

Editorial

By Benjiman Cartwright

This week was the North Dakota Newspaper Association Convention in Bismark. This year the event was held at the Gateway to Science museum located in the capitol city. They had us for a private event and we were able to explore the facility including a scavenger hunt. It was a great time and lots of great conversations were had at the roundtable events. On another note, I was voted on to the NDNA Board of Directors at the meeting. My term officially starts in July, but it was a great honor to be asked to be on the board. When I was talking with a few of the members, they all were excited to see what I have to offer, as I am always thinking outside the box, I taught a few of them some tricks with QR codes. Thinking outside the box is a large part of my full time job, so I am always willing to share what I have learned and ideas I have. I know I have a big list of things to try at The Standard, I just only have so many hours in the day so only a few get implemented.

Over the weekend there was burn ban that almost covered the whole state. Sometimes people don't understand what that means or why something like that is put in place. The Fire Danger Ratings are calculated using data from the National Weather Service and how the landscape would react to a fire. These are describing the ability of a fire to grow, not necessarily how easy a fire would start. Reports online showed multiple larger fires in North Dakota, the wind and dry conditions didn't help. A fire north of Dunsceith was called in, Westhope was dispatched, but placed on call, and many departments responded. I was unable to find out by the time this went to press how much land was burned, but I did see some talk about 2000 acres+ with a lot of focus on saving persons dwellings and other property. Please when these conditions exist, don't burn. I know some think it can't happen to me, but it is not worth the risk. I have put from the ND Response site about the burn restrictions map

below: CHECK THE BURN RESTRICTIONS MAP BEFORE BURNING AND PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. It is critical that you verify current restrictions BEFORE burning or participating in outdoor activities as conditions may develop throughout the day, such as issuance of a Red Flag Warning, that results in a change in restriction status. This map may not be all-inclusive. Incorporated cities may have their own permanent burn restrictions based on local ordinances. Please contact your local fire department or emergency management office for the most current information regarding restrictions in your area. This is located at <https://ndresponse.gov/burn-restrictions-fire-danger-maps>

I was busy 3D printing things over the week, I had some dust collectors I was asked to print for our shop and have been working on designing some pen holders for a couple other products of ours. It is amazing to me that you can now, inexpensively, design something extremely quickly and have parts in a matter of minutes or hours. In the past, that was unheard of, and I think of what the future will bring for the technology. Metal 3D printing is the next big thing to make its way to be a more cost effective way of manufacturing. If they were to design a metal printer that was under \$5,000 that would be a game changer.



This was the largest print I have done to date, it took about 15 hours to complete and was 12.5" across



Social Security Matters

by Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty – I Want to do Everything Right When I Claim Social Security

Dear Rusty: I will be 62 in two years. I plan on signing up for SS at age 62, but I have heard there are details that are important when signing up. When it comes time, I want to make sure I do everything right. Can you help me understand? Signed: Claiming Soon

Dear Claiming Soon: Deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit is a decision you should make only after careful consideration of your personal circumstances. And details are, indeed, important. For example, if you claim at age 62 (when you first become eligible), your monthly SS benefit will be only 70% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. And there are other considerations as well, including:

- If you are still working and claim at 62, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit changes each year, and for 2026 it is \$24,480. If the annual limit after you claim early is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, if your work earnings substantially exceed the annual limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible for early SS benefits (until you either stop working full time or reach your SS full retirement age). FYI, the AET lasts until you reach your FRA (age 67).

- The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.

- If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming early will potentially be the basis of

your spouse's survivor benefit if you pass first. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount you are receiving at your death, thus waiting longer for a higher personal benefit may also provide your spouse with a larger survivor benefit if your widow.

- If you wait longer than age 62, your monthly benefit will continue to increase (by approximately 6% per year) until you reach your FRA, when you get 100% of the amount you are entitled to from a lifetime of working. FYI, you can even wait longer - up to age 70 - to claim an even higher monthly amount (8% more for each year of delay after FRA). At age 70, your SS benefit would be about 75% more than your age 62 benefit amount.

