

# Oakes Times



February 22, 2024 • Volume One Hundred Forty One • Issue Number 8 • Oakes, ND • Email: oakestms@drtel.net • \$1.00 a copy

## COLUMN 1

**PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS:**  
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday:  
1:30-5:30; Wednesday: 1:30-7:30;  
Friday: 1:30-3:30.

**POP TABS FOR RONALD MC-DONALD HOUSE** can be dropped off at the Oakes Times.

**FULLERTON TOPS**, 7:15 a.m. Wednesdays, Fullerton Elevator Meeting Room.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**, 8:00 p.m. Mon., Wed. and Sat., 201 S. 5th St., Oakes.

**AL ANON**, 8:00 p.m., Mon. at 201 S. 5th St., Oakes.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** at Oakes Church of the Nazarene Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

**OAKES COMMUNITY CENTER** is open for walking 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**OAKES BONE BUILDERS** classes meet every Mon., Wed. and Fri. at the Oakes Senior Center at 10:00 a.m. Call Jen at 742-3509.

**BINGO AT THE SENIOR CENTER** every Monday at 1:00 p.m. Everyone welcome!

**CITY HALL HOURS:** Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Phone: 701-742-2137. On their website: oakesnd.com/CityAlerts, you will find current Public Works Dept. notifications.

**PHOTOS WANTED!** CHI Oakes Hospital is looking for high resolution photos to redecorate the main lobby of the hospital. Photos can be emailed to [toalison.peterson@commonspirit.org](mailto:toalison.peterson@commonspirit.org). Questions, call Alison at 742-3548.

**REPENT, REBOOT, RESOLVE!** A series of three presentations at St. Charles Catholic Church begins Sunday, February 25 at 1:30 p.m., and continues Monday February 26 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m.

## Forman, ND man facing aggravated assault charges



By Steve Umess, NewsDakota  
Forman, N.D. (KFGO) — A man has been charged after a teenage boy was hit in fire in Sargent County, ND last weekend.

Sheriff Travis Paepfer says it happened at a farm shop early Sunday morning, February 11. His department learned of it later that day. Video of the incident is circulating on social media and the sheriff was able to recover a copy of the video.

Paepfer says the 15-year-old victim was at a party when a juvenile male sprayed him with brake cleaner. 19-year-old Lance Tyler, of Forman, then used a torch to ignite the victim as the victim ran up a flight of stairs where others at the party put out the flames. The victim received 2nd and 3rd degree burns on his neck, face and ears.

Tyler was later arrested in Wahpeton. He's charged with felony aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon and reckless endangerment. The bond was set at \$10,000.

Charges are pending for the juvenile male who sprayed the teen with the brake cleaner.

## Oakes School Board votes to call special election, part 5

On Friday, January 12th, at the regular monthly board meeting of the Oakes Public School Board, members of the board voted unanimously to call a special election to approve the issuance of general obligation bonds for school building construction purposes. On March 14th, district voters will decide on a \$14.84 million plan to address critical facility challenges at our 100-year-old school building. If approved, this plan will provide our school with:

- New HVAC systems
- Accessible bathrooms
- Updated kitchen infrastructure
- Repaired underground plumbing

Visit OurSchoolOurFuture.org to learn more about the plan to maintain key infrastructure throughout our school building.

As a district, we have been and will continue to be committed to ensuring transparency about decision making and information pertaining to the proposed project. During the next two months, we will be sharing a series of facility questions and answers (FAQs) focused and guided by stakeholder input. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Anna Sell, Oakes Public

School Superintendent, at [anna.sell@k12.nd.us](mailto:anna.sell@k12.nd.us) or 742-3234.

**What happens if the referendum fails?**

Our critical building needs are not going away. Our school board carefully considered input from staff, students, and residents to propose a plan that prioritizes what our community said were the highest priorities for our building. The district can't proceed with these urgent improvements if voters reject the referendum. Our current budget is insufficient to address the full scope of repairs, renovations, and ongoing maintenance. Without the referendum, there's no other funding source. Our infrastructure challenges will worsen, disrupting education and increasing costs for issues that need to be addressed today.

