

BE A LIFESAVER



THEY RISK THEIR LIVES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF OTHERS

We are honoring our first responders in
our communities in the following areas:

Garrison
Riverdale
Mercer
Turtle Lake
McClusky
Wilton

Washburn
Underwood
Zap
Stanton
Hazen
Golden Valley

Beulah
Oliver County
Center
Pick City
Parshall
New Town

They have our backs

“To help my friends and neighbors, you bet. I’ll do that.”

That’s what one of the ambulance crew members in our area said about his service to his squad and his community.

It doesn’t matter who spoke it and where the volunteer was from, because we heard that commitment when speaking with fire and ambulance crews throughout the region.

They have your back. But, in many cases, they need your help.

That’s why we, with the help of the advertisers on these pages, wanted to feature the people who are the local life changers who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

We hope the words and pictures here inspire a thank you or better yet a “How can I help?”

Gratefully,
BHG newspaper staffs



Combine fire

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We support you
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KNOW **2 WAYS OUT**

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE FROM FIRE!

- ✓ Draw a map of your home that shows 2 ways out of every room. These are usually a door and a window.
- ✓ Practice how to escape from each room and how to get outside.
- ✓ Choose a place outside where everyone will meet if there is a fire.

IF THERE IS A FIRE...

- ✓ Get out fast! Don't stop to take anything.
- ✓ Crawl low under smoke on your hands and knees.
- ✓ Go to your family meeting place outside.
- ✓ Once outside, stay outside.

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Replace batteries **twice a year** and keep alarms free of dust.

Smoke alarms should be installed on **every floor** of your home.

KNOW THE RISKS

- 10** There is a house fire **every ten seconds** in the U.S.
- 30** Home fires can spread in as little as **thirty seconds**.
- Make sure that your family has a **fire escape plan** for your home and practice it regularly.
- Cooking is the **leading cause** of house fires.
- More than **15,000** fires a year are started by clothes dryers. Clean the vents at least once a year.
- Remember:** If there's ever a fire, **GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL** for help.

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Courage Under Fire

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For the important role they play in protecting our lives and for their brave and selfless sacrifice, we thank the dedicated men and women of our nation’s fire departments. We gratefully recognize their service to our communities, and we honor the memories of those who have fallen in the line of duty. You are all heroes, and we thank you for all that you do.

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Garrison Fire Department



The 2018 Garrison Volunteer Fire Department pose in their gear at city hall, where the fire station is located.

Age range of members:

Ages range from the youngest at 23 and the oldest is 74.

Shifts Available:

We are fully volunteer. We are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

Meeting Schedule:

They have a monthly training/meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month.

Where help is needed:

They are very fortunate to be fully staffed. They have been for as long as there has been a department as far as the records show.

Number of runs month/years:

They average 60 calls per year. Calls per month varies

Thank you Volunteers!

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Garrison-Max Ambulance Service



Garrison-Max Ambulance District employees are, front from left, Jaime Christenson, AEMT; Stacey Salhus, EMT; Dawn Lakoduk, EMT; Nicole Folden Gieser, EMT and Roger Heinle, AEMT. Back row: Gerald Kisner, EMT; McKenna Mai, CPR driver; Craig Comes, paramedic; Amanda Melby, paramedic; Brooklyn Laswell, EMT; Jody Gullickson, EMT; Alyssa Adam, CPR driver. Staff not pictured are: Luke Zabka, paramedic; Brent Bosko, paramedic; Stuart Hammer, paramedic; Lisa Blair Valandra, AEMT; Sandra Nelson, EMT; Layne Iglehart, EMR; Vince Bostow, EMR; Lee Weltkol, CPR driver; Kerry Seidler LPN/CPR driver and Jim Privatsky, EMT.

Person with most years of service/number of years

The communities of Garrison-Max are fortunate to have many employees years of experience.

PARAMEDICS

27 years
Stuart Hammer

18 years
Amanda Melby
Craig Comes
Brent Bosko

10 years
Luke Zabka

EMTS

29 years
Jody Gullickson

25 years
Jim Privatsky

12 years
Lisa Valandra
Nicole Folden

Age range of members:

Ages range from the youngest at 19 and the oldest in their 50s.

Where help is needed:

The ambulance is always looking for people interested in becoming CPR drivers. We would also be interested to get more local people trained at the EMT level if interested and they are able to teach those classes if enough interest is generated.

Number of runs month:

Garrison-Max Ambulance averages roughly 55 runs per month and roughly 660 calls a year.

Meeting Schedule:

The board meeting is always held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ambulance Barn. A monthly crew meeting is held the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Ambulance Barn.

Shifts Available:

No shifts are available at this time.

Thank you Volunteers!



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Riverdale Fire Department



Picture of few members: left to right, Ken Haraseth, Jim Rask, Marc Schulz, Bob Schaffer, Clay Haraseth.

Age range of squad members: 35-70

Number of squad members: About 11

Meeting Schedule:

Third Tuesday every month, 7 p.m. at Riverdale Fire Hall

Who do I call for information:

Clay Haraseth, Fire Chief – 220-3732

Why should someone join a volunteer fire department:

Clay Haraseth, Riverdale Fire Chief, eight-year squad member -- "To give back to the community, be involved in the protection of the town."

"There's a lot of camaraderie. We get together once or twice a month and kind of BS about what everyone's been up to. In my department, we have a lot of retired people. In the wintertime, it's a lot about where the best fishing is."

Ken Haraseth, eight-year squad member –Noting that fire departments are rated on using number of squad members, training, etc., Ken Haraseth said, "It's a big issue as far as insurance on your home. . . we're really trying to get some young people in Riverdale because to me everybody's got to realize their insurance rates are affected because of the fire department. We should all be thinking about that."

"I've always thought it was a very positive thing to volunteer. I guess it's the feeling of belonging when you volunteer your time to some function in the city – it's a good thing. Everybody has something they can do to volunteer for their community, something they can do that makes them feel good about themselves."



Donald Thomas demonstrating our new cot lift system that was recently installed in our ambulance



Co-squad leaders Robin Lagunas and Brianne Skachenko with James Sayler at the Fish Hatchery fundraiser event



Riverdale Ambulance Department



Front row from left to right: Jennifer Deeter, Brianne Skachenko, Robin Lagunas, Roger Heinle, Amanda Fuentes, Maureena Hoskins, Karley Burns. Back row from left to right: James Saylor, Jamison Boehler, Kevin Trautman, Brad Thrall, Dave Bicknese, Jim Rask. Missing: Donald Thomas, Kyle Greig, Steve Robinson, Taryn Sather, Scott Sterling

Outside the box: Finding ways to help

There's a lot of emphasis on the need for more volunteers to help out with worthy emergency response teams in the area. Ambulance services are always open for additional help.

One thing that might come to people's mind is the thought that they don't have the necessary skill-set to handle the responsibilities of the service. But that concern is easily dealt with.

"People have a misconception of what you have to do as a volunteer for an ambulance," Brianne Skachenko, co-manager with the Riverdale Ambulance Service, said. "They get confused or intimidated. But don't worry. If you want to start as a driver, see how that goes, and see if it ignites a spark in them to do something else."

For the Riverdale Ambulance Service, as well as other ambulances around the area, getting started is as simple as completing an emergency vehicle operator course (EVOC), learning CPR, and getting a background check.

"It's that easy," Jamison Boehler, a Riverdale Ambulance volunteer, said. "Within a day, you're officially a full-fledged member of the service."

The communities of Pick City and Riverdale, facing one another across the Garrison Dam, have developed another means by which to help with volunteering. Vital Friends is a committee of people who are not themselves volunteers with the service, but dedicate their time and passion

to helping emergency responders with fundraisers.

"This year I think we made \$35,000 just in the community," Robin Lagunas, Riverdale Ambulance co-manager, said.

"It's businesses, it's local people," she added. "They asked if they could help, but didn't want to be on the ambulance. They're very essential volunteers for our community."

The group works to put on various fundraisers throughout each year to help the ambulance service and other emergency response organizations in the area with expenses. The Riverdale Ambulance Service, a small group serving a small community, is currently in the process of obtaining a second ambulance, thanks in large part to the work of Vital Friends.

Groups like Vital Friends show what small towns coming together can do. Even for people who aren't themselves members of an ambulance service, they can find ways to show their appreciation and support by getting involved in organizations like these. Riverdale Ambulance volunteer Jim Rask pointed out that many of the people with Vital Friends were those whose lives were saved or impacted by the work of the ambulance service, and who wanted to give back in some way.

The Riverdale Ambulance Service serves a large area of west-central North Dakota, responding in a range from Highway 83's Lake Sakakawea/Lake Audubon

crossing to Underwood, and west to beyond Pick City. They work closely with both the Garrison and Mercer County Ambulance Services in responding to situations in the area.

Riverdale's service is wide and varied, with a 48 year age range among members. Lagunas originally hales from Washington state and also lived in California before moving to Beulah two

years ago. She commutes from Beulah to work with Riverdale's ambulance service, while another volunteer, Karley Burns, drives from Bowbells near the Canadian border, a commute of 125 miles.

