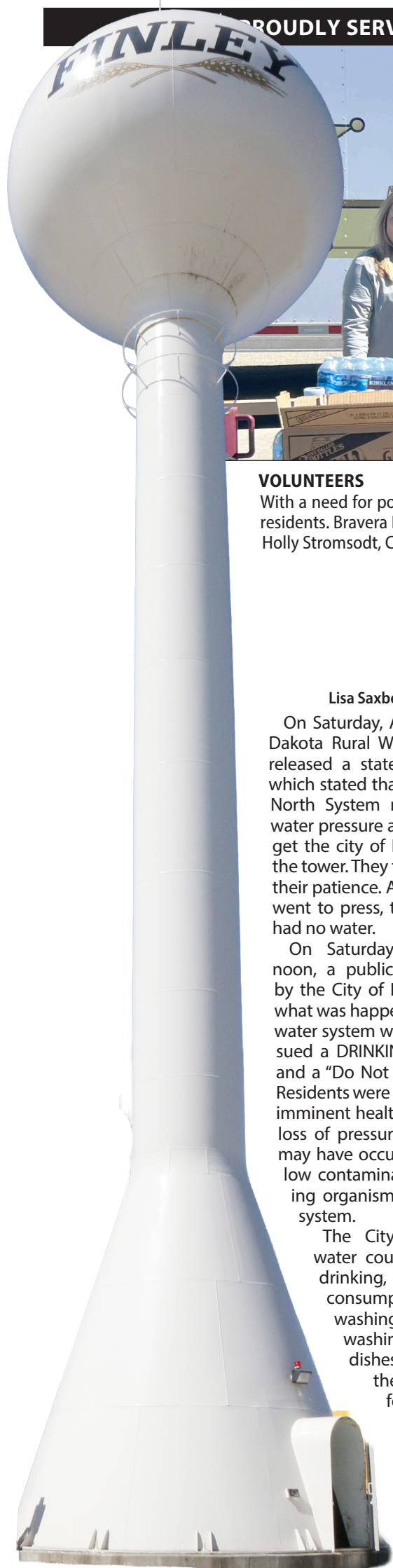


12 PAGES
FRIDAY
APRIL 24, 2026
NUMBER 17
VOLUME 127
\$1.00

Steele County | Press

Established in 1897

PROUDLY SERVING FINLEY, HOPE, LUVERNE, SHARON AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES



VOLUNTEERS

With a need for potable water in the city of Finley, volunteers filled shifts to distribute water to residents. Bravera Bank was one organization that volunteered to help. Pictured (l-r): Lisa Braun, Holly Stromsodt, Chad Aberle, Courtney Nygaard and Jill Anderson. (photo/Laurie Tuite)

Water Woes

City of Finley without water

Lisa Saxberg | Reporter

On Saturday, April 18, at 7:31 a.m., Dakota Rural Water District (DRWD) released a statement on Facebook, which stated that Dakota Rural Water North System may experience low water pressure as they were trying to get the city of Finley pressure to fill the tower. They thanked everyone for their patience. At the time this article went to press, the city of Finley still had no water.

On Saturday, April 18, around noon, a public notice was posted by the City of Finley that explained what was happening in regard to the water system within the city. They issued a DRINKING WATER WARNING and a "Do Not Use Water Advisory". Residents were informed of potential imminent health risks caused by the loss of pressure and backflow that may have occurred, which could allow contaminants or disease-causing organisms to enter the water system.

The City stressed that the water could NOT be used for drinking, cooking, any form of consumption, given to pets, washing laundry, bathing, washing hands, or washing dishes. The only thing that the water could be used for was the flushing of toilets. They also stressed not boiling the water for use, as the high temperatures would

not destroy the contaminants, and some of them may become concentrated or more dangerous if boiled.

The advisory was to remain in effect until the system is flushed, and when water samples indicate that the water is safe for use once more. Residents were asked to share this information.

Shortly after noon on Saturday, it was announced that the City had worked with Town and Country Co-Op in Finley to get cases of bottled water to residents in need, with one case per family available. As of 4:30 p.m., they had distributed over 100 cases of water.

On Sunday, April 19, Steele County Emergency Management set up a water distribution to take place from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Finley Fire Hall. That notice stated that the city had been without potable water since Friday afternoon due to the suspected leak in a water main. Officials from the City of Finley and Steele County were meeting with Dakota Rural Water District and other agencies Sunday morning for an update on the situation.

Also on Sunday, around noon, a plea went out - asking residents to keep faucets shut off and not to flush any toilets. Some homes may have had little streams of water, but they need the water off in homes to allow time to test the lines. In addition to the water distribution at the Fire Hall, there was another one scheduled from 5-7 p.m. at the Town and Country parking lot. During the evening distribution, they said there would also be some basic paper products available. Later that day, they reached out again on Facebook, asking people not to use any water for any purposes, as they needed to get the lines to pressurize.

On Sunday night, the City announced that the water distribution schedule would remain the same for the midday and evening shifts. They said that they were working with the Salvation Army to get a hot meal in the town. Earlier that



HOSPITALITY, TOURISM AND RECREATION - LEVEL 3
Qualified for nationals - (l-r): Emersen Knott, Kennedy Jacobsen and Gabi Satrom. (photo/Hope-Page FCCLA)

Thirteen Hope-Page FCCLA students qualify for National STAR Events

Jacobsen elected to state office

The 2026 State FCCLA Conference was held at the Bismarck Events Center on April 12-14. The 22 Hope-Page students who attended participated in leadership sessions, listened to keynote speakers, and presented their projects. Thirteen students qualified to bring their project to the national level, including: Bella

Shropshire, Madison Hannesson, Norah Thompson, Faith Viale, Ruby Dorrheim, Shelby Overland, Bridger Knott, Micah Thompson, Sam Thompson, Sophie Thompson, Emersen Knott, Gabi Satrom and Kennedy Jacobsen.

Below are the results from

FCCLA on Page 8 ►

Serr to represent N.D. as Junior Miss Agriculture USA

12-year-old Kiana Serr will represent North Dakota as the 2026 North Dakota Junior Miss Agriculture USA.

Serr said that watching her father farm the land and being an active 4-H member with rabbits and chickens has sparked her passion for agriculture and a desire to share its importance with others.

"In 2025, I was named 2nd Runner-Up for Miss Junior National Agriculture USA, and now in 2026, I am proud to serve as North Dakota's Junior Miss Agriculture USA

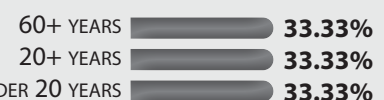


Kiana Serr. (photo/submitted)

Junior Miss Agriculture on Page 2 ►

ONLINE COMMUNITY POLL

How many years have you lived in Steele County



*Polling conducted through the Steele County Press page on Facebook.

Water Woes on Page 10 ►