



The winners are pictured in no particular order: Lucy Steele, Brinna Berg, Lola Lagein, Raya Jensen, Liza Steele, Blake Klein, Charles Elston, Harrison Lawrence, Jacoby Allery, Oliver Lesko and Peter Newman. Courtesy photo.

Steele sisters move on to Knights of Columbus state free throw contest

The local Knights of Columbus councils hosted their Regional Free Throw Contest in Valley City at the Hi-Liner Activity Center on March 22, 2026. Girls and boys ages 9-14 competed to advance to the state competition. Lucy Steele, Liza Steele and Raya Jensen went on to win their division in the state competition.

McKay pleads guilty to assaults, voluntary manslaughter; sentencing July 22

United States Attorney Nicholas W. Chase announced on Thursday, April 2 that Kolby Jae McKay, also known as Kolby Woods, age 33, from Fort Totten, N.D., appeared in United States District Court for the District of North Dakota and pled guilty before Chief Judge Peter D. Welte to charges of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault of a Spouse, Intimate Partner or Dating Partner by Strangulation and Voluntary Manslaughter. McKay is detained pending sentencing, set for

July 22, 2026.

McKay's guilty pleas were entered in two separate cases. McKay pled guilty to Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Assault of a Spouse, Intimate Partner or Dating Partner by Strangulation related to an incident on March 13, 2024. McKay became upset with a woman, identified in the case as "Jane Doe," with whom he was in a dating relationship. McKay grabbed a knife and held it to Jane Doe's neck. Jane Doe pushed the knife away and McKay strangled Jane

Doe by placing his hands tightly around Jane Doe's neck until she almost lost consciousness.

McKay also pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter as a result of an incident a few weeks later. McKay killed Monte Ray Herman Sr. on April 3, 2024.

Both incidents occurred on the Spirit Lake Reservation.

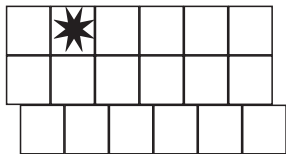
McKay fled after killing Herman and was at large for several days, prompting the Spirit Lake Tribal Council to issue a community curfew and offer a reward for infor-

mation leading to McKay's whereabouts.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Federal Bureau of Investigation with assistance from the Benson and Eddy County Sheriff's Department, North Dakota Highway Patrol, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Lake Region Narcotics Task Force, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Samantha Schmidt and Lori Conroy.

Sheyenne

by Patti Clifton



On April 2, Greg and Cindy Hegland and Patti Clifton stopped in Carington for noon lunch on their way to Jamestown. In Jamestown, Patti kept a medical appointment.

Sheyenne sends condolences to Kim and Dave Brown and family, Mary and Jim Langley and family and the entire family of Duane Nelson whose funeral was at the St. Michael's Catholic Church on Monday.

Sheyenne City Council met on April 6. Fritz Wetzel and Sharon Whitmer attended to ask if rodeo club could do some cleanup between the rodeo grounds and ball diamond at Hendrickson Park, and also to smooth out rough areas to improve walking ability and parking at events. July 4 and August 15 are rodeo and stampe dates for 2026. Joanna Lar-

son thanked the council for their work getting water and sewer re-hooked up to the Sinclair Station and gave a brief overview of the grocery store plan. The tax equalization meeting for Sheyenne will be Monday, April 20 at 6 p.m. at Ostby Hall.

Sandra Larson worked from home Monday morning after Easter, then she and Jasper Zarkower drove back to Minneapolis in the afternoon. The roads were clear and dry which was great after the slushy drive to Sheyenne on Good Friday.

Friends and neighbors from Sheyenne and New Rockford attended the bridal shower for bride-to-be Hannah Haley on Sunday at St. John's Catholic Church parish hall in New Rockford. Hannah and Bo Belquist will be married on June 20 in Grand Forks.

There was an awesome turnout for the soup and sandwich fundraiser at Open Season Lodge and Event Center on Sunday. The delicious homemade soup, sandwich and bars. Meat was prepared and served by lodge board members Karen Rieger, Renae and Averie Alfstad, Tara Hanson and Jess Birkeland, with help from other community members. The much-appreciated free-will donations will go toward ongoing operations and furnace maintenance. Having the former school building for events, lodging and open gym, and operated by volunteers is a statement to the amazing community we live in.

