

Dakota Datebook Presents:

GOLD RUSH IN LISBON

By Dr. Steve Hoffbeck

January 8, 2026 – “Gold.” The mere mention of the word sets pulses pounding and hearts longing for the glistening yellow metal. When a landowner finds flecks of gold on his land, he hopes for bigger flakes, or golden nuggets, or even the mother lode.

Such a landowner was H.W. Griswold, a Chicago businessman, who bought 340 acres of Ransom County land, nine miles west of the fledgling town of Lisbon in the spring of 1883. Griswold bought acreage along the beautiful Sheyenne River – presumably as cattle pasture. Sometime that summer, however, Mr. Griswold found gold in a mound of dirt thrown up by a gopher. He took the dirt to an assayer and was told “it was rich in gold.”

Griswold searched further and found more gold in an “eighty-foot ledge” of quartz and other rocks, and had it analyzed by experts. The analysis on 130 specimens of sand and rock calculated out to \$414 to \$1,360 of gold to the pan, with some silver in there, too.

News of the gold leaked out through an electrifying article in the local Lisbon newspaper in late October, 1883. Within days, a Lisbon Gold Rush was on, as articles appeared in Grand Forks, Bismarck, and all the way to Chicago and New York.

Griswold gathered a cadre of Chicago investors to buy rock-crushing mining machinery, and their company started ore-digging immediately. Other frenzied gold-seekers bought up the land along the Sheyenne River, for twenty miles from Lisbon to Fort Ransom. Lisbon was wild with excitement – with gold fever.

But, on this date in 1884, the Grand Forks Herald reported that

Griswold and his associates had “abandoned all further mining enterprises until spring,” leaving “one by one” as a frigid Dakota winter touched their fingers and toes.

When April arrived, Griswold came back, bringing an ore-crushing machine to smash an accumulated 2,000 tons of raw ore. During the summer, the gold rush fizzled – Griswold’s ore didn’t pan out. By August, a report said that the “few people who worked the Lisbon gold mines have quit.”

Once the Lisbon gold rush was over, shouts of “gold!” were hushed and replaced by the murmuring waters of the Sheyenne River flowing over the shining gravel near the former “Griswold Mine.”

RENVILLE

By Sarah Walker

January 9, 2026 – On this date in 1933, Mr. Felix Renville and his wife were getting ready to travel from their home in Fort Yates to New York to appear on Robert Ripley’s radio program, “Believe It or Not.”

According to an article in the Mandan Daily News, the curious event prompting the show to invite Renville extended back to 1918, during World War I, when he was a machine gunner in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

The Meuse-Argonne campaign started on September 26, 1918, and was the final large-scale offensive of World War I. The battle lasted until the Armistice. In the process, more than 26,000 Americans were killed, and over 120,000 wounded.

On November 2, the day after the final push began, Felix Renville was injured so badly that he was thought to be dead. Gassed, and suffering from multiple shrapnel wounds, he said his body was examined by a buddy, his corporal and captain. None

of them found any sign of life.

“The corporal pushed me...called my name,” Renville later reported. “I was bleeding and didn’t seem to breathe. He put me down and went on.”

Luckily for Renville, who was left for dead on the battlefield, he was nonetheless carried off to a hospital by first aid men. When he regained consciousness, more than 10 days later, he asked the man on the bed next to him about the progress of the war.

“It was over two days ago,” the man replied.

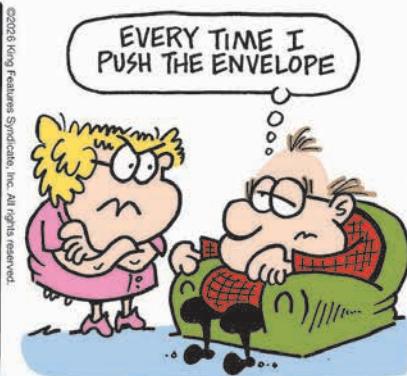
Renville, who was a Sioux Indian, stated that blood transfusions left him with “mostly Irish and Swedish blood.”

After he came to, he contacted his father, to make sure he knew he was alive – and, according to Renville, after all the uncertainty, this positive proof of his son’s life caused Renville’s father to have a heart attack. He died before Felix returned to North Dakota.

Ripley’s Believe It or Not! is a franchise that began in 1918, involving cartoons, books, film, TV, Internet, and radio – sharing the story of “bizarre events and items so strange and unusual” that listeners might question the claims, including the story of a North Dakota boy who for a time, had claimed a spot amidst the “legion of the dead.”

