

# THE LEADER-NEWS

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LEADER-NEWS | PHAIDRA YUNKER

Wilton's percussion ensemble brings Escape from Pirate Cove to life during the Region VII Solo and Ensemble Music Festival on April 10, a piece that had hearts pumping with its swashbuckling rhythms. Left to right: Hazel Martin, Brooklyn Steinert, Matthew Quinn, Carter Cleveland, Stella Rust, Taylor Roehrich, Carter Geiger, Augustus Perkerewicz, Kendra Keplin, Avery Usselman, Gracie Schonerter and Jedidiah Wald. The ensemble earned a Star rating and will advance to the state festival.

## Lasting melodies

Students shine at Region VII festival

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER  
REPORTER

By mid-morning on April 10, the parking lot at Washburn High School was overflowing. Parents, grandparents and community members streamed through the doors, forming lines in the hallways as they waited for a chance to squeeze into classrooms where young musicians performed for judges. In the lunchroom, students crowded around tables, grabbing food between performances.

It was Region VII's annual Solo and Ensemble Music



The Washburn Saxophone Ensemble, (from left) Elizabeth Neumiller, Lily Gardner, Aubrianna Feist, Gabe Rohrich, Kortney Verke, Addisyn Vaagene, Bre Laning, Donnie Vetter, Axton Meadows and Abel Obering, brings toe-tapping energy to their piece "Fair and Warm" during the Region VII Solo and Ensemble Music Festival.

Festival, and for coordinator Randy Hall, the bustling scene was exactly what he hopes for each year.

"We call them festivals because it's not a contest," Hall said. "We're unlike any other event, and we have one shot at going to state unlike any other activity."

"The students aren't going up against other towns or even other people," he added. "It's all individual. It's about doing your best."

Hall has managed Region VII's music festivals for more than 20 years. He be-

gan teaching music at Washburn High School in 1996 and retired eight years ago, though he still substitutes often. Organizing the festival, he said, is a year long effort.

"I have to start planning right when school starts," he said. "March and April are festival time, so I have to book judges early. It takes a lot of time. It takes a ton of people."

This year's festival drew about 240 entries and

Music cont. on 8

## Wilton commission adopts updated ordinances

Floodplain and government organization updates approved March 18

BY KELLI AMELING  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The Wilton City Commission approved multiple ordinance updates, authorized bond payments and addressed resident concerns during its regular meeting on March 18.

President LeeAnn DomonoskeKellar called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Commissioners Jim Tooke, Lisa Hedstrom, Bernell Hedstrom and Mike Schmit were present. Several members of the public also attended.

### Public comment and discussion

During the public comment period, Ron Hochhalter addressed the commission regarding the amount of sand being used on city roads. The city engineer was present and discussed settling issues related to street patches from a previous improvement project.

### Ordinance updates approved

Commissioners approved the second reading and final passage of updates to the city's Floodplain Ordinance, aligning it with the North Dakota Century Code.

Final approval was also given to updated ordinances un-

Wilton cont. on 3

## Washburn City Commission approves Heritage Heights lot sale

Commission hears development concerns, approves purchases and infrastructure updates

BY KELLI AMELING  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The Washburn City Commission addressed development questions, approved a land sale and handled a variety of city business during its regular meeting held March 9 at City Hall.

Commission President Mark Lem called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Commissioners Brandon Lazier, Jamie Weber, Keith Hapip and Sharla Kosloski were present.

Commissioners approved the meeting agenda and the consent agenda.

Public comment and development discussion

During public comment, resident Mike Herdt shared concerns regarding vacant lots in the Heritage Heights area, particularly how special assessments might be handled if the city proceeds with development. He also raised concerns about drainage issues and a storm sewer that he said functions like a speed bump.

City officials acknowledged the concerns, which tied into later discussion about land use and infrastructure.

Appointments and land action

The commission approved the appointment of Jericho Swanson to the city's For-

Washburn cont. on 2



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**Bobbi Jo Krueger**  
701-463-2270  
bkrueger@nodakins.net