



MayPort-CG middle school interventionist Frannie Tunseth was named North Dakota's 2026 teacher of the year earlier this year.



The Banner published a story in October featuring JoAnn Naastad and her husband, John, who opened the Naastad Acres wedding venue east of Hatton in 2013.

Shining Lights child care center announces move to new site; Tunseth named ND teacher of the year

REWIND

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Aarsvold passes

Olav "Ole" Aarsvold, a former Blanchard, N.D., area farmer and longtime District 20 state lawmaker, passed away Aug. 25 at Luther Memorial Home in Mayville. He was 84. Aarsvold served District 20 in the North Dakota House of Representatives for nearly two decades from 1989 through 2008.

More Comets

First-day enrollment numbers announced Aug. 26 at Mayville State University saw an uptick compared to the previous year. Beth Swenson, MSU's director of public relations, said 1,193 students had registered for fall classes, marking a 6.9 percent increase in enrollment compared to 2024's totals.

September Burro returns

The Hillsboro Burros statue that had been a fixture in Hillsboro's Railroad Park for nearly 40 years – before being removed for repairs – was returned to the park on Sept. 1. "I think it looks really good. It's great to have it back," Hillsboro City Commission President Levi Reese said following the installation of the repaired burro statue.

Digging history

Nearly three weeks after clearing his spring wheat crop, Luke Steinberger welcomed dozens of his friends and neighbors to his fields 3 miles south of Caledonia, N.D., for an old-time plowing bee. Although a majority of the spectators and participants came from Cass and Traill counties, several of Steinberger's guests made the trek to rural Caledonia from Kansas and Michigan. Jesse Warren of Frontier, N.D., brought his 1914 Case 65-horsepower steam engine tractor to the event.

Cruising along

The 33rd annual Cruise to the Island car show packed in large crowds on Sunday, Sept. 10. Organizers said the show and shine pulled in 488 registered vehicles, the second-largest turnout the car show had seen in its 33-year history following a record 516 the previous year.

Shining Lights

Dera Benson-Johnson, owner of the Shining Lights Children's Program in Hillsboro, announced in September that the child care provider would be moving to a new location. Benson-Johnson said the child care center was leaving its home inside the former Dakota Heritage Bank building along Caledonia Avenue for new digs along First Avenue Southwest

starting in November.

Art display

Less than a year after his death, the creations of lifelong artist John C. Pederson were included in a monthlong public exhibit on display in Hillsboro. The Traill County Arts Coalition sponsored the exhibit, which showcased the drawings and paintings of Pederson following his death Feb. 24 at age 96. Pederson was a self-taught artist whose early inspiration came from Norman Rockwell's Saturday Evening Post covers, according to Eric Johnson of the arts coalition.

Shelter deal

Representatives from the Circle of Friends Animal Shelter in Grand Forks agreed to provide boarding services for stray dogs picked up by the Traill County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Steve Hunt told the Hillsboro City Commission on Sept. 15 that the animal shelter – which previously had been reluctant to take in loose dogs from outside Grand Forks County – had changed its stance and approved working with Traill County authorities on a trial basis.

Dairy permit

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality in September approved a permit for Riverview LLC's Herberg Dairy southeast of Hillsboro. The permit cleared the way to start construction of the planned 25,000-cow dairy operation, which would become the largest in the state of North Dakota once complete.

October Tunseth award

Frannie Tunseth received a rousing ovation from her fellow MayPort-CG teachers and middle and high school students after being named North Dakota's 2026 teacher of the year. Supporters held a small ceremony at the school after Tunseth was named teacher of the year during a public presentation Sept. 26 in Bismarck. "This recognition may have my name on it, but it really belongs to each and every one of you. You guys are the reasons why all of us teachers show up every single day," Tunseth told MPCG students.

Fire station

Construction crews broke ground in early October on Hillsboro Fire & Rescue's new \$4 million fire station being built south of the Hillsboro city armory along Highway 81. Firefighters, city officials and representatives from Sanford Health gathered near the building site armed with a half-dozen shovels for a ground-breaking ceremony.

Hillsboro Fire Chief Jake Rust said the project kicked off slightly behind schedule, although firefighters still expect to have the building finished next summer, he said.