Lagunas and Rask also praised the ambulance board for helping to get a house put up adjacent to the ambulance bay, where responders like Burns can stay if

they are coming from long distances away.

The cooperation among board members, volunteers from near and far, and the community at large help make small services like Riverdale Ambulance successful. And there are always ways for new people to lend a helping hand.

Age range of squad members: 20 years old to 80 years old

How many runs per year: 0-5 each month

Shifts available:

We have been having 24 hour coverage every day of the month

Meeting Schedule:

Squad meetings are third Wednesday each month

Pay: driver's \$2/hr; EMT's \$4/hr; AEMT's \$6/hr

Where help is needed:

We are always looking for drivers and EMT's to help us maintain our 24 hour coverage

When the department has meetings:

Board meetings are the second Wednesday of each month and squad meetings are the third Wednesday of each month

What prompted you to join the ambulance squad:

Steve Robinson, EMT since 2006 – "I was inspired by my kids . . . I was following their footsteps."

"I think we provide some needed help for other community members. I don't want to go to Phoenix and be an EMT . . . but to help my friends and neighbors, yeah, you bet. I'll do that."

Brianne Skachenko, co-squad leader, Advanced EMT, squad member for five years – "I originally joined the department when I moved up here about five years ago when I saw an advertisement that they needed help. I thought it would be a great way to kind of learn about the community and get involved in the community.

"I continue because it's kind of been a calling of mine just to be there to help serve my neighbors."

Thank you Volunteers!

Mercer Rural Volunteer Fire Department



Old versus new truck.

Number of people on the squad: Many as 20

How many runs per year:

It varies – on dry years, it could be many; other years, as few as five.

Age range of members:

Early 20s to 60, including first responders, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, HAZMAT, and EMTs.

Meeting Schedule:

Third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at Mercer Fire Hall.

Current Fire Chief:

Tom Wagner, Firefighter I, 26-year member, chief for the past seven years.

Assistant Fire Chief:

Jon Schumann

You've been on the department a long time - why do you continue to volunteer:

John Wagner, Fire Chief – It's just the community – to help out. There have been times I've thought 'do I really want to jump out of this piece of equipment to go to a fire,' but you know somebody's in need so you've got to do it.

"It's not about self satisfaction – it's just being there to help out the people who need help."

On the **need for more volunteers**, not just on the Mercer department, but others as well.

"When you live in a farm community, not everybody's home just waiting for that call to come in. There are days we have to go with two or three people – then we hope a farmer will hop in a truck and help out, and we really rely on those other neighboring departments."

Byron Fiedler, 40-year member of squad, Firefighter II — "I guess I enjoy it. It gives us a chance to help out the community and the people surrounding it.

"I've just always been in love with it – even before when I was little, before I was on the squad I'd stand in the fire hall and just kind of look at the trucks. I guess I've just always had a zeal for it.

"You take the good with the bad. You basically go to somebody's incident and they're having the worst day of their lives, and you interject and try to make it better.

Why should someone consider joining the squad --

Fiedler -- "If it's something you're interested in and you'd like to do it, it can be really rewarding, especially when you've done your best, and you hear that one word – 'thank you.'"



Mercer Extrication training.



Mercer rural fire department training with the NDFAs fire simulation trailer.



The Mercer Rural Volunteer Fire Department responded to this fire near Brush Lake in October, 2017. Photo courtesy of KC Clayson.



Many of Mercer Rural Volunteer Fire Department's fires take crew members out to the country and area lakes.

Turtle Lake Fire Department



Left to right: Isaac Sondrol, Robin Wahl, Gordon Nelson, Josh Freeman, Tim Britton, Clark Schafer, Tim Larson, Dave Hendrickson, Dave Freborg, Duane Schaefer, Ethan Lafromboise, Jackson Hagen, Shawn Schafer, and Jerome Huelsman

Meeting Schedule:

Third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (dinner) followed by meeting at 7 p.m. at Turtle Lake Fire Hall.

Why do you volunteer/ why should others volunteer:

Jeramie Love, 20 years on the squad – “I just think it’s a citizen’s duty to serve their community in some capacity.”

“It’s fun because the people that are on the department are friends, or they become your friends, and it does feel pretty good when you know you helped somebody out at a fire or accident.”

Tim Larson, Fire Chief, 20 years on the squad – “I just think if you’re able-bodied, you should help out if you’re able to. We understand you can’t go all the time, but even if you can help out once or twice a year, most departments can use that kind of help, too.”

“I like helping people.”

Why do you donate your time to volunteer for the department:

Clark Schafer, 27-year member of fire department -- “Someone’s gotta do it. In a small town, I guess you’ve got to step up and do your part.”

Number of members: About 30

Average age of members: About 30

Number of runs per year: 40

Shifts Available:

No designated shifts – on call 24-7

Contact person for information:

Tim Larson, Fire Chief, 720-0278

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McClusky Medical and Mental Health Clinic
Monday– 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. | Tuesday-Thursday– 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday– 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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Turtle Lake-Mercer Ambulance



Members of the Turtle Lake ambulance squad work with Sanford AirMed personnel to transfer a patient to the air ambulance.



The Turtle Lake ambulance rushes to meet the Sanford AirMed air ambulance to ensure their patient gets to the hospital as quickly as possible.

Number of members on roster: About 20

Squad leader: Dave Hanson

Number of runs per year:

On average 85 to 100 (Turtle Lake has a very large coverage area that reaches into Sheridan County, covering much of the area lake territory as well as the city of Turtle Lake and surrounding property.)

Meeting Schedule:

Second Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at Turtle Lake Fire Hall

Contact person for volunteering:

Steve Hanson, 391-4219

Why are you on the ambulance squad:

Heather Anderson, three years on squad, first responder and EMT class student – “I wanted to give back to the community.”

“There’s a sense of satisfaction knowing that I made a difference or I helped by getting someone in the ambulance to the hospital – it’s knowing that you made a difference.”

“There’s no payment, but it shows the kids that you can volunteer, not get a paycheck, and it’s okay.”

Natasha Burt, eight years on the squad, EMT – “There are just some things that need to be done that you can’t expect to be paid for, but it is so rewarding because you see the immediate reaction.

“It’s very humbling to help other people. It’s very emotional when someone comes up to you and gives you a hug and says thank you for all your help.”

Goodrich Fire Department



Goodrich Fire Department volunteers at an auto extrication class in Carrington, from left Dave Ludwick, Brian Galvin and Nick Richter.

Goodrich Fire Department members:

Most Active Board Members***

**Mike Richter Chief,
*Nick Richter, *Evan Thomas,
*David Mindt-trainer,
**David Ludwick, *Jason Smith,
*Arden Mindt, **Kevin Bender,
Morris Broeckel, Mark Demke,
Kim Erdmann,

**Tim Erdmann-Treasurer,
Ryan Felchle, Darin Frueh,
*Brian Galvin, *Kevin Korus,
Dean Morley, Chad Rauser
Kirby Steichen, **Leslie Strobel,
*Kevin Vietz, **Kim Raugust,
*Blane Emzinger, *Don Silva

Meeting Schedule:

Second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

Clips from the history

Clips from the history of the Gazette and items from various citizens’ memories illustrate the different fire calls and information on fire department challenges.

A grocery store was consumed by fire in Goodrich in 1977. Before that time, Goodrich Machine burned down. That business was owned by JR Doering.

A faulty wiring appeared to be the cause of the fire, which destroyed the Richard Erdmann home. The McClusky Rural Fire Department was called to aid the Goodrich Department.

Rural firemen teamed up to battle a colossal haystack fire on the Burton Faul farm, northeast of McClusky. There were 23 haystacks consumed for an estimated loss of \$11,000.

McClusky Volunteer Fire Department checked a fire, which broke out during one of the worst windstorms witnessed here in several years.

More recently:
An oil spill soaked the area north of Highway 200 in April of 2005, creating soil and water contamination issues but was skillfully contained. This instance:

Saturday, April 2, 2005, too

late to be an April’s Fools’ joke, a McClusky Co-op Elevator-Cenex fuel tank storage tank, holding diesel fuel apparently collapsed its stand, rupturing a service line to a neighboring gasoline tank. The collapse triggered the outpour of a “little over” 14,000 gallons of diesel fuel and close to 5,000 gallons on unleaded gasoline, according to elevator manager Brian Larson.

The tanks or their replacements, located near the elevators and along the north edge of Highway 200 on the mid-town edge of McClusky, had occupied this location since the early 1920’s, according to Mayor Melvin Schindler. The spill ran into the ditches nearby, following the drainage courses and flowing through nearby culverts.

Fire stole into McClusky in the middle of the night (Wednesday, August 4, 2010 early a.m.) and took the legs, distribution, cleaning, and scale of the McClusky Co-op Elevator’s grain storage and transfer section, the heart of most small town elevators.

McClusky Fire Department assisted Mercer and Turtle Lake Fire Departments in a 2018 grass fire east of Mercer.

McClusky Fire Department



McClusky firefighter Colton Hauff observes the battery replacement procedure for his gear.



