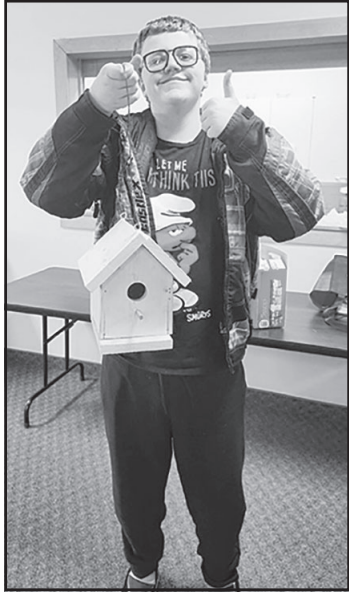


Bison Bunch 4-H photos



K-9 program donations

The Nelson County Sheriff's Office K-9 team is asking community members to assist with the cost of maintaining the K-9 program. Expenses include but are not limited to feeding, daily care, health care and training. The goal is to continue to fund the K-9 team through private donations, allowing the sheriff's office to keep the K-9 program independent from the yearly budget. The annual budget goal is \$8,500.

For questions or to make a donation, contact the Nelson County Sheriff's Office at 701-247-2474, or mail donations to Nelson County Sheriff's Office, 210 B Ave. W, Suite 102, Lakota, ND 58344. A receipt will be sent for the donor's records. Visit the Nelson County Sheriff's Office Facebook page for updates on the K-9 program.

CHURCH SERVICES

**HIGH PLAINS MINISTRY**  
Minister Rebecca Kjelland  
Concordia Lutheran, Edmore  
Laurin Lutheran, Lawton  
Our Redeemer's, Fairdale  
Current schedule not available

**ANETA COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Interim Pastor John Gallagher  
Adult Sunday school 10 a.m.  
Sunday worship 11 a.m.

**CATHOLIC CHURCHES**  
Rev. Brian Bachmeier  
St. Lawrence, Jessie  
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.  
St. Agatha, Hope  
Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m.  
St. George, Cooperstown  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Sacred Heart, Aneta  
Sunday Mass 3:30 p.m.

**ANETA ELCA CONGREGATIONS**  
Facebook: Sundahl and  
Ottawa Lutheran Church  
1st and 3rd Sundays: Ottawa 9  
a.m.; Sundahl 11 a.m.  
2nd Sunday even months:  
Sundahl joint worship 5 p.m.  
2nd Sunday odd months: Ottawa  
joint worship 5 p.m.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
(LCMS)  
Lakota, ND  
Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.

**LAKOTA LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
Pastor John Syvertson  
701-247-2777  
Bethlehem, Doyon  
Sunday worship 8:30 a.m.  
Lakota  
Sunday worship 10 a.m.

**CATHOLIC CHURCHES**  
Rev. Troy Simonson  
St. Joseph, Tolna  
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.  
St. Mary's, Lakota  
Sunday Mass 9 a.m.  
St. Lawrence O'Toole, Michigan  
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.

**NEW LUTHER VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
McVile, ND  
Pastor Lynn Kinneberg  
Feb. 1: NLV 9 a.m.; Sunday school  
10 a.m. (both churches); Bethany  
11 a.m.

**McVILLE LUTHERAN PARISH**  
Pastor Russ Pollock  
SAM Truley Trautman  
SAM Marla Larson

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Rural Health --  
(Continued from Page 1)

as a major area where funding is needed.

"We need doctors, we need dentists, we need mental health, we need chiropractors," Brown said.

Rep. Jayme Davis, a Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa citizen, in the fall pushed for 5% of North Dakota's award to be set aside for tribes in the state's budget, but the Rural Health Transformation Committee rejected her proposal.

Davis said she's concerned about rural communities in the state getting their fair share of the funding.

"I want to make sure that the frontier, the real rural, is at the top of everybody's list," the Rolette Democrat said.