If you haven't already done so, I suggest setting up your personal online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to see what your SS benefits are estimated to be at various ages. Then, when you are closer to age 62, contact us again to talk about your specific personal circumstances at the time, and we can provide you with everything you need to know about applying for Social Security.

In the end, when claiming your Social Security benefits, you should consider your financial need, your health and life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. We commend you for exploring this well in advance of becoming eligible and we will be here to assist when it is time for you to apply.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-dvisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Newspaper readers will see an abundance of insurance statements



A law change will require a greater number of insurance abstract statements to be published in North Dakota newspapers this year.

During the 69th Legislative Assembly, the North Dakota Legislature enacted House Bill 1398, which modified the publishing requirements for insurance companies doing business in North Dakota. The change nearly doubles the number of companies required to publish these financial statements, and requires all companies to publish in all eight judicial districts.

These publications have occurred in North Dakota newspapers for decades, but readers will notice significantly more than usual. Last year, all of the abstracts were distributed only to newspapers with the largest circulation in each judicial district. Prior to 2025, all newspapers shared equally in making these publications.

Traditionally, the notices were published in May, but so far, only about half have been compiled by supplying their information.

"This will require publication of

these notices in batches, possibly stretching into July," said Cecile Wehrman, executive director of the North Dakota Newspaper Association.

Under N.D.C.C. § 26.1-03-10 as amended by House Bill 1398, an insurance company shall submit an abstract of the annual statement on the form prescribed by the commissioner. This abstract must be published at least three times in a newspaper of general circulation and evenly distributed for publication across all newspapers operating in each of the state's eight judicial districts. Proof of publication must be filed with the commissioner within four months after the filing of the annual statement.

"These changes came about as a means of restoring publication to all newspapers in the state, rather than concentrating publication only in the largest newspapers, as had been directed by the insurance commissioner," said Wehrman.

Payment for publication of these notices comes from the insurance companies. No tax dollars are involved.

The purpose of the statements is to provide consumers information about the financial stability of companies people pay premiums to for property/casualty, life and health insurance.

Border Ag and Energy job openings

Border Ag and Energy is a north central North Dakota Grain & Oil Cooperative and is looking to fill the following position.

•Grain Procurement Merchandiser / Originator Border Ag & Energy, a grain cooperative in north central North Dakota, is seeking a motivated Grain Procurement Merchandiser / Originator to join our team. This role is essential in supporting our producers, strengthening our grain division, and ensuring the cooperative's long-term success. If you enjoy building relationships, analyzing markets, and helping farmers make informed decisions, this is a great opportunity to grow your career with a trusted local cooperative.

If you're ready to build a rewarding career and support local producers, we'd love to hear from you. Any questions on the position or resume can be sent to Brandon Burbidge at bburbidge@borderag.coop. Applications need to be sent in by May 8th, 2026. Resume reviews and interviews will be shortly after that.

BENEFITS INCLUDE: medical, dental & vision insurance, 401k, paid holidays and vacation. **Very competitive wage.**

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3	1	6	4	7	9	8	5	2

The Standard
150 Main Street
Westhope, ND 58793
Stop in the Coffee Shop when its open, they can take your news or payments. If you have something to drop off after hours the door slot is still available, its just to the side of the door now. If you want to call and we are not around my cell is (701)818-1230 and Amanda's (701)625-1087. If we cannot answer please leave a message and we will return the call. The office number is still (701)245-6461 and email standard@srt.com

