

STRIDES

People, businesses and communities taking steps forward



All around us local businesses and local people are innovating, accomplishing and growing. This section serves as a celebration of those achievements, the many Strides forward. Look inside to read about people and businesses going places.



Making connections quicker and safer

By Daniel Arens

West River Telecom boasts an impressive coverage area and a dedicated team of technicians and experts in new technologies and new connections among people.

But there's always room to improve and to grow, and WRT is seizing the opportunity to benefit all the people they serve in 25 communities and the surrounding country over an area of 8,400 square miles

"We've made huge strides, and not just in Hazen, but also in Beulah and Mercer County and throughout the area," Beth Krause, WRT marketing manager, said.

Among the most notable of these strides is the complete overhaul of the old fixed wireless system by the installation of fiber optics for businesses and residences throughout the region. This new system allows gigabit speed for both uploads and downloads to the people they serve.

"We had a fixed wireless service that just wasn't performing the way customers would want in this day and age," WRT Operations Manager James Byerley said. He explained this old system used signals from land towers placed strategically throughout the coverage area that residents picked up their service from.

By contrast, the new fiber optic system involves building lasers into the electronics of the glass fiber installation, with the pulses of light emitted from the lasers being converted into data.

"It can deliver broadband to video to voice, and it can do it all at least 100 times faster than we could before," Byerley said.

The project is not without major expense, in fact about \$100 million of it. However, customers covered the majority of those costs themselves, and WRT never needed to take out any kind of loan for any portion of the project. The Universal Service Fund also played a part in bringing the project together.

"There's a federally managed fund called the Universal Service Fund that provides assistance to areas that service rural customers," WRT CEO and General Manager Troy Schilling said. He said the emphasis is to ensure that all people, not just those living in major cities, have equal access to the best communications and technology services available.

"It was basically self-funded," Krause said. "All while having the largest margins and still paying out an average of \$500 cash-back to members."

The project isn't completely finished yet, although Schilling said the hope is to have all the fiber up and running for current customers by the end of 2019. Although the goal is within sight, wet weather proves to be a factor with finishing things up, on this matter as on so many others.

Because of the change to fiber and the increase in upload and download speeds, WRT was officially GIG certified in 2017 from the NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association. This required an independent professional engineering firm



The Rural Broadband Association GIG CERTIFIED provider seal marks WRT as an official provider of GIG-speed service to its customers.

to certify that the new system worked for customers at gigabit speed.

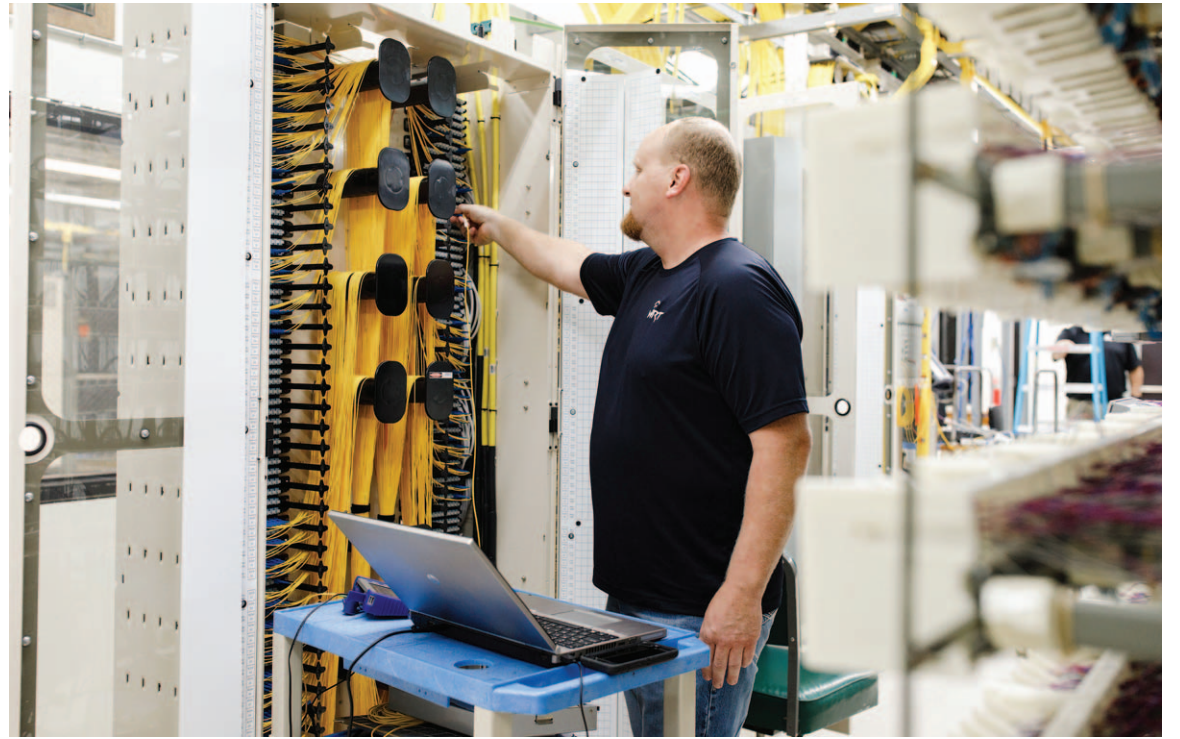
The fiber optic project is one of the largest projects ever undertaken by the utilities and telecommunication cooperative, requiring a completely new system of delivering data and service to every one of their customers. The project is also ongoing, as new customers are always joining somewhere and fiber needs to be provided to them.

Fiber also allows WRT to provide services like the internet-based phone Cloud Voice, which includes free long distance calls since it is done by broadband, and 100 percent guaranteed Complete Wi-Fi Coverage for all rooms within the walls of your home.

The fiber project isn't the only major undertaking by WRT. Protecting and enhancing security for customers is also a top priority, including new ways to limit the amount of robocalls residents might receive.

"We are literally working on that today," Byerley said Oct. 2. He explained when robocalls come in carrying the same area code as the caller, a common scam recently, the call still comes in through the long distance or international system. WRT is installing new technology that will automatically block such calls if they use long distance, only allowing local calls through on local area codes.

There's also the issue of cybersecurity. Byerley pointed out a major portion of scams are received through junk emails, some of which have links to click on that lead to viruses. Several email scams impacting the area recently have claimed to be from WRT itself, adding another layer of



Submitted photos

WRT Fiber connections being tested in the WRT Central Office in Hazen by Todd Keller, Hazen.



WRT Fiber is installed in rural areas that connects to the home and back to WRT's Network.

concern to the issue.

Byerley said there is lots of training to make sure employees are aware of the warning signs of these kinds of viruses. In addition, WRT regularly reaches out to customers to inform them of scams and offer tips for how individuals can protect their own information.

"I want to say we've done at least as much or more than any other company I'm familiar with in protecting our customers," Schilling said. This includes outside audits, by which WRT works with companies to see if they can infiltrate the cooperative's soft-

ware maliciously, and then taking corrective action if any weak spots are detected.

This includes protecting any personal data that may be stored with WRT as part of the service they provide.

"WRT is bound to follow FCC's customer proprietary information rules," Schilling said. "We protect our customers very vigilantly." He pointed to the encryption of sensitive essential information so that not even most WRT employees could access it as one example of this protection.

In addition to these online and electronic security measures, there's also protocols

to prevent anyone from physically accessing one of WRT's buildings to do damage, such as installing a flash drive containing malware into a computer.

"We haven't had that happen to us," Schilling said, "but we try to be proactive rather than reactive."

As technology, communications and the Internet continue to change and evolve, WRT is constantly working to stay ahead of the curve, providing the fastest and also the most reliable services to the many North and South Dakotans who rely on them for staying connected in the modern age.



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Walking on the Western Side

By Jerry W. Kram

Like chocolate in your peanut butter, sometimes an unexpected combination can pay off big.

That's the case with some new businesses opened by a mother and son on New Town's Main Street.

J'z Fashion offers a wide selection of men's and women's fashion in the former Cenex station on Main Street in New Town along with fire resistant clothing for oil field workers, and is headquarters for a energy service company.

The unusual combination came together in part because Tanner Stubstad was tired of living in his truck after a year working in the oil fields around New Town as head of Grey Horse Energy Services. He spent time as an owner operator, and looked for a more permanent base of operations where he could add other operators and service his trucks.

"We do roustabout crews," Stubstad said. "We do rig moves, winch trucks, haul water, side dumps and more."

When he found that the United Quality Cooperative was selling the old station, he quickly made plans for the former retail side of the property as well.