Standing: McClusky Firefighter volunteers Dean Ripplinger and Bob Parsons; kneeling, front: Lee Pellman and Alex Ripplinger; back, Cole Felchle and Steve Haux perform the hose roll-up in a race for the community to observe.



Lee Pellman, left, and Lance Pellman, right, battle a barrel with the water hose during the firemen rodeo.

Generations of firefighting volunteers

From the days of the immigrant pioneers who settled the small towns strewn across the North Dakota prairie to the towns that still dot the landscape, fighting fires has remained a constant challenge.

In pioneer days, notice of fire threat was carried on foot or horseback to seek help from neighbors, both rural and city. Responders came with what they had on hand to defeat the fire. They brought wet burlap bags, shovels, pitchforks, rakes, and water by any means possible.

Whether a house fire in town or a fire on the grass and brush-filled prairie, the threat was magnified or limited by wind velocity, type of fire burning, and the number of people available to help.

With no smoke alarms in easily ignited homes; no central source of water, and only experience to carry the firefighters through the challenge, volunteers met the enemy with determination to win. That part has not changed throughout the years.

Today, firefighters have departments that are supported by tax dollars from the fire district residents, by donations and fundraisers. Only the larger cities can afford to pay the firefighters for their work.

In small rural communities, volunteers with an eye to helping whenever possible, respond to the call of "Fire!" They know that the next call might be for their home, their property or their family.

HazMat training has also become critical in the preparation

for firefighters.

McClusky and Goodrich maintain volunteer fire departments. Districts are set areas, though the departments readily assist any call they can for other districts. No one answers, "Too busy today," when the call sounds.

Telephone and telecommunications have made the fire threat summons quicker and more reliable. Improved firefighting equipment and trucks have aided manpower abilities and added horsepower assistance.

As McClusky Fire Chief Jeff Martwick said of his newest crewmembers, "The young ones are ready to be trained."

He added they like the classes and learning the operation of improved firefighting protection gear and safety issues.

The fire department members also demonstrate to the public through "fun competitions," train and test in motor vehicle extrication, grain bin extrication, smoke-filled building entry

(complete with real smoke) and fight real fires on windswept fields to businesses on main street.

With the combination of separate units in the county, the city-based fire districts organize and answer all calls for assistance. McClusky's city fire department, organized in 1912; the rural department joined them into one district on September 19, 2009.

The combined districts enable volunteers to better answer calls,

to know the area of the fire better, and to know what is available at the scene for firefighting support. They also are able to share and/or upgrade needed trucks and other equipment more efficiently.

Current members of the departments include the following. It is interesting to note how many last names continue in the younger members from the original rolls of the original fire departments.

McClusky Rural Fire District members:

Mark Abrahamson,
Tom Abrahamson,
Kevin Axt,
Mike Axt,
Clifford Bentz,
Rick Bentz,
Gary Berg,
Levi Boehm,
Wayne Dockter,
Kendon Faul,
Rob Giese (extrication training),
Paul Hagen,
Steve Hausauer,
Steve Haux,
Colton Hauff (extrication training),
Dwight Helm,
Wayne Helm,
Rex Hollenbeck
Dale Jorgensen (extrication training and truck maintenance),

Lavern Laib,
Jeff Martwick,
Kurt Mortenson,
Rachel Parson,
Bob Parsons,
Jason Parsons (completed extrication training, Firefighter I training in progress, grain bin extrication),
Samantha Parsons (completed extrication training, Firefighter I training in progress, grain bin extrication),
Jim Pellman (extrication training),
Lance Pellman (extrication training, Firefighter I training in progress, grain bin extrication),
Lee Pellman (extrication training, Firefighter I training

in progress, grain bin extrication),
Travis Pfenig,
Jerry Reisinger,
Alex Ripplinger,
Dean Ripplinger,
Alex Roubal,
Andrew Roubal,

Jake Saueressig,
Kim Saueressig,
Tom Saueressig,
Bruce Sease,
Kaleb Sease,
Brandon Smithers,
Terry Strobel
John Volochenko.

Schedule:

First Monday of each month, summer at 9 p.m.; winter at 8 p.m.

Underwood 442-3722 | McClusky 363-2265

McClusky Ambulance Service



Side view of the new McClusky Ambulance.

Volunteers, ambulances and training essential elements of emergency response

Development of an emergency medical ambulance service in McClusky began in 1966 when the local fire districts saw the need for such a service. Fund-raisers brought a 1962 Chevrolet station wagon into use until 1974 when a more formal ambulance was purchased.

Training began as a do-it-yourself on your own time endeavor, then another ambulance upgrade was provided for the community in 1986. Training sessions became more regular, with several in the community completing EMT certification.

The ambulance service separated from the fire department and became its own entity in 1979. Then a petition was initiated to organize a rural ambulance service district, which was approved by voters in 1988.

Still more fundraisers kept the department complete with good ambulances; another unit added

in 2000. Again, in 2018, the current ambulance came into service.

McClusky Ambulance Service District Secretary Wayne Houston said, "The best feature we had added to the ambulance is the new Stryker Power Load System. That is going to be a back saver for almost every member on the service.

"The system lifts the cot and the cot wheels, along with up to a 700-pound load (not including the cot) and we just have to push the cot into the ambulance and lock it in place. No more lifting all that weight!

"We also had back-up sensors added and the new ambulance already had a back-up camera on it. Now it is not such a hassle to back the truck up. Even with mirrors, the rear visibility wasn't always the best so the camera and sensors help us out now."

Along the way, training be-

came more intense and combined with other area ambulance service needs, helped to provide volunteers with high-quality medical training. Informational meetings and demonstrations by units from larger cities, complete with up to date monitoring and support equipment kept the squad members on par with much bigger ambulance service member skills.

Houston stated, "In addition to the purchase of the new ambulance in 2018, the last year has been a year of growth for the service.

"Last summer we hit a critical stage for response to the Goodrich area. Our Emergency Medical Technician stationed in Goodrich decided it was time to retire early in 2017, so the ambulance service put out a call," said Houston.

Last summer the district held an Emergency Medical Respond-

er class in McClusky and gained two EMRs in the Goodrich area and one in the McClusky area.

Then, over the fall and winter months, they hosted an Emergency Medical Technician class in McClusky. With this class, they gained another two EMRs in Goodrich, four in McClusky and one in Mercer.

Houston added, "These EMRs have completed their practical testing for the EMT part and will be taking the written exam soon to become certified at the EMT level. Even now, more people have expressed interest in both the EMR and EMT training and are asking when we will be hosting the next classes."



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McClusky Ambulance 2018 Squad Members

EMT = Emergency Medical Technician

EMR = Emergency Medical Responder (formerly First Responder)

Wayne Houston, EMT (McClusky)
Sherry Korus, EMT (Denhoff, Goodrich, McClusky)
Jeff Martwick, EMT (McClusky)
Cheryl Helm, EMT (McClusky)
Tom Saueressig, CPR (McClusky)
Amber Scheurer, EMT (McClusky)
Alex Roubal, EMR (McClusky)
Ruth Roubal, EMT (McClusky)

Elisha Dockter, EMR (McClusky)
Jennifer Meserole, EMT (McClusky)
Brian Galvin, EMR (Goodrich)
Misty Galvin, EMT (Goodrich)
Dave Ludwick, EMT (Goodrich)
Nicholas Richter, EMR (Goodrich)
Krystal Smith, EMR (Goodrich)
DeAnn Jacobsen, EMR (Mercer)

Upcoming classes, with some times not set, are:

November 10, 2018 - Basic EKG Interpretation and Basic 12 Lead EKG Course 0800-1700

November 11, 2018 - ACLS for EMTs 0900-1700

November 29, 2018 - Enhanced Skills 1800-2100

January 5, 2019 - Assessment Lecture/Case Studies/Simulation

January 6, 2019 - EMS Safety

March 8, 9 and 10, 2019 - NCCR weekend for EMR and EMT refreshers

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Wilton Fire Department



Fire Chief:
J.D. Youngbird

Number of current crew members:
Around 35 to cover Wilton, Regan and Baldwin fire districts

Demographic of current crew members:
A lot of volunteers are of retirement age, with a few high schoolers that volunteer on the crew until graduation.

What kind of calls does the department respond to the most?
Mostly medical calls, Youngbird said. The fire department works closely with the Wilton ambulance, responding to any calls that the ambulance covers. The partnership helps provide some added assistance when volunteer numbers are low.

How serious is the need for more volunteers?
With Bismarck growing closer to Wilton, the fire department is getting busier and busier and the need for volunteers is expounding. Youngbird said he expects that the department will need to start paying crew members in the next five years in order to entice more people to join. Funding the wages for the crew would be covered by any obtained grants, as well as by subsidizing taxpayer money.

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How Mickie started volunteering

Mickie McNulty-Eide started out like many before she became the squad leader for the Oliver County Ambulance Association. McNulty-Eide wasn't confident and wondered if she was really cut out to be a volunteer ambulance member.

