

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*

SUDOKU

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

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!

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!

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

ANSWER:

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, Debby (Conrad) Ellis, Mona

(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)

Movie Review

Charlie the Wonder Dog

A young and timid boy, Danny, imagines a wonderous 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.

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