"Whenever we needed fire resistant clothing we had to go to Williston or Minot," Stubstad said. "There's nothing here. We saw an opportunity. At first we thought it was an opportunity to provide our employees with FR clothing. But then

we had the idea to bring my mom's store over here from Sydney."

Mom is Julie Smelser. She grew up in the New Town-Parshall area before moving to Montana. She has owned J'z Fashion in Sydney for 11 years and had two other stores in Williston and Glendive. She sold the store in Williston and closed the store in Glendive to have more time to care for an ailing family member.

"I'm helping Tanner with his business," Smelser said. "This building has been for sale for some time. With his energy business and the lack of FR clothing around town, I just thought I should bring J'z over here."

Along with connections to the area, Smelser said she already had a customer base in New Town who patronized her Sydney store. One of the questions she often got was when was she going to open a store in New Town.

"So I thought maybe opening a new store here would help the community," Smelser said. "It would bring jobs and fashion over here, for women and men."

J'z offers a wide range of clothing with a western flare. Smelser said she tries to stock something for every budget. She diversified her Sydney store's inventory after the community lost its Shopko and J.C. Penney, adding more budget conscious choices.

"I have different levels of clothing," Smelser said. "I do look for quality though, good fabrics and things that will last a long time. I used



to carry clothing just for women, so I expanded out to men's clothing. I expanded out to children because I have a new grandson, and suddenly felt the need for children's clothing. So the prices range from low to high end because I have customers who want to pay that."

Smelser said she caters to all parts of the western lifestyle. She carries hard wearing, utilitarian gear that can stand up to the rigors of ranch life. But she also carries lines for when looks are as important as function.

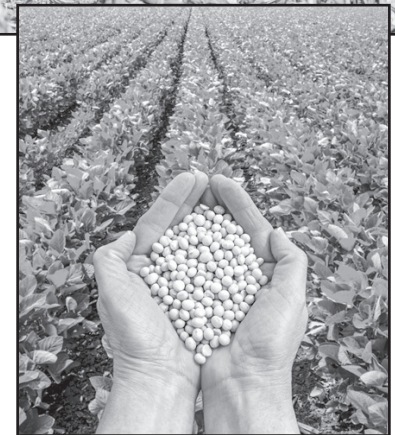
"Businessmen love the

WESTERN continued on pg 4

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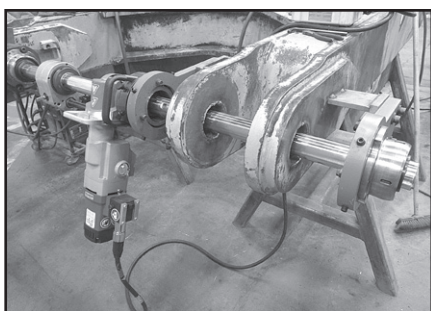
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WESTERN

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vests and native prints," Smelser said. "So I have a variety from the simple cowboy boots and hats to the vests and jackets. I also have workwear for women with brands like Cinch and Cruel Girl and then I have the high end for people who want to come and dress for a concert, with brands like Double D, Tasha Parisi or the Old Gringo Boot. So there is the high end too."

Smelser said selling FR clothing is a new venture for her because other retailers sell that in Sydney. But she said her suppliers for western wear also carry FR gear, so it was an easy transition. Being the only supplier for 70 miles in the middle of a hot oil play also made the decision to move into FR clothing an easy one.

"I think the timing is right," Smelser said. "I hope the boom lasts a while because it brings in so many jobs. I just want to be able help with the businesses all around New Town. I'm going to be very competitive on prices to give the best deal to our customers."

Smelser also offers discounts on FR gear to companies who partner with J'z. She has also engaged a new supplier of FR clothing that caters to big and tall men.

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Filling a housing hole

Young people across the U.S. struggle with buying a home
— can GAIA's new housing idea help bring workers to Garrison?

BY DIANE NEWBERRY

The American dream: a fulfilling career, a nuclear family and (the crowning glory) a home of one's own. As the years have gone by, this dream has been chipped away at in various cultural and economic ways.

The nuclear family isn't necessarily the norm, careers are evolving with the fast pace of technology and owning a home can seem impossible to many young people, even those with moderate income. In a small town like Garrison, which lacks apartment infrastructure, it can be hard to entice educated young people who are just starting out to move to town if they don't have an affordable living space.

That's why city business leaders are working toward an unorthodox solution.

At an Aug. 26 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs committee, Mike Matteson introduced an interesting new housing arrangement to committee members.

The Foursome apartments, already owned by the Garrison Area Improvement Association and other nonprofits, combined with the potential purchase of the two local duplexes could be turned into what Matteson calls "essential service employee housing."

The idea, as explained by Matteson at the meeting, is that local businesses will pay a small fee to the apartments, between \$25 and \$50 a month, to cover any vacant months. This allows for flexibility when a business needs to hire a new employee and can guarantee them an affordable apartment. The apartment's rent will be in the medium price range. According to Matteson, "\$750 (a month) is where it shuts down for someone coming out of college or has been out of college or a two-year degree."

The candidates would be "anybody that would be (in the) middle of everybody's



One of the houses currently on the Garrison market. According to realtor Mike Matteson, Garrison has low income housing available through the housing authority and a healthy real estate market overall, but it can be difficult for young professionals to afford starter homes.

business or above. So a plumber, an electrician, a meat cutter, ag loan officer, press runner, insurance agent. We're struggling in that category and every town is."

Committee members were receptive to the idea.

"It's not a normal concept, but I really think we're going to have to do something or we're going to struggle bad," Matteson said. "You're not discriminating because you're only doing it based on their employment in Garrison."

Big picture

This new project will probably be geared toward people in their early twenties. According to the Pew Research Center, which puts the cut-off for

the "millennial" generation at 1995, these workers are generally considered to be "Gen Z."

However, the struggles that their slightly older millennial counterparts have had in achieving home ownership have been well documented by economic studies at this point, and as Gen Z grows older, they may encounter some of the same roadblocks.

A study by the Urban Institute showed millennial home ownership was at 37 percent in 2015, which is about eight percentage points lower than the both Gen X and Baby Boomer home buyers at the same age (25-34).

The institute found multiple factors to be dragging down the rate at which millennials choose to buy a home: delayed marriage and childbearing, greater student loan debt, increased rents and educated millennials' tendency to move toward urban centers at greater rates were among the top reasons listed.

North Dakota might not have the housing problems of places like Los Angeles, New York, Denver, Portland, San Francisco or even Minneapolis. While these are the types of places that millennial home ownership (or lack thereof) is often written about, some of the factors studied by the Urban Institute still very much affect young potential home buyers in Garrison.

Matteson, a long-time real estate agent with West Inkster Realty, said in an interview about millennial home ownership that the biggest problem he sees here with young potential buyers is their debt.

"From 20-30 ... that's the hardest age category to get into a house because they don't have the down payment, or they've got too much credit load," Matteson said.

By Matteson's estimation, there are actually more young people living in Garrison today than when he moved to town in the 1980's, and he sees particular growth in the 30's and 40's population. However, first time home buyers have been having trouble, he said, because of the oil boom.

"What happened was you used to be able to buy a starter home in here for somewhere between \$25,000 and 50,000," Matteson said. "That went \$50,000 to \$90,000 so it doubled overnight and the amount of them available vanished. Prior to the oil boom, we probably had less than ten rental homes in town. Now I would say there's thirty and it's because someone was an investor and wanted to do it, someone wanted to sell their home but decided to rent it. It was enticing."

According to Matteson, the rental market has been leveling out, but the legacy of high rental fees has crippled young people's ability to save.

"What happens to the young generation is they get into the rental market and they're paying high rent because \$1,000 a month is high rent," Matteson said. "They have no ability to

save money for a down payment so they're in that Catch 22."

Minot and Bismarck

Nathan Stremick with Signal Realtors said the rental market has also been becoming more reasonable in Minot, and he has seen a decrease in overall rental properties.

"Apartments are still apartments, but it is better for someone to sell their single family home to someone who's going to live in it, owned and occupied, than it is to sell your single family home to an investor as an investment," Stremick said.

In Bismarck, Nicole Terreault with Venture Real Estate said the rental bubble didn't affect Bismarck as sharply during the oil boom, but house prices have increased overall.

Ten years ago, Terreault said, the average price of a starter home in Bismarck was around \$165,000 while today it is around \$250,000. However, she notes that right now, "you're seeing a lot of homeowners going from their first house now to their second or third house and their house is

Generational roadblocks

According to a 2018 study by the Urban Institute, there are many reasons for the low rate of millennial home ownership. Here are their explanations of a few key factors:

Delayed marriage: Being married increases the probability of owning a home by 18 percentage points, after accounting for other factors such as age, income, race/ethnicity and education. If the marriage rate in 2015 had been the same as it was in 1990, the millennial home ownership rate would be about 5 percentage points higher.