Originally, she started with a CPR class about 24 years ago. McNulty-Eide said her first CPR class was organized by Shirley Hagemeister.

"I started out with taking a CPR class. I moved to Center in 1994 and I took a CPR class from Shirley Hagemeister, who was very involved with the squad. She was involved with the start of the squad with the ambulance service in the 70s," McNulty continued.

"She was teaching a CPR class. I always wanted to take it. I went up and took it. Then she asked me later because I had questions for her - I had come across an accident and asked how could I have handled this differently. So, she asked me when they were

going to start what was called first-responder at the time. Now, it's called emergency medical responder."

McNulty decided to take the first-responder class after a discussion with her husband and enjoyed it.

"They were going to have a first-responder class, so she came over and asked me if I'd be interested in taking it. I talked it over with my husband at the time and asked what do you think. So, I took it and I went on my first ride-a-long before I finished my class. I just kind of got bit by the bug I guess," McNulty said.

She has enjoyed her time as an ambulance volunteer. She said she likes the family feel of her squad and the fact that she's involved with helping the community.

"First of all, it was very good in building self-esteem and getting to know people. The ambulance crew is like family. We have a really close-knit crew overall. Just being able to help people

when they are in an emergency situation," McNulty-Eide said. "Even if you can't save them all the time, you are still helping the family by doing everything you can to save them."

Many future volunteers spend time wondering and second-guessing if they can do the job. McNulty said she was similar but that giving it a try is the only way one can for sure know.

"I would tell them I didn't know. I didn't know if I'd be able to handle it. I didn't know until I went on my first ride-a-long. It was a car accident. It was high school kids, four of them. I showed up on that and even that night - both of our ambulances ended up going out," McNulty said.

"I was like 'OK, should I or shouldn't I.' When I finally went over both ambulances were gone. So, I drove out in my own vehicle. Once I got there then it was like 'OK I can do this. Now, I know I can. Because it was trauma.' The only way to find out is to try."

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Wilton Ambulance Service



Squad Leader:

Leann Domonoske-Kellar

Number of current crew members:

Around 25, with crew members coming from Hazen, Beulah, Bismarck, Lincoln, Mandan and more.

Demographic of current crew members:

Mostly people in their 30s, 40s and 50s, though there has been an influx of younger Wilton residents joining the squad.

What kind of calls are you responding to most often?

It's a variety of medical emergencies, vehicular accidents and other miscellaneous calls.

How serious is the need for more volunteers?

The ambulance often turns to members of the Wilton fire department to find ambulance drivers for runs. Domonoske-Kellar said the ambulance is currently in need of regular and fill-in drivers, especially during daytime hours.

From Northland to the South Pole

It took seven weeks of back-and-forth email exchanges to arrange one phone call with Coltyn Blotske, a 2014 graduate of Northland Community and Technical College's Fire Technology and Advanced Rescue programs. Then, on the day of the much-anticipated call... silence. Eleven o'clock Central Time came and went without a ring.

When you're waiting for a call from the South Pole, however, you have to suspend your reality a bit like you do at the movie theater watching a sci-fi film. Would it sound like the South Pole? Would there be static on the line? Would your fingers feel an empathetic chill while holding the phone? You just don't know.

An hour after the missed call, Coltyn fired off an email:

NASA had to use our satellite this morning, so I had no service this morning before work. Now I am at work and have no time to talk.

NASA. Amazing. A kid from Underwood, ND, with a two-year degree is now living and working at the South Pole, competing for satellite usage with the world's preeminent aerospace organization... who needed it "for space station stuff."

"I love what I do," Coltyn said. "I go to work smiling and leave work smiling. Of course there are hard days and people you don't like to work with, but you're doing what you love. There's nothing like it. Two years ago if you told me I'd be working in Antarctica, I'd laugh in your face. But

here I am, and I absolutely don't regret it."

Northland first step

Years before Coltyn found himself working as a firefighter in the toughest conditions you could possibly find on planet Earth, he was already well on his way to this dream job. He was fortunate enough to have discovered his passion early in life before college was even on his radar.

"I started out as a volunteer firefighter at 16 years old back in Underwood," Coltyn explained. "I looked up to my older brother, and he was a volunteer firefighter, so by the time I hit 16 I already had the paperwork filled out. But I think I was 17 when I fully committed and decided that this is what I really wanted to do — this is what makes me happy."

"I kept hearing that Northland is the place to go if you want to go to fire school. So I went to take a tour... I immediately felt like this is the right place to go. The rumors were true."

As a young volunteer going through the state of North Dakota's fire school, Coltyn developed a network of friends and fellow firefighters who were on a similar path. That group is where he first heard about the outstanding reputation Northland's fire technology programs had earned throughout the region. Many of his fellow volunteers were enrolling, so he decided to go for a visit and see for himself what opportunities might be available.

"I kept hearing that Northland is the place to go if you want to go to fire school," Coltyn said

with the same enthusiasm he had leading up to that first campus visit. "So I went to take a tour with a buddy who was already going there and I immediately felt like this is the right place to go. The rumors were true."

During his two years at Northland, Coltyn fell even deeper in love with the job. And like so many other reports from graduates of Northland — from auto body technicians to occupational therapy assistants — he couldn't say enough about how well prepared he felt leaving the classroom going into his first day on the job as a firefighter in Minot, ND.

Getting started

"It's not a quick program just to get you through. ... You show up to class like you're going to work and they send you out to simulated real-world situations."

"All of the instructors at Northland are over the top amazing," Coltyn assured, "but what struck me as most impressive was the hands-on equipment and technology we used in the classroom to train on. It's not like 20-year-old equipment like you might expect... it was all that I ended up using on the job in Minot. I walked right in and was familiar with everything. That confidence is priceless, especially in this job where someone's life may be on the line."

The role of a community college like Northland is to prepare workers for meaningful, technical jobs so much of today's so-

ciety relies upon. Coltyn discovered there really is no substitute for such a realistic, albeit demanding training environment. As he described it, he was given the opportunity to train in real time, in real-world situations.

"It's not a quick program just to get you through," Coltyn said with a slight laugh that hinted at the excitement and challenge of Northland's fire school. "This is the whole kit and caboodle, and you walk out as a certified Level I and II firefighter in Minnesota. So you learn everything. You show up to class like you're going to work and they send you out to simulated real-world situations."

As good as Northland's training proved to be, no simulation could prepare Coltyn for the toughest work environment on planet Earth. Actively looking for a new challenge, he submitted applications around the region and landed a spot on several hiring lists. Nothing piqued his interest until a friend mentioned the idea of international contract work, and first on the presumably alphabetical list was Antarctica.

"I was looking for a department with a paramedic service integrated into it so I could fulfill my desire to become a Firefighter/Paramedic," Coltyn explained, "but then I talked with a friend who told me about the world of contract firefighting. I researched the Antarctic contract and was super interested in being able to travel the world and see different cultures. So, I

decided to be a contractor for a few years and pad my savings account while seeing the world."

Fire at -60°

Firefighters are some of our most selfless public servants. They don't go on strike. They don't take a day off. When called to an emergency, they are the first to the scene with lifesaving skills in tow. No conditions are ideal to fight fires, but none worse, perhaps, than the most frigid desert on earth. Temperatures in some parts of Antarctica have dipped below -130 Fahrenheit. Add any amount of wind, and you might as well be working in the deep freeze vacuum of space.

"I thought Grand Forks was cold," Coltyn admitted, "but today it's -60 wind chill. The storms here are relentless... they'll roll in out of nowhere and just destroy the town. We have three different conditions: 3 you can still see; 2 is bad (if you venture outside of 'town' you have to check in and make a plan); and 1, where you absolutely are not allowed to leave whatever building you're in... the visibility is so bad, the wind is so strong, you have to stay put."

So what about fighting fires? Well, that's only part of Coltyn's job description while living at either McMurdo Station or at the actual south pole (Amundson Scott South Pole Station, to be precise). Like any firefighting position, a majority of the job isn't

North
continued on 14

Washburn Ambulance Service



Squad Leader:
Mark Lelm

Number of current crew members:
About 30

Demographic of current crew members:
17-years-old to retirement age. "We've got people from a year's experience to 30 years experience," Lelm said.

What kind of calls are you responding to most often?

Cardiac episodes, people with chest pain, dehydration, vehicular accidents.

How serious is the need for more volunteers?

The crew has a shortage of drivers for the ambulances, which can slow down response times to emergency calls. There is also a need for attendants to take notes during ambulance runs. Lelm said having enough people to staff the ambulance is important to getting to people quickly during medical emergencies, and that the experience is one of a kind. "You could be helping a neighbor, you could be helping a stranger, a small child to an elderly person," Lelm said. "But the friends you'll make, they'll last forever. You'll touch people's lives like you never thought you'd ever experience."

North

continued from page 13

responding to fires, but rather medical emergencies. About 80 percent of the calls into any fire station around the country are medical related, be it a car accident or a heart attack.

