

'ELECTION' CON'T PAGE FROM 1

In District 1, Andrew Cull received 245 out of 261 votes cast. In District 3, Darrin Otto received 319 out of 325 votes cast, and in District 5, Blaine Pappenfuss received 260 out of 266 votes cast.

Several Ballot measures were voted on during Tuesday's primary election.

Statewide, Constitutional Measure No. 1 passed 66.43 percent to 33.57 percent. That measure allows just one subject for State Constitution amendments.

In Pembina County, voters decided 76 to 51 to approve a supplemental 1 percent sales and use tax.

Also in Pembina, a measure to allow residents to raise chickens within the city limits was narrowly defeated, with 65 voting no and 62 voting in favor.

In Walhalla, a measure dealing with property tax exemptions for new or expanding retail businesses passed, 138 to 60. Voters in Walhalla also voted 155-47 to raise city sales tax by up to 1% for the purpose of funding the city's share of the swimming pool project.

In Walsh County, voters in Minto approved a half-cent sales tax increase with 87 voters saying "Yes" and 44 saying "No".

Results of local races, including those for Mayor, City Council, Municipal Judge and ballot measures will become official once the results are certified on June 22, 13 days after the election.

'MISS ND' CON'T FROM PAGE 1

titleholders who served as mentors and role models.

"I wouldn't be where I am right now if it weren't for that small little pageant," Emerson said. "I'm incredibly grateful for it."

While her title has opened doors across the state, Emerson said homeschooling has helped make many of those opportunities possible.

"I am homeschooled, so that makes me very flexible to go across the state any day I'd like, and I can do school on the long car rides," she said.

Emerson also hopes to use her platform to challenge misconceptions about homeschooling.

"I get the chance to share what my homeschool experience is like and bring more awareness to homeschooling," she said. "I get to show them that I'm not the stereotype of a homeschool kid."

She said she hopes her accomplishments both in pageantry and in her community demonstrate that homeschool students can be active, involved and successful.

Preparing for the state competition required dedication and discipline. Emerson said she spent nearly two hours each day practicing, even while balancing friendships, work at her family's food truck, school, sports and other commitments.

"I knew this was something I wanted to do," she said. "I knew I wanted to be that representative for North Dakota."

One of the biggest challenges came from an unexpected source, her evening gown.

"The night of preliminaries I

tripped on it," Emerson said with a laugh. "The dress was so long and I had six-inch heels on. It was very hard to walk in."

Despite the setback, she adjusted and delivered a smooth performance during finals.

Among her favorite memories from the weekend was celebrating alongside fellow contestants and seeing her fellow titleholders crowned.

"My favorite moment was getting to see all my sister queens get crowned," she said. "We all bonded through that experience."

Emerson credits much of her success to her mother and pageant coach, who helped her prepare for competition and navigate the challenges along the way.

"My mom helped me so much," Emerson said. "She helped me stay calm and reminded me to take deep breaths in those stressful moments."

Her mother has also spent countless hours driving Audrey to activities and competitions across the region.

Growing up in a small community has shaped Emerson's outlook and determination.

"If you want to do something, you really have to go pursue it," she said. "I wanted to pursue being Miss North Dakota's Teen USA, so I worked really hard and I went out and achieved that goal."

She hopes her story encourages other young people from rural communities to chase their dreams.

"I think everybody needs to know that they can achieve their dreams," Emerson said. "They just have to work hard and pursue them."

As Miss North Dakota's Teen USA, Emerson will spend the next

year making appearances across the state while preparing for the national competition. She will also continue promoting her community service initiative, Morgan's Light, an organization focused on educating young people about healthy and unhealthy relationships.

After experiencing a toxic relationship herself, Emerson said she felt called to help others recognize warning signs and build healthier relationships.

"I go into classrooms and teach what a healthy relationship looks like and what a toxic relationship looks like," she said.

Emerson also hopes to use her title to shine a spotlight on rural North Dakota.

"I really want to show that we've got something special here," she said. "I want to get out into more rural communities and bring more awareness to them."

Throughout the summer, Emerson is scheduled to appear at SummerFest in Grafton, the Cavalier Motorcycle Ride-In,

Deuce of August in Mountain, the Kittson County Fair and the dedication ceremony for Pembina Gorge State Park. She is also available to perform the National Anthem at community events.

In August, she will travel to Miami to compete for the national title. The competition will be televised.

For young girls considering pageants or other activities, Emerson has a simple message:

"Go out and do it," she said. "Pageantry has changed my life in such a meaningful way. It helped me learn public speaking, interviewing and confidence. I encourage young girls to get involved, pursue their dreams and be active in their communities."

Residents can follow Emerson's journey throughout her year as Miss North Dakota Teen USA on Facebook at Miss North Dakota Teen USA and on Instagram at @missndteenusa.

From a county fair stage to the national spotlight, Emerson's journey is proof that big dreams can start in small towns.

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ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 of the Allianz Life Insurance Company of New York in the state of ND. Total Assets: 557,019. Total Liabilities: 80,395,747.6. North Dakota Business Only for the year 2025: Total Life and Annuity Premiums Written: 71,381,968.

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