Delayed child bearing: For those who are married, having a child increases the probability of owning a home 6.2 percentage points, after accounting for other factors such as age, income, race/ethnicity and education.

Greater racial diversity: Because non-Hispanic white households have higher home ownership rates than all other racial groups, the increasing diversity of millennials contributes to the lower home ownership rate as well. If the racial composition in 2015 had been the same as it was in 1990, the millennial home ownership rate would be 2.6 percentage points higher.

Increased education debt: A 1 percent increase in education loan debt decreases the likelihood of owning a home by 0.15 percentage points.

Increased rents: A 1 percent increase in a household's rent-to-income ratio decreases the likelihood of home ownership by 0.07 percentage points.

Parental wealth and home ownership status: A child's likelihood of being a homeowner increases by 9 percentage points if their parents are owners and a 1 percent increase in parental wealth increases a child's likelihood of being a homeowner by .016 percentage points.

Location choice: The preference of educated millennials to move to more expensive urban centers has contributed to their lower home ownership rate.

HOUSING continued on pg 10

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Looking Beyond the Mirror

BY SUZANNE WERRE

When her customers sit down in the chair at Heather Hoey's new salon, they typically look at themselves and see themselves not looking their best.

Hoey also looks at the mirror, but she doesn't focus on what her customer's reflection looks like, but what they're like inside – Beyond the Mirror – which is also the name of her new Underwood-based salon.

"I look behind what you just see at the time in the mirror," she said. "It's the person, and feeling better about themselves. It's not about what people see, it's about how you feel on the inside when you leave."

Located on the west side of the UFS Lodge, she has just a few finishing touches to put on the space before she's ready to open the doors to new clients.

Originally from Colorado, Hoey has lived in Underwood for about a year-and-a-half, and recently decided now is the time to open up a salon.

"I wanted to meet people, so I was trying to think of something to do," said Hoey. "I loved to do hair before when I did it, but I hadn't done it for a few years, so I decided I'm going to open a salon so I can get to know the people in the community."

"I'm excited, and I'm excited that people are excited I'm here," she added, noting that whenever she mentioned the idea of opening a salon in town, people encouraged her to do it.

She has just a couple little tweaks to do on the salon space before she's ready for clients, and she's waiting for all the licensing paperwork to be done, but she's hoping to be up and seeing clients by mid-October.

"Maybe earlier," she said with a smile.

Beyond the Mirror will be



a full-service hair salon, offering washing, cuts, styling, coloring, perms, etc., but she especially likes coloring and highlights.

"I would say color is my passion and that's what I love to do," she said.

She's also ready to do updos for special occasions, and is willing to do wedding parties and other groups. The only thing required there, which is required at any salon, is a test-do to ensure what the client has in mind is really going to work with her hair.

Hoey is always willing to do a consultation with a new client before making an appointment, especially since all of her clients will be new to start with, and especially if a client wants to try something new.

Hoey really wants to help

"I would say color is my passion and that's what I love to do."

- Beyond the Mirror owner/operator Heather Hoey

ensure her clients don't get into a rut of doing the same thing they've always done.

"If you're going in to see a stylist every six to either weeks for the past five years, the last time you had a consultation might have been when you came in to see them the first time," said Hoey. "So the stylist asks you to do, you go, 'oh, well, you know,' and they just do it the same all the time – they don't make suggestions."

That's where the consulta-



Underwood's Heather Hoey will be opening her salon, Beyond the Mirror, in October.

tion at every appointment comes in, she said. She'll be doing at least a short consultation with each client before she starts doing any work.

And she will be honest, she added. If she thinks a style you've got your eye on really won't work with your hair texture or face shape, she'll tell you, and then help you find something that will help you look terrific.

Hoey is also making things pretty simple as far as pricing goes. She'll be competitive with other area stylists,

and plans on charging one flat fee for a wash, cut and style. If you don't want any of those three services, it's still going to be the same price. If your style requires a little more work than average, it's still going to be that same flat rate.

For those who have been seeing the same stylist for years, Hoey hopes people will give her a chance to prove herself. People shouldn't feel disloyal giving a new stylist a try – especially if that stylist is just down the street or only

a few minutes away rather than almost an hour.

"It's a stylist's job to keep their client," she said.

Hoey plans on holding some special promotions, particularly some that honor students who are excelling at school in one way or other.

Her permanent hours will be determined once she finds out a little more what her clients are hoping for for hours.

To make an appointment at Beyond the Mirror, contact Hoey at 701-460-6978.

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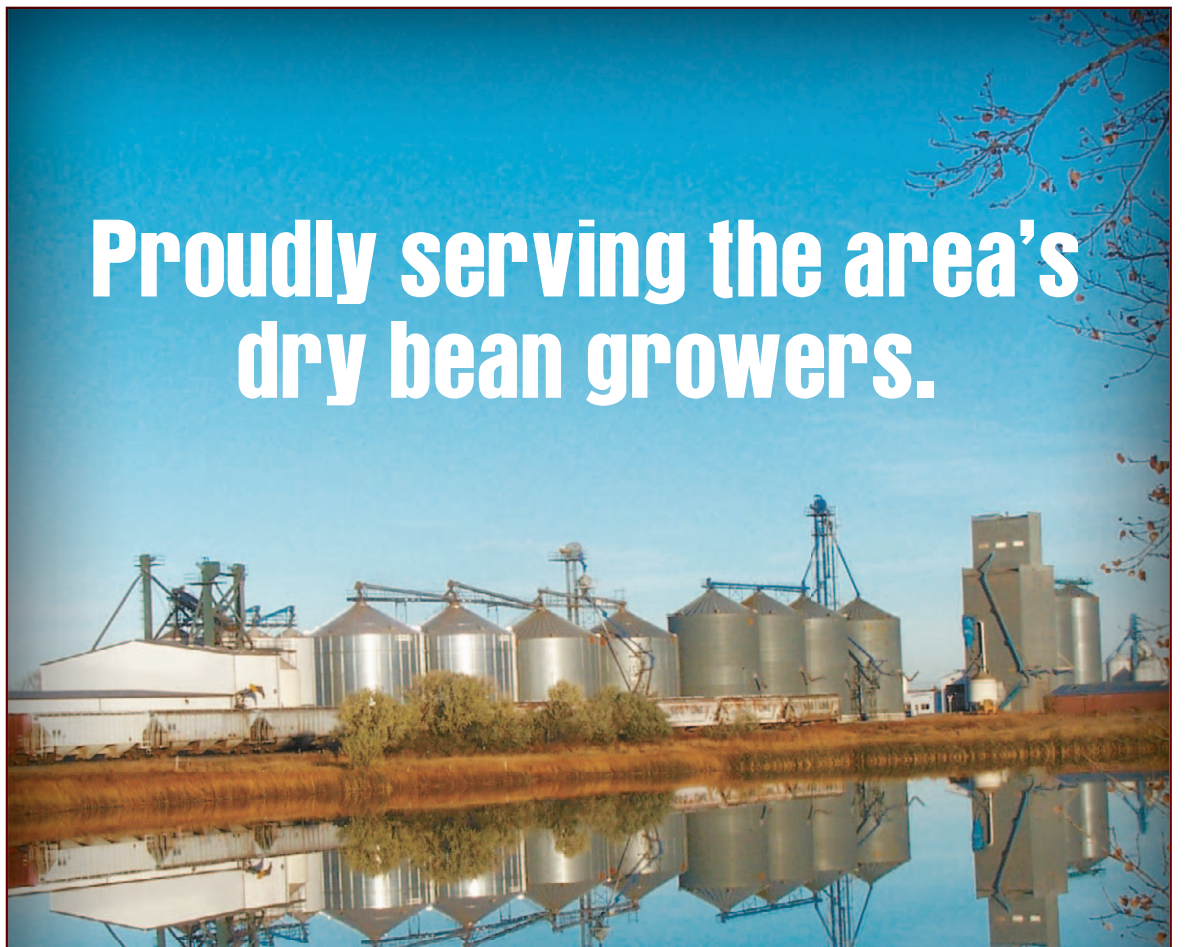
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Photos by Alyssa Meier

The bank's management team stands in front of the main entrance 100 years after the bank opened in Washburn in October 1919.



Farmers Security Bank President Jamie Nelson holds up a \$100 bill, signifying the 100th anniversary of the downtown Washburn bank.