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ZED by Duane M. Abel

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In the Past

by Annika Grann

100 Years Ago May 6th, 1926

The local immigration men, while doing patrol duty along the border last Thursday night, seized a Chevrolet coupe together with 105 quarts of whiskey and 24 bottles of beer. The car was flagged by the men and when they refused to stop, McCracken and Stoddard opened fire on them. Four shots hit the car and the booze runners, E. W. Beary and his companion, ran the car into a field and fled. The runners separated, one coming to Westhope and registering at the Planters Hotel under an assumed name, where he was taken into custody Friday morning by Patrol Inspector McCracken. The other man laid out the night and caught the freight at Kuroki. When accosted here, he tried to pass off as a member of the freight crew, but it didn't work, and he was taken into custody by Patrol Inspector Warwick. The two men together with the car and booze were turned over to Customs Collector Crum for violation of the customs and prohibition laws. The men were taken to Bottineau Friday afternoon by Crum and McCracken, and lodged in the county jail to await trial.

90 Years Ago May 7th, 1936

As we enter into May, a busy time approaches for those attending school, as well as the teachers, and particularly for the seniors, who will toward the latter part of the month be graduated into the wide world, or to enter on the pursuit of higher education. In the Westhope school thirteen seniors, seven boys and six girls, will receive their diplomas on Wednesday, May 27th. Their names are: Louise Brashear, Patricia Drake, Leo Fulwiler, Alice Houmann, Lynn King, Barbara Larson, Lesley Madden, Wesley Madden, James Munn, Gerda dePlace, Ruth Trimble, Ray Wells and Stanley White. Brander Graduates Five Principal Henry Sauker of the Brander consolidated school announces that five young people will be graduated from that school at exercises to be held on Friday May 29th. They are: Ralph Watson, George Watson, Agnes Brander, Lyle Stewart and Thelma Lee. Four at Kuroki At the Kuroki consolidated school a class of four will receive their diplomas at exercises to be held Friday, May 29. Those to be graduated are: Roscoe Sisk, Irene Ashley, Loretta Ballantyne and Doris Hair. O. M. Basnes is principal.

80 Years Ago May 9th, 1946

Fred Knautz of Fargo, secretary of the Lutheran Hospital & Home Society, was in town Tuesday and met with members of the Westhope Memorial Hospital Committee to discuss various phases of the hospital program. In action taken a couple of weeks ago the Lutheran Hospital and Home Society voted to take over and manage the Westhope Hospital, when built. Mr Knautz, who has had many years experience in successful hospital management, was favorably impressed with the work already done here; he saw a definite need and was in no doubts about the successful operation. In view of the fact that any federal aid is pretty nebulous (the bill is still in congress) and the added fact that the type of construction to be demanded if such aid was to be obtained, is so wasteful of space as to be prohibitive in operation, the committee decided not to plan on federal help and believed that it would not be necessary. Mr Knautz view several possible sites and his No. 1 choice was the city park. Plans were discussed, and the type of building was decided on. Mr Knautz, in conjunction with a South Dakota architect will begin at once to draw up the plans. The building will be of cement block construction and to forestall any possible price increase, some of the material, including the cement blocks, is being ordered at once. Plans are to call in the key men in the very near future to map a drive to bring in the balance of the quota.

70 Years Ago May 3th, 1956

Baumann's announce plans to put up a new modern supermarket in Westhope to replace their present structure on the corner of main street and 1st avenue. The business is owned by Win, Robert and William Baumann. The new building will be 40 by 100 ft. and will be of cinderblock and steel construction. Frontage will be on the east and south with the entrance at the southeast corner. The building will be constructed in such a way that they will be able to add another 40 feet if they wish. There will be a parking area on the north and west they announce. Frank Simek is the contractor and is ready to go ahead as soon as the present structure is removed. Ole Farden has the contract to wreck the present building for salvage. It is expected that Baumann's will be ready to have him start within a few weeks. During the time they will be without a building, they will set up the store in temporary quarters in the Community Hall. The building

presently occupied by Baumann's is one of the landmarks of the town of Westhope, and one of the first buildings to be put up here after the town was moved from Richburg in the fall of 1903. The late A. N. Baumann bought the building about 1923 and moved the store there a couple of years later. The Baumann business is now in its 54th year in the community. It was started by the late A. N. Baumann in Sarguis in 1902, on the proverbial shoestring, as a meat market. He moved his business to Richburg, and later to Westhope when the town was moved and expanded into the grocery and mercantile business. This new building will be another fine improvement for the city of Westhope and the Baumann brothers are certainly to be congratulated. It shows confidence in the future of our town and our community.