**Why don't we build a new school?**

The district explored this option. North Dakota Century Code limits the amount of debt a school can take on. This limit is 10% of the total assessed value of a district property. The total assessed value of Oakes Public School is approximately \$230 million, which equates to a total debt amount of \$23 million. Building a new school would require \$50-\$60 million,

which is not a feasible option for our district and taxpayers. By addressing our most critical needs now, we can remove the risk of infrastructure failures that will disrupt education, reduce the high costs of emergency repairs, and prolong the life of our building so it can be used for many years to come.

**Are tax credits available to help with the costs of tax impact on my property?**

The Primary Residence Credit (PRC) was established during the 2023 Legislative Session. The credit provides all North Dakota homeowners with the option to apply for a state property tax credit through the North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner. Homeowners with an approved application may receive up to a \$500 credit against their 2024 and 2025 property tax obligation. To be eligible for the credit, you must own a home (house, mobile home, townhome, duplex, or condo) in North Dakota and reside in it as your primary residence. There are no age restrictions or income limitations for this credit. Only one Primary Residence Credit is available per household. You can learn more at [www.tax.nd.gov/prc](http://www.tax.nd.gov/prc).

## OPS Staff Spotlight... #WEAREOAKES

Submitted by Anna Sell, Superintendent

Name: Joan Orner

How long have you been at OPS? 16 years.

What does your job entail?

I'm a custodian. I maintain and clean the school for students and staff.

What is the best part of your job at OPS?

The friendly atmosphere and flexible hours.

What piece of advice would you give our students?

Be respectful and kind. Always treat others as you would like to be treated.

What is something others don't know about you?

When I was younger, I rode on the back of my mom's bicycle and got my foot caught in the spoke of her bike. To this day I have a scar on my ankle as a reminder.

Who has been the biggest influencer in your life?

My mom. She is and always



has been my biggest supporter. I think of her as a friend as well as my mother.

If you could pick any superpower, what would it be and why?

Invisibility. Then I could go around unseen and actually see what teachers and students do behind closed doors.

What does it mean to you to be a Tornado?

Once a Tornado, always a Tornado. I love seeing all the team spirit and the support of all the Tornado fans young and old.

## CHI Oakes Hospital Foundation to host Casino Night 2024

CHI Oakes Hospital Foundation is excited to announce their 7th Annual Casino Night. This is an annual fundraising event that assists the hospital in better serving the local community. Casino Night is set for Friday, March 22 at the Angry Beaver Lodge in Oakes, starting at 6:00 p.m. There will be a buffet dinner, silent auction, live auction, raffle, liquor pull, Plinko, games of chance, bingo, live music, and more!

We will also once again be hosting a Cornhole Tournament during Casino Night. If you are interested in signing up a team, or would like more info, please call Denise Wagner at 710-0456.

Money raised this year will be allocated to patient equipment needs. With funds raised from past events we were able to replace patient beds, purchase equipment to upgrade our operating rooms, purchase laboratory equipment to enhance patient care, purchase recliners for pa-

tient rooms, and also purchase an ultrasound machine for more robust pain management services. CHI Oakes Hospital is proud to be able to provide a place for community members to recover and heal close to home, without having to travel to larger cities.

If you or your business would like more information on being a sponsor of our event or donating an item for the live or silent auction, please contact Renee at 742-3846.

Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. Included in the price will be a buffet, live music from the Woolfers, and \$1700 in Casino Cash. Tickets are available at CHI Oakes Hospital, by calling 742-3291, or by visiting our website at [www.oakeshospital.com](http://www.oakeshospital.com). Tickets are also available for purchase at Angry Beaver Lodge. To see auction items and more details, be sure to like CHI Oakes Hospital Clinic on Facebook.

## Sam Schmidt achieves journeyman lineworker status

Sam Schmidt, Oakes, graduated from the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric (NDAREC) apprenticeship program.

Schmidt, who has been employed by Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative (DVEC) at its Oakes outpost since April 2022, has completed the 8,000 hours of paid on-the-job training, plus 400 hours of study required to achieve journeyman lineworker status.

His achievement was recognized during a ceremony at the 60th NDAREC Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference, held Jan. 11 in Mandan.

