

## Regional Roundup Oil Production Below Target

North Dakota oil production in December 2025 fell below the state's tax revenue targets for the first time in three years. The state's oil production for the month averaged 1.12 million barrels per day, down over 6% from 1.19 million per day in November, the Department of Mineral Resources reported Feb. 23.

At 1.12 million barrels per day, December production was 2.46% below the "revenue forecast" of 1.15 million per day, the benchmark used in the state budget forecast to project tax revenues. Mineral Resources Director Nathan Anderson attributed the production drop to the weather.

"Largely due to the winter-related cold snap that we had," said Anderson, who also noted that the average North Dakota market oil price in December was down to \$50.95 a barrel.

--The Journal, Crosby

## \$7M for Behavioral Health

On Feb. 20, state Rep. Dave Richter introduced a CHI St. Alexius Williston Medical Center bill to the strikes of a hammer, beginning the hospital's construction of a behavioral health unit.

The regional shortage of behavioral health care had been well-documented, and Richter played a hefty role in lobbying for the funding at the state level for this new resource.

The nine-bed behavioral health unit will be located in a space CHI had been using for storage. It is a \$7 million project, with portions of the funding coming from Williams County and from the state, officials said. The unit is scheduled to be ready for use by the end of the year.

CHI first announced plans to reopen the Williston behavioral health unit in late 2023. The unit had closed in 2010 after losing its provider.

--Williston Herald

## US 85 Widening 'Important'

The rhythm of life in the Bakken carries the never ending hum of big trucks and 18-wheelers against the backdrop of fluctuating crude oil prices. Now the score for that composition is changing with the expansion of U.S. Highway 85.

McKenzie County Commissioner Howdy Lawlar has seen the discussions evolve from pipe dreams into construction zones, and he's particularly energized about the current phase.

The state Transportation Department recently awarded two major contracts totaling \$155 million, backed by federal grants, to widen another 17.5 miles of the highway to four lanes, between the Long X Bridge and state Highway 200.

"Our traffic is a little different," Lawlar said. "We do a lot of 18-wheelers, and I feel that stretch there is just important."

--McKenzie County Farmer, Watford City

## Mercer Mulls Data Centers

While there is still no formal application process for companies to apply to construct data centers in Mercer County, the county government took its first official steps to prepare for the possibility during recent board meetings.

At a Mercer County Planning and Zoning Board meeting Feb. 11, the board unanimously approved recommending three chapters of the county's existing ordinance book be amended to include references to data centers.

In Chapter 3, which lists authorized industrial district conditional uses, data centers were added to the existing industries on the list.

A week later, the county commission approved the board's recommendation and accepted a proposal from SRF Consulting to assist with developing a permitting process for data centers.

--Hazen Star

## Obituaries DeLette Winkelman

April 25, 1935- Feb. 18, 2026

DeLette (Berg) Winkelman was born April 25, 1935, the eldest child of Ruby (Wangrud) and Elmer "Bud" Berg at the Hospital in Marion, ND. She attended first grade at Rosebud Rural School, and grades 2-8 at Clark City Rural School, 10 miles north of Marion. She graduated valedictorian of the class of 1952 from Marion High School. She attended Valley City State Teachers College the 1952-53 school year, taught at Skandia Rural School 1953-54 and at Svea Consolidated School 1954-55, both near Litchville. She attended summer school each summer to get her two-year certificate, and finished her BA degree with a minor in Special Education at Moorhead State University in 1966. While living in Bismarck, DeLette taught 5th grade at Rita Murphy and Jeanette Myhre Schools.



DeLette married her high school sweetheart, Norman E. Winkelman on June 3, 1955, at First Lutheran Church in Valley City, with Rev. Marvin Scherbenske, pastor at the Marion Evangelical United Brethren Church, officiating. DeLette taught first grade at Lisle, IL, 1955-56 while Norman finished his seminary training in Naperville, IL, May 1957. Together they served the following churches, all in North Dakota, beginning at Evangelical United Brethren Churches of Bowbells-Coteau (1957-61) and Fargo Edgewood (1961-68); and United Methodist Churches of Bismarck Calvary (1968-79), Wahpeton-Great Bend (1979-87), and Jamestown St. Paul's (1987-95). They then retired and, in retirement, served at Enderlin-Sheldon UM Churches (six months of 1997) and Montpelier Lutheran Church (1997-2006).

The Winkelmans were one of the families at the first Trail Ride Family Camp that was started by members of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The annual camp was first held in the Medora area in 1967. In 1969, the camp relocated to the Little Missouri State Park near Killdeer where it continues to this day. They were also camp counselors for many years at United Method-

ist summer youth camps in North Dakota.

DeLette was elected to the General Board of Global Ministries and was a director on Women's Division of the United Methodist Women from 1992-2000. She attended ten-day meetings twice a year in New York City each of those years and served on many committees in various capacities.

After retirement in 1995, they lived in their townhouse in Jamestown until residing in Heritage Centre Assisted Living. In 2022, DeLette moved to Sheyenne Crossing in West Fargo.

DeLette is survived by her sons, Brent (Janice) Winkelman, Bismarck and Mark (Sue) Winkelman, Fargo; daughter, Darcy (Chris) Beaver, Fifty Lakes, MN; 8 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; sister, Shirley Boom, Hillsboro; brother, Roger (Eileen) Berg, Azle, TX; many nieces and nephews; brother-in-law, John (Karen) Winkelman, Minneapolis, MN; and sister-in-law, Teresa Scheaffer, Sheldon, IA.