“Dakota Datebook” is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the “Dakota Datebook” podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shoppairiepublic.org.

by Jeff Pickering



by Jeff Pickering

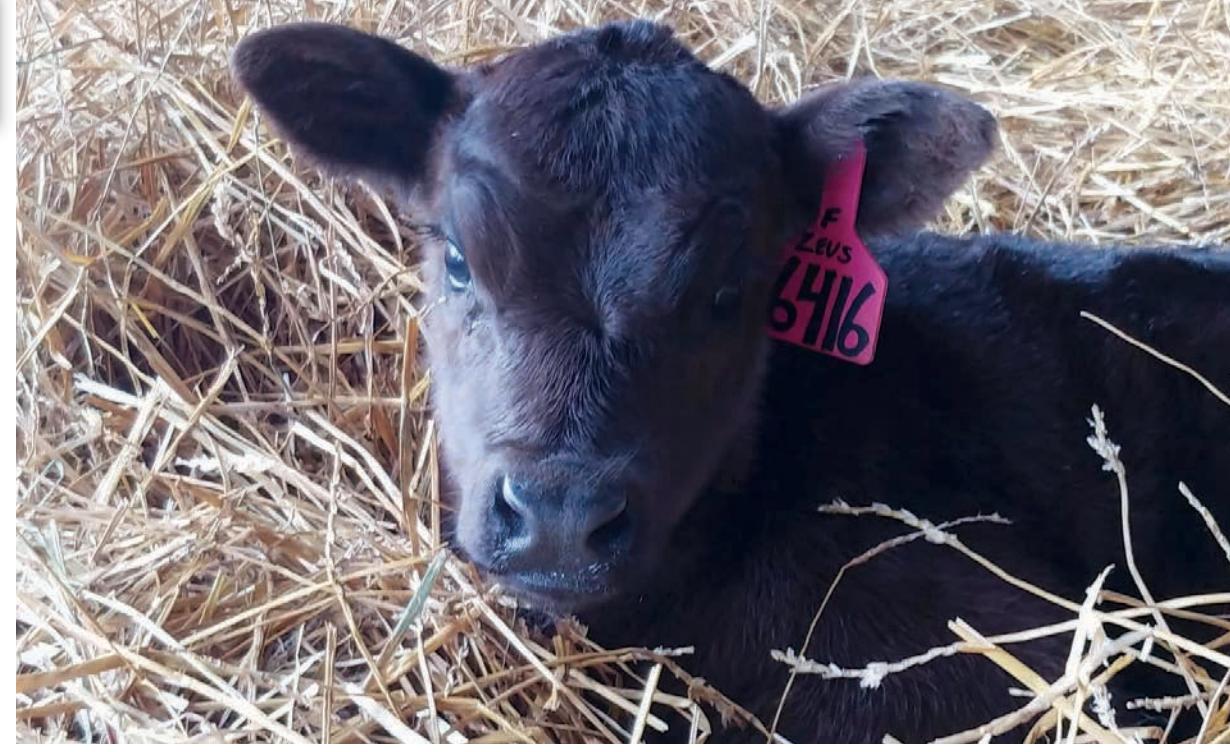
North Dakota State University Extension will host its annual calving school on Friday, Jan. 23, at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot, North Dakota. The program will hold two session times this year, giving participants the flexibility to attend either from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 5-9 p.m.

Program topics will cover key areas of calving season management, including maternal nutrition, effective record-keeping and calving kit preparation, hands-on calving

andcolostrum management and best management practices to support healthy cows and calves.

The cow-and-calf model, which

debuted at the 2025 NDSU Extension Calving School to simulate abnormal delivery assistance, will



NDSU Extension's Calving School will cover best management practices to support healthy cows and calves this season. (NDSU photo)

Agriculture and Natural Resources News



NDSU EXTENSION
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537-5405



NDSU Extension's 2026 Calving School set for Jan. 23

North Dakota State University Extension will host its annual calving school on Friday, Jan. 23, at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot, North Dakota. The program will hold two session times this year, giving participants the flexibility to attend either from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 5-9 p.m.

Program topics will cover key areas of calving season management, including maternal nutrition, effective record-keeping and calving kit preparation, hands-on calving demonstrations, proper vaccination and colostrum management and best management practices to support healthy cows and calves.

The cow-and-calf model, which debuted at the 2025 NDSU Extension Calving School to simulate abnormal delivery assistance, will

return in 2026. A new rotation schedule will provide participants with hands-on experience learning techniques for managing a variety of calving complication scenarios.

The program will be led by Lacey Quail, NDSU Extension livestock management specialist; Dr. Jake Galbreath, NDSU Extension veterinarian; Dr. Kelly Schaefer of Schaefer Veterinary Service and NDSU Extension agents Paige Brummund of Ward County and Kathryn Slavick of McHenry County.