Armstrong on Friday afternoon also approved four policies that the Trump administration incentivized states to adopt by promising extra Rural Health Transformation Program money.

One of those policies, Senate Bill 2402, allows pharmacists to prescribe some medications to patients and order some lab tests.

House Bill 1621 requires North Dakota students to participate in the presidential physical fitness test.

Armstrong also signed Senate Bill 2401, which mandates doctors receive one hour of education on nutrition and metabolic health as part of their continuing education.

The fourth policy, House Bill 1622, allows North Dakota to join a licensure compact for physician assistants.

The Legislature this week also passed a handful of unrelated bills, including an amendment to clarify how the residential property tax credit is applied.

House Bill 1626, brought by Rep. Craig Headland, R-Montpelier, would change how counties apply a 5% discount to homeowners who pay property taxes early. Currently, the 5% discount is applied after the primary residence credit, which Headland said prevents some homeowners from receiving the full \$1,600 property tax credit promised to them during the 2025 Legislative session.

Lawmakers also approved legislation to set aside \$325,000 for litigation funding for the Public Service Commission. If more money is needed, the bill authorizes the commission to take out a loan from the Bank of North Dakota as well. The legislation also earmarks \$1.5 million for North Dakota Information Technology to bring state websites and other digital content into compliance with American Disability Act requirements.

Other legislation passed by the Legislature would allow the University of North Dakota to use proceeds from a land sale for renovations to the Ray Richards golf course or to support the school's varsity golf teams. The university is selling 6.5 acres of land to the Department of Transportation to accommodate a railroad underpass project.

Additionally, the Legislature approved a resolution brought by Rep. Glenn Bosch, R-Bismarck, celebrating the 175th anniversary of the YMCA.

Armstrong signed the additional bills Friday afternoon.

North Dakota Monitor reporter Jacob Orledge contributed to this report.

Federal tax credit for scholarship donations

North Dakota will participate in a new federal program that offers a tax credit for certain donations to organizations that provide K-12 education scholarships and services, Gov. Kelly Armstrong announced January 26.

The tax credit applies to cash contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations, or SGOs, which are nonprofits that award scholarships to help students pay for elementary and secondary education. Taxpayers may be able to claim the federal tax credit beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

"This program incentivizes charitable giving to support our state's most precious resource -- its students," Armstrong said. "We look forward to implementing the program with additional federal guidance to empower school choice and support North Dakota students in their education."

The program was established in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed by Congress and signed by President Trump last year. Before the tax credit can be claimed, the state must choose to participate in the program and submit a list of approved SGOs to the US Treasury Department. To qualify, an SGO must be recognized as a 501(c) (3) public charity and may not be a private foundation. Eligible covered expenses include tuition, tutoring, special needs supports, technology costs and public education supplemental services for students enrolled in public or private schools. Income limits apply, and the maximum annual credit is \$1,700 per taxpayer, per year.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Levi Bachmeier encouraged parents with children in school to familiarize themselves with the tax credit, calling it an exciting opportunity. "Thousands of students attending public and private schools will benefit from the funds enabled by this tax credit," Bachmeier said.

Additional program guidance from Treasury is pending, and more information about the program, including a list of eligible SGOs in North Dakota, will be released as it becomes available. The tax credit is nonrefundable, which means it can reduce federal income tax liability but won't result in a refund if the credit is larger than what the individual owes.

Did You Know?

According to a study published in the journal Progress in Neurology and Psychiatry, in a given year about 5 percent of the population of the United States experiences seasonal depression, a condition also known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. A separate study published in the journal BMC Psychiatry in 2021 found that 12.7 percent of students attending higher education or vocational schools who responded to a survey showed SAD. The organization Mental Health America notes that SAD is a subtype of depression or bipolar disorder that occurs and ends around the same time every year, typically beginning in fall and continuing into the winter. Curiously, the study published in Progress in Neurology and Psychiatry found that the main age of onset of seasonal depression is between 20 and 30.

