

BUCCANEER BUZZ

Students learn about fossils

By Gavin Farstveet

Lincoln Elementary had the opportunity to bring in Jesse Sexton, Director of Retail and Education for the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Service, to speak to the 4-6 grade students about fossil formation. The students participated in various activities centered around dinosaurs and fossils that are found in this area.

The National Park



Photo | Jessie Schmeling

DEVIN THILMONY carefully chips away at his fossil to find out what is inside.

Service has a Jr. Paleontology Program (for parks that are fossil-rich) and, according to Sexton, "The Fossil Explorer Program is our complement to that program, using park specific materials adapted by the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association (TRNHA) staff."

The purpose of the activity is to investigate geology, paleontology, and how they relate to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

At Lincoln Elementary, Sexton talked about geology and demonstrated how fossils form. In his presentation, he talked about geology and paleontology. The students worked in groups to determine what happens when a fossil is found in a National Park.

To demonstrate how fossils form, Sexton used a turtle and buried it in a plastic cup. He used this method to teach the students what mineralization is and

how fossils form with pressure. After the presentation, the students had to place the events of how fossils form into a timeline to understand the progression of fossil formation.

As a fun activity, Sexton gave the students mini fossils to dig out themselves. Inside each one was a little surprise which they had to identify. The commercial was a marine fossil from a commercial kit. The students really enjoyed this activity with most of them saying it was their favorite one.

Sexton conducts the TRNHA's outreach and educational programming. As the director of retail and education, he sets up educational programs for all ages. This presentation is a program that he hosts regularly at the park throughout the summer. To set up the activity, he reached out to some of the teachers at Lincoln Elementary about presenting.



Photo | Jessie Schmeling

DANICA KOSMO, LAYLA PADILLA AND MYLA THOMPSON begin digging out their mini fossil with tools provided by presenter Jesse Sexton.

All of the students had very positive outlooks on the event. Sexton said that the students seemed engaged and that the activities went well.

We interviewed the 5th and 6th grade students and here is what they thought. The

students really liked the fossil digging activity since it was interactive and they got to keep what was inside. Cruz Peoples said that it was his favorite activity and he got a shark tooth. Ryer Thomson dug out a clam in his fossil, and said that if he could be

any dinosaur, he would be a raptor since he could jump on people and run fast.

The event was a huge success. The students all agreed that the school should do more events like this in the future.

COZY MYSTERIES

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both of these men were featured. They were in a car accident... both of them survived," Cook said. "Two weeks later, I'm writing both of their obituaries. They died a day apart and I'm going, 'Oh, that sounds like a good story.'"

Keeping in theme with using acronyms to subtly reference real places and people, many character's names in the book series are inspired by Cook's friends and former co-workers. In addition to working at the newspaper office, she also worked at the Chateau de Mores in Medora. She'd take a notebook with her to

work and write in her downtime, which caught the attention of her co-workers. Soon, they started to ask Cook if they could be in the book.

One day, while working at the newspaper office, a woman came in to renew her subscription. Cook and her got to chatting and Cook told her about the stories she was working on, which at the time were just handwritten in her notebook. The woman told her that her husband is a writer and is self-published on Amazon. She put Cook in touch with her husband and eventually, her first

book, "Fifty Years Ago Today," was published in 2012.

Now, there are four books in the Sophie's Bluff series. Cook enjoys going to book signings at the Golden Valley County Library and at Trapper's Kettle in Belfield. As she describes it, the books are "cozy mystery" and she does not go too in-depth when it comes to the more sensitive aspects of it.

"If I say someone got stabbed, strangled or shot, that's as far as I go," Cook said. "And I don't swear so... what I put in is, 'he let out a string of profanities' and that's it. I'll let the readers decide what

kind of words to put in there."

The "Secrets of Sophie's Bluff" books can be found on Amazon and in Buzzy Cafe and the Golden Valley County Library in Beach.

"I don't make a lot of money with it, but for me, it's just as much fun having them [the readers] really like my stories so much that they want to know when the next one is coming up," Cook said with a smile. "I've heard there's about two or three ladies here that they'll buy my book, they'll read it in a day or two and then they come back to me and say, 'when's the next one coming?'"

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

The City of Beach Did Not Meet Monitoring/Reporting Requirements for Chlorine/Chloramine Residuals

The City of Beach is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Records show that the City of Beach did not collect/report the required number of chlorine/chloramine residual samples that were to be taken at the same time and location as total coliform samples for October - December 2025; and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

There is nothing you need to do at this time; however, as our customer you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The City of Beach regrets that this error in meeting monitoring/reporting requirements of the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule occurred. It is recognized that a complete monitoring program is of great value in making certain that safe drinking water is provided to all consumers. Steps have been taken to ensure that adequate monitoring/reporting will be performed in the future.

For more information, please contact: Kimberly Gaugler at 701-872-4103 or Randy Dietz at 701-872-6122.

(Published Feb. 5, 2026)

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Notice to Contractors

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDOT) will receive bids for the construction of the following project(s):

Job No.: 24792
Project No(s.):
HES-5-999(038)
Length: 0
Type: PAVEMENT MARKING
County(s): GOLDEN VALLEY, ADAMS, BILLINGS, BOWMAN, DUNN, HETTINGER, MCKENZIE, MERCER, SLOPE, & STARK Cos
Location: VARIOUS US/STATE HIGHWAYS - DICKINSON DISTRICT

Bids will be received via the Bid Express on-line bidding exchange at www.bidx.com until 9:30 a.m., February 27, 2026. Bids will be opened at that time at the NDDOT building on the capitol grounds in Bismarck and the bid results will be distributed and posted online at <https://www.dot.nd.gov/business/bidinfo.htm> approximately 30 minutes after bids are opened.

The proposal forms, plans, and specifications are available on the NDDOT website at <http://www.dot.nd.gov> and may be inspected at the Construction Services Division, 608 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota.

All bidders not currently prequalified with NDDOT must submit an online Contractor's Prequalification request to the Department at least ten (10) business days prior to the bid opening. The online application can be found on the NDDOT website at <https://www.dot.nd.gov/business/contractors.htm>.

NDDOT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, waive technicalities, or to accept such as may be determined in the best interests of the state.

For disability/language assistance, call 701-328-2978.

Requested by:
Ronald J. Henke, P.E.,
Director, North Dakota
Department of Transportation
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CALL FOR CHEMICAL BIDS

The Golden Valley County Weed Board is calling for bids on the following chemicals and surfactants, in normal usage size containers, quart, 1 gallon, 2-1/2 gallon, or 30 gallon in brand name or generic label:

- 24D Amine
- Escort
- Tordon 22K
- Makaze
- Milestone
- Plateau
- Spreader 90
- Polaris
- Freelexx
- Method 240 SL
- Liberate Surfactant
- Methylated Seed Oil (MSO)
- Hi-Light Dye packets
- HighNoon
- Induce (Non Ionic Surfactant)

Bids may be submitted to:

GV County Weed Board
PO Box 605
Beach, ND 58621

If there are questions call Mark Egan at 701-300-3143.

Bids must be submitted by February 27, 2026

Title VI assures that no person or group of persons may, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any and all programs or activities administered by Golden Valley County. Any person or group(s) of person who feel they have been discriminated against may file a complaint. All inquiries should be directed to Pete Wirtfeld, Title VI Coordinator, Golden Valley County, 16843 Old Highway 10, PO Box 67, Beach, ND 58621, 701-872-4123.