Coltyn's main job is training those around him, including the on-base fire brigade. While maintaining his own skills in fire rescue and emergency medicine, he helps the whole station gain the knowledge they need to help out whenever an emergency may arise. Aside from that, he's a contributing member of a very small, very elite community most of us will never know.

"Growing up where I did back home in North Dakota, everybody helps out," Coltyn said, "but here that's taken to a whole other level. You have to work together to get anything accomplished, so everyone pitches in with daily duties like taking out the trash, doing the dishes, cleaning the station, even helping incoming aircraft navigate their way onto the ice."

When asked about the perks of remote living, Coltyn pauses. After a few moments of silence — in addition to the seven-second delay from halfway around the globe — you can feel the appreciation in the answer he delivers.

"I absolutely love it down here," Coltyn starts out. "When

I started down here it was 24 hours of darkness. I never saw the mountains just across the bay from me. Then, gradually, the sun slowly started to come out, revealing the most amazing pink and purple mountains you'll ever see. Just beautiful."

The Future?

With plans to do at least one more tour in Antarctica, the answer is clear. Coltyn is doing what he loves in a place few will ever get to see or experience. It's a long way from Northland Community and Technical College and his hometown of Underwood, ND, but his roots are what brought him to the end of the earth.

"I can't say I'd do anything differently," Coltyn said without hesitation. "Everything's been great. Northland set me up perfectly. I loved my job with the Minot fire station and would like to land back there at some point, but the move here was very easy. I can't change anything, nor would I want to. I plan on doing at least one more contract down here and after that, the world is open with opportunities... the Middle East, Africa, Europe, there's really no limit to where I can go. With the training and experience I now have on my resume, the future is pretty bright."

Thank you to our area volunteers!



Dakota West Credit Union would like to thank all of our area volunteer ambulance and fire department members. We would also like to recognize the hard work and dedication of our own Candace Law and Michelle Jacobson for their work with the Washburn Ambulance Squad.

Washburn Fire Department



Fire Chief:
Clayton Verke

Number of current crew members:
Around 23

Demographic of current crew members:
A mix of "younger" members in their 20s and 30s and "older" members closer to retirement age

What kind of calls are you responding to most often?

It's a mixed bag, crew members say. In the past couple of years, the majority of calls are in response to vehicular accidents. In the years before, most runs were extinguishing grass fires.

How serious is the need for more volunteers?

Crew members report that though there are over 20 members, typically the same 6 or 7 respond to most calls. This puts those few at risk of getting burnt out. Fire Chief Clayton Verke said there are times when only two or three people are free to respond to a call, with only one person responding at times.



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Underwood Fire, Ambulance & Rescue



Members of the Underwood Fire, Ambulance and Rescue squad include, front row from left: Chad Repnow, Kyle Wolf, Jesse Carr, Jared Levey, Justin Levey and Corey Neff. Second row: Oliver Repnow, Bob Hovdenes, Freedom Bassett, Erika Levey, Delila Repnow and Dave Kapanke. Back row: Keith Malnourie, Steve Hammes, Steve Waller, Angie Carr, Linda Bundy, Nikki Lang, Brianna Robinson and Derek Holeman. Not pictured: Wyatt Zietz, Bob Zietz, Neal Repnow and Alex Repnow.

Underwood has a three-tiered squad, incorporating fire, ambulance and rescue into one squad, with 25 current volunteer members. There are no paid positions and no particular shifts – they just respond when the call for help comes in.

Current members/First Responders: 25

EMTs: 8

Fire/rescue calls per year: About 25

Age range of squad members: 18 to 65

For information or to volunteer:

Call Corey Neff, 989-0347 or Angie Carr, 527-1922

Most years on the squad

Oliver Repnow, 38 years -- joined in April 1980

Current Fire Chief: Jesse Carr

Current Ambulance Leader: Corey Neff

Ambulance calls per year: 60 to 80

Answers to “Why are you on the department”.

Chad Repnow, third-generation, 20-year member, First Responder, FF1 – “It’s kind of a family deal for me. It helps out the community.”

Brianna Robinson, 5-year member, EMT – “I came here as an outsider, I was a nurse new to the community and it was a way to get to know people.”

If someone says “There’s no way I could do that – I have nothing to offer”

Robinson – “I think people would be surprised at what they could do.”

Repnow – “You can’t be afraid to try it out. We have the training through here, and there’s always something that people can do.”

Robinson – “It’s a team effort. Everybody has jobs and lives and families and sporting events, but if we can get everyone to contribute a little bit . . . That’s why we need as many people as we can get.”



Members of the Underwood Fire, Ambulance and Rescue squad recently held a fire simulation exercise with members of the North Dakota Firefighter’s Association.



Members of the Underwood Fire, Ambulance and Rescue contribute to the community in other ways as well. Squad members Keith Malnourie and Jesse Carr get the foam rolling as the department created a foam pit as part of Underwood’s Party in the Park. The fire department also has a “house on fire” in which children are invited to put out the fire using a real fire truck and hose. The department also puts on regular demonstrations at the Underwood school instructing students on fire prevention.

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Zap Rural Fire Protection Department

Zap Rural Fire Protection Department is a department that is ready for anything.

Out of their 15 volunteers, 11 are trained in vehicle extraction, three are trained EMR's and one is a paramedic — however, their paramedic can only act as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) while with the fire department.

Zap also runs a Quick Response Unit (QRU). Zap partnered with Hazen Rural Fire Department to assist in vehicle extraction. There was a need for more trained individuals in that area and so Zap offered their services.

The fire department is fully equipped and trained for the vehicle extraction.

Zap Rural Fire Protection Department was started in the late 1960's. Their volunteers range from individuals

who have been on the board for two decades to young guys who are just only getting their feet wet.

Typically, Zap's fire department will respond to variety of calls. However, depending on the year those calls can be on the low volume. Zap Rural Fire Protection Department Chief Mike Mohl said that this year they have had one call with several extraction calls. Which can be compared to other years where they have 10 calls.

Since everyone is a volunteer and the activity level is sometimes low, Mohl said the training is something that is hard to keep up with. Mohl mentioned that it is easier to stay knowledgeable about the trucks when you're on them a lot.

"There is a lot of training involved in fire fighting — it's easier to keep you guys trained if they are busy," said Mohl.

Mohl mentioned that yearly they are supposed to get 400 hours in of

structure training. As well as annual training, EMR training or sending volunteers to the state's fire academy.

He said that there have been volunteers who felt they could learn on the fly but Mohl said that was a sure way to get hurt.

In one incident a volunteer was spraying water on a burning tire on a semi-truck. Mohl said the volunteer was standing way to close — not having attended training. "Tire fires are extremely dangerous because they store a lot of energy," said Mohl.

Zap fire runs six trucks: three grass trucks, one rescue truck, a pump truck and a one tanker. Their oldest truck is 1969 and their newest truck is a 2016. "Our tanker is carrying the most water in Mercer county," said Mohl — which 4,300 gallons and combine with the other trucks they are carrying 6,800 gallons.

Two of the trucks are equipped with a foam throwing system which is said to "make water wetter." Mohl explained

that it induces foam into the water and make it stick to the surface it's sprayed on.

Mohl said being a smaller community they struggle for volunteers but like sitting around the 15 mark. He said outfitting his crew can be expensive when the suit and equipment for one person is over \$10,000.

As for why fire fighters volunteer Mohl said he could only speak for himself but he felt it would probably ring true for most of this volunteers.

He said one of the beautiful things of the area is that people are willing to stop and help other people in need. "It's what you do around here, you just stop and see if they are OK. How can I go and expect someone to come to my families aside in a car accident if I'm not willing to help," said Mohl.

"You don't want to see anyone suffering — try and help them out as best you can."

Stanton Fire Department



From left to right: Monica Maas, Dallas Maas, Nick Chapman, Keith Bobbe, Kevin Sailer, Dallas Sailer, Dean Kessler, Dan Burk, Delli Maas and Gordy Neumiller. Not pictured: Joe Neumiller, Hubert Sailer, Rick Dockter, Jim Grannis, Jordan Grannis, Eric Brost, Bobby Gartner, Dallas Sailer, Andy Miller, Ryan McKay, Larry Lang, Curtis Gartner, Zach Fritsch, Bryce Narveson, Bobby Olander and Loyal Karges

Age range of members:
30 years old to 80 years old

Number of runs:
6 runs so far this year

Shifts available:
No shifts. Whoever shows up helps out.

Where help is need
More younger people to get involved and keep it going

When the department has meetings:
Meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Pay: Completely volunteer, no pay

Shout outs to the volunteers:

Stanton Fire Chief Gordon Neumiller: "I love those people for what they do for our community. I tell them, 'You are my girls, my guys,' cause they put their life on the line every time they do a call."

Number of Volunteers:

Gradually decreased over the years. The city and rural fire departments in Stanton used to have their own staff and fight their own fires. Currently, the city and rural departments share staff, vehicles and a small fire station in town, although they have separate boards. Neumiller and Rural Stanton Fire Chief Nick Chapman are going through the hurdles needed to combine the two boards.

Like other areas around the state and nation, especially in rural places, the Stanton Fire Department has trouble recruiting enough younger volunteers, and is always looking for more help.