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Obituary

Robert (Bob) Metcalf

Robert (Bob) Lee Metcalf, 68, of Lakota, ND, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026.

Bob was born Oct. 24, 1957 in Omaha, Neb. Bob was a proud truck driver for the majority of his working life, most recently with CHS Ag Services in Lakota, ND. He married his high school sweetheart, Iona Mae Metcalf, on Aug. 2, 1975, whom he shared three children with: Violet Mae Blackburn (Bob), Lynn Ann Metcalf and Robert (Bobby) Lee Metcalf Jr. (LeaAnne). Several years after the untimely passing of Iona, Bob was lucky enough to find love again in Mary Davidson and they were joined in Holy Matrimony on May 22, 2022. Bob and Mary enjoyed camping and traveling together in their RV, sharing time with family, and working in their garden reaping the fruits of their harvest.

Bob was preceded in death by his first love, Iona



Metcalf; his parents, Frank and Punk Metcalf; as well as his brothers, Frank and Mike Metcalf.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Mary; and his three children, Violet, Lynn and Bobby; as well as his quasi adoptive children, Delbert Bradley and Shantel Smith. He also leaves behind 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A public viewing and visitation was held on Monday, Jan. 26 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Aaker Funeral Home of Lakota.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held this summer.

Ruth Hatten

Ruth M. Hatten, 79, died Jan. 25, 2026 at HIA Heather's House in Fargo, ND. Funeral services will be held in the spring. The Aaker Funeral Home of Lakota, ND is in charge of arrangements.

NDSU Extension projects 2026 commodity prices



NDSU Extension has released its 2026 price projections for crops and livestock produced in the state. (NDSU photo)

Planning for the future can be a very frustrating process, especially in times of market volatility. Planning typically pays high dividends. For most farm and ranch managers, developing realistic commodity price expectations is one of the most difficult and complex tasks of the planning process.

To make the planning process easier, NDSU Extension has released its 2026 short- and long-term agricultural planning price projections for North Dakota.

"Estimating short-term planning crop prices is more important than ever," says Ron Haugen, NDSU Extension farm economist. "Price projections should be used as a guide in setting expectations for the 2026 production."

These planning prices can be used for preparing annual enterprise budgets and annual whole-farm cash flow projections.

"Cash flow projections are very critical with today's tight margins," adds Haugen.

Livestock price projections are hitting new highs, but crop price projections are lower than a year ago.

The publication shows 2026 price projections for crops and livestock produced in the state as well as price estimates for future years. Price projections are given for the major crop commodities, including wheat, durum, oats, feed barley, malted barley, oil sunflowers, non-oil sunflowers, corn, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, winter wheat, dry beans, dry peas, lentils, alfalfa hay and mixed hay.

Price projections for livestock and livestock products include

beef steers and heifers at various weights, cull cows, slaughter steers, slaughter hogs, slaughter ewes, slaughter lambs, feeder lambs and milk. The publication also provides historical prices as a reference.

Haugen cautions against using short-term prices for planning capital purchases or expansion alternatives that would extend beyond the next production year.

The "Plotting a Course 2026" publication is available online at [ndsu.ag/plotacourse26](https://ndsu.ag/plotacourse26) or by contacting an NDSU Extension county office.

Did You Know?



The future of skiing could be very bright, as the National Ski Areas Association reports that the highest share of skiers in the United States is Generation Z. The report, updated in December of 2021, indicated that 37 percent of skier visits in 2020-21 were among skiers age 24 and younger, a demographic that correlates to Generation Z. That's good news for ski resorts and also welcome news for those hoping for more diversity on the slopes, as the NSAA reports that Generation Z is the most racially and ethnically diverse generation in U.S. history. The NSAA Demographic Study found that diversity is lacking at ski areas across the country, with more than 87 percent of guests identifying as White and just 1.5 percent identifying as Black or African American.

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