Cashing in a Benjamin

Farmers Security Bank celebrates 100 years

BY ALYSSA MEIER

One hundred years of serving the community. That's what this month's anniversary means to Washburn's Farmers Security Bank.

The Main Avenue icon is celebrating its centennial anniversary this month, 100 years after being founded by Ole Holtan, Oscar S. Ober, and Hans A. Fischer. The bank would later be acquired by Wayne Stroup, originally of Hazen.

It has been at its current location on Main Avenue since 1984.

Farmers Security Bank President Jamie Nelson, who has been at the bank for 12 years, said she is dealing with several different emotions in regard to the anniversary.

"I think the biggest feelings I'm having are obviously excitement, and we're really humbled," Nelson said. "We're part of a community that's embraced us and that's really humbling."

When asked why she feels Farmers Security Bank has stayed open for 100 years, Nelson said she believes it all comes back to the company motto: Community banking at its best.

"I think it's because we've remained focused on serving our customers and also on building our community," Nelson said. "The Stroup families have done a good job of making sure the bank stayed focused on building our communities."

Nelson said that though technology and services have grown and changed over the past 100 years, much about the bank has stayed constant.

"If you think about, there's a lot of common people with family ownership, a lot of that has stayed steady," Nelson said. "We've tried to provide new products and technology, but the foundation and core of what we do hasn't changed."

Nelson said the bank will continue to prioritize putting

the community first, and that she is grateful for the reciprocated support Farmers Security Bank has received for the past 100 years.

"Thank you for a century of loyalty and support," Nelson said, addressing the bank's customers. "It's definitely been an honor serving our community and customers. We're very honored."

Farmers Security Bank will host an open house in honor of the anniversary on Friday from 1-5 p.m.

Wayne Stroup

Following his four years of military service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, Captain Wayne Stroup was riding the train from the east coast back to his parents' home in Hazen, North Dakota. He was wearing his uniform and happened to be seated next to Hans Fischer, the owner of the Farmer's Security Bank in Washburn, who had lost his son in the war.

The conversation and the connection they made on that train over the next day and a half would have far-reaching effects.

Wayne had been a school teacher in Montana and western North Dakota before the war, but afterwards he moved back to Hazen and went to work for the Union State Bank where his father and brother worked.

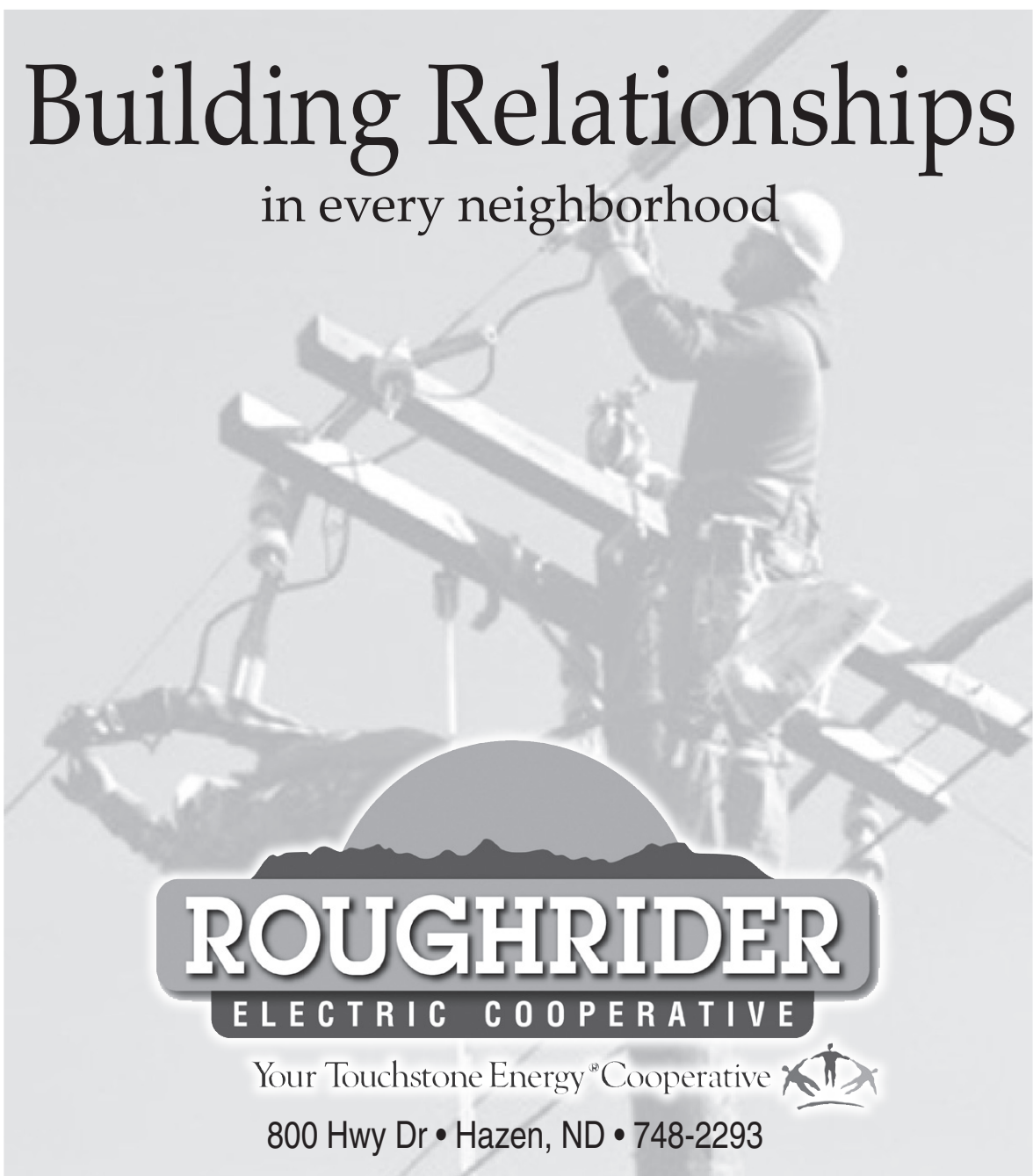
This situation continued until 1956, when Mr. Fischer walked into the Hazen bank one day and shocked Wayne by saying, "I'm going to sell you my bank in Garrison!"

After much time and work to set up the financing plan for this surprising acquisition, Wayne packed up his family and moved to Garrison, North Dakota. The year was 1957.

As time passed, Garrison State Bank grew, and in 1961, when he retired, Mr. Fischer sold Wayne his Farmers Security Bank in Washburn. In 1965 Wayne transformed the Turtle Lake receiving station into the Bank of Turtle Lake. Wayne retired from the day to day banking activities in 1989, however, he continued to take an active role in this system and was attending board meetings until shortly before his passing at age 98 in September of 2015.

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New life breathed into area businesses

By Daniel Arens

It can be a struggle growing and thriving in rural North Dakota.

The running joke is that people in other states don't even know if North Dakota is a state, if it's part of Canada, or maybe simply made up.

Without really big metropolises, the state is usually depicted as a simple, agricultural area, largely undeveloped in terms of modern technology or even modern amenities.

As those who live in the state know, the reality is far from this picture. But there's no denying, with the energy slowdown and the new automation providing new and sometimes cheaper options to small community residents, that it can be hard for them to thrive.

But sometimes it just takes one or two people with a balanced combination of vision and dedication to bring struggling businesses into the realm of success. And, in Hazen, this kind of dedication can be seen at work.

Early in September, the Bison Sports Bar officially opened in Hazen, at the site of other previous restaurants that have sprung up and failed. There's the fear this could be a repeat occurrence for the sports bar as well. But the owners have higher hopes, and a background to help prove their case for success.

Owner Chris Sailer came back to his hometown of Hazen several years ago after a stint living in Fargo. After his return, he has made a name for himself in revitalizing local businesses in Hazen, including some that are normal-

ly found only in bigger cities.

He first took over as manager of Cinema Flix, the local movie theater in town. Last year, as area restaurants started to flounder, he put his former experience in that industry while living in Fargo to work in bringing a Main Street cafe that had recently shut down back as Bee's Cafe.

Then, earlier in June, Sailer began to think seriously about the possibility of taking over ownership of another restaurant in town that closed last year: the former Bison Bar and Grill. But, in order to make it work, he needed a new approach to what the eatery could offer the community. And he also needed a partner.

Sailer did his pitch for the new sports bar restaurant to Carla Borlaug, Union State Bank and president of the Hazen Convention Visitor Bureau. She recommended Sailer approach Tim Scheid.

"It was like Tim said, 'Let me think about it,' and the next day he contacted me and said, 'Yeah, that's a yes,'" Sailer said.