She was preceded in death by her parents; step-father, Justin Strand; in-laws, Norman A. "Pat" and Erlene Winkelman; sister, Olga Mae Epling; brothers and sister-in-law, Robert Boom, Patricia (Wilfred) Weight, and Larry Epling;

nieces, Dawn Epling Garner and Diane Weight Dreis; nephew, Micheal Weight; and great granddaughter, Hannah Jane Kramer.

Norman was taken by COVID on Nov. 6, 2020. Since family and friends could not safely gather at that time, a Celebration of Life for both Norman & DeLette will be held at 11:00 a.m. on May 2, 2026 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Jamestown. Arrangements are being handled through Eddy Funeral Home, Jamestown. Lunch will be served after the service, followed by a graveside service to bury DeLette's ashes at Lakeview Cemetery, Marion. The Celebration of Life and graveside service will be officiated by Pastor Jennifer McDonald, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Jamestown.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make a contribution in memory of Rev. Norman E. & DeLette Winkelman to Dakotas United Methodist Camps (<https://www.dakotasumc.org/camping/donate>), Trail Ride Family Camp (C/O Kristi Grounds, 1709 7th Ave NE, Jamestown, ND 58401), or Lakeview Cemetery (c/o Kris Piehl, Treasurer, 9339 56th Street SE, Marion, ND 58466).

Eddy Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## George Bauer

April 14, 1933- March 2, 2026

George John Bauer, 92, of Kenmare, ND, passed away on Monday, March 2, 2026, at St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck, ND.

George was born on April



14, 1933, to Anton and Mary Ellen Bauer and was the oldest of three children. He attended country school until the 8th grade and graduated from Kenmare High School in 1951. Shortly after, he headed to Seattle, WA for welding school, then worked there in the shipyards as a welder. He later returned to the Kenmare/Bowbells area where he lived the rest of his life.

George married Violet Nygaard of Flaxton, on June 27, 1964. Together they raised four children; Dennis, Donna, Bonnie and Nancy.

George farmed with his father near Bowbells for many years.

After retiring, George's son, Dennis took over the farm. During the late 1960's and 1970's, George designed and manufactured drill hitches and transports.

George served on the Kenmare school board, and was also active with the St. Agnes Catholic Church, where he served on the church council.

He and his wife wintered in Arizona for almost 25 years where he picked up woodworking and oil painting as hobbies.

George is survived by his wife of 61 years, Violet; daughters, Donna Bauer, Bonnie (Ken) Herman, Nancy Bauer;

grandchildren, Shane Herman and Shelby Herman; sisters, Alyce (Gerald) Huber and Mary Ann Seitz.

Preceded in death by his parents, Anton and Mary Ellen; son, Dennis Bauer; brothers-in-law, Larry Seitz and Leonard (Bernice) Nygaard; sisters-in-law, Joyce (Art) Kostad and Bertha (Floyd) Nelson.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, March 9 at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Kenmare. Graveside Service was at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, Bowbells.

(Thompson-Larson Funeral Home, Kenmare)

## PSC Schedules Public Hearings for Proposed Transmission Line Projects

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold two public hearings regarding a proposal to construct two transmission lines that will run from Northwest North Dakota to the Canadian border.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is requesting siting permits for the construction of two separate 230-kV transmission lines. The first line would be approximately 53 miles long and would be located in Divide and Williams Counties. It would originate at the Wheelock substation near Ray and end at the Canadian border near Crosby.

Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SaskPower) will continue the construction of the transmission line from the international border to a substation near Estevan, Saskatchewan. The estimated cost of the project is \$81 million.

The second proposed line would be approximately 58 miles long and would be located in Burke, Divide and

Mountrail Counties. It would start at the Tande Substation near Tioga and would end at the Canadian border near Crosby.

SaskPower will continue the construction of the transmission line from the international border to a substation near Estevan, Saskatchewan. The estimated cost of the project is \$97 million.

These projects were identified by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) to address deficiencies in the transmission capability between the United States and Canada based on the request for additional transmission service from SaskPower. (Note to the media: A map showing the proposed locations of the transmission lines has been provided to you for use with any announcements/stories you print.)

Note: these cases have been consolidated so both transmission lines will be addressed at both hearings.

Details for the public hear-

ings are as follows:

- Tuesday, March 17 – 10 a.m., Divide County Courthouse, 200 North Main, Crosby

- Friday, March 20 – 10 a.m. Ray Auditorium, 215 Main St.

The hearings provide an opportunity for members of the public to contribute to the PSC's official record. Any comments from members of the public must be received at a hearing to be part of the record. People with concerns, questions or support/opposition for the project are encouraged to attend a hearing and present their information. Information received after the hearings will not be part of the official record and cannot be used as a basis for the Commission's decision unless certain additional procedures are followed.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or [www.psc.nd.gov](http://www.psc.nd.gov).

## Area Brief Harvest for Hunger Benefit March 25

The annual CHS Sun-Prairie Harvest for Hunger Benefit is set for Wednesday, March 25 at the Bowbells City Hall. Build-a-Burger buffet runs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and silent auction, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

All proceeds benefit local food pantries.

## Coming Events

### MEETING

**Bowbells Park District:** Wednesday, March 11, 5:00 p.m., Bowbells Public School.

### 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.

# News Tip?

377-2626

## Classified Ads GET RESULTS

## SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

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