“Whether you are well seasoned or new to calving cows, this workshop will provide you with tips, tools and hands-on activities to be better prepared for the upcoming calving season,” says Brummund.

The school is \$20 to attend, with meals provided at both sessions.

Registration is required for meal count and materials.

To register, visit ndsu.ag/calvingschool or call 701-857-6444.

The North Central Research Extension Center is located at 5400 Highway 83 S in Minot.

For more information, contact Brummund at 701-857-6444 or Slavick at 701-537-5405.

NDSU Agriculture Communication – Dec. 29, 2025

Source: Paige Brummund, 701-857-6444, paige.f.brummund@ndsu.edu

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cil meeting at 8pm, subject to building applications submitted 2 weeks prior.

(January 7, 2026)

Legals: Your Right to Know

NOTICE OF PETITION

OF NAME CHANGE

25-2025-CV-00175

In District Court, McHenry County, North Dakota in the matter of The Petition For Name Change of Mariah Faye Boardman

Notice Of Petition For Name Change

1. Please Take Notice that a Petition will be filed with the above-entitled court requesting an Order changing the Petitioner's name of Mariah Faye Boardman (current full, legal name) to Mariah Faye Marshall (requested full, legal name).

2. Notice Is Further Given that thirty days after publication, the Petitioner intends to file a Petition requesting entry of the Court's Order changing the Petitioner's name. Any objection to granting this name change must be given in writing to the address listed below within 30 days of the date of this publication. The written objection must also be filed with the Court. If no objections are given, the Court may respond to the Petition without further hearing.

Dated 12-31-2025

Mariah Boardman

510 2nd St. NW #11

Towner, ND 58788

(January 7, 2026)

Pres- n/a,

Prin Report -losing 1 student, gaining 1 student, update on Civic Club donation for Bottineau Winter Park Caught You reward, CBMS are completed, NDA Plus will be completed the end of January.

Sup't Heim's monthly report included:

Kindergarten update, NDPHIT meeting on Dec 15th to discuss potential increase, Trap update, update on Transfer rule, JH boy's basketball coach update, Heating unit update, on evaluations.

Unfinished business-

1. 26-27 School Calendar- reviewed and discussed

2. Basketball Numbers – get a meeting scheduled with Velva to discuss next steps.

3. Leadership Team – update on team and meetings

New Business

1. Old Sports Uniforms – Drake All School Reunion would like old uniforms for the next all school reunion. Discussed

2. SFN 10172 – discussed new law regarding the SFN 10172- needs to be completed by January Board Meeting.

Next meeting will be on Jan 8, 2026 meeting starting at 7 am.

There being no further business to discuss

cuss, moved by Martin to adjourn

MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD.

Stacy Bruner, Business Manager

Carrie Hager, President

(January 7, 2026)

DEERING CITY MINUTES

Decement 1, 2025

Regular Meeting of the Deering City Council was called to order at 8:00pm at the Deering Community Center with all members present. Also present was Brandie Mogard.

Minutes of the Nov. meeting were read with motion to approve by M Gange, C Howe, 2nd C Howe, MC.

Financial report as follows: Previous Balance Nov. 1 - \$39,123.24. Income: \$9454.28. Disb. \$3234.62. Balance December 1 - \$45,342.90. CD Balance \$20,000.00. Motion to approve the financial report. M Mogard, R Polum 2nd, MC.

OLD BUSINESS:

Culverts for propane tank barrierers will be done as soon as possible this spring.

Ottertail work orders for raising power lines is submitted.

Blinds for CC not ordered yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Christmas lights are up. Contact Jeff Miller about flickering lights at CC.

Movie matinee will be held @CC December 13.

Events in planning at CC - Fun Night in February/March, Gun Raffle/Silent Auction in conjunction w/Fire Dept., Movie Matinees in Jan/Feb, Mar. 1 Vintage Snowmobile Show - Driftbusters.

Motion C Howe, 2nd M Gange to transfer \$15,000.00 from General Fund and \$5000.00 from Zoning fund to Building Improvement Fund. MC

M Mogard motion to pay bills due, 2nd C Howe, MC.

R Plumm motion to adjourn.

Laurie Herslip, Auditor

Ck # 3688-3704, void 3698 & 3702,

3656 Circle Sanitation 1120.31, Ottertail

Power 509.95, NRPWD 134.59, SRT

49.95, NDLC 248.00, agric 59.00, MRJ

69.42, L Herslip 284.35, M L Mogard, Jr

415.52, Brandie Mogard 78.50, C Howe

120.00, R Polum 120.00, M Gange 100.00,

Tri N Propane 290.00, L Cameron 120,

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