Schmidt was born and raised in Fargo, where he attended elementary and high school, graduating from Fargo South High School in 2015.

Following graduation, Schmidt worked as an apprentice electrician, before deciding he wanted a career as a utility lineworker. He then enrolled at the Bismarck State College (BSC) Energy Center for Excellence, where, in 2018, he received an applied science degree and apprentice lineworker certificate.

During his time at BSC, he received intense instruction in all areas of power line construction, equipment operation and maintenance. The course of study included classroom, and indoor and outdoor lab work in preparation for a career in the electric utility industry.



Prior to joining DVEC's workforce, Schmidt was employed at Cass County Electric Cooperative, where he worked as an apprentice lineworker at the cooperative's West Fargo and Kindred outposts.

## Oakes Archery team starts season



Submitted by Jeff Wiek

The 2023-2024 Oakes Archery Team started the season with 48 archers. The Elementary Team (4th-5th) has 16 members, the Middle Team (6th-8th) has 23 members, and the High School Team (9th-12th) has nine members.

The High School Team numbers were down this year, not allowing us to register a Bullseye Team at the state tournament in March - we needed 12. But, we have had a great group of first year archers on the Elementary Team, as well as the Middle

Team. We also have a group of around ten 3rd graders that practice with us, focusing on NASP Safety and learning the fundamentals.

The team has gained multiple new NASP Certified Archery instructors over the last two years. Jaidyn Hill, Laura McKown and Kathy Moore have been a huge help in managing the three separate practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We've also received help from active parents during practices.

We greatly appreciate the continued community support we

received through our fundraising efforts. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without it.

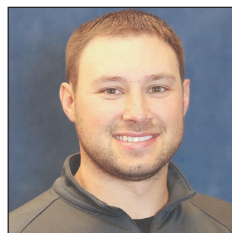
Our Annual Oakes Tournaments are being held February 23 and 24 at the Oakes Public School. This year the Bullseye Tournament will feature 21 schools with 430 archers, and the 3D Tournament will feature 17 schools with 330 archers participating. Archers will be shooting a total of 28,750 arrows through 760 scoring flights!

Stop by, have some lunch and watch 4th through 12th graders from all over the state compete.

## FCCU promotes Jared Meiklejohn

First Community Credit Union (FCCU) is proud to announce the recent promotion of Jared Meiklejohn to Ag/Commercial Loan Officer. He will be located at the Oakes Branch at 103 N 7th Street.

Meiklejohn, originally from Dickey, ND, earned his bachelor's degree in Sports Management from Valley City State University. He joined FCCU in August of 2023, as a Financial Service Specialist at the Valley City branch. When asked about his new position, he says, "I'm looking forward to my new position with FCCU because I believe this is a great opportunity to help members in a smaller community like the one I grew up in. Smaller communities like Oakes have a lot of great people that I'm excited to start working



with over the next few months."

During his 85-year history, First Community Credit Union has grown to be North Dakota's largest Credit Union. As a credit union, FCCU is owned by its members. The Credit Union's profits are returned to the members in the form of better services, accounts, and favorable rates on savings and loans.

Public Notices

www.ndpublicnotices.com

INITIAL RESOLUTION FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Oakes Public School District No. 41, Dickey, Sargent, Ransom and LaMoure Counties, North Dakota (the "School District"), that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to issue its general obligation school building bonds as hereafter described:

1. The maximum amount of bonds proposed to be issued is \$14,840,000.
2. The purpose for which the bonds are proposed to be issued is to provide funds, together with any other funds available for high school and gymnasium HVAC and window replacement, new ADA compliant restrooms in the high school, underground sewer piping replacement, kitchen infrastructure, electrical and plumbing improvements, and to otherwise improve, renovate, remodel, construct and equip school property and make site improvements to school property.

3. The assessed valuation of all taxable property in the School District as defined in N.D.C.C. Section 21-03-01, is \$248,304,835 as last finally equalized for the year 2023.

