

Borderland BRIEFS

American Legion to host America 250 hot dog feed

The American Legion Post 98 in Langdon will host an America 250 Hot Dog Feed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, leading up to Langdon's Pre-Blast Bash festivities. The event will feature hot dogs and a freewill offering. The community is invited to stop by the legion building for lunch and help celebrate America's 250th birthday.

UND to offer real estate degree this fall

The University of North Dakota will launch a new real estate degree program this fall in response to growing demand for coursework in the field. In addition to buying and selling property, the curriculum will cover finance and networking strategies. UND officials say the university will be the only institution in North Dakota and Minnesota to offer a degree in real estate.

UTMA warns customers about scam email

United and Turtle Mountain Communications is warning customers about a scam email recently sent to some recipients. The fraudulent message uses urgent language such as "last chance" and "respond within 24 hours" and includes an altered company logo and an unofficial email address. Customers are advised to disregard the message and contact UTMA with any questions or concerns.

North Dakota gas prices drop 10 cents over past week

North Dakota motorists are seeing some relief at the pump. As of June 22, the average price of gasoline in

the state had fallen 10 cents over the previous week, according to GasBuddy.com. Drivers are paying an average of about \$3.70 per gallon, which is 48 cents lower than a month ago but 78 cents higher than at the same time in 2025. In Canada, the average price stood at 153 cents per liter.

Region 3 residents asked to weigh in on grocery access

Strengthen ND and community partners are seeking public input on ways to improve grocery access in Region 3, which includes Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette and Towner counties. One option under consideration is Prairie Provisions, a mobile grocery store and pickup service designed to provide easier access to fresh produce, meat and dairy while reducing travel time for residents. An online survey is open through the end of the June and takes about 8 to 10 minutes to complete. Participants will be entered into a drawing for a \$250 gift card. A link to the survey is available on Strengthen ND's Facebook page and website.

Allegiant suspends Grand Forks flights to Las Vegas, Phoenix

Allegiant Air has suspended several routes across the country for the summer, including its flights from Grand Forks to Las Vegas and Phoenix. The seasonal suspensions affect service at Grand Forks International Airport, with both routes expected to resume this fall.

WWII soldier returns home to northeast North Dakota

A funeral procession of dozens of vehicles and nearly 200 motorcycles es-

corted Staff Sgt. Irvin Ellingson back to northeast North Dakota on Thursday, June 18. Ellingson, who died during the final months of World War II, was honored with a homecoming service in Dahlen on June 19. A second funeral procession from Grand Forks to Dahlen took place on Saturday, June 20.

Park River woman faces multiple charges following alleged assault

A 44-year-old Park River woman is facing multiple felony charges after an alleged assault and disturbance early Monday, June 22. According to court records, Andrea Lynn Sluke allegedly assaulted a man, took his pocket knife and threatened to kill a second person who was hiding nearby. Authorities say Sluke later became combative at a hospital, kicking and striking two deputies after partially slipping out of handcuffs. She is charged with assault, terrorizing and preventing arrest, along with a misdemeanor count of simple assault. Her initial court appearance is scheduled for June 29.

Volunteers needed for Frost Fire's Come From Away

Frost Fire Summer Theatre is seeking more than 40 volunteers to help with its upcoming production of Come From Away at the Walla Theater in Walhalla. Positions include golf cart drivers, meal hosts, concession workers and ushers. Volunteers will be scheduled for two performances over three days each week and will receive a complimentary ticket to the show. Those assisting at Frost Fire Lodge will also be provided a meal. Those interested in volunteering can contact Frost Fire at 701-549-3600.

Missouri River is best source of water for nuclear energy in North Dakota, regulator says

By Jacob Orledge, North Dakota Monitor



Jayson Needham, a 12-year-old from Pembina interested in nuclear energy, testifies to the interim Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee on June 16, 2026. (Photo by Jacob Orledge/North Dakota Monitor)

A nuclear reactor in North Dakota could require as much water as a coal power plant, and the regulator responsible for managing the state's water resources says the Missouri River is the best available source.

Reice Haase, director of the North Dakota Department of Water Resources, said the state uses less than a spoonful of the gallon of water that is the Missouri River as a water resource. The river is a far better option as a water source than groundwater if a nuclear reactor is built in North Dakota, he said.

"By far, the Missouri River is our greatest resource for surface water in North Dakota," Haase said.

The Missouri River is not a resource available to North Dakota exclusively. It originates in Montana. Downstream of North Dakota, the river flows through or borders South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

Haase said his department has had extensive discussions about Missouri River water use with the state's neighbors and the state of Missouri. Only the latter has disagreed with North Dakota's approach to water use, Haase said.

"I will say that the state of Missouri disagrees with us on our water use," Haase said. "Our message to the other states is, once again, our use of water in North Dakota is responsible." The remarks were made during a presentation to the interim Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee, a hybrid legislative committee composed of legislators, executive branch officials and private sector representatives.

The committee is studying the feasibility of using nuclear energy to generate electricity in the state and what obstacles may exist. Its focus has been on small modular reactors, smaller than the nuclear power plants that have typically been built.

There are 98 small modular reactors

under development around the world, said Will Bridge, chief operating officer of Nucon Energy. Those reactors involve different designs based on various technologies and the industry has thus far not reached a consensus on which is preferred.

"It really is a race to commercialization, a race to affordability," Bridge said.

While the economic feasibility of these nuclear reactors is still years away, legislators and regulators are working together to determine if North Dakota could handle such a project.

Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, representing the Public Service Commission on the committee, said her agency would have authority to oversee the siting process of a nuclear power plant, but only within certain boundaries defined by state law.