"The only thought that I have is that if people in town don't want to be firemen, then we'll have to rely on neighboring towns to put fires out," Neumiller said. He stressed the need for new people not only to get involved, but to help gradually take over the leadership of the department.

Changes in store:

There are several potential changes in the works for the Stanton Fire Department. One of these is the possible combination of the city and rural fire boards. Another involves the fire hall in town.

Currently, the department uses a small space on the back of the Stanton Civic Center. The hall holds four trucks, but only has two stalls and doors, so in both stalls one fire truck is parked behind another. The need to wait for the one truck to pull out before the one behind it can depart increases the response time.

Neumiller is hoping to put up a new, larger fire hall. Although the location isn't certain yet, the primary place being looked at is the empty lot on Harmon Ave., opposite Coal Country Inn. The department is looking at bringing in a shed building from Great River Energy's Stanton Station as the new fire hall.

"It will be a bigger building," Neumiller said. "We want to have at least four bays, at least four doors."

In addition, the new hall will have some office space as well for the department to use for meetings and storage. "It should accommodate us for many, many years to come," Neumiller said.

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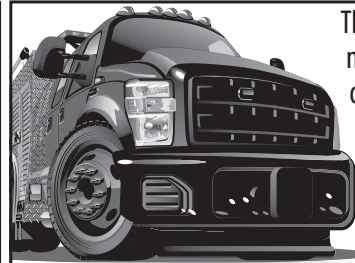
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Hazen Fire Department



Front row left to right: Kurt Milbradt, Codi Soland, Mitchell Dean, Shannon Kadrmaz, Mark Wasen, Mark Schmitt and Brian Dillman. Second row left to right: Jesse Buck, Jamie Soland, Kasey Lesmann, Garrett Grossman, Justin Weisz, Dan Wettstein, Stan Burling and Matt Goodwin. Third row (on truck): Kevin Holen. Personnel not pictured: Cory Beery, Tom Beery, Dave Brousseau, John Crane, Dan Ganske, Jeremy Hoffland, Kevin Irwin, Troy Johnson, JR Kaylor, George Kirick, Chris Knopik, Doug Leidholm, Matt Lemasters, Dave Lundstrom, Hannah Lundstrom, Jon Schneider, Steven Schwarz, Dustin Wiedrich, Bob Weisz and Bill Zingg.

Age range of members:

21 - 62 years old, with service ranging from 6 months to 38 years

Number of runs a month:

8 runs a month, 66 runs so far this year

Pay: Completely volunteer, no pay

Shifts available:

No shifts. The department expects personnel to respond when they are able.

When the department has meetings:

Meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, training on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Why serve

You're never too young to consider serving in your local fire department. The range of experience among those firefighters goes from Brian Dillman, who has served about a year, to Kurt Milbradt, who has 38 years of service.

"I lost my house to a fire when I was 12," Milbradt said. "I decided I needed to help other people, and I've been involved in [fire department service] ever since."

"I guess for me, I felt like trying to get involved in the community after moving out here," Kevin Holen said. Holen, who has been a firefighter for nine years, said volunteering with the fire department seemed like a way to help others and the town of Hazen at large.

Hazen's three dozen volunteer firemen serve an extremely vital role in the community. Unpaid, these men and women dedicate their time willingly to help those in the area who are in need.

Holen recognized he and the other firefighters are there to help other people in tough situations.

"Their worst days, that's when they're calling on us to help them," he said.

What sets the squad apart

The only department in Mercer County with the Class A equipment to do rescue as well as response. In addition, Milbradt is certified for arson investigation.

About the work

"We're always looking for energetic, motivated people," Holen said. As people have different strengths, the department can find different ways for people to serve. "If you're not okay with a rescue, stay with the vehicle and keep a look out if the fire is spreading," Milbradt said. "There's different jobs for everyone." "If someone's willing to put in the effort and help us out, then they can join," Dillman said.

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City of Golden Valley

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Golden Valley Rural Fire Protection Department



About Safety

Fire Chief Kenton Richau: "Gotta protect yourself. How are you going to protect others if you're not protecting yourself – wear your gear, wear your seatbelt."

History

Golden Valley still has their original fire truck. The 1950 Studebaker has been kept in mint condition and is still taken out during parade time. The department started in 1941 and in 1975 teamed up to form the Golden Valley Rural Fire Protection.

About the Volunteers

"We are just dedicated individuals who volunteer our time to serve the community," said Richau. Volunteer numbers vary, at one time being as low as 15, and at others being as high as 28. Currently, they are sitting about 22 volunteers.

About the Fires

Most of Golden Valley's calls are for prairie fires with the occasional structure fire. The department does not have a very high call volume, so far in 2018 they were paged on one call.

Their department is strictly fire, no rescue work. Other years the department has been called out to assist on bigger fires that have occurred in the area. They helped on the 2017 Beulah summer fire and were kept busy with 13 fire calls in 2012.

Goals

To purchase a special washing machine for their gear. "Right now the big push is on cancer causing agents in the fire service," said Richau.

He explained that because construction of modern homes is so different than what once was, materials are often synthetic "It's not just solid wood anymore, and when it burns it creates such toxic gas and the fumes can get into your skin and cause cancer."

He said it is important to clean your gear well after responding to a call. He said this item would be a large washing machine that would extract those agents from their clothes.

He said they are also looking at something they can use to fill their self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units.

Beulah Rural Fire Department

At one time Beulah's fire fighters were all the business men of main street, and they fought the fires with whatever they had on.

Over time that look changed. Now fire fighters wear nearly 70 pounds of gear, which is constantly changing.

In 1961 the Beulah fire department became Beulah Rural Fire Protection; at that time Beulah fell under its protection area.

Eli Schumann has been chief for Beulah Rural Fire Protection for the last three years, although he has been on the squad since 2006.

Beulah's roster varies in age. Schumann explained that they have some volunteers who are in their late 20s while others are over 60. He said they have struggled to find volunteers in the past, but right now things are looking good.

Fire fighters are always looking to improve their training. Since volunteering for the department is an interview process, the training and testing is important, although not mandatory.

Fire departments send their new recruits to the North Dakota Fire Association (NDFA) to put them through the right training where they learn about fire safety.

Throughout the year, the area fire departments will link together and take on trainings. Whether that be a burn trailer training, or a grain bin training, it is whatever their supervisors believe their departments need training on.

"Everything we do we've learned by doing," said Schumann. He mentioned that the training the state puts a volunteer through is well worth it – with the variety that they teach you – but also the time spent during the local training sessions and taking call.

For Beulah the most memorable call, Schumann said, was when Coyote Station had a pump blow up which they fought for hours on end because their fire was in the walls.

Another memorable fire, which was something all the fire departments felt, was the summer of 2017. A baler had caught fire and the flame took off across the dry field. Homes were evacuated, just in case the fire was too large. But the fire fighters stayed until the flames were nothing by small smoke piles; they assigned their volunteers to watch it over the next several hours to be sure it was out.

When their pagers go off, they never know how long they will be on a call.

The people who volunteer do it because

it's in their blood. They don't receive any sort of compensation personally for being part of the fire department. This is purely because they believe in protecting their community.

The majority of Beulah's volunteers are also signed up on the Search and Rescue Team roster or part of the Dive Team.

Being a fire fighter, Schumann said they are typically seeing people on their worst day; something they love is being destroyed. "You're always dealing with people's emotions, and you have to learn to brush it off," said Schumann. "If they are yelling and screaming at you, you kind of have to let them go."

He said that people's emotions are usually high, and they are flying on adrenaline as much as the fire fighters are.

Beulah typically answers 30 to 40 calls a year. Schumann continues to receive calls throughout the winter to people's homes to check for carbon monoxide leaks.

Getting out of bed at 2 a.m., being paged while in the middle of a shift, or exiting a child's recital - why do these volunteers continue to do what they do?

"It has got to be something born into us to do it," said Schumann. He said it is their way of helping people and they just do it. The fire department is another family, and it is a brotherhood that emerges when people are in times of need. "We take care of one another," said Schumann.

In his position, he said he isn't just concerned about the victim's home or field; he is also looking out for his guys and any by-stander, to ensure everyone is safe. "Personally, myself, I take full responsibility making sure they are safe, and that everything works out in the end," said Schumann.

Currently, Beulah is working on a grant through FEMA in order to receive new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Schumann said he has recently decommissioned 12 bottles, and their current ones are three generations behind.

Beulah has two structure engine rigs, three grass units, one water tender (tanker) and two command units. When the pager rings, volunteers race to the fire hall to slip into their gear and head out to the call.

"We do it to protect the community that we live in – that's what it comes down to," said Beulah Rural Fire Protection member, Sean Cheatley.



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Oliver County Ambulance



Oliver County Ambulance squad leader Mickie McNulty-Eide and squad member Karene Kolden were presented with a donation check by BNI representatives Kate Kolden and Jeff Forsberg during the Fleishkeukle feed.

Age range of crew: 16-67

Number of runs:

75 a year/6 a month, about 60 percent of all Oliver County runs.