4. The total amount of bonded indebtedness of the School District, all issued for school building purposes, is \$220,000.
Dated: January 12, 2024, with motion for adoption made by Brian Seyer, and seconded by Rhonda Day, and the roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

President: Business Manager Board of Education
The governing body of the District acted on the foregoing resolution at a properly noticed meeting held in Oakes, North Dakota, on January 12, 2024, with motion for adoption made by Brian Seyer and seconded by Rhonda Day, and the roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

Aye: Sheila Nagel, Monica Heimbuch, Brian Seyer, Rhonda Day, Sonia Meehl 'Nay' none
Absent none
Abstain none
(Published in the Oakes Times February 8, 15, & 22, 2024)

RESOLUTION CALLING TO VOTE ON THE QUESTION OF APPROVING INITIAL RESOLUTION FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Oakes Public School District No. 41 of Dickey, Sargent, Ransom and LaMoure Counties, North Dakota (the "School District"), as follows:

1. This Board has heretofore adopted an initial resolution proposing the issuance of general obligation bonds of the School District in the principal amount not to exceed \$14,840,000 for school building construction purposes to the electors. A special election in the School District will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the School District the question of whether the initial resolution for general obligation school building bonds should be approved.

2. Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code, Section 15.1-09-13, the Board hereby designates one precinct for the election and one polling place.
3. The polling place for said election shall be:

Address: Oakes School District Central Office
Location: 804 Main Ave. Oakes, ND 58474

The polls will be open at 7:00 a.m., Central Time, and shall remain open continuously thereafter until 7:00 p.m., Central Time.

4. The School Board authorizes the administration to employ individuals to act as the election officers of said election. Said election officers shall cast the votes cast at said election, and shall submit signed election returns to this Board for canvassing.

5. The Business Manager is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the printed ballots to be prepared for use at said special election which ballots shall be in substantially the form set forth in Exhibit A hereto.

6. The Business Manager is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of said special election by:
(a) causing a notice thereof to be published on each week for at least two weeks in the official newspaper of the School District, the first of such publications to be at least 15 days before the date of said election; and
(b) posting the notice of special election on the website of the School District prior to the date of said election.

Said notice shall state the date of the election, the polling place and polling hours, shall contain a complete copy of

the initial bond resolution, a statement that the questions to be submitted at said election shall be whether said initial resolution shall be approved, and the estimated additional millage and equivalent dollar amount on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for the first taxable year after all of the bonds are issued, and whether the limit of indebtedness of the School District shall be increased.

7. The election shall be held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 15.1-09 of the North Dakota Century Code. After the votes are canvassed, and within 24 hours after the polls are closed, the judges shall make their returns to the Business Manager of the School District, which shall meet on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, for the purpose of canvassing the returns, declaring the results, and taking such further action relative to the questions voted on as may then be determined appropriate.

Dated: January 12, 2024.
OAKES PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41 Attest: Sharon Meehl, Business Manager

The governing body of the District acted on the foregoing resolution at a properly noticed meeting held in Oakes, North Dakota, on January 12, 2024, with motion for adoption made by Monica Heimbuch and seconded by Brian Seyer, and the roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

Aye: Brian Seyer, Sheila Nagel, Rhonda Day, Monica Heimbuch, Sonia Meehl 'Nay' none
Absent none
Abstain none
(Published in the Oakes Times February 8, 15, & 22, 2024)

OFFICIAL BALLOT

OAKES PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41 OF DICKEY, SARGENT, RANSOM AND LA MOURE COUNTIES STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA QUESTION #1

Shall Oakes Public School District No. 41 of Dickey, Sargent, Ransom and LaMoure Counties, North Dakota, issue its general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$14,840,000 maturing within a maximum of 20 years, resulting in an estimated additional millage of 51.24 mills, equal to \$51.24 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for the first taxable year, for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other funds available, for high school and gymnasium HVAC and window replacement, new ADA compliant restrooms in the high school, underground sewer piping replacement, kitchen infrastructure, electrical and plumbing improvements, and to otherwise improve, renovate, remodel, construct and equip school property and make site improvements to school property.

Yes...[ ]
No...[ ]
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:
Voters desiring to vote in favor of the foregoing resolution shall mark a cross (X) in the space opposite the word "Yes." Voters desiring to vote against such propositions should mark a cross (X) in the space opposite the word "No."