Chicken ban

The Hatton City Council on Oct. 1 pushed back its previously approved Jan. 1, 2026 deadline requiring residents to remove their chicken flocks from inside city limits. Following impassioned pleas from more than a half-dozen people, city leaders approved a new May 1, 2026 deadline for people to close down their coops in the city. Mayor Stu Letcher said he sympathized with people who shared their feelings about their personal flocks but pointed out the city's ordinances have never allowed chickens, ducks or other livestock inside city limits.

Haugen retires

After spending more than three and a half decades in the Traill County Auditor's Office – the past nine as county auditor – Glenda Haugen was preparing to shuffle into retirement in late October. The 67-year-old Portland, N.D., woman said she was ready to spend more time with family and close the book on her 36-year career in county government. She was hired as a deputy in the county auditor's office on June 26, 1989.

Flippin' out

Flippin' Forks Mobile Kitchen owner Suzie Hegvick of rural Reynolds stopped in Mayville to serve up a few of her specialties prepared inside her newly minted food truck. The former owner of the Blue Line Bar and Grill in Hatton said operating the mobile kitchen allowed her to spend more free time with her growing family.

Brewery sale

The Hillsboro Economic Development Corp. on Oct. 27 extended a three-year, \$60,000 loan offer to Brian Gullickson, who was in negotiations to purchase Goose River Brewing in Hillsboro. The forgivable loan would be converted into a grant as long as Gullickson kept the downtown brewpub in operation for three years following the purchase of the establishment. Gullickson, who lives in Moorhead, Minn., owns six bar and grill establishments in east-

ern North Dakota.

Blooming business

Brittany Thompson of Hillsboro announced in late October that she was opening Heavenly Blooms & More at 5 N. Main St. in downtown Hillsboro. Thompson said the business would offer customers fresh, hand-crafted floral arrangements when it opened in early November. "It's been a dream of mine forever to own my own little boutique flower shop," Thompson said.

November Elevator fire

More than 100 firefighters from 16 fire departments in Traill, Steele and Grand Forks counties camped out along Railroad Avenue in Hatton late Nov. 5 to battle a grain elevator fire. The fire at Anchor Ingredients' grain-handling facility at 120 Railroad Ave., was reported around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5. Smoke from the fire could be seen from 40 miles away in Hillsboro. Two buildings were destroyed in the blaze and fire officials said they believed the structures were filled with wheat from fall harvest prior to the fire.

Lofty goals

Paul and Terra Provost of Halstad, Minn., opened the Hayloft Mercantile in Hillsboro in November. The owners of the Hillsboro Cafe said the new business along Caledonia Avenue would feature a wide assortment of antiques that had been cobbled together from rummage and estate sales over the years. In addition, the store's online presence allowed customers to purchase a large variety of products from artisans and ag producers that couldn't be found on local store shelves.

Second fire

Firefighters from across Traill County banded together on Nov. 15 to battle a grain elevator fire at O'Brien Seed Company at 42 1st Ave. N.E., in Mayville. Tony Ernst, chief deputy with the Traill County Sheriff's Department, said a phone call came in shortly after 7 p.m., Nov. 15 alerting authorities about the blaze. Homeowners along Second Avenue Southeast east of the elevator were asked to monitor

REWIND

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Game Sponsors

Nodak Insurance Company,
The Beehive,
Valley Plains Equipment,
Countryside Insurance
Jan. 2 - Boys basketball vs.
MayPort-CG (CV), 7 p.m.

To sponsor a game or become a member of the HCV Booster Club, contact Carissa Olsen at 701-430-9588 or email carissa@nokotapackers.com.

DONATIONS NEEDED AT FOOD PANTRY

Donations of the following items are needed at the Hillsboro Kiwanis Food Pantry:

Canned fruit, all flavors	Napkins	Jelly, all flavors
Pasta, all kinds	Laundry soap	Ketchup
Cans of Chef Boyardee ravioli & spaghetti	Dish soap	Jell-O
Cereal	Toiletry items (shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant)	Pudding
Stove Top Stuffing	Cake mixes	Canned beef/beef stew
Hamburger Helper		
Juice, all flavors		
Canned tuna		
Crackers, assorted		
Green beans		
Peas		
Ramen noodles		
Toilet paper		
Paper towels		
Tissues		

Donations can be dropped off at Farmers Union Insurance and Dakota Heritage Bank in Hillsboro, or Hillsboro Public Schools

Every contribution helps!