Meetings:

Usually the third Monday of the month

Pay:

Driver or EMR-\$25/per shift, EMT-\$30/shift, weekend shifts- everyone \$40/shift, Holiday shifts- everyone \$50/shift.

Needs:

All positions. Especially day shifts. Lacking EMTs, but have a class that just started with five people enrolled in that. Two of those are new to the squad. Drivers are welcomed. Getting drivers will help free up some of the EMRs and EMTs from having to drive instead of providing care.

Partnerships that work:

Center-Stanton school provides some training for her squad's EMRs. She said the school and the ambulance service have an agreement to teach an EMR class, instead of health.

"We are very fortunate here, because in the high school they allow us to teach," Squad Leader Mickie McNulty-Eide said. "There was one other school that did that in the state. But I don't know if there are still doing it or not."

Oliver County's EMR supply from the school is in good stock. McNulty-Eide expects more EMR students from the program. She said those students will be ready to go once they complete a few more ride-a-longs.

About the service

"We're basic life support, so we only have up to the EMT position. We have a couple of nurses who are on the squad. When they come on runs they perform their duties up to what we are allowed to do," McNulty-Eide said.

Goals:

To replace the main ambulance, which is 11-years-old. Ambulance rigs last about 10 years and cost anywhere from \$180,000-\$200,000. "That's what any donation or memorials money is going towards right now," McNulty Eide said.

Pick City Fire Department

Service in the smallest of towns

Even in the smallest towns in the area, there is always the need to be prepared if a fire should strike. One team of volunteers stands ready to respond.

Pick City is a town with a population of 123 people, according to the 2010 U.S. census. Despite its size, 11 members of the community and surrounding area are willing to put their lives on the line if a fire should strike.

"I knew it was just a small community, and they needed help," Kevin Neuberger, one of the volunteers, said about his decision to get involved with the small group. "It's something I always wanted to try and do."

Kevin Neuberger, together with Kel Westman, Kerry Neuberger, Travis Brezden, Evan Johnson, Arvid Anderson, Brandon Sailer, Ricky Sailer, Jim Sailer, Marshall Fears and Dan Wettstein, make up the Pick City Fire Department.

Although the amount of fires that threaten the area are quite small, these responders recognize, if one does appear, they are the first and best line of defense for saving lives.

"It's not very glamorous, cause we don't really get a lot of calls," Anderson said. "We're small, but we're a pretty dedicated bunch."

He added that, currently, there are three younger volunteers who are really stepping up and getting involved in the department.

Neuberger said it is rewarding to be volunteer, and to hear the stories and the gratitude of people in the area.

"It's just how supportive people are towards us as volunteers and how thankful they are when we help them out," he said.

The need for firefighters in the area is significant.

"Pick City's a fairly small town, and it's turned into a kind of retirement and fishing town," Anderson said. "And many of them really don't want to be spending their time with another responsibility on their time."

Neuberger admitted it can be a challenge for a small town like Pick City to find the volunteers needed to help the fire department operate, and said they are always looking for more people to get involved.

He also pointed out the department doesn't have specific roles, which different people are assigned to. He asked those considering becoming firefighters to try it out, and they could get involved in the areas where

they are most needed and are themselves comfortable with.

Age range of members:
25 years old to 60 years old
Number of runs a month: 2 runs so far this year
Shifts available: No shifts. Whoever shows up helps out.
Where help is need: new volunteers and firefighters of any kind
When the department has meetings: Meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., with training the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m.
Pay: Completely volunteer, no pay

“It's not very glamorous, cause we don't really get a lot of calls. We're small, but we're a pretty dedicated bunch.”

Arvid Anderson, Pick City assistant fire chief

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Parshall Ambulance



Photographs by Edna Sailor

Ambulance Roster:

Penny Estvold AEMT (Advanced EMT)
 Jamie Clemensen AEMT (Advanced EMT)
 Ruth Zacher AEMT (Advanced EMT)
 Mary Nielsen EMT
 Derek Holeman EMT
 Carolyn Folden EMR
 Brooke Locken EMR
 Jessica Olson EMR
 Teah Clemensen EMR
 Orie Goudge EMR
 Rick Burckhard Driver
 Lori Huus Driver
 Lori Brugh Driver
 Kurt Clemensen Driver
 Roman Brugh Driver
 Shane Locken Driver
 Ken Rensch Paramedic
 Kelly Weathers Paramedic

Number of runs per year:

176 runs this year so far. That number is down approx 40 runs from last year.

Jamie Clemenson, Parshall Ambulance Squad Leader oversees a squad that is growing at a time when many squads are not. Parshall Ambulance has 18 crew members and has kept all of its equipment up to date.

“We have a full time Advanced EMT or Paramedic on paid staff 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. Staffing is supplied through Ambulance Resources LLC and managed by Ken Rensch. Drivers and second crew member in the back are all volunteers. We could not do it without the dedicated volunteers that we have now and we would not still be here if it was not for the many community members that have volunteered throughout the past years,” Clemenson said.

Jessica Olson and Orie Goudge are planning on furthering their training by attending an ET course this winter.

The Fire Department is another matter. While they have a full roster of people, Fire chief, Curt Clemenson, feels it gets “harder and harder to find volunteers. We really could use some younger people to get involved,” he said.

Clemenson acknowledges that the commitment of time to training and emergency situations ask a lot of volunteers.

“It gets to be quite an investment in time for people,” he said.

Mercer County Ambulance Service

Adrenaline is the first thing that kicks in when the pager goes off.

First responders can't tell you why they do what they do, it's just something that is in them.

Mercer County Ambulance Service began in 1971 with their ambulance bay in Hazen. Every day is different while working in an ambulance rig.

Every page received is new information, new directions and a new situation all together. Some times when dispatch informs the ambulance of the call their information is limited.

Ambulances can be called for numerous situations. They are called for someone who has fallen in their home or having breathing issues; they are called following an accident; or to a domestic violence call; or to a farming accident — they have learned to expect the unexpected.

Mercer County Ambulance Service Emergency Medical Technician Cloe Frey said there are times when they are paged to someone's home who is simply not feeling well and when they

arrive they see that they are having a stroke.

Mercer County Ambulance Service Co-Manager Marcy Sailer said that one day they could have no call and another have eight runs. Sailer said they average 75 runs a month between both Beulah and Hazen.

She mentioned that no time of year is busier for them but winter is definitely their “uglier” time.

Safety is something they drill into their crews.

There are times when rigs have ended up in ditches trying to make it out to a call. The driver always has to drive to the road conditions — which they are out in snow, heavy fog and everything in between. “When the snow is falling and blanketing the highway that is scary because you don't know where you're at,” said Frey.

Sailer mentioned that there are times when they have allowed their drivers to come back to the bay because it is simply not safe for them to be on the road either.

Working in an ambulance can be stressful, especially with the

nature of the calls during your shift. When paramedics, AEMT's, EMT's and all ambulance staff arrive for their shift they check their rigs to make sure everything is in working order.

This is to ensure timeliness when responding to a call. Their full-time staff is to be at the ambulance bay for the duration of their shift. When a call is paged in, they are responsible for turning the rig on and getting it ready. The second person has a 5 minute response time. This person can be anywhere from a CPR driver, AEMT, or EMT.

Sailer said the great thing about their work is that they have so many outlets of support. “We work closely with all the fire and rescue teams, [Mercer County] Sheriff's department and local police departments — they are always helping us out,” said Sailer.

The ambulance is always looking for volunteers — which is a paid position. Volunteers can start out as CPR drivers and if they enjoy it EMT classes are offered through the Mercer County



Ambulance Service every other year.

When you are employed by the ambulance service a person has to keep up with their certifications and are required continuing education hours. The service does monthly training sessions for their staff.

The class takes about nine months and is typically a once a week meeting.

Currently, the ambulance service is looking into grants to upgrade their rig laptops. Having newer laptops in the rigs will allow them to create their trip tick-

ets and conduct their paperwork more efficiently.

Mercer County Ambulance Service has a bay in Hazen and a bay in Beulah, which they have two rigs at both locations.

They are always ready to answer the call — whatever that call may be.

“I think we do it because of our drive to help people ... to give back to the community,” said Frey.

“It's in our blood, I don't know what drives us to do it — we're just hoping for better outcomes,” said Sailer.