(Published in the Oakes Times February 8, 15, & 22, 2024)

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, March 14, 2024, a special election will be held in Oakes Public School District No. 41 of Dickey, Sargent, Ransom and LaMoure Counties, North Dakota, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the School District, the question as to whether the following Initial Resolution for the issuance of general obligation bonds adopted by the School Board of the School District on January 12, 2024, at a regular meeting of the School Board duly called and held shall be approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Oakes Public School District No. 41, Dickey, Sargent, Ransom and LaMoure Counties, North Dakota (the "School District"), that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to issue its general obligation school building bonds as hereafter described:

1. The maximum amount of bonds proposed to be issued is \$14,840,000.
2. The purpose for which the bonds are proposed to be issued is to provide funds, together with any other funds available for high school and gymnasium HVAC and window replacement, new ADA compliant restrooms in the high school, underground sewer piping replacement, kitchen infrastructure, electrical and plumbing improvements, and to otherwise improve, renovate, remodel, construct and equip school property and make site improvements to school property.

3. The assessed valuation of all taxable property in the School District as defined in N.D.C.C. Section 21-03-01, is \$248,304,835 as last finally equalized for the year 2023.

4. The total amount of bonded indebtedness of the School District, all issued for school building purposes, is \$220,000.
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTICED that the School District intends to issue the \$14,840,000 general obligation bonds resulting in an additional millage of 51.24 mills, equal to \$51.24 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for the first taxable year after all of the bonds are issued.

AND YOU ARE FURTHER NOTICED AS FOLLOWS:
That the polling place for holding the election will be:
Oakes School District Central Office
804 Main Ave.
Oakes, ND 58474

And you are further notified that the polls of the election will be open at 7:00 a.m., CT, and will remain open continuously thereafter until 7:00 p.m., CT, of that day; and that the election is to be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

DATED: January 12, 2024.
BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF OAKES PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41 OF DICKEY, SARGENT, RANSOM AND LA MOURE COUNTIES, NORTH DAKOTA.

Anna Sell, Superintendent
(Published in the Oakes Times February 8, 15, & 22, 2024)

OAKES SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2024 AT 7:00 AM CENTRAL CONFERENCE ROOM

President Sonia Meehl called the meeting to order at 7 a.m.

Those in attendance were Board President Sonia Meehl, Vice President Monica Heimbuch, Board members Sheila Nagel, Rhonda Day and Brian Seyer. Sharon Meehl, and Rhonda Day were Superintendent Anna Sell, Business Manager Shannon Jepson, Elementary Principal Greg Doltz, High School Principal Jordan Lynch, Maintenance Dave Ehrlich. All in attendance was Kirk Hamm from ICS, joining via Zoom, with teachers Kaye Merrett, Becca Roberts, and Emily Petersen, joining from ICS were Lori Christensen and Eryn Sorensen, joining from Elliot and McMahon LLC were Monica McMahon and Sue Deigaard.

Call to Order:
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Announcement: Moved to accept the agenda, Brian Seyer second. Motion passed.

All visitors were welcomed. Superintendent Sell read a shoutout recognizing all winter activities and the famous Cowell game week and bringing the treasured Cowbell back to Oakes.

Student Outcomes-Goals and Guardians:
Progress Monitoring Goal #1-Reading, Elementary Principal Doltz shared the Goal Progress Measures: GPM 1 K-2 Learners and GPM 1.2-3.6 Learners

October, November, December board meeting time tracker was moved forward to next meeting.
OFS Board Self-Evaluation. Board members went through the objectives to determine how far the board has come in the objectives.

Objective 1-Profitient
Objective 2-Profitient
Objective 3-Partially Profitient
Objective 4-Noticed goal to meet partially profitient by April 2024.

Objective 5-Does not meet
Objective 6-Does not meet
Heimbuch moved to approve the self-evaluation score of 21. Rhonda Day second. Roll call taken. Motion passed 5-0.

Consent Agenda:
Includes Approval of December 15, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, Approval of December 22, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes, Received November 2023 Financial Reports, Approved November 2023 Bills, Approve Second Reading and Final Adoption of Amended Policy AAC, Approve Superintendent Goals, Approve Progress Monitoring Calendar, Approve December 2023 Pledge of Assets, Approve Budget Amendment.