In order to transform the old restaurant into something with a greater potential for lasting longer, the two men began a facelift inside the building to transform it from a steakhouse into a sports bar.

The Bison Sports Bar features numerous television screens around the room, with NFL Ticket, Fox Sports North, and other channels featuring many of the biggest and most local teams everyone wants to see, including NDSU and UND games.

In addition, the expansive steakhouse kitchen has been reduced in scope to allow one



Photos by Daniel Arens

Bison Sports Bar Manager Tim Scheid takes his turn at the dartboard during the first official tournament at the new restaurant Sept. 26.

cook to work, making pizzas, burgers, and specialty appetizers for hungry fans to enjoy while watching the events.

Sailer has a passion for the gaming as well as the food industry, and plans to bring the passions together with the new restaurant. The back "meeting room" of the building is being converted into a partial arcade, while Sailer said he hopes to maybe add some additional features, including the possibility of a pool table.

Scheid will be the day-to-day manager at the new restaurant, dedicating his time to making the Bison Sports Bar a success for resident regulars and new visitors.

"We wanted to be

different," Scheid said. "We didn't want to be a carbon copy of another bar. We want you to have a totally different experience."

Sailer, meanwhile, will do the office management of the sports bar, as well as Bee's Cafe and Cinema Flix, running all three individual businesses under a single title.

The Bison Sports Bar is open 7 days a week. On Mondays-Fridays, the restaurant opens at 4 p.m., while on Saturdays and Sundays it opens at 11 a.m. All 7 days, the sports bar will close late at 1 a.m., and Sailer said while there

is a chance the eatery could open earlier to accommodate a specific event, it will never close earlier than that 1 a.m. time.

Bringing new life into the old restaurant makes the Bison Sports Bar more than just a fine place to get out and eat at for your evening meal or with your favorite Sunday game. It is also another tribute to the dedication of a few community-minded individuals who are dedicated and determined to keeping small town North Dakota a vibrant place to visit, to work at, to live in.



Managers Chris Sailer (left) and Tim Scheid stand outside the Hazen eatery they recently transformed into a sports bar for the community.

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Washburn taxable sale figures spike

City third in the state for increase in taxable sales from 2018

BY ALYSSA MEIER

When it comes to taxable sales growth in North Dakota, Washburn has found a spot at the top of the pack.

Out of the state's 50 largest cities, Washburn observed the third highest increase in taxable sales between the second quarter of 2018 and 2019. The city, which had \$6.5 million in taxable sales in the second quarter of last year jumped to \$7,989,086 during the same period in 2019.

That 22 percent increase puts the city in third place for largest percent increase in the state's largest communities. Lincoln observed a 22.9 percent increase and Beulah a rise of 23.6 percent.

Washburn also was third in taxable sales and purchases in quarter two, with the figure growing 20 percent, from \$6.6 million to \$8 million. Again, Beulah topped its fellow cities with a 24.1 percent increase and Lincoln saw the second highest jump with a 21.4 percent in-

crease.

McLean County's largest community, Garrison, saw decreases in both taxable sales and purchases, down approximately 14 percent in both.

As a whole, McLean County had a higher percentage increase of taxable sales than 30 of the state's 53 counties. McLean County had the 26th highest percentage increase for taxable sales and purchases between quarter two of 2018 and 2019.

HOUSING continued from page 5

on the market."

Both Terreault and Stremick said that a large factor in a healthy real estate market in their cities is the current low interest rates on home loans.

As a Garrison realtor, Matteson said he has seen some young home buyers come to a smaller town to escape the high prices and property taxes of Minot and Bismarck.

"From Minot to Garrison, that's 48 miles - I would say there's \$48,000 difference for the same house," Matteson said. "I would say that there's a \$1,000 difference in property taxes for the same house. The difference is Minot has jobs that we don't have. So, now what is the cost of the commute? And that's where employers are starting to let you

work from your home and that's changing it ever more."

"You're never going to change a generation"

Though Terreault and Stremick both said they frequently work with millennial buyers who value the idea of owning ones' home, some experts say that as a generation, home ownership just isn't as important to millennials.

"When I grew up my goal was to own a home," Matteson said. "I gave up everything I ever wanted to own a home. I didn't have a boat, I didn't have a fancy car, we didn't take any vacations, we didn't do any of that. The millennial generation does it completely different."

However, Matteson said he does see younger people start

to prioritize home buying in their 30's. Even then, he said, he sees some factors that make buying and owning a home more complicated for them. For example, they might not stay at one job for as long as people in previous generations once did, preferring to explore their options. They also might buy a home with a romantic partner they're not married to, or with friends, which can cause them to leave earlier in the case of a falling out.

At the end of the day, however, Matteson acknowledges that "you're never going to change a generation." Just another reason, he notes, for businesses to acknowledge the needs of their younger workers and respond to them.



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The veterinarian is in

North Country Vet Clinic open for business

BY SUZANNE WERRE

So much for setting goals. North Country Vet Clinic's Dr. Andrea Schlafmann had set a goal of Jan. 1 for having visited her 1000th patient.

She did that last week already, so she's working on coming up with another goal.

Since opening up the veterinary clinic in Turtle Lake this past spring, Schlafmann has already made quite a few changes to the clinic, including getting all of the equipment needed for the large animal part of her practice up and being used.

Initially when she opened up the clinic, she was hoping to be a one-woman show, she was "going to do it all." Then she realized the bookkeeping was something she would be willing to hand off.

She also quickly hired an assistant – one who could help her while she was seeing her patients and also deal with patients and their parents/owners at the front desk.

The clinic, located in the former Ray Herr Construction building just west of the city limits of Turtle Lake, is open and seeing patients large and small.

"The biggest change (since opening) is we have everything up for the cattle and horses, as well as the small animal facilities," said Schlafmann.

The clinic is still a work in progress, she noted, but she's down to just a few little projects. She wants to get rid of some carpet that should be switched to hard surface to make cleaning easier.

"And a few more tweaks on the large-animal side of things – we're just ironing out some wrinkles that we've discovered after being open for six months," she added.

Schlafmann hadn't really planned on opening her own veterinary clinic so soon, she said. She was perfectly content working at the Sheridan Animal Hospital in McClusky and its satellite clinic in Harvey for the past three years following her graduation from North Dakota State University and Kansas State. But the opportu-



Dr. Andrea and her dog Honey are both ready to welcome new patients and their owners/parents to the North Country Vet Clinic.

nity to buy the building came up, and now seemed like a good time to take the leap to owning her own clinic.

"I do everything," she said, which is why it's called a mixed animal practice.

Having grown up on a cattle ranch east of Turtle Lake, she doesn't shy away from the care of large animals.

"I like the large animals a little better, but when you're in a small community, you have to do both," she said.

Her schedule for this week already includes spaying and neutering appointments for some cats and dogs, as well as other visits with locals' pets.

It's no surprise to Schlafmann or anyone who knew her growing up that she would be a veterinarian, following in the steps of her late mom, LuAnn, who worked at the vet clinics in Turtle Lake and McClusky.

"I've known I wanted to be a vet since I was a little kid. My mom was a vet tech, and with the ranch at home, I was pretty certain early on."

"I didn't know I would actually have a clinic in Turtle Lake," she added. "The idea just came up this fall."

She figured she'd end up close to home, but hadn't really seriously thought about opening her own clinic yet.

"I worked at McClusky through high school and college, and I kind of thought that would be where I would land . . . this just kind of came up," she said.

She and her husband Blair decided the location of the North Country Vet Clinic works a little better when looking toward the future, when they decide to start a family. She'll be able to be at the clinic during the day, run to area farms to do any emergency calls she needs to, and still be able to be home

"I've known I wanted to be a vet since I was a little kid. My mom was a vet tech, and with the ranch at home, I was pretty certain early on."

- Andrea Schlafmann, DVM.

at a decent time. True, some of those emergency calls will come in the middle of the night, but those just come with the territory, and she will happily tend to those as well.

Her initial goal when opening her clinic is to provide excellent veterinary services for small and large animals by herself – with the help of her assistant Allisha Sharp.

"My goal would be to have a clinic with multiple vets in it. I would love to be able to provide a couple of vets for the people in the community," said Schlaf-



The cattle chute was set up and ready for patients as Dr. Andrea put the finishing touches on the new veterinary clinic at Turtle Lake.

mann. She prides herself on how she deals with her patients, and their owners/parents.

"The hardest thing is when you aren't able to help, when there's just nothing you can do. That makes it hard," said Schlafmann. That's where compassion comes in, where, when it's time to let a pet go, she'll give the pet's parent as much time as he or she needs to say good-bye.

