

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO A CONDITIONAL USE FOR COAL EXCAVATION AND MINING WITHIN THE MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICT

ZONING CASE NO. 26-01-02

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mercer County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Thursday evening January 15, 2026 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Central Time, at the Mercer County Courthouse in Stanton. The Coteau Properties Company has made application to the Mercer County Planning and Zoning Commission for an Amendment to Conditional Use Approval 02-12-01 for coal excavation and mining. This amendment will add an additional tract of land to Conditional Use Case 02-12-01. The location and site under consideration for such use is:

A tract of land being the West 1/2 of Section 1 & 12, a Portion of Section 2 & 11, T144N, R89W, of the 5th P.M., and the East 1/2 of Section 32, T145N, R88W, of the 5th P.M., Mercer County, North Dakota.

All bearings and distances are based on the North Dakota State Plane Coordinate System, South Zone, NAD 27.

Beginning at the south 1/4 corner of Section 12, T144N, R89W; thence bearing N 88°56'46" W a distance of 2638.17 feet to the southeast corner of Section 11, T144N, R89W; thence bearing N 89°23'42" W a distance of 2638.36 feet to the south 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing N 89°23'42" W a distance of 416.40 feet thence bearing N 00°36'18" E a distance of 290.00 feet thence bearing N 89°23'42" W a distance of 636.96 feet thence bearing S 00°36'18" W a distance of 290.00 feet thence bearing N 89°23'42" W a distance of 1585.00 feet to the southwest corner of said Section; thence bearing N 00°55'51" E a distance of 2640.77 feet to the west 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing N 00°55'51" E a distance of 2640.77 feet to the northwest corner of said Section; thence bearing S 89°15'35" E a distance of 659.09 feet to the west-west 1/64 corner of Section 2, T144N, R89W; thence bearing N 00°51'28" E a distance of 658.22 feet to the southwest-southwest 1/64 corner of said Section; thence bearing N 89°15'55" W a distance of 659.18 feet to the south-south 1/64 corner of said Section; thence bearing N 00°51'01" E a distance of 1974.46 feet

to the west 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing N 00°51'00" E a distance of 2676.71 feet to the northwest corner of said Section; thence bearing S 88°58'35" E a distance of 1229.24 feet to the southwest corner of Section 32, T145N, R88W; thence bearing S 88°59'04" E a distance of 2637.85 feet to the south 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing N 01°00'12" E a distance of 2641.36 feet to the center 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing N 01°00'12" E a distance of 2640.04 feet to the north 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing S 89°00'06" E a distance of 2633.59 feet to the northeast corner of said Section; thence bearing S 00°57'50" W a distance of 2640.83 feet to the east 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing S 00°57'01" W a distance of 2641.00 feet to the southeast corner of said Section; thence bearing S 81°01'45" E a distance of 1413.03 feet to the north 1/4 corner of Section 1, T144N, R89W; thence bearing S 00°56'54" W a distance of 2643.78 feet to the center 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing S 00°56'54" W a distance of 2635.54 feet to the north 1/4 corner of Section 12, T144N, R89W; thence bearing S 00°51'59" W a distance of 2637.60 feet to the center 1/4 corner of said Section; thence bearing S 00°51'59" W a distance of 2639.14 feet to the point of beginning. Said area of land contains 2,224.6621 acres.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE The public is hereby invited to comment on said application for an Amendment to Conditional Use Approval 02-12-01 at the hearing, or by forwarding comments in writing prior to this hearing to: Mercer County Auditor- PO Box 39-Stanton, ND 58571. A copy of the application, location map and other documents is available to the public for inspection and copying in the Office of the County Auditor on Monday through Friday during regular office hours.

Jen Neumiller
Mercer County Land Use Administrator
(01-01-2026)(01-08-2026)

Bison hold off Velva for fifth straight win

Batke pours in game-high 29 points for Hazen

BY MARK WEBER

SPORTS EDITOR

Keaton Batke's free throws with 32 seconds left gave Hazen the lead for good, and the Bison held on for a 69-65 win over Velva in the Dale Brown Classic, Dec. 27, at the Minot State University Dome.