Sheila Nagel moved to approve the Consent Agenda Brian Seyer second motion, passed.

Reports:
No action required. The following were in board packet: Business Manager's Report, SRCTC December Board Meeting Minutes, SVEU December Board Meeting Minutes.

Items for Discussion and Possible Action:
Facilities Discussion: Brian Seyer moved, Rhonda Day second to approve initial resolution for general obligation school building bonds. Discussion ensued. The \$14,840,000 general obligation bond includes HVAC, windows, ADA

restrooms, sewer piping replacement, and kitchen update. Roll call vote taken. Motion passed 5-0. See Attachment A

Monica Heimbuch moved, Brian Seyer second to give notice of Special Election. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken. Motion passed 5-0. See Attachment B (which includes Ballot and Resolution calling a special election to vote on the question of approving initial resolution for general obligation school building bonds)

Approve Seyer Planning Bill:
Sheila Nagel moved to approve the Seyer Plumbing & Heating Inc. for \$91.43. Rhonda Day second. Roll call taken. Motion passed 4-0 with Brian Seyer abstaining.

2024-2025 OPS District Calendar:
Sheila Nagel moved to approve the 2024-2025 district calendar as presented. Monica Heimbuch second. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote taken; motion passed 5-0.

2024 School Board Election:
Sheila Nagel made a motion to have Tuesday, June 4, 2024, as the regular school board election, with the canvassing to take place on Monday, June 17, 2024, at the Oakes Public School Central and Conference Room, from 11 am-7 pm and to pay the workers \$19.00. Rhonda Day second. Positions open are an in-town position and a rural, east of Highway 1 position. Roll call vote taken. Motion passed 5-0.

Future Meetings:
Regular Meeting, Friday, February 9, 2024, at 7:00 am at SRCTC
Regular Meeting, Friday, March 15, 2024, at 7:00 am, Central Conference Room

Adjournment:
There being no further business for the good of the order, President Sonia Meehl adjourned the meeting at 8:42 am.

President: Sharon Jepson, Business Manager
Bills Approved:
A & B Business Inc 4,751.33
Addie 128.27
Alegtra-Oakes Bulk 128.99
Alard Trophy Co 184.25
AJUJ 2,125.21
National Safety Council 2,364.30
Aramark Uniform Services 242.32
Bakke, John 100.00
Barnes County North Public School 583.69
Believe Kids Fundraising 2,781.60
BK Custom T's & More 412.00
Bound To Stay Bound Books Inc 442.69
BSN Sports LLC 1,998.00
Carrington Public School 868.63
Caseys Business Mastercard 1,036.88
Caseys 77.76
Central Valley Health District 160.00
Charras & Tequila 100.80
Clins, Lucas 66.00
Coca Cola Bottling High Country 1,338.00
Colepapiers Inc 5,043.75
Computer Express 60.00
Cramer-CStore 711.63
Cranermerchandising Systems Inc 13.95
Dakota Improvement Inc 205.00
Dakota Water Solutions 150.00
Dickey Rural Networks 5,209.98
Dickey Rural Networks 36,676.98
Dinger, Cory 55.00

North Dakota Attorney General 82.50
North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders 250.00
North Dakota High School AAs 557.30
Oakes Area Chamber Of Commerce 510.00
Oakes City Of 1,220.50
Oakes Times-Nordmark Publishing 616.78
Oakes Truck And Trailer Center 3,776.43
Ole And Lenas Pizzeria 8,212.50
Otter Tail Power 6,414.53
Paintrner, Nancy 69.50
Parts Supply 345.74
Paul, Robin 352.40
Paychools 1,080.00
Payworthy Company 208.77
Plunketts Pest Control Inc 221.36
Praskas Hardware Inc 64.60
Placek, Darren 22.00
Quintessence Utility Usa Inc 1,023.00
Radisson Hotel Bismarck 385.20
Red River Valley Writing Project At NDSU 300.00
Riddell All American Sports 7,735.23
Roberts, Becca 107.00
Roberts, Zach 336.00
Romington, Christy 25.00
Sanford Athletic Training 737.50
Sanford Health Occupational Medicine 1,063.00
Schleier, Elizabeth 212.00
Schneider, Ryan 283.00