While there are a lot of successes to celebrate in her job, one of her favorite parts of the job is just the culmination of something natural that she gets to help with.

"Being as I like large animal stuff, I like to help with calving. I like to see the success stories," she said.

"I just like calving in general," she added. By the time she's called, most of the ranchers have already tried their best at delivering the calf. "I love calving season. It's stressful and you don't get a lot of sleep, but it's very rewarding."

Being a little smaller than a lot of cattle men or vets, she noted, she typically has an easier time turning a calf that's struggling to come into the world, basically because she can fit both arms inside the cow to turn the calf.

After deciding to open her own clinic, there was a little stress with getting the paperwork for the business loan done, and she was a little stressed about doing the bookkeeping, but now that she's decided to hire someone else to do that, she's feeling like things are good to go for the North Country Vet Clinic.

Schlafmann is confident this is the right move for her, and her animal patients.

"I'm very honest," she said. "I always try my best, but if I don't have the answers, I'll try to find them, or I'll find somebody who has them."

To schedule appointments, Schlafmann can be reached at the clinic by calling 448-2183. For emergency calls, she can be reached at 701-527-6189.



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Beefing up international trade

Local rancher visits Japan to promote U.S. agriculture

BY ALYSSA MEIER

Lifetime rancher Clark Price took his passion for the beef industry overseas this month during a tour to encourage stronger ties between U.S. producers and Japanese consumers.

Price, who ranches just outside of Washburn and also runs a feedlot in the county, spent a week in Japan recently with 30 other U.S. ag industry leaders. The Heartland tour, operated by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (MEF) and North Dakota Beef Commission, works to further relationships with Japanese retailers, in hopes of increasing trade.

They take a group of 31 individuals from the beef, pork, corn and soybean industries," Price said.

Price, who has worked with the MEF for several years and is the North Dakota beef representative, was asked to join the weeklong tour from Sept. 1 to Sept. 7. He agreed and, after a 14-hour-flight, found himself in Japan.

The group met with the U.S. Embassy, visited retailers and met with importers and beef packers.

Price said the group also hosted a barbecue, which helped to illustrate the cultural differences between the U.S. and Japanese representatives.

"Japanese people don't know what a barbecue is, they don't know what a grill is," Price said.

Price said, on average, Japanese individuals consume about 11 pounds of beef each year. During the barbecue, that number may have spiked a bit.

"Some of them ate their annual consumption in one night," Price laughed. "Some of them ate a ribeye and a half."

Price said Japanese consumers are interested in U.S. beef, but tariffs have American producers at a disadvantage.

"We're at a 38.5 percent tariff," Price said, noting that countries under the free trade agreement are at 26.6 percent.

Price said the tariffs make for a challenge when it comes to getting a larger piece of the

pie in Japan, where 30 percent of the beef is local, 36 is imported from Australia and 26 is from the U.S.

"Once we get back to more of a level playing field, we hope to pick up more of that market," Price said.

One advantage for the producers is the emphasis Japanese consumers put on trust.

"They're not so much price shoppers but they are really into relationships," Price said. "If you get a relationship built, they won't drop you. Once they trust you, they buy from you."

Price said that for this reason, the Heartland tour is vital.

Price said he believes there is room to grow in the Japanese market and that the tour was a great step in making those connections and growing international trade relationships.

"It really was quite amazing," Price said.



Submitted photo
Clark Price stands inside a Japanese supermarket during the U.S. Meat Export Federation Heartland tour this month. Price and other U.S. representatives met with Japanese consumers and retailers to promote trade relationships.



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Section 2

STRIDES



From right, Jake Archambault works on removing the rotted wood over the door while Jesse Rhoads installs the lumber to support the steel siding on the concrete block cemetery building.

The completed renovation of the McClusky Cemetery chapel building by contractor Lumber Jake's of Bismarck. The project was funded by contributions and donations to the McClusky Park District and the cemetery. A memorial plaque for Irving Boling marks the front of the chapel, which was built through efforts by Alvin Berg, who along with Boling, were great supporters in the development of the McClusky community over the years. Berg ran Berg's Funeral Home, which is now Hertz Funeral Homes, Inc.

Chapel repaired for winter storage use

By ALLAN TINKER

The bid for repairing the building at the McClusky Cemetery caught the worst of the wet weather and muddy circumstances. A helping hand for the contractor came in the form of a friend and fellow builder.

Jake Archambault, (Lumber Jake) called on contractor, Nathan Rhoads (Rhoads Home Improvement), his teacher of that trade at Pella Windows during Archambault's last year in high school.

With his help, and the help of Jesse Rhoads, a lifelong carpenter and handy man

of all trades and employed by his father Nathan, they worked to complete the repair and residing of the building. This was while the area was experiencing many rainstorms and snow that held up much of all work in the area.

After they both left employment at Pella's, Archambault started his military service in 2010 and served one year in Afghanistan as an Information Management Officer.

Rhoads developed his own business and later the two both worked their own businesses in the Lincoln and Bismarck areas and subcontracted work for Brendel

Builders of Bismarck.

Along the way, Archambault completed his Army Reserve obligations and received a discharge as Private First Class.

He operates his general contracting and remodeling business out of his home in Bismarck where he has lived since he moved there with his grandmother when he was 13 years old.

Rhoads moved home with his wife Debra to McClusky but the two men continued to help each other when jobs got behind, help was hard to get, or just to share the load. Archambault had lent a strong back when concrete

was poured for the Sheridan Memorial Home patio area.

With a planned completion date of Tuesday, October 8, the building went through rapid change, with the front receiving rotted wood removal and reinforcements where needed.

The building was built to store bodies in the winter for burial in the spring at the request of Alvin (Bud) Berg in 1952. Berg operated Berg's Funeral Home for many years and the business is now Hertz Funeral Homes, Inc.

A plaque honoring past community developer and supporter Irvin Boling marks

the front of the building. He, too, was instrumental in seeing that services such as this one, were put into reality in past years to serve community needs.

The current repair work was the effort of the McClusky Park District, which oversees the McClusky cemetery, two parks and the swimming pool property.

Members of the park board of directors are Rhonda Meckle, Debra Rhoads, Brandon Lauer, Kristi Tanner and Larry Gessner. Shirley Murray serves as clerk for the district.

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When towns care enough to mend the flaws

By ALLAN TINKER

Communities age, just like people. If a community ignores repairing infrastructure flaws and malfunctions, like our bones bend and break from lack of exercise and proper nutrition, they age poorly. Community pride built most of our rural towns from scratch, hard work and sacrifice. Whiners did not last long and neither did those who refused to care for what was around them.

Community leaders, county and city, saw the need for the best schools they could afford; the need for clean water and sewer services. People showed up to work on projects and then paid the bills for the service they helped create.

When they were done with their normal work, which was usually from dawn to dark, they volunteered to lead organizations, ran for public office, helped others overcome obstacles to their survival, and welcomed new blood into their communities that added talent and experience for the good of everyone.

Years down the road, the days of now, streets have been paved, schools have joined in co-ops, water systems have been dug up and pipes changed from lead and asbestos to plastic.

Sewer systems, notorious for breaking, filling with roots, dirt and street residues, have caused many excavations and disrupted road and walkways over the years. Without maintenance and periodic replacement, the systems crumble, businesses suffer, and people decide to live elsewhere.

Looking at all these things, leaders in McClusky over the years, have tried to keep pace with the pressure on utilities and other services for the residents. Most recently, former Mayor Roberta Hunt, who also leads the local Job Development Authority, put into motion the final steps to fixing the water service in the town. It was no small job.

Just at the start of the project's actual work process, an election changed who was at the helm. Mayor Connie Jerome took over the reins of the project, keeping Hunt in the action as co-project manager, along with City Councilman Nathan Rhoads. Others on board during this time were Bryon Belile, Dorothy Estrada, Jon French and Lynn Meserole.

The process was lengthy, new areas came into the world of city government. These included Moore Engineering and their services, Tand Construction, Inc, the general contractor and several sub-contractors for specialized work, such as boring pipes, paving, and trouble shooting. With this came added duties for city maintenance and supervisor Tom Giese who had intimate knowledge of some of the more recalcitrant and broken pieces of the water and sewer systems.

Papers were signed. USDA, Rural Development and other agencies became part of everyday language and services. There was a continuous flow of things being done, streets roped off, dug up and off duty for long stretches of

time. Rain fell and made a mess of projects with little warning.

Council members bent over charts, maps and billing statements, overseeing the work and trying to make sure every penny of the taxpayers money was put to good use and not wasted. Change orders happened, flaws were discovered, mistakes happened, and things were done.