Hillsboro Kiwanis Food Pantry Committee

FORWARD in FAITH

David Moeller
Guest contributor

Pray for all people

"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people" 1 Timothy 2:1

We are encouraged in this 1 Timothy verse to pray for all people. There are four key words in this verse that represent four different parts of a prayer: Petitions, Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgiving. Petitions are to fight against all kinds of evil. Prayers are to ask for good. Intercession is to lay the needs of others before our Savior. Last, but not least, Thanksgiving is to recognize all of the blessings we have received from God. So, when you pray, petition Jesus to protect you and others from any harm or evil. Pray for their good and that their hearts would be open to Jesus' voice and God's will for their lives. Make intercession for help in any challenges they are facing. Then, thanksgiving which flows with great joy for all the blessings God gives each of us every day. God's phone number is Jeremiah 33:3: "Call to me and I will answer you." Call on him. He loves to hear from you. As Matthew West sings, "Don't Stop Praying!" Happy New Year!

David W. Moeller

This message of hope brought to you by Hillsboro's faith community.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church	St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church	Hillsboro United Parish UCC/UMC	St. John Lutheran Church	Harvest Baptist Church
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News from the Village

Ronda Hanson

Hello everyone, it's Ronda with the weekly Hatton Prairie Village News. I'm hoping you all had a great Christmas, and now here we are. We have started taking down some of the Christmas things to prepare for the coming of a new year. I'm not sure what the New Year's celebration will look like here, but it usually involves some pretty good snack food and who doesn't like that? I know I always say this but time really flies. Make sure to keep a look out on our Facebook page for people you may know.

We are excited to announce that we are going to participate in the Giving Hearts Day program. We have set a \$5,000 goal. The portal to this program is open Jan. 12 to Feb. 12, 2026.

If you would like to donate to this, please go to givingheartsdays.org. Once you have gotten there, search Hatton Prairie Village and it will take you to the donate link. Feb. 12 is Giving Hearts Day. If you would like more information or help doing this, please see Amber or Cindy and they would be more than happy to visit with you about the process. Thank you in advance for considering this.

What's going on the week of Jan. 4-10:

Sunday, Jan. 4 – Worship with communion at 10 a.m. The Coffee Shop will be open for coffee and dessert from 1 to 3 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 5 – Room visits, Jenny's choice, resident council, word games, Bingo, beverage cart, blessings in caring and sharing and one-to-ones.

Tuesday, Jan. 6 – Room visits, cheese-head game, trivia, waffle lunch, create, beverage cart, Joan's choice, number game and one-to-ones.

Wednesday, Jan. 7 – Room visits, a visit from Alyx and the boys, worship, trivia, pie and coffee in the coffee shop from 1 to 4 p.m., popcorn, beverage cart, Bible study and one-to-ones.

Thursday, Jan. 8 – Room visits, chocolate chip cookies by Rene, word games, Bingo, beverage cart and one-to-ones.

Friday, Jan. 9 – Room visits, manicures and sing-along video, beverage cart and one-to-ones

Saturday, Jan. 10 – Games, trivia, one-to-ones and beverage cart with games. Happy birthday this week goes out to Cassie Cofell. Happy birthday!

We would like to remind you all that we are in the middle of flu season and, if you are not feeling up to par, please save your visit for another day. It is our best defense to keep residents and staff well. I know that at least one area hospital is restricting some visiting. We don't want that to happen, so let's work together to keep everyone well and happy.

That is about all I have to tell you for this week, other than thank you so much for all the kindnesses and treats that you shared with us over the holidays. They do not go unnoticed! Blessed with the best, ALWAYS! Have a great week!

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EXCEPTIONAL HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND IN CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP, TRAIL COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

FOR SALE ON WRITTEN AND ORAL BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the following described real estate will be offered for sale on written and oral bids:

The South Half of the Southwest Quarter (S1/2SW1/4) and the South Half of the North Half of the Southwest Quarter (S1/2N1/2SW1/4) all in Section 3, Township 146N, Range 49W, Traill County, North Dakota.

Obtain bid packets by email from Brett A Brudvik at brett@brudvik.law. Written bids must be submitted by email to Brett A. Brudvik, brett@brudvik.law by 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Oral bidding will take place the following week, with the top eight (8) bidders being invited to the bidding table. Bids will start at the highest written bid. It is the responsibility of the bidder to verify bids have been received. Seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Sale shall be governed by the rules of sale provided with your bid packets. Land is under lease through 2026, and will be available to farm in the 2027 growing season.

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