



# Lakota American

75¢

See us online at [lakotaamerican.com](http://lakotaamerican.com)

Official Nelson County Newspaper -- Lakota, North Dakota 58344

USPS 303-400

Lakota American

Volume 125, Number 15

Thursday, February 19, 2026

## The kindness of children to veterans

BY JUDY TWETE  
Unit 135 President

Sometimes young children get a bad rap, but I am here to prove that that certainly isn't true in the Dakota Prairie Elementary School.

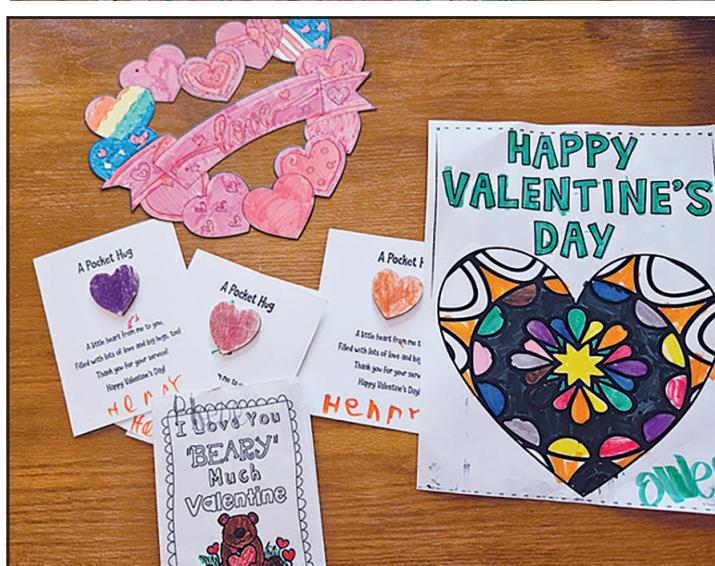
I asked, and they provided. Teacher Haley Klefstad, one of the great teachers, has been asked many times to have the grade school children provide seasonal cards for the area veterans in the Nelson County Health System Nursing Home and the Care Center. They always come through in a big way. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 135 truly admires the talent and time spent creating such neat works of art by the students.

Haley and her daughter are both members of Unit 135. Haley is our unit education chairman and we're happy she accepted that title.

As unit president, I generally do the "ask" of Haley a few weeks prior to events such as Veterans Day, sometimes Memorial Day, and Christmas. Sometimes timelines get short depending what work the children in each class have planned, but there have always been cards for at least the veterans at the local facilities where their homes are. In addition to the (under a dozen) cards to the local facility, the children come through with enough cards to send to the many veterans residing at the Fargo Medical Hospital and the Lisbon Veterans Home.

We are so lucky to have John Hooey, who drives the veterans' bus to Lisbon and Fargo regularly and delivers the cards personally to Fargo and Lisbon. What a special gift both to the facilities and to the Auxiliary . . . no postage!

Tuesday, Feb. 10 was really a bonus day. I was advised that the valentines were ready and



could be picked up at the school office. When I picked the cards up, I was so pleasantly surprised to find an extra-large number of very special cards for me to distribute!

I had to bring the cards home so I could properly look at all the cards and signatures. It was an especially tear-jerking experi-

ence for me today. I shaped up and delivered the cards to the hospital, where they will be picked up by John, a veteran himself, and delivered Wednesday. The local cards will go later this week to the facility so each veteran has his own card on Saturday, Valentine's Day.

I hope if you have a student at Dakota Prairie Elementary, or know a teacher who has participated in these projects, you will thank them for their cards to those who have, at one time, served our great country. These cards are truly a highlight to each veteran.

## LAKOTA CLOVERLEAVES 4-H CLUB NEWS

BY MARAGARET ESTVOLD  
4-H Club Leader

On Feb. 8, 2026, Siena called the Lakota Cloverleaves 4-H Club meeting to order. Pledges were said. Roll call was: What is your favorite candy to get on Valentine's Day? Secretary and treasurer reports were given.

Old Business: Consumer Decision Making trip report was given by Laura and Levi Steffan.