With a highway improvement looming in the future, deadlines were of great importance. Water drainage needed to comply with existing water and wildlife agencies rules. Mistakes in one area, such as a missed water service or those that no longer worked and had been covered over, affected the work for nearly all others.

With months of work, the end came in sight. Highway 200 north side work was done according to the plans and the project moved to the south side. With Main Street already repaired in the past, that route remained open and unencumbered except for a few corner projects. Neighborhoods did not fare as well and cars had to be parked farther from home. Streets became rutted and muddy. More rain came and flooded the area and stopped work for a short time. Men worked in mud; some called it slop.

The city government kept watch. Council members became supervisors and helpers along the way, lending their talents to the construction work. Papers were reviewed, notices to the public of street blockages or interrupted services were posted everywhere. City government cared that people would be inconvenienced while progress was in process.

With nearly all of the planned work done, snow hit the area. The men came back to work and kept on going. Perhaps the ground will not recover for paving this year, but, as the Moore Engineer Joshua Feil stated, it is possible, but maybe not probable. Instead, they will focus on completing the underground work.



McClusky current and former city council members and appointees, from standing, from left: Dorothy Estrada, co-project supervisor Nathan Rhoads, Bryon Belile and former mayor and appointed-co-project supervisor Roberta Hunt; seated: City Auditor Wayne Houston, and current Mayor Connie Jerome. Absent is Jon French.

Along the way, the questions of how this would be paid for, met the city officials daily. They appointed a three-person committee of assessors and these changed several times before the last crew finished the work. These three were David Jorgenson, Frank Teumer and Roberta Hunt. They had the onerous task of making sure the bill for each water user was fair and the entire system monitored so no service went unrecorded.

Special assessments will pay for the greatly improved water service, with many feeling the extra bill to pay difficult. A grant, used to pay for work after the loan was used up, will carry a portion of the load, and maybe add a repair or two at the end. The entire project's estimated and contracted cost is \$4,670,000. The grant covers \$1,928,400 of the project and the assessed remainder for taxpayers, to be paid over 30 years, is \$2,408,000. Keeping a watchful eye on all this, plus keep-

ing documentation in order and ready for reference, is City Auditor Wayne Houston.

With a careful eye on the interest rate, the city council, in conjunction with Moore Engineering and the other agencies, will keep the bill as low as possible.

Special assessments are paid first when taxpayers pay their taxes each year.

Unless paid off at the time of the property is sold, the special assessments attach to the land, not the landowner unless an agreement purchase states otherwise.

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I took the road less traveled by

New trail opens on Audubon refuge

BY DIANE NEWBERRY

Usually, a ribbon cutting signifies man conquering nature: the culmination of a project made of steel and concrete. But the ribbon cutting at the Audubon National Wildlife Refuge in Coleharbor on Saturday signified the opposite: the opening of a new trail, a way to be closer to nature rather than farther away from it.

At the trail's dedication, Tom Dahle said that his number one goal during 17 years as a Boy Scout master was to get his charges out into the wild and closer to nature. It was Dahle who suggested creating this trail to 16-year-old Austin Horning of Bismarck for his Eagle Scout project.

"People you will never know will be grateful to you," Dahle told Horning.

The trail stretches four miles eastward, beginning at the refuge's wildlife center and winding its way through the prairie.

The big picture

Besides being a perfectly nice prairie trail on its own, this four-mile stretch is notable for being a part of the North Country Scenic Trail, which begins (or ends) at Lake Sakakawea State Park and stretches 4,800 miles to Vermont. It is more than twice as long as the Appalachian Trail.

The trail was designated by Congress in 1980, and while it is administered by the National Park Service, it is built and maintained by volunteers. Matt Davis, who works with the nonprofit North Country Trail Association, said Horning's help in this project was invaluable.

"If Austin hadn't stepped forward, we'd still be talk-

ing about how we're going to get it done," Davis said. "Once Austin was on board, we had someone to be the point person and then it was easy to find other people to come in and help."

According to Davis, North Dakota's portion of the trail has long off-road portions, but still has several areas that require hikers to walk along county roads, which is not ideal. In the future, Davis said, they hope more volunteers will step forward to build more trail so hikers will one day be able to walk through the refuge all the way from the Audubon visitors' center to the McClusky Canal.

As opposed to heavily forested paths, Davis said creating a trail in the prairie is relatively easy, requiring mapping out the route and mowing. Of course, the extreme weather can pose a challenge. Horning started his project this spring, getting a route approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service, staking it out and eventually mowing it in the heat of the summer.

The journey of 'Strider'

There to commemorate the opening of the Audubon's portion of the route was Luke 'Strider' Jordan, who in 2013 hiked the entirety of the North Country Trail.

After graduating college in the winter of 2012, Jordan wanted to do something remarkable while he still had time and freedom. A native of Minnesota, he learned about the trail and wanted to bring awareness to what he saw as an underrated national treasure.

Between March 22 and Oc-



A four-mile stretch of the North Country Trail is officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Audubon National Wildlife Refuge. From left to right: Austin Horning, Kathy Baer, Tom Dahle, Luke Jordan, Matt Davis.



The trail project was spearheaded by 16-year-old Austin Horning of Bismarck for his Eagle Scout project. Horning enlisted the help of many volunteers, including friends, family and other Boy Scouts. At one point, three generations of the Horning family was working on the trail.

The Dakota Challenge

The morning of the trail dedication, four North Dakotans finished their personal journeys on the North Country Trail at Lake Sakakawea State Park. Rennae Gruchallo, Gail Rogne, Jerry Werner and Cory Enger all crossed the finish line after having hiked 438 miles.

The group were the first four people to finish the Dakota Challenge, which was a challenge to hike the entire North Dakota portion of the trail in three years. Gruchallo, Rogne and Werner were able to finish in two and a half years, while Enger caught up, "like in the tortoise and the hare," in six months.

The group said the best part of the hike was getting to know smaller communities along the trail and meeting a diverse range of North Dakotans, but they also recommend that anybody who replicates their path look for "The Thing."

A hiker will know it when they see it, apparently.

AUDUBON continued on pg 19



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Photos By Tyson Smedstad
Chappy Windsor of Dakota Chappy was a keynote speaker at the conference. She spoke about how she was a small business owner and was able to grow her business over the past 12 years.



Annie Carlson started Morning Joy Farms as a CSA (Community Sponsored Agriculture) selling fresh produce locally directly from the farmer, and now has a large farm with produce, dairy and meat for sale as well as operating a full commercial kitchen and a food truck.



Mayor Stu Merry welcomes attendees to Garrison to open the conference.

“Start a business,” they said ...

BY TYSON SMEDSTAD

“It’ll be fun,” they said ... Garrison hosted the Energizing Entrepreneur Conference this week bringing in about 45 attendees to the area. “What’s special about this conference is that it takes place in the rural community and is designed to help rural entrepreneurs or anyone else with an idea and passion to make their opportunities right where they are,” NDSU Extension Leadership and Civic Engagement Specialist Jodi Burns said.

There were attendees from Plaza, Williston, Ashley, Ellendale and Garrison. Some were looking for ideas on how to start a small business, others already owned a business but were looking for ways to get more exposure, increase visibility or sustain in a small town or rural environment.

“The conference format is very new so we’re always learning, but we were very pleased with the speakers, attendees and overall participation,” conference organizer McKaila Behles said.

The KOTA theater was the headquarters for the conference, but breakout sessions were held in businesses around town.

“We enjoyed how the breakout session were in local businesses,” conference organizer Lindsay Bofenkamp added, “and were asked to learn from the local business owners. We hope that our local business owners learned some things from hosting the breakout sessions.”

Topics included “Real World Small Business,” “Getting Creative to Make a Living,” “Marketing to the Masses” and most importantly, “Encouraging a Thriving Economy in a Rural Community.” The breakout sessions were located in many businesses on Main Street in Garrison with a few in businesses located on highway 37.

Be the lunatic

Day one’s keynote speaker was Annie Carlson of Mercer. Carlson and her husband own and operate Morning Joy Farms. Her farm is a third generation, pasture-based, local-market farm with a commercial kitchen and food truck that specializes in homemade catered meals, bulk family meals and cooking classes.

But the Carlsons started out small, only growing produce as part of a Community Sponsored Agriculture farm where she would sell shares of land to locals and they in turn would get fresh, homegrown produce. As her customer base grew, so did her offerings.

At one time they had produce, frozen meat, dairy, packaged meals, offered catering and operated a food truck.

Carlson said as an entrepreneur, she always has new ideas “percolating.”

She only shares about 10 percent of those ideas with anyone because people would think she was a lunatic if some ideas were said out loud. “Be the lunatic,” Carlson said.

