

Regional Roundup

Ray Works Toward Land Deal

The Ray city commission and school board held a combined meeting Jan. 15 to discuss a potential joint powers land agreement as they pursue a new community center and sports facilities on the west side of town.

Commission President Troy Kupper said he has received feedback in commission meetings that “there is nothing to do in the community.”

“Some brainstorming got going, and the philosophy of ‘think big’ got out there,” he added. “And so what we came up with is: Is it possible to do that and work together to jointly work for the purpose of coming together for the youth of our community and school district?”

Among the ideas the city and school have for the land are a football field, running track, baseball field, outdoor pool and community center.

--The Journal, Crosby

Williams OKs Wind Farm

The Williams County Commission has narrowly approved a permit for a proposed wind farm in the northwestern part of the county.

The Homestead Wind project has secured about 25,000 acres of leased land through agreements with 37 landowners in seven townships.

Its planned capacity could generate enough electricity to power up to 104,000 homes, according to senior development manager Matt Eberl.

The permit passed 3-2, with the commissioners in favor citing support for property rights. “If you can get someone to pay you money for the fact that the wind blows, more power to you,” Commissioner Barry Ramberg said.

Beau Anderson said the project needed more review, and Chris Walstad called wind turbines “a visual blight on our North Dakota prairies.”

--Williston Herald

Small Towns Await Asphalt

The McKenzie County Road and Bridge Department is embarking on improvements for three communities in the county in 2026.

The unincorporated communities of Grassy Butte and Keene will see new asphalt streets to complement their towns, while Arnegard and points north will see an improved roadway there.

Grassy Butte has pavement currently, but it is in disrepair, and there are additional needs for asphalt surface for parking after community input was received at a recent meeting.

Keene has always had mostly gravel streets, but that will change with this work as Main Street and First Avenue receive pavement, with street-side parking areas also included.

In Arnegard, 133rd Avenue Northwest will receive about 3 miles of additional pavement.

--McKenzie County Farmer, Watford City

\$1.1M for Bowman Fire Hall

The Bowman Fire Department got a \$1.1 million boost in its plans to move to a new location.

The Bowman County Commission on Jan. 6 unanimously passed a \$1.1 million allocation toward the proposed project and voted to sign a letter of support for the project that the department can use in grant applications.

The current facility has limited parking, both for the members and for the fire vehicles, said Darren Limesand, the fire department treasurer, several weeks earlier at a previous meeting.

“We are virtually outgrowing the fire hall,” Limesand said. “Here, we have trucks behind trucks. We are very much restricted.”

He explained, prior to the commission’s vote, that the fire department was about \$600,000 short of the estimated \$2.3 million project cost.

--Bowman County Pioneer

Obituary

Karla Jones

Sept. 13, 1971 - Jan. 23, 2026

Karla Jones, 54, of Tolley, ND, passed away Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at Trinity Hospital, Minot.

Karla Mae Jones was born September 13, 1971, the daughter of Herman “Gene” and Theresa (Bachmeier) Jones in Kenmare. She was raised and educated in Flaxton until moving



to Lignite where she graduated from Burke Central High School in 1991.

She was once married to Dayna Johnson and they were blessed with one son, Brandon on January 6, 1995. Brandon passed away January 16, 1995.

Karla met Rocky Ackerman in 2002, and they shared 24 years together. Karla liked to spend time gathering with friends and family. She had a love for her cats; they brought her joy and companionship.

Karla will always be remembered for her outgoing personality, and she will be deeply missed by everyone who loved her.

Her loving family includes: loving partner, Rocky; sisters, Deby (Conrad) Ellis, Mona

Legislature

NEWS



Representative
Donald Longmuir
District 2

The 2026 Special Session of the North Dakota Legislature began on Wednesday, Jan. 21 and adjourned on Friday, Jan. 23. The purpose of the special session was to address the requirements for the Rural Health Transformation Program which is part of the “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OB BB) passed by the U.S. Congress earlier this year.

Under the OB BB, States were encouraged to submit a plan on how the State could improve the quality of health care to rural areas.

The North Dakota Health & Human Services Department (NDH&HS) submitted an application and was successful in obtaining a \$199 million grant each year for the next five years. The Legislature was called into special session to address four issues that needed to be addressed and a bill to authorize the ND Department of Health & Human Services to spend the grant funds.

SB2401 established a requirement that a physician renewing his license to practice medicine in North Dakota must include a one-hour course on nutrition.

SB2402 increases the prescriptive authority of pharmacists.

HB1621 requires schools to participate the Presidential Physical Fitness Test.

HB1622 has North Dakota becoming part of the physical assistant licensure compact.

HB1623 is the bill that appropriates \$397,873,940 for the first two years of the program.

The reason for containing two years of appropriates is because then second year of the grant will begin before the next regularly scheduled Legislative session.

This program will greatly enhance the medical service availability in rural North Dakota and will be especially beneficial for District 2.

There are currently three critical care hospitals and a number of ambulance services in District 2 that will be eligible for these funds. These funds can be used for equipment, training and other medical necessities.