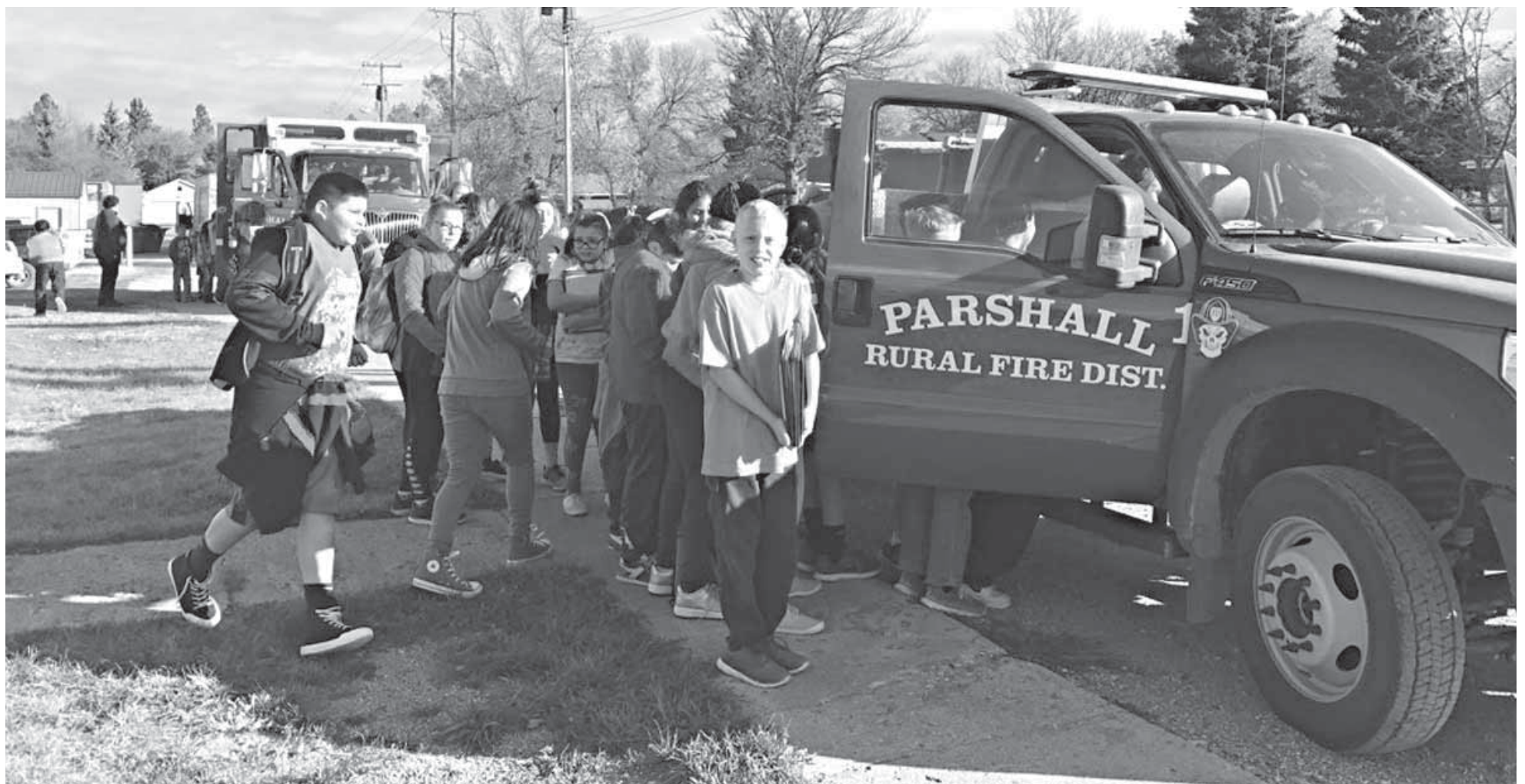
Parshall Fire Department



Fire Department Roster:

Kurt Clemenson, Chief
 Kenny Krueger, Asst. Chief
 Shane Locken, Captain
 Dustin Huus, Lieutenant
 Roman Brugh
 Kyle Christianson
 Brock Christianson
 Robert Andes

Tom Huus
 Philip Little Soldier
 Rob Myhre
 Monte Billedeau
 Matt Quillen
 Tyler Severence
 Lucas Ryan




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New Town Fire Department



Protectors getting a new home

After years of work, the New Town Volunteer Fire Department and Rural Fire Department will have a new home in 2019.

"It's been about six years since we started fundraising for this," DeGroot said. "With the new higher buildings in the area we need a ladder truck and it won't fit into the current fire station. We can't leave that truck outside. It costs \$1 million."

The Fire Hall will house both the New Town Volunteer Fire Department and the New Town

Rural Fire Department. Both the city of New Town and the townships served by the Rural Fire Department have contributed to the construction. The station will cost \$4.1 million, along with \$1 million for the new ladder truck. Half of the cost of the fire station will be paid by the city sales tax approved by voters last August.

The Department has raised more than \$500,000 for the new ladder truck and the city will be paying for the rest. DeGroot said the local firefighters will have to

go through special training and certification for the ladder truck.

"Getting the fire station built and the truck purchased is just the beginning," DeGroot said. "We have to look to the future. You have to plan for your potential hazards."

The fire station will be designed with an eye to the future. Should New Town decide that it needs full time firefighters, the station will have sleeping quarters for full time staff.

New Town Firefighters

Chief: John DeGroot;
 1st Asst Chief: Doug Bratvold;
 2nd Asst Chief: Jesse Baker;
 Secretary: David Jewel;
 Safety Officer: Les Krueger;
 Training Officer: Tom Nash;
 Past Chief: Pat Staples;
 Members: Randy Froshaug; Mike Salter;
 Kirk Hawkinson; Kevin Overlie; Scott Baker;
 Matt Lindly; Lance Sorenson;
 Kevin Brunette; Jake Estvold; Devin Dorval;
 Dustin Hoff ; Sam Solis; Gerald Kisner;
 Joe WhiteOwl; Anthony Jones

TAT Wildland Firefighters

Marvin Attson; Jesse Baker; Marle Baker;
 Noel Baker; Joni Boman; Ryan Driver;
 Duwayne Fox; Vincent Fox; Mary Fredericks;
 Austin Hodgkiss; Cody Grinnell;
 Dwight Howling Wolf; Kipp Krueger;
 Terry Mason; Michael Odell;
 Dustin Payer; Greg Shortey

Fort Berthold Firefighters

Evan Deegan;
 Kipp Krueger;
 John Poitra;
 Marle Baker;
 Matthew Achenberg;
 Thomas Nash;
 Keith White Owl;
 John Church;
 Jayne Bird Bear



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New Town Ambulance



Welcome to New Town Ambulance

You always hope you will never need an ambulance, but more than 1,400 times a year, the New Town Ambulance is there to try and save people from heart attacks, strokes, car accidents and all kinds of life threatening situations.

The New Town Ambulance Service finished the expansion and renovation of its home in 2017.

Brandon Gosch, NTAS manager, said the \$2.5 million project began in 2013.

The second phase of the project renovated the old two stall garage into an office and classroom. The final phase added living quarters for the ambulance staff. The service received a second oil impact grant for the renovation and spent \$600,000 of its own money on the project. The City of New Town provided \$50,000 worth of furnishings for the living quarters.

The comfortable living quarters are a boon to the ambulance squads, who sometimes put in two to seven consecutive 24 hour shifts in the building. There are usually four to six people in the building at any given time. Gosch said the kitchen, living area and bedrooms sometimes seem like a home away from home, saying that some crew members “see this place more than their house.”

“We run two Advanced Life Support Crews seven days a week,” Gosch said. “That means there will always be paramedic available to come to your door. We provide the same level of care you will get in Bismarck, Minot or Denver. We have all the same equipment and capabilities.”

New Town Ambulance Service is a non-profit Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service providing 24/7 emergency medical care to the city of New Town and surrounding communities. Our coverage area includes more than 550 square miles.

In addition to providing emergency services, NTAS also offers a variety of educational classes for medical professionals and the general public. Its Education



Center is equipped with the newest educational innovations to provide the best instruction in a great learning environment.

Due to the drastic increase in 9-1-1 calls, NTAS is continually

expanding its operations to meet the needs of the community and surrounding areas. The ambulance service depends on continued support and donations from the public and area businesses.

Administrative Staff

Brandon Gosch, Manager (Paramedic)
Deanne Wolf, Assistant Manager
Amanda Bibb, Supervisor/Education Coordinator (Paramedic)

Medical Director

Dr. Jeffrey Sather

Paramedics

Holly Boltz
Chad Geisinger
Lindsey Geisinger
Aaron Hawkins
Jared Hedland
Danna Nechiporenko
Mason Terry
Tyler Welk

AEMT's

Terah Lynn
Kirk Randle
Lisa Valandra

EMTs

Sarah Jessen
Shelley Krueger
Ariel Mack
Thomas Nash
Danna Nechiporenko
Marcus Schwarzrock

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8 Years - Kenmare Fire Department

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Craig Talbott

3 Years - Max Fire Department

Everyday volunteer emergency responders selflessly put themselves in harm's way to help those in need, whether it be pulling you out of a burning building, rescuing you after a car accident or getting you to the hospital when moments are critical. These men and women train for and perform these duties with integrity, never asking for a thank you. RTC recognizes the need for these volunteers and would like to thank our employees and others in the communities we serve.

NEW TOWN

Will Thelen

7 Months - New Town Fire Department

PARSHALL

Bob Blunck

11 Years - Parshall Fire Department

Rick Hovda

25 Years - Parshall Ambulance Board of Director

Mary Nielsen

16 Years - Parshall Ambulance

Lori Huus

30+ Years - Parshall Ambulance