224.00
Scholastic Book Fairs 17.98
Scripts National Spelling Bee 360.00
Sell, Randy 33.00
Seyer Plumbing & Heating Inc 260.45
Stage Partners 180.00
Stier, Brian 259.11
Shell Oil 40.48
Shenoye Valley Special Educ Unit 22,829.51
Super Note 544.00

Thorp, Robert 11.00
Thorp, Ross 125.86
Texas Roadhouse 11.00
Thompson, Robert 11.00
Thorp, Ross 11.00
ThreeX Gear LLC 1,855.00
Tornado Watch 4,334.04
Tornado Watch 500.00
Track Wrestling 151.00
United States Foods 1,026.46
United States Postal Service 300.00
US 11.00
Valley City Public Schools 100.00
Vista Print 142.20
Visto, Gary 113.00
Wagner, Robert 39.75
Walley Carquest 16.44
Warren, Kathryn 85.00
Weber, Kylie 50.00
WestHealth 54.00
Zacks Repair Inc 243.75

(Published in the Oakes Times February 22, 2024)

SCHOOL BOARD OPENINGS

The annual election for the Oakes Public School District #41 will be held Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at the Oakes Public School Central Conference Room. The polls will be open from 11am-7pm.

The Districts/positions to be filled at this election are:
1. Three-year term from Rural Area East of Highway 1.

2. Three-year term from in town.
Individuals seeking to have their name on the ballot for this office will need to complete the required forms and file with the school business manager office before 4:00 pm, April 1, 2024.

The required forms may be obtained and submitted to the Business Manager at Oakes Public School, 804 Main Avenue, Oakes ND 58474 during regular business hours.

Shannon Jepson, Business Manager
701-742-3234
Shannon.jepson@k12.nd.us
(Published in the Oakes Times February 22, & 29, 2024)

Oakes Enhancement Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for Oakes Enhancement, Inc. will take place prior to the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Oakes Community Center Meeting Suite. Items to be addressed include a financial review of the past year and election of Board Members.

(Published in the Oakes Times February 22, 29, & March 7, 2024)

General Irrigation and Dewatering will host a Grower Meeting and Customer Appreciation Day on Thursday, February 29. The event will be held at the Growing Small Towns Event Center at 510 Main Avenue in Oakes, ND. Hours will be 11:30 am to 1:00 PM. Lunch will be served at 12:00. Speakers will start presenting at 12:30 pm. Topics covered: 1. FieldNET wireless pivot control system; how it works, cost savings. We will introduce the New FieldNET NextGen phone app. 2. Advisor Program: how it works, potential cost savings (where, when and how much to water), aerial imagery. 3. Variable Rate Irrigation: control every sprinkler on a center pivot, potential savings (water, fertilizer, power). RSVP to General Irrigation at 742-3223. 8973 ND-1 • Oakes, ND 58474 • 701-742-3223 • www.generalirrigation.com

ND PUBLIC NOTICES just got more PUBLIC! Now available Any notice Any time On any device. In a new, easy to search, easy to read format. To find public notices from newspapers across North Dakota, just browse to www.ndpublicnotices.newzgroup.com Brought to you by North Dakota's newspapers and NDIA NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION northdakotapublicnotices.com

OAKES TIMES IS AVAILABLE AT: OAKES TIMES, CORNER C STORE, TORNADO STOP, CASEY'S GENERAL STORE, SCOPES LIQUOR, MILLER'S FRESH FOODS, FORMAN DRUG - FORMAN, SISTERS KITCHEN, TEAL'S MARKET - GWINNER, KWIK STOP - FORMAN. Policy on Corrections: Any reported inaccuracies should be corrected immediately. Please check the accuracy of your advertisement the first day of insertion. The Oakes Times reserves the right to edit for length, taste and libel considerations. Letters must be 250 words or less and deal with only one topic. Business Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Fri: 8:30 am to 2:00 pm • Phone: 701-742-2361 • Fax: 701-742-2207. E-mail: oakesnews@ndia.net • Mailing Address: 501 Fir Ave. Periodicals postage paid at Oakes, ND, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send additional address changes to the Oakes Times, 501 Fir Ave, Oakes, ND 58474-0651 • USPS 401-080

## Letters to the Editor

The views and opinions expressed in the "Letter to the Editor" column do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the staff and management of the Oakes Times.