"The PSC's authority under the act is regulatory in nature. It is focused on where and how facilities are sited, but it does not extend to prohibiting construction outright or determining whether a facility is economically needed," Haugen-Hoffart said.

She said they would not have any jurisdiction over nuclear power co-located with an existing power plant or industrial site that has already received regulatory certification from the Public Service Commission.

Haugen-Hoffart was not advocating for or against nuclear power. But she told the committee concerns that need to be addressed before nuclear development begins include a process to ensure there is a way to decommission the facility and a long-term storage site established for nu-

clear waste that does not currently exist in the United States.

"Until this part of the problem is resolved, any nuclear facility risks unknown and uncapped costs for storing the spent fuel onsite, whether the plant is operational or not," Haugen-Hoffart said.

Nuclear energy has caught the attention of at least one member of North Dakota's next generation. Jayson Needham, a 12-year-old resident of Pembina, presented to committee members.

He explained how a nuclear reactor generates electricity by boiling water into steam, warned legislators of the risks associated with a nuclear power plant, and briefed the policy makers on what led to the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, north of Kiev, Ukraine, in 1986.

He first began researching nuclear power a few years ago in fourth grade when he came across a YouTube video on Chernobyl. Needham has since been learning about other nuclear incidents, including the accident in Fukushima, Japan, in 2011 as a result of an earthquake and subsequent tsunami, as well as the 1979 partial meltdown at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

"Chernobyl was actually what, like, caused me to go into everything nuclear," Needham said. "Then it was Fukushima, and then Three Mile Island."

North Dakota Monitor reporter Jacob Orledge can be reached at jorledge@northdakotamonitor.com.

Finalists named for Board of Higher Education vacancies

BISMARCK — Gov. Kelly Armstrong will have six finalists to consider for two vacancies on the North Dakota Board of Higher Education. The board's nominating committee voted June 16 to forward three names for each vacancy.

Finalists for the seat currently held by Danita Bye, whose term expires June 30, are Retha Mattern, Anna Nelson and Joshua Deere.

Finalists for the seat currently held by Kevin Black of Minot are Kevin Black, Nadine Butts and Brenten Seaks.

Armstrong's appointments will succeed Bye, of Stanley, and Black - both of whom are completing four-year

terms. The new members will begin serving immediately upon appointment but must later be confirmed by the North Dakota Senate to continue serving.

The nominating committee consists of Superintendent of Public Instruction Levi Bachmeier; North Dakota Education Association President Nick Archuleta; Supreme Court Chief Justice Lisa Fair McEvers; Senate President Pro Tempore Kyle Davison, R-Fargo; and House Speaker Robin Weisz, R-Hurdsfield.

The Board of Higher Education oversees and sets policy for the 11 institutions within the North Dakota University System.

Langdon City Commission sees shift in leadership, empty commission seat to be filled by appointment

By Sarah Hinnenkamp

The Langdon City Commission officially welcomed new leadership during Monday night's meeting as several elected officials took the oath of office.

Current commissioner Lawrence Henry was sworn in as commission president, while Cody Schlittenhard and Charles "Chuck" Downs began new terms as commissioners. The three were elected during the city election held in conjunction with the primary election on Tuesday, June 9.

Henry ran unopposed for the commission president position. Previous commission president Jerry Nowatzki did not seek another term. He served eight years. Henry previously served as a city commissioner, including vice president, before moving into the president role, leaving an open seat on the commission.

"I think we should put it out to the public," Henry said. "I've had three calls on it."

The commission is not required to advertise the opening, but members agreed inviting interested residents to apply was the best approach.

Langdon residents interested in serving on the city commission are encouraged to contact RoxAnne Hennager at Langdon City Hall to express their interest. Call 256-2155. Interested individuals will be invited to attend the Monday, July 20, commission meeting at 6 p.m. to explain to the commission why they would like to serve. The commission will appoint one person to fill the vacant seat.

Commissioners will determine work portfolios after the empty seat has been filled.

During Monday's meeting, Commissioner Darin Kaercher nominated Downs to serve as vice president of the commission. Downs accepted the position.



Commissioner Cody Schlittenhard is sworn in to his new term by city attorney Quentin Wenzel while Lawrence Henry and Charles Downs look on. Henry (president) and Downs (commissioner) also took their oaths of office at Monday's commission meeting. Borderland Press photo

Also during the meeting, Tom Beauchamp, Langdon sanitation supervisor, provided an update on the city's recent clean-up week. Beauchamp thanked Jason Busse and the city water department, as well as Brent Benoit and the city street department, for their assistance and said the event was a success.

"It's definitely the most we've picked up since we've started going curbside," Beauchamp told commissioners. "Also, the amount that was brought out to the transfer station was a lot, too - a lot of waste."

"I do think that's something the residents appreciate us doing," Hennager said.

Under new business, commissioners approved two fireworks permits: one for Music Fest and another for Lafrenz Fireworks.

In a statement to The Borderland Press, the city expressed thanks to Jerry Nowatzki for his eight years of service as commission president, also known as Mayor of Langdon.

The BORDERLAND PRESS

The Borderland Press is published weekly by The Borderland Press Inc., 1403 Third Street, Langdon, ND 58249. Periodicals postage paid at Langdon, N.D.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Borderland Press, P.O. Box 230, Langdon, ND 58249

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NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

The official newspaper of the Langdon Area School District, Munich Public School District, North Border School District, and St. Alphonsus School.

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Open House

Tuesday, June 30, 2026
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Polar Headquarters - South Garage
110 4th Street E | Park River, ND

Please join us as we celebrate the retirement of CEO, **Karl Blake**, and extend a welcome to incoming CEO, **Tim Olson**.



We invite colleagues, partners, and community members to stop by, share memories, and help us mark this meaningful transition.



Karl Blake



Tim Olson