

Cards of Thanks

Cards of Thanks are 10¢ per word

HEJLIK - Thank you to the Lakota Ambulance, Nelson County Sheriff's Office, Halley and Cindy from the Good Samaritan Society, and everyone for the cards, texts, calls, gifts, help and prayers during my recovery.

Pat Hejlik
22c

McVile Community Library

Hours: T-F 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
701-322-5541

BY RITA LOIBL

"The first day of spring is one thing and the first spring day is another: The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month!" -- Henry Van Dyke

That quote seems to be perfect for spring this year. We all know that spring can be hesitant, but this year it seems to be consistently teasing us. As I write this article on April 1, we are under yet another winter storm watch. This too shall pass!

RubyAnn Stiegelmeier's *Sir Rupert and the Battle of the Squirrels* is a picture book that follows a big problem that requires a unique solution! It also addresses the importance of being honest when asking for help. RubyAnn originally created this book to share with her nieces and nephews. However, after some coaxing, she opened it up to the larger world. Since then she has done over a hundred readings in classrooms and public libraries.

What We Leave Behind by Barb Solberg is a historical novel based on the history of Barb's family. It follows two Norwegian immigrants coming to North Dakota in 1913, sending three daughters back to Norway during the Great Plains Dust Bowl. Those daughters remained in Norway during World War II. This book was heavily researched using newspapers, birth and marriage records, and notes from one of the daughters. Barb learned about her family -- a family of two flags -- during the process of writing this book. Originally she planned only making enough copies to share with her relatives. However, that plan changed and now the public gets to read *What We Leave Behind*!

Coming events: Mark your calendars!

- Bake Sale and Luncheon: Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Reading Round-Up: Saturday, April 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Tasty Tuesday: April 21 during library hours (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Karen Ford, hostess
- Picnic in the Park: Every Monday starting June 1
- Library Anniversary Celebration: Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m. in City Auditorium. Bogey Boys Acoustic Duo will provide music for everyone.

City of Michigan recognized for SDWA compliance

Public water systems are required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to take many actions to provide safe drinking water. The SDWA was passed by Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking (potable) water supplies. Over the years, there have been a number of changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act. These changes have made it more challenging to maintain compliance.

The ND Department of Environmental Quality issues a Safe Drinking Water Act Certificate

of Achievement as one way to recognize the public water systems that satisfied all applicable requirements during the previous calendar year. In 2025, the city of Michigan complied with all applicable Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. To recognize this accomplishment, the ND Department of Environmental Quality issued the City of Michigan a Safe Drinking Water Certificate of Achievement.

The City of Michigan commends Scott Gilbertson for a job well done from which its consumers benefitted.

McVile Community Library to host bake sale/luncheon

Spring is here and the McVile Community Library is ready to celebrate! Come and enjoy **A Sweet Honey Bee Buzz** luncheon and bake sale on Saturday, April 18 in the McVile City Auditorium from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Sloppy Joes, salads, chips and sweet treats will be served at the luncheon. The luncheon will be a free-will donation. To-go boxes will be available. The generous volunteers in our community will provide the tasty items on the bake sale tables. Baked items will be individually priced. Proceeds from this event support the children's summer reading program. **Come "bee" our guests!**



Larsgaard Wool Mill
3rd annual Alpaca Shearing
May 18th starting at 7:30 am

If you would like to have your animal(s) sheared, please contact Judy Larsgaard at 701-789-0100 to reserve a spot.

Larsgaard Wool Mill is located at 837 46th St NE, Northwood, ND
The email address is judylarsgaard@gmail.com
Please contact us with any questions that you may have.



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Another deserving veteran receives beautiful quilt

At the monthly American Legion Post Meeting in Tolna, Marlo Quam received a beautiful quilt and a warm thank you for his military service. As with so many of the recipients, he claimed he didn't think he deserved the special honor. He was very appreciative of the beautiful quilt designed and created by the Home Bound Quilters. This presentation marks the ninth quilt given to Tolna area veterans. The members in attendance were happy that Marlo was honored, as he still "continues to serve America" with his work in the local post activities.

Call 811 before digging April proclaimed Safe Digging Month

Governor Kelly Armstrong has proclaimed April as Safe Digging Month in North Dakota. In recognition, the ND Public Service Commission (PSC) is reminding everyone of the potential dangers and consequences of digging without first clicking or calling 811, North Dakota's Call-Before-You-Dig number.

"Spring has arrived, and with it comes a surge of outdoor projects. Before any digging begins, the North Dakota Public Service Commission has an essential reminder: always call 811 first," said Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, who oversees the damage prevention portfolio. "This simple step is one of the most effective ways to prevent dangerous and costly accidents. Underground utility lines -- whether gas, electric, communications, water or sewer -- are closer to the surface than many people realize. Striking one can create serious safety hazards and contributes to billions of dollars in damages each year. By making a quick call to 811, you're protecting yourself, your property and your community. Safe digging starts with knowing what's below -- don't take the risk."

