

IN KEVIN'S WORDS

The book I can never finish



Kevin Holten

Do you like to read? I do. I read a lot. And I always have a book waiting in the wings for when I finish the one I am currently reading.

I sneak a chapter in here and there during the day when I can't wait to learn what happens next. But most of my reading is in bed at night.

Last night I got to bed a little late and woke up at 4:30 a.m. with both the light and my glasses still on. When that happens, the first thing I do is check to see if my bookmark is in its proper place. Because, when it comes to reading, it's no fun to have to back-track.

I love books. So much so that when I donate my collection to a local library they'll have to build onto the place.

Of course, when I buy a book, I finish it no matter what. It's a little bit like the retail shopping rule, "if you break it, you buy it". In my case it's "if you buy it, you finish it".

But there's one book I'll never finish. It's called the Bible. And it's not because I can't read it all. It's because it becomes a different book every time I reach a new stage in life.

In many ways the Bible is like a conversa-

notice responsibility. When you're caring for aging parents, you may notice compassion. And when you've experienced loss, you may notice hope.

The words never change. We do.

There are other things that are fascinating about the Bible too. For example, the Bible was written over roughly 1,500 years by dozens of authors. Jesus never wrote a book. And Moses never entered the Promised Land.

Also, the Bible contains more than 1,000 commands. But Jesus boiled everything down to two things; loving God and loving your neighbor. And the shortest verse is

"Jesus wept". Believe it or not too, even the Bible is sometimes misquoted. For example, the Bible never says money is the root of all evil. It says that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. The Bible never says cleanliness is next to godliness. And the Bible never says God helps those who help themselves. Although I do believe he expects us to take the first step of faith.

But the older I get, the more I see that the Bible shows me something else, too. The Bible is filled with imperfect people, like me.

Abraham doubted. Moses argued. David failed spectacularly. Job questioned. Peter denied. Thomas doubted. Yet God kept working through them all and more. It's filled with people who sound like they are just like us.

The Bible is all about God's pursuit of us and our search for God. It begins in a garden and ends in a city, spans thousands of years, and somehow still reaches into our lives today. And no matter how many times we open it, we discover something we never noticed before.

So, the older I get, the more I realize that the Bible is a book I'll never finish. Because it's a book that somehow keeps meeting me where I am.



tion that changes. And it's not because God changes. It's because we do. Fact is, you could almost call it magic. Because the same verse can mean one thing when you're twenty and something entirely different when you're seventy.

When you're young, you may read about courage. When you're raising kids, you may

FFA

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

from the Milk Quality competition on 326 points, Tessa Wannier earned a bronze ribbon and scored 296 points in Small Animal Care with Elise Fugere also scoring points for team Belfield.

For South Heart, Ayla Gieseke and Kailee Tescher earned 21st and 35th place for Ag Communications, Brantley Leatherwood scored 220 points and was 30th in Basic Ag Mechanics, Ian Brodhead earned a bronze ribbon on 327 points for Dairy Cattle Evaluation with his teammates Jack Binstock and William Schoch also earning points at 296 and 275, respectively, Brody Wallace earned 136 points for Environmental and Natural Resources, Rowan Young and Kailee Tescher took home silver ribbons on 604 and 562 points for Floriculture with Gieseke also earning points, Rowan Young earned a silver with 148 points and Will Zarak took bronze with 134 points in Food Science, Zarak also was 14th with a silver ribbon on 221 points in Intermediate Ag Mechanics, Ian Brodhead earned a silver ribbon with 537 points in Meats



Evaluation, Sarah Kostelecky won silver for Milk Quality with 308 points while Dane Robinson earned bronze with 212 as Will and Isabella Schoch also scored points in the event, Brody Wallace scored 155 points in Nursery Landscape, and Madi Reisenauer and Isabella Schoch both scored points in

Small Animal Care for the Eagles. For more information about Belfield Public School and South Heart Public School, and all their activities, please keep reading the Billings County Pioneer and/or visit their websites at www.belfield.k12.nd.us or www.southheart.k12.nd.us.

Taylor Schmitt
PHOTOGRAPHY
701-516-7209
taylorschmittphotography1@gmail.com
Sports • Seniors • Events • Families • Couples • Real Estate • Concerts • and more!
f t i

USPS - 056-180
P.O. Box 156
Beach, ND 58621
701-872-3755 • bcp@gspublishing.net
Billings County
PIONEER
Official Newspaper for the City of Medora.
Official Newspaper for Belfield and Billings County School Districts.
Official Newspaper for Billings County, ND.
Jill M. Friesz..... Publisher
Gaylon Parker..... Reporter
The Billings County Pioneer is published each Thursday at GS Publishing, LLC, 22 Central Ave. Suite 4, Beach, ND 58621. Periodicals postage is paid at Beach, ND and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to: Billings County Pioneer • P.O. Box 156, Beach, ND 58621
In Billings County\$50.00
All other subscriptions\$60.00
E-edition\$40.00
Proud members of the North Dakota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association.
NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

NDCF
NORTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
50 Years
1976 - 2026
GIVE where your **LIVES**
Contact us if you have questions about giving back. We have 50 years of experience in philanthropy and offer a variety of giving tools, including donor-advised funds.
www.NDCF.net | 701-222-8349

Dickinson Area Public Library
Bookmobile
will be suspending service to
Medora from
June 22nd to July 10th.

Call 701-456-7828 with questions.

SEAMLESS GUTTERS
GUTTER GUARD ELITE
CALL 701-990-1407

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN ADD A DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR JUST \$5 PER YEAR!

25887

ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

of the
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
AUTHORITY
United States Fidelity And Guaranty Comp
In the state of CT

Total Assets	4472595781
Total Liabilities	3421687163
Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	2234614
Common Capital Stock	35214075
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and Contributed Surplus	236805261
Unassigned Funds (surplus)	776654667
Total Capital and Surplus	1050908617
Total Liabilities, Capital And Surplus	4472595780

NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025

Total Direct Premiums	5535
Total Direct Losses	-63166
Incurred	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Incurred	0
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses	0
Incurred	0

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

I, Jon Godfread, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Abstract of Statement, as officially filed by the Company in this office.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of this office at Bismarck, the first day of March, A.D. 2026 (SEAL).

JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF

WHEREAS, the above corporation duly organized under the laws of its state or country of domicile, has filed in this office a sworn statement exhibiting its condition and business for the year ending December 31, 2025 conformable to the requirements of the laws of this State regarding the business of insurance and

WHEREAS, the said company has filed in this office a duly certified copy of its charter with certificate of organization in compliance with the requirements of insurance law aforesaid,

NOW THEREFORE, I, JON GODFREAD, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named company is fully empowered through its authorized agents and representatives, to transact its appropriated business of authorized insurance in the state according to the laws thereof, until the 30th day of April, A.D. 2027.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Bismarck this first day of March, A.D., 2026 (SEAL).

JON GODFREAD
Commissioner of Insurance

Published June 11, 18 & 25, 2026