New Business: Traci needs volunteers to hand out Val-

entines to the long-term care facilities in the county. Summer 4-H camps are now available to register for. Our next meeting will be March 8 at 2 p.m. at the Lakota City Library. The meeting was adjourned.

Dori Ann Schneider did a demonstration on "Making a Candy Bouquet." We made recycled can toolboxes as our project. We finished the day with some tasty snacks.



Members with their can toolboxes.



Dori Ann Schneider doing her demonstration on making a candy bouquet.



Members working on their record books.

## Nelson County offices up for election in 2026

The following Nelson County positions are set to be voted on in the 2026 primary and general elections.

- Commissioners for Districts #1, 3 and 5
- State's attorney
- Sheriff
- Supervisor, Nelson County Soil Conservation District

According to the ND Secretary of State's Election and Candidate Filing Guide:

• Counties hold elections for offices on the second Tuesday in June (June 9 this year) during the primary election. Candidates for county office with the highest number of votes and who total twice the number of positions available for the office in the primary election advance to the general election held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November (November 3 this year). The county is required to give notice of the election at least 10 days prior to the election in the county's official newspaper.

• Candidates must file the petition/certificate of nomination, an affidavit of candidacy, as well as their statement of interests with the county auditor before 4 p.m. on the 64th day before the election. A candidate may not circulate or get signatures on a petition/certificate of nomination prior to Jan. 1, 2026.

• County offices: Candidates are required to file a petition/certificate of nomination with signatures of 2% of the electors who voted for that office in the last election; however, no more than 300



signatures are required.

• Supervisor, soil conservation: Candidates are required to file a petition/certificate of Nomination with no less than 25 signatures and no more than 300 signatures.

For the primary election, the earliest day to begin circulating petitions was January 1, and the earliest day to file petitions was January 2. The last day to file petitions is Monday, April 6 at 4 p.m.

For the general election, the earliest day to begin circulating petitions is Friday, April 3, and the last day to file petitions is Monday, Aug. 31 at 4 p.m.

Below are the number of signatures required for each position.

• County commissioner, District #1 (Lakota city north of railroad crossing): 29

• County commissioner, District #3 (Nash, Petersburg, Adler, Rugh and Ora townships, including Petersburg and Aneta cities): 26

• County commissioner, District #5 (Central, Melvin, Hamlin, Field, Nesheim and Lee townships, including McVille city): 28

• State's attorney: 25

• Sheriff: 30

• Supervisor, Nelson County Soil Conservation District: 25

## Music students perform at DL Junior Gold Cup Festival



Keira Matejcek



Keagen Breazile

The Devils Lake Junior Gold Cup Festival was held February 6 and 7. The following students of Amy Jo Paukert performed at the festival: Chloe Anderson, Keira Matejcek, Keagen Breazile, Laura Steffan, Alex Hagen and Kira Snyder. Each of these student received Superior ratings of five points, which is the maximum number of points they can earn in a year. These points accumulate toward Gold Cup trophies. When a total of 15 points or a multiple thereof is earned, they receive a Gold Cup Trophy.

Keagen Breazile has now earned his 15-point Gold Cup with three consecutive Superior ratings. Keira Matejcek has earned her 45-point Gold Cup with nine consecutive Superior ratings. This year's judge was Lisa Schuler of Langdon. Levi

Steffan and Brianna Sharp will be playing at the Thompson Festival on March 7.

The Junior Gold Cup Festival is sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs. The program is designed to promote study, stimulate interest in American and world music literature, and encourage each participant to reach a high standard of musical achievement.

Students are required to play one piece by an American composer from the festival list and one piece of their choice. In the higher levels, the choice piece must be by a non-American composer. The Junior Festival is not a competition but an opportunity to perform and receive evaluation.

## Seeking summer intern

Are you a high school or college student interested in journalism as a career or who wants to learn more about the newspaper industry? Sign up with us for a summer internship and gain valuable experience. You'll have the opportunity to cover local events and sharpen your writing skills. Call us at 1-701-473-5436 or email [lamerican@polarcomm.com](mailto:lamerican@polarcomm.com) for more information.

NEWS