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# Lakota American



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## Bison Bunch bonding time

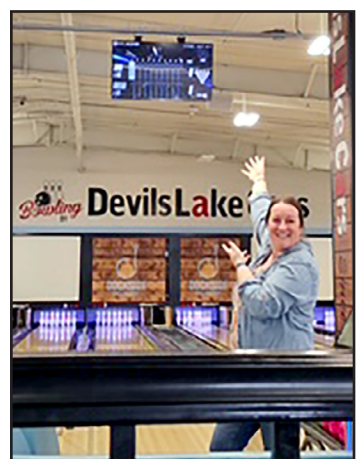
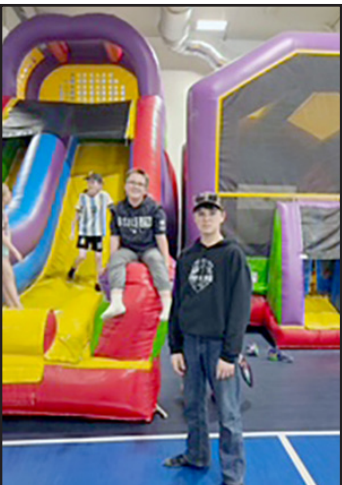
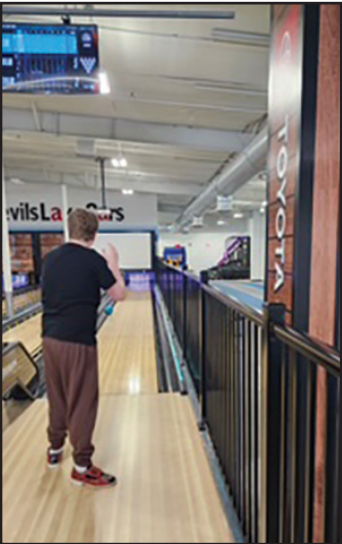
BY KATRINA BECK  
4-H Bison Bunch Reporter

Our April 4-H Bison Bunch meeting we had a team bonding event at Dockside Entertainment in Devils Lake. We did simulators where everyone got to pick what they wanted to do. They had many choices including shooting and sports. Everyone had a great time.

Next, we went bowling and everyone did so good. Even some of the parents joined in the fun.

In between bowling and simulators we went on the bouncy houses and playground.

Everyone had a blast and it was a good team bonding activity.



## County candidates to appear on primary ballot

The following candidates have filed for Nelson County positions and will appear on this year's primary ballot. The primary election will be held June 9, 2026. The two top candidates advance to the general election on November 3.

- **Commissioner for District #1:** Michael Haugland
- **Commissioner for District #3:** Aaron Mork
- **Commissioner for District #5:** Cameron Swenson
- **Sheriff:** Kurt Schwind
- **State's Attorney:** Josh Frey
- **Official Newspaper:** Lakota American

Soil conservation district supervisor will not be voted on until the November general election.

The deadline for filing to have one's name appear on the ballot has passed; those still interested in offices would need to conduct a write-in campaign.

## Area students are state winners in Junior Composer Contest

Brianna Sharp, Laura Steffan and Keira Matejcek are winners in their respective age divisions at the state level of the Junior Composer Contest. The three students study piano and composition with instructor Amy Jo Paukert of Michigan.

Brianna Sharp competed in the Class III division of the competition for ages 13-15, where she was the first-place winner at the state level with her piece for solo piano titled "Hope," which she wrote with the people of Ukraine in mind. This was Brianna's first time competing in the Junior Composer Contest. She is a sophomore at Dakota Prairie High School in Petersburg and is the daughter of Cassie and Chris Anderson of Michigan.

Laura Steffan and Keira Matejcek took first and second place respectively at the state level of the Junior Composer Contest Class IV division for ages 16-18. This is Laura's second year competing in the Junior Composer Contest. Last year she was the second-place winner in the state. She also entered her pieces in the regional 4-H competitions and at the State Fair in Minot. The piece that won her first place at the state level this year is titled "Ocean Deep Dive" for solo piano. Laura is a junior at Lakota High School and is the daughter of Brenda and John Steffan of Michigan.

This was Keira Matejcek's third time competing in the Junior Composer Contest. She took first place at the state level in 2024 and 2025, and also received an honorable mention at the regional level last year. This year she placed second at the state level with her piece for solo piano titled "Midnight's Lullaby." Keira is a junior at Lakota High school and is the daughter of Sarah and Trent Matejcek of Lakota.

The adjudicator this year for the state level of the Junior Composer Competition was Sharon Kaplan, a teacher of music and composition from Minneapolis. She has nine books published by Alfred Music and many publications under a new company, Weopleland Publications. Five of her pieces are in the current Festival Bulletin. She is the composition chair for Minnesota's Junior Composer Contest and for many years she has been the office manager for the Junior Composer Institute



Brianna Sharp



Laura Steffan



Keira Matejcek

help each summer. She believes, "Composing music is not only a good way to express oneself, but it gives a good insight into how composers think, and in this way enhances a student's ability to perform effectively."

The Junior Composer Contest is sponsored annually by the National Federation of Music Clubs. The students' compositions are judged on the criteria of melody, harmony, rhythm, style, form, type, labeling, notation, musicality and overall comments. The winners each received a money prize and are eligible for a scholarship to the Junior Composer Institute this summer.

## Lakota Cloverleaves 4-H Club news

BY MARGARET ESTVOLD  
4-H Club Leader

On April 12, 2026, Siena called the Lakota Cloverleaves 4-H Club meeting to order. Pledges were said. Roll call was: "What is the best part of the Easter holiday?" Secretary and treasurer reports were given.

Old business: Sign up for ND state 4-H summer camps. YQCA training was April 6. Achievement Day is July 8. Projects for ND State Fair are due July 9 by 3 p.m. Highway Cleanup will be

September 13.

New business: Voted on a theme for our Achievement Day backboard. Our next meeting will be May 3 at 2 p.m. at Margaret Estvold's home. The meeting was adjourned.

Alex Pedersen did a demonstration on "How to Take Care of a Puppy." We made recycled spring cards for the Good Samaritan and Prairie Rose facilities as our project.

We finished the day with some tasty snacks.



Members reciting the pledges.



Members doing recycled spring cards for the nursing home.

Alex Pedersen did a demonstration on taking care of puppies.

## Retirement open house for Flatens is April 26

The Finley Assembly of God Church will be honoring Pastor Mark and Carol Flaten with an open house on Sunday, April 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the church in Finley. They will be retiring from the pastorate after 20-plus years of ministry to Finley and surrounding communities. Please come and wish them well in their retirement.

## SL Tractor Club annual mtg.

The Stump Lake Tractor Club will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, April 23 at Stump Lake Village (Main Street Building). Registration will be from 5:30 to 6 p.m., followed by a complimentary supper, entertainment and the annual meeting. Election of officers will be held and door prizes will be given away. Annual dues can be paid that night. Spouses and new members are welcome.