The Bison, who play in Region 4 of the Class A Division, ran their record to 5-0, while Velva, a member of District 6 and Region 3 in the Class B Division, fell to 2-2.

Hazen closed out the first quarter with a 12-5 run, and Magnus Obenauer's fast-break lay-up off a feed from Adam Novak in the closing seconds of the period gave the Bison a 15-10 advantage. However, Hazen misfired on its first six shots of the second period, and Velva opened the frame with a 10-0 run, taking a 20-15 lead after Mason Kraft stole the inbound pass and put it in for a lay-up with 5:48 left in the quarter.

Hazen finally got on the board when Jaran Reinhardt put in a short-range field goal on the ensuing trip, and that started an 8-3 spurt by the Bison, culminating with a putback field goal by Carter Johnsrudd at the 5:25 mark that tied the game at 23 all. Velva regained the lead on Wesley Nickelson's basket on the ensuing trip, but Hazen ripped off 10 unanswered points over the next two minutes to complete an 18-5 run, and Keaton Batke's three-pointer from the left side of the key with just over a minute left gave the Bison their biggest lead (33-25) of the half.

After Nickelson put in a quick basket for Velva, Jett Jungers answered right back with a lay-up off a press break that kept the lead at eight points (35-27), but Hazen committed a pair of turnovers in the final 20 seconds of the quarter, which resulted in four quick points by Velva, including a pair of free throws by Kage Kambeitz in the closing seconds, which trimmed the deficit in half (35-31) at the intermission.

Hazen shot just 41% from the floor, but the Bison put up 37 field goal attempts (15 converted) in the first half, mainly due to collecting a dozen offensive rebounds, and the Bison also hit four of seven free throws in the half, while committing nine turnovers. Velva hit on 11 of 25 (44%) field goals, and seven of 12 free throws, while turning the ball over 11 times in the half. Batke paced Hazen's first-half attack with 10 points, and Kraft led all scorers in the half with 11 tallies for Velva.

Hazen stayed in the lead throughout the third quarter, even though Velva

would stay within striking distance for most of the period. Reese Steffen's field goal early in the period cut the lead to 37-35, but Novak answered right back with a three-pointer for Hazen, and after a misfire by the Aggies, Batke drilled another triple from the wing to push the lead back up to 43-35 with just over six minutes left in the frame.

Hazen could not extend its lead further than that, but the Bison maintained at least a two-possession advantage until the final minute of the period, when Velva's full-court press wreaked havoc on the Bison. Batke's three-pointer with just over a minute left gave Hazen a 55-47 lead, but the Bison turned the ball over three straight times after that, resulting in six unanswered points by the Aggies, including Makiah Heinze's lay-up off a steal in the final seconds that closed the gap to 55-53 heading into the fourth quarter.

After Velva squandered a chance to tie the game on the opening trip of the fourth quarter, Batke knocked down a short jumper at the 7:15 mark to give Hazen a 57-53 lead, and the score remained that until Reinhardt came up with a steal near midcourt, and took it all the way for a two-handed dunk for a 59-53 lead with 4:45 remaining. About a minute later, Kambeitz drained a three-pointer from the wing to cut the lead in half (61-58), and after the teams traded field goals on their respective next trip, Brekson Kaylor drove the baseline for a lay-up to give Hazen a 65-60 lead with 2:15 remaining.

Kraft answered with a field goal on Velva's ensuing trip, and after a turnover by Hazen, Luke Selzler put in a field goal to slice the deficit to a point (65-64) with just under a minute and a half remaining. After Hazen misfired on a field goal on the other end, Selzler was fouled and sent to the stripe with 57 seconds left, where he hit one of two shots to deadlock the score at 65-65.

After a timeout, Hazen got into a half-court set, when Batke was fouled on the drive, which put the Bison in the double bonus (2 free throws) with :32.4 showing on the clock. Batke knocked down both shots to give Hazen a 67-65 lead, but Velva regained possession, and with the shot clock off, the Aggies had a chance to tie or win the game in the closing seconds.