The NDH&HS will have applications available upon receipt of final approval of their application from the Federal Government.

Although the special session was called for the specific purpose of addressing and meeting the requirements of the Rural Health Transformation, Legislative Council decided to allow six bills and one resolution to be introduced.

SB2403 was introduced to provide a bridge loan to a small rural critical care hospital that was in imminent danger of closing due to financial difficulties. The bill had a public hearing, and the appropriations heard from the community on how the hospital got into

(Monty) Lawson; brothers, Walt (Mary Benson) Jones, Roger (Kirsten) Jones, Bill (Jodi Greig) Jones; sister-in-law, Karen Bachmeier; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gene and Theresa Jones; son, Brandon; brothers, Leroy Bachmeier, Mark Jones; and great-niece, Rae Lynn Driesbaugh.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held in the summer of 2026.

Those wishing to sign the online register and share memories may access the online obituaries section at (www.thompsonlarson.com).

(Thompson-Larson Funeral Home, Minot)

this situation and what was the long-term plan to rectify the problems. The Committee recommended passage of this bill, and the House and Senate agreed.

Two bills were introduced regarding funding of the school lunch program. HB1624 proposed the funding of breakfast and lunch for all public-school students. The bill passed in the House but failed in the Senate.

HB1627 was providing an increase in the amount of money to fund meals for low to moderate income students. This bill failed in the House.

HB1625 involved an issue in Grand Forks where the North Dakota Department of Transportation was acquiring land from the University of North Dakota, part of the Ray Richards Golf Course, for road improvement purposes. This bill was recommended by the Committee and was passed by the House and Senate.

HB1626 was a technical correction bill regarding the calculation of the payment of personal property taxes by the State. The Committee recommended passage, and the House and Senate followed the recommendation.

The last issue covered by the House and Senate was a resolution recognizing the 175th Anniversary of the Young Men’s Christian Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you during this special legislative session.

Coming Events

MEETINGS
Mighty Grapplers Annual Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Kenmare High School, following the dual, about 8:30 p.m.

Crimson Cruiser Red Hats: Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1:00 p.m. at Gathering Grounds in Kenmare.

SERVICES
Powers Lake Food Pantry: open third Tuesday of the month, 1:00-3:00 p.m., basement of Legion Hall, 201 1st Ave. W.

Bowbells Public Library open Tuesdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Society of St. Stephen Food Pantry: open Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m., 10 Washington Ave, Bowbells.

Children’s Clothing Pantry: open Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bowbells.

Movie Review

Charlie the Wonder Dog

A young and timid boy, Danny, imagines a wonderful world in which he and his cherished dog, Charlie, star in their own superhero adventures.

When Charlie is mysteriously abducted by aliens, he is gifted true super powers and emerges as Charlie Wonderdog, the greatest and most famous superhero dog the world has ever seen. He is beloved by all except for Puddy, the evil cat next door. With the fate of humanity hanging in the balance, Danny and Charlie must go above and beyond to thwart Puddy’s diabolical plans.

This animation, comedy and family film is rated PG for action, some rude humor and language. The film is 1 hour and 35 minutes.

Charlie the Wonder Dog is playing at the Kenmare Theatre Jan. 30 & 31 and Feb. 1. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 7:00 and 9:15 p.m. and Sunday at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.

It Happened To...

Area residents are among the 1237 students named to the 2025 Fall Semester Dean’s List at the University of Mary, in Bismarck. To qualify for the honor, traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.50 or better grade point average while carrying at least 12 credit hours.

Students enrolled in the UMary Online program must earn a 3.50 or better grade point average while at a full-time adult learner status.

Named to the list were **Emily Grote** of Battleview and **Mashae Miller** of Kenmare.

Seventeen North Dakotans completed yearslong apprenticeships – requiring thousands of hours of on-the-job training – in the electric trades. They join more than 800 people who have graduated from the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperative’s (NDAREC) apprenticeship programs over the past 56 years. Graduates were recognized at a Jan. 15 awards ceremony at the NDAREC Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference in Mandan.

Journeyman lineworker completed apprenticeship in 2025: **Duncan Marquart**, Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative; Journeyman meter technician completed apprenticeships in 2025: **Kyle Helmers**, Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative.

Diontrea Anderson of Kenmare; **Kyra Bakken** of Lignite; **Jaden Bullinger**, **Brooke Feiring**, **Aliza Schroeder** and **Ben Streifel** of Powers Lake; **Luke Crosby** and **Jayden Parkinson** of Bowbells earned a place on the North Dakota State University fall 2025 dean’s list. Students must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify. For the semester, 4,349 students made the list.

Congratulations to the North Dakota State University students who received one of 817 degrees awarded in fall 2025.

The graduates included **Annika Christensen** of Kenmare, MS Soil Science.

SUDOKU

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| | 4 | | | 8 | | | | |
| 6 | 2 | | 5 | | | | | |
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| | | | | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| | | | 4 | 7 | | | 1 | |

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 1 |

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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