50 Years Ago May 6th, 1976

Mr. Clifford Odgaard of Westhope, North Dakota was among more than 300 area people who recently toured the Allis-Chalmers Corp. Milwaukee plants and other points of interest in that city. The group, all of whom recently purchased Allis-Chalmers equipment, was invited to make the trip as guests of the company's Minneapolis Region and its dealers. A reception and dinner was held to honor the Milwaukee visitors on the evening of their arrival, and the next day they toured the company's Agricultural Tractor Plant and other facilities. They viewed the methods and techniques involved in the manufacture of modern farm machinery and learned of the procedures used to implement the Total Quality Assurance program. The 100 percent computerized Flexible Manufacturing Center, used to machine transmissions and other major components for the line of high horsepower tractors made by the company, was one of the main points of interest. The system is the first of its kind to be used in the agricultural industry. They also saw the unique cab mounting procedure used to attach Acousta cabs to tractor bodies. Allis-Chalmers is the only manufacturer to utilize the assembly line method of mounting cabs. Another portion of the two day trip included a presentation of the Allis-Chalmers show, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow", which is a tribute to American farmers and their contributions to world progress.

35 Years Ago May 1st, 1991

The junior high boys scored 32 points Thursday in Rolla, placing 6th. Ryan Schepp and Jason Collins placed in three events; Collins 3rd in the 400 meter dash, 4th in the zoom dash and fifth in the 100 meter dash. Ryan Schepp placed 4th in the 400 meter dash, 5th in the mile and 6th in the high jump. Sixth grader, Dusty Lodoen placed 5th in the 300 meter hurdles. Three relay teams placed Thursday. The 400 meter relay team of Dustin Gust, Tyler Stratton, James Heth, and Mitch Opdahl placed fifth with a time of 1:05.87. The 800 meter medley relay placed fifth. Aaron McKechnie, Ray Schepp, Stratton and Jason Gullicks finished with a time of 2:24.74. The 1600 meter relay team of Gullicks, Lodoen and James and Larry May placed fifth with a time of 5:12.15. Jr High girls capture first place for the third time in four years, Westhope-Newburg's Junior High girls have won the Peace Garden Conference Track Meet. The girls piled up 107 points, out-distancing second place Leeds, who scored 71 points. The Sioux dominated the sprints and the hurdles, scoring a massive 80 points in the 100, 200, 400 meter dashes and 100 and 300 hurdles. Jennifer Sandy won three events and placed second in another to lead the Sioux with 38 points. The freshmen won the zoom dash in a time of 28:65, the 400 meter dash in 1:07.32 and the long jump with a leap of 14'1". Sandy was second in the 100 meter dash with a time of 13:25. Liz Kersten had a good day scoring 17½ points placing fourth in the 100 meter dash, third in the zoom dash, tied for second in the high jump and ran a leg on the 800 meter medley relay team, which finished fifth. Myca Gust finished first in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 18:78 and second in the 300 meter hurdles in 56:12. She also came in fifth in the zoom dash for a total of 20 big points for the day. The girls 400 meter relay were also first place finishers on Thursday with a time of 58:37. Members of the championship relay were: Marie Klokstad, Kim Gullicks, Desiree Deschamp and Jennifer Ritts. Other girls who had fine performances were: Annette Lee fifth in both the 400 and 800 meter dashes; Jennifer Ritts fifth in the 100 meter dash; Mandie Deschamp and cousin Desiree Deschamp finished second and third respectfully in the 100 meter hurdles and the 800 meter medley relay of Ritts, Klokstad, Kersten and Gullicks finished fifth in that race. The future looks bright for Girls Track in Westhope.