She’s been able to sustain her success by offering quality goods and services and adjusting to the ever-changing marketplace.

Carlson has 10 ideas she re-



Organizer of the Energizing Entrepreneurs Conference Lindsay Bofenkamp and McKaila Behles stand outside the KOTA Theater.

fers back to each time she’s looking at a new opportunity:

Build on something you are passionate about, not what you love.

What does the market need? Start small.

Be a student. Never stop learning.

If your neighbor thinks it’s a great idea, you are probably late.

How consumable is your product?

Be nimble and willing to adapt.

Know your costs (and account for them).

Your time and product have value. What is your Return on Investment?

You are going to screw up, you are going to make mistakes and that is OK.

Wins versus lessons (not losses)

Chappy Windsor of Dakota Chappy was Day Two’s keynote speaker. Windsor is a North Dakota native, an inventor, entrepreneur and



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Reaching for the sky

United Quality dedicates new facility

BY JERRY W. KRAM

The renovation of Parshall skyline is complete. The United Quality Cooperative dedicated its new grain elevator in Parshall on time for farmers to get their 2019 crop to market.

With storage bins towering 150 feet and legs adding another 120, the new structure stands about 27 stories tall and gives United Quality an additional 500,000 bushels of storage. UQ CEO Erik Jacobson said the building replaced the original elevator built in 1925 and expanded in the 1950s. To mark the occasion, the cooperative gave tours and lunch to a couple of hundred spectators.

“We started at noon with an afternoon of fun and food,” Jacobson said. “North Country Oil supplied all the cooking and meat. We had tours where some people climbed to the top and some people, like me, did not.”

Those who did climb to the top braved about 350 stairs to reach the top of the legs 270 feet above the ground. Some said they could see Plaza from the top deck.

“People are very excited to see the facility and what it can do for the community,” Jacobson said. “It will benefit the farm community by having a quicker turnaround time. We knocked down 300,000 bushels of storage to build 820,000.”

The benefits of the project are two fold for United Quality. The new elevator will be able to handle larger unit trains that Canadian Pacific want to start using. In 2020 or 2021, work will begin on the rail yard to accommodate the longer trains. The new elevator should be able to fill 134 rail cars in about six or seven hours according to operations manager Gary Urlacher.

On the other side of the elevator, the facility is designed to move farm trucks in and out quicker as well. With most farms using semis to move grain these days, the elevator was designed with hoppers that can hold 1,100 bushels so farmers can just drop their load and go in less than two minutes. The elevator also has two scales so trucks can be weighed as they come in and exit without having to turn around.

“Very few 300 bushel grain trucks come through any more,” Jacobson said. “Most of them are semis with pups behind them. So they bring in a lot of bushels all at once.”

Giving tours of the facility, Urlacher pointed out that all of the grain moving and cleaning equipment had been sized to move tens of thousands of bushels per hour. He said the new grain cleaning equipment was state of the art and “the heart of the elevator.”

United Quality Elevator by the Numbers

- 750 – tons of reinforced steel used in construction
- 8,500 – cubic yards of concrete needed to finish the project
- 168 – motors used to run the facility
- 2,427 – total horsepower of those motors
- 200,000 – capacity of the truck scale, in pounds
- 46 – miles of electrical wire in the building
- 24 – number of bins
- 820,000 – total bushels of storage capacity

During the dedication, long time member and former board member Duane Risen spoke of the years it took to build the cooperative as well as the federal legislation that needed to be fought for and passed allowing cooperatives to operate. Because of his seven decades as a coop member, Risen was chosen to deliver the ceremonial first bushel of grain to the elevator when it becomes operational in July.

“I asked Duane if he ever brought a bushel of grain to any elevator other than Parshall,” said UQ Board of Directors President Jarred Billadeau. “He said ‘Of course not.’ That is the reason he was the logical choice to deliver the first bushel to this facility.”



Photos by Jerry W. Kram

Jarred Billadeau adjusts the microphone for Duane Risan who spoke at the dedication of the United Quality Elevator under construction in Parshall. Risan has been a member of the cooperatives that joined together to form United Quality for nearly all his life, served on multiple boards of directors and will deliver the ceremonial first bushel of grain to the facility when it becomes operational in July.



The 150 foot tall bins topped by 120 foot legs of the United Quality Elevator tower over the ceremony marking its dedication on June 27.



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What the clinic looked prior to renovations.



What the exterior of the clinic looks like now.

Clinic doubles in size to benefit community

Beulah's Coal Country Community Health Clinic

BY KATE JOHNSON

Beulah's Coal Country Community Health Clinic doubles in size to better handle community's needs.

The original clinic opened in 2003 and its expansion took place in 2018-2019.

With the expansion come more efficient, conducive work environment and to efficiently serve those in need.

The clinic has expanded their physical therapy unit. Since the space has increased, Sakakawea Medical Center rents from CCCHC to practice physical therapy within Beulah and see patients at that location. Previously SMC had rented and used Knife River Care Center's facility but with the clinic's expansion have moved to the basement level with CCCHC.

CCCHC Director Mary Michaelson said having mental health in the same building is a benefit to patients. Previously mental health was a block away. Providers did spend some time traveling between the locations. Now, mental health can be easily called to a patients room and quickly referred while staying in the building.

Providers now have the adequate office space to call their own. The clinic is set up to be allow care teams to

sit together. Care teams are made up of the provider, registered nurse, certified nurses assistant, and critical care coordinator.

Michaelson explained that this allows for better communication between the team and working effectively together as a whole unit. Previously the teams were spread out which made tracking pieces of the team down difficult at times.

The expansion also allows for more work space for the clinic's suboxone program, as well as, outside health professionals when making their monthly visits.

Visiting doctors now have their own rooms and care team space when they are at CCHC. Previously, they would have to double up and use other doctor's offices or spaces.

Visiting doctors are typically specialist from larger cities - bone and joint, orthopedist, podiatry, OB/GYN, Cardiologist, Psychologist, Audiologist, Gynecologist, etc

This clinic also serves 98 senior citizens in the area through their community care program. Adults on medicare living with two or more chronic conditions may qualify for at-home vis-



Care team station to the right of the picture.



Therapy room was an addition to the clinic with the expansion.

CLINIC continued on pg 19

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AUDUBON continued from page 15

tober 13, 2013, Jordan hiked through the entire trail, experiencing a diverse range of environments. He encountered plenty of obstacles, including but not limited to being attacked by a hawk, encountering a black bear, getting stung by eight yellow

low jackets and being so covered in wood ticks that he initially thought they were dirt.

Jordan said one of the best parts of his hikes was letting small communities know that they were, in fact, on the trail. He said that many

people didn't know what the blue blazes on their signs and telephone poles signified.

Before starting his hike, Jordan had never been to North Dakota, and said he expected all the stereotypes. "I thought it was flat wheat

fields, telephone poles, stuff like that," Jordan said. He was pleasantly surprised by all the lakes and nature he got to enjoy. He even lived in Fargo for a year afterward, tracing back some of the sections he had initially gone through when it was snowy. Jordan has since written a

book about his hike, "Thru and Back Again," and spends his career helping build new trails and bringing awareness to the ones that are already there. He stresses the importance of involvement. "No one's going to volunteer if they don't know the trail exists," he said.

CLINIC continued from page 18

its from the folks at the Community Care program to help manage their life and medical needs.

The clinic features a sliding fee program which is based on income and household size. Insurance is not

a requirement, and the program can provide discounts at the clinic and pharmacy as well as dental vouchers.



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BUSINESS continued from page 16

small business champion. Windsor struggled in school and she felt like no one thought she had potential, but she knew she did.

In 2014 she had a breakthrough with the invention of the Total Tight. In her first year she sold 50 garments. In her second year she sold over 5,000. But those numbers have since dropped.

Windsor spoke about the challenges of retail in the recent past with the advent of online shopping. She said that she feels shopping has become more of an errand than in the past where it was more of a luxurious activity. Now people can buy things off Amazon and not have to come into the store.

She has tried many ways to make her product more accessible by having live sales on Facebook, hand delivering products to customers and has

even battled around the idea of a drive-thru window in her storefronts in Bismarck and Minot.

Her best years financially were 2015 and 2016. She said she chases those memories everyday, but not the financial aspect. She wants the feeling of success and being on top of her game again.

“Trust your decision, if you’ve made magic happen once,” Windsor said, “you can do it again. And don’t wait for someone to give it to you, make it yourself.”

The organizers of the conference felt that it went very well, the only thing they would’ve done differently was to make sure the conference didn’t conflict with similar conferences across the state.

“We are lucky to have such a wonderful community eager businesses and organizations,” Behles said.



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