Glenn and July Cudworth celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on April 10. Arthur and Diane Yri from Hawaii organized a small family get-together at the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd coffee shop. Gary and Kathy Anderson, David and Karen Anderson, Doug Cudworth and Patti Larson joined them for supper.

Patti Larson stopped to visit Rhoda Stenberg at Heritage House in New Rockford on Sunday afternoon.

Jan Loe enjoyed the soup and sandwich fundraiser at the Open Season Lodge and Event Center at noon on Sunday.

The CenDak Cooperative annual meeting and supper was held at the Maddock Community Center on April 7.

Dianne Hanson called bingo for Sheyenne GRIT on April 11. Bob Hanson and Patti Larson sold cards and Michelle Gilley served lunch. The Sheyenne Fire Department hosted on April 18 at 7 p.m., with blackout \$175 in 57 numbers.

LaRhae Dodds, Karen Birkeland and Patti Larson finished one quilt top, laid out two others and sorted and organized some of the donated supplies at Community Quilting on Wednesday. The next quilting get-together will be the first Wednesday in May, 1 p.m., at Grace Lutheran parish hall.

701 Rundown

by Leasa A. Lura

The counties and cities within the state of North Dakota hold many interesting news stories. Here are just a few of the feature stories that others are reading in communities around the state.

Woman is found in search

A Bottineau woman went missing, but was found safe after the Bottineau County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) emergency response teams and the community came together to assist in finding the missing person.

On Friday, April 3, a call went out to assist in finding Karen Frazer, 85, who was reported missing. Frazer was last seen at her apartment near 7th Street and Sinclair around 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. the evening before. It was reported by the sheriff's office that Frazer might have dementia and may be confused.

Along with the BCSO, the Bottineau Fire Department and EMS started to look for her that morning. In the early afternoon, the BCSO placed an emergency response call to all residents to assist in the search, which brought people out to search for her.

According to a relative of Frazer, she was found inside a small, unheated trailer sleeping. She was taken to SMP-Health St. Andrew's where she was checked over and observed and was then discharged to a family member. (Story taken from the Bottineau Courant)

The strategic mind of "Skippy"

In the world of high-stakes testing, most students see the ACT as a hurdle to clear. But for Watford City senior Everett McRae-Lorenz, it was more like a favorite sport.

Everett, known since birth by the nickname "Skippy," recently received a letter that would blow most high schoolers away - he is a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Award, placing him among the top 6,000 students in the nation.

To put that in perspective, out of roughly 1.38 million students who take the test annually, only about 1% reach that elite 35-36 tier.

"I was totally blown away," Skippy said. "I figured I'd do okay. I love taking tests, but I did not expect anywhere close to a 35."

According to the program's website, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is a prestigious scholarship that recognizes high-achieving high school seniors. It started in 1964 and each year, only a select few students from across the U.S. are recognized as Presidential Scholars. The program is invite-only based on academic credentials, test scores and student achievement and requires a letter of recommendation from an advisor or teacher.

Eighty-two students across North Dakota have made the first cut and have been invited to pursue this honor. To advance in the process, candidates must submit various items, including essays, self-assessments, academic reports and transcripts. The field will be trimmed in the coming weeks and eventually two students from each state will be chosen as Presidential Scholars. All honorees will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C. and are presented with a medallion at a special ceremony sponsored by the White House.

(Story by Steve Hallstrom, the McKenzie County Farmer)

New community biking trail coming to Watford City

A new recreational trail project is coming to Watford City as Save the Maah Daah Hey partners with Watford City Parks & Recreation to construct more than two miles of new single-track trail near McKenzie County Athletic Park on the city's south side. The project was recently announced in a post to Save the Maah Daah Hey's Facebook page.

The trail, funded through a Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant and overseen by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, will create a new outdoor recreation opportunity for residents and visitors alike. Construction is expected to begin this spring.

Once complete, the trail will serve as the "Gateway Trail" for new mountain bikers in Watford City, offering an accessible entry point for riders interested in exploring the sport and the region's growing trail system. The trail will also be available for other "human-powered" uses including walking, hiking and running.

(Story taken from the McKenzie County Farmer)

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