North Dakota law requires anyone conducting an excavation to notify 811 at least two business days in advance of digging. This is a free service to homeowners and farmers working on their own property/land. Personnel will be sent to mark the locations of the underground facilities, typically within a couple of days. The markings are valid for 21 days after they are placed as identified on your excavation notice ticket. This

process is coordinated through ND One Call. The PSC's role is to enforce the requirements of the state's damage prevention laws and act when violations are reported to the commission. The PSC can levy a fine up to \$25,000 per violation depending on severity.

Each year, North Dakota's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage from those who fail to call 811 to have underground facilities located prior to digging. Since 2009 the PSC has received and processed 384 complaints related to violations of the Call-Before-You-Dig law. In total, approximately \$473,000 in fines have been assessed against companies or individuals who have violated the law. The consequences of striking an underground utility can be severe, including explosions resulting in injury or death, service interruptions or damage to the environment.

The significant residential and business growth occurring throughout North Dakota and the increased demand for pipeline infrastructure to support the energy industry have dramatically increased demand for the One-Call Program.

Safe Digging Month is endorsed each April by the ND Public Service Commission, the Common Ground Alliance and the ND One Call Board. For more information about 811 and to begin your excavation notice, visit the ND One Call Board's website at www.ndonecall.com. For safety tips, best practices and other information, visit the Common Ground Alliance website at www.commongroundalliance.com.



The Nelson County Calendar of Events

- April 11:** Table Extravaganza, Lakota Lutheran Church, 11 a.m.
- April 15:** "Don't Get Scammed" Presentation, Pekin Community Center, 7 p.m.
- April 16:** ND Game and Fish Advisory Board Meeting, Michigan Civic Center, 7 p.m.
- April 18:** McVile Community Library Spring Luncheon/Bake Sale, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- April 18:** Kids' Reading Roundup, McVile Comm. Library, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
- April 21:** Tasty Tuesday, McVile Comm. Library, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- May 1-2:** St. Mary's Annual Rummage Sale, Lakota
- May 2:** Lakota Citywide Rummage Sales
- June 27:** Lakota Turkey BBQ

Brought to you by the State Bank of Lakota



Movement documents needed for rodeo, show animals

As fair and rodeo season begins, participants are reminded that any animals coming into North Dakota from out of state require a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) to enter the state. A CVI documents that an animal has been checked by a veterinarian to ensure it is free of signs of infectious, contagious disease and has met health requirements to enter North Dakota.

"If you have already brought an animal in without a CVI, please contact our office and we will work with you to get the proper paperwork before your event," State Veterinarian Dr. Ethan Andress said. "Commingling animals together at events is the primary driver for the rapid spread of infectious diseases, so even late health checks will help stop disease." "Proper documents help to

quickly identify and isolate infected animals, trace their movements and stop further spread," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. "We rely on the cooperation of owners to help safeguard the health of animals and livestock."

Horse owners traveling during rodeo season have an option that is good for six months from the date of the veterinary inspection.

"I encourage equine owners traveling across state lines to consider using the Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection," Andress said. "Utilizing the EECVI and its associated travel itinerary allows us to notify you immediately if your horse has been in contact with another sick animal."

The state veterinarian's office may be reached at 701-328-2655 or doa-bah@nd.gov.

Legion, Auxiliary to hold district meetings

District 2 to meet in Lakota April 10

Members of the North Dakota American Legion and Auxiliary will meet for their spring District 2 meeting on Friday, April 10, 2026. Both groups will register and enjoy a free buffet meal at the Till House Saloon (116 Main Street) in Lakota at 5 p.m. Separate meetings will follow at 6 p.m., with the Auxiliary meeting in the Lakota Legion Hall (back room). Hosts for the event are Rundell-Holicky Post 21 and Unit 21 of Lakota.

District 2 consists of Pembina, Walsh, Nelson and Grand Forks counties. State officers will be in attendance to share information on yearly project progress of support for veterans, children and youth, and communities. Hope to see you there!

Youth OHV safety courses open for registration

Registration for ND Parks and Recreation's off-highway vehicle (OHV) youth safety courses located across the state is now open. NDPRD offers the hands-on courses in an effort to increase OHV safety awareness and prevent accidents.

Youth ages 12-15 are eligible for the free, in-person OHV certification courses that occur from June 3 through July 30. Class enrollment is limited; therefore interested participants are encouraged to register

soon on the OHV website safety page (www.parkrec.nd.gov/business/recreation-programs/highway-vehicles-ohv/ohv-safety).

Youth-sized ATVs will be provided for the course, but students must wear long sleeves, long pants, over-ankle boots, gloves, and their helmet if they have one. A free helmet will be provided at the beginning of the course for students to keep. Students should also complete the introductory online course on the NDPRD website prior to the in-person training.

North Dakota law requires youth ages 12-15 who do not have a valid driver's license or learner's permit to take a safety certification class. The certification is needed in order to legally operate OHVs on land other than their parents', which includes designated OHV trails and ditches.

Children who are 11 but turn 12 within six months of a class date may take the safety certification test but will not receive their certification card until they turn 12.

While the classes are aimed at certifying young riders, anyone who wishes to learn more about OHV safety (such as parents or children under 12) is encouraged to attend; no fee is charged.

Alternatively, an online OHV course can be completed for a fee. Further information and a practice quiz are available on the NDPRD website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

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