The Aggies, however, turned the ball over when they tried to save an errant pass along the baseline, and Batke retrieved the loose ball and took it all the way to the hoop before being fouled on a lay-up attempt. The shot didn't fall, but Bat-

ke went to the line for two shots, where he sank both attempts to give the Bison a two-possession (69-65) lead with just :10.3 left. Kaylor then came up with a steal on the other end to seal up the victory for the Bison.

Hazen misfired on 18 of 22 shots from behind the arc and finished 28 of 62 (45%) from the field, nine of 14 (64%) from the free throw line, and committed 15 turnovers in the game, while Velva hit on half of its field goals (25 of 50) and free throws (10 of 20), but turned the ball over 22 times. The Aggies held a 36-32 advantage in rebounding.

Batke scored 19 of his game-high 29 points in the second half, and he also had a game-high four steals to go along with seven rebounds and four assists. Reinhardt netted 14 points, six rebounds and three steals, while Carter Johnsrudd tallied seven points, seven rebounds, three assists and two steals for Hazen. Jungers scored six points and grabbed six rebounds while dishing out a game-high nine assists, Obenauer and Kilwein scored four points a piece; Novak added three points, and Kaylor chipped in two points to complete the scoring for the Bison.

Cooper Kittleson, who fouled out late in the final period, led Velva with 17 points to go along with four rebounds, while Kraft finished with 15 points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals, and Nickelson scored a dozen points with a pair of steals. Kambeitz added seven points, Steffen scored five points with five assists and three steals, Selzler netted four points and a game-high 10 rebounds, and Heinze (2 steals) and Kason Larsen (7 rebounds) chipped in two points a piece for the Aggies.

Scoring Summary

Hazen	15	20	20	14	69
Velva	10	21	22	12	65

Team Stats

	HHS	VHS
Field Goals	28-62 (45%)	25-50 (50%)
Free Throws	9-14 (64%)	10-20 (50%)

Rebounds	32	36
Turnovers	15	22
Team Fouls	20	18

Individual Scoring

Hazen: Keaton Batke 29, Jaran Reinhardt 14, Carter Johnsrudd 7, Jett Jungers 6, Bennett Kilwein 4, Magnus Obenauer 4, Adam Novak 3, Brekson Kaylor 2.

Velva: Cooper Kittleson 17, Mason Kraft 15, Wesley Nickelson 12, Kage Kambeitz 7, Reese Steffen 5, Luke Selzler 4, Makiah Heinze 2, Kason Larsen 2, Matthew Bryant 1.

3-Pointers: Hazen (4-22): Batke 3, Novak 1, Velva (5-17): Kittleson 3, Kambeitz 1, Kraft 1, Nickelson 1. Fouled Out: Kittleson (Velva).

Region 4 Standings

Class A Girls Basketball, Jan. 5, 2026

	Reg. 4	Overall
Hazen	2-0	7-1
Watford City	2-0	5-2
Dickinson Trinity	2-0	4-4
Killdeer	1-1	5-3
New Town	1-1	2-4
Shiloh Christian	2-2	2-4
Standing Rock	0-2	2-7
Beulah	0-3	0-10

Last Week's Results Region 4

Watford City	53	Turtle Mountain Community	43
Dickinson Trinity	65	Shiloh Christian	61
Killdeer	61	Beulah	40
Williston	72	Watford City	33
Divide County	52	Killdeer	50
Rugby	51	Beulah	20
New Town	62	South Border	46
Carrington	43	Hazen	32
Northern Cass	58	Dickinson Trinity	47
Nedrose	53	Beulah	40
Richardton-Taylor	62	New Town	30
New Salem-Almont	59	Standing Rock Community	29
Carrington	54	Dickinson Trinity	42
Hazen	58	Northern Cass	18
Rapid City (South Dakota)	65	Christian	65
Bottineau	45	Shiloh Christian	42
South Prairie/Max	68	Beulah	34
Standing Rock Community	67	Watford City	45
Rapid City Christian	76	Dickinson Trinity	30
Killdeer	48	Beach	31
Turtle Mountain Community	90	Standing Rock Community	56
Stanley	52	Beulah	46
Cheyenne/Eagle Butte, South Dakota	69	Standing Rock Community	62