On March 14, the community of Oakes will have the opportunity to vote on a significant bond referendum for our school.

The intent of my letter is not to attempt to persuade you in any direction regarding your vote. Once a person's mind is made up, convincing them otherwise is typically pretty difficult, so I hope you'll each vote freely as your heart and mind have concluded you should. But I would like to encourage us all to do two specific things: get informed and treat each other with decency.

The faculty and administration of Oakes Public Schools have been remarkably transparent about the situation with our facilities. They have done their due diligence by hiring a firm to support the planning effort and have communicated rigorously with the public throughout this entire process. The website ourschoolsofthefuture.org has every single bit of information anyone would want to know about the

planning process, the scope of the proposed project, and the projected tax impact. As you are weighing the pros and cons of your vote, this information is what you can and should rely upon.

This isn't a sales pitch and you're not being "snowed"—our school has critical facility needs and this bond referendum is the one clear way to address them. The push with timing is due to the school's ability to apply for a loan at a reduced interest rate from the state—the deadline is March 31—decreasing the overall cost and impact to the public. Without a passed bond, they can't even apply.

If you don't understand something as it's been shared, ask more questions. The school board and administration will listen and answer them. If you care enough to vote, please vote with full information.

The second thing I'll implore every one of us to do is to

remember that there is not an "us vs. them" in this situation. The people who vote "yes" to this referendum are not the enemy of those who vote "no". This is a potentially contentious vote and big feelings accompany the process. As a passionate person, I can understand people getting heated about it, but the moment we start treating people who think differently than we do as the bad guys, we lose—echo chambers ring loudly and we only become more entrenched in our way of thinking. Striving for decency, diplomacy, and tact is noble, honorable, and right. Every good thing we have in Oakes is because we, the people, make it happen. I believe in us. I believe in Oakes.

I urge you to walk away from the voting polls on March 14 both proud of your informed vote and willing to shake hands with those who voted differently. The future of this community depends on it.

Rebecca Underem

Dear Editor,

We are writing in support of the proposed \$14.84-million remodeling project for the Oakes School for the future of the school district and the community.

This is not one of those "from the top down" situations. Superintendent Anna Sell and the Oakes Public School Board have grassroots support for the project because they have been transparent and have made every effort to inform voters about why the project is necessary.

Everyone knows a school is the heart of a community and that students are the future of our communities and our

country. Having safe, healthy school complexes is of obvious importance, and taking a conservative approach to remodeling existing facilities is a good investment of tax dollars.

As legislators, we work to improve state aid for public schools and that includes the state's school construction loan program that offers 2% loans for projects like this one. The application deadline is March 31, so it is imperative the project is approved in time for the application to be filed. Interest rates on bonds are now at 4 to 4.5%, so the savings to taxpayers would be significant.

As taxpayers and lawmakers, we want to know where tax dollars are being spent and whether they are being spent wisely. In this case, voters and taxpayers will know the money is being spent to benefit students today and well into the future.

We support a "yes" vote in the Thursday, March 14, 2024, election. It's a vote for the future.

State Senator Robert Erbele  
State Representative Mike Brandenburg  
State Representative Jim Grueneich

Hello. My name is Brian Seyer. At this time, five of my grandchildren are enrolled in the Oakes Public School (OPS) system, and that will be growing to six next year. I have had grown children graduate from OPS and I am also a graduate of the OPS "outstanding" class of 1991. At the last election, I was voted on the Oakes School Board, and I am honored to hold a position.

Since I graduated, I have been involved in the school system driving bus, working on the plumbing and general help when needed. Without the education that I received, I would not be in

the position that I am in today.

Over time there have been changes at the school. Not everyone has agreed with them. A lot of the conversations that I have had with people as of late have had to do with the past. You cannot change the past. All we can do is learn from it and move forward. We need to focus our efforts on what the future will bring to OPS.

The referendum has generated many discussions. I see the effort that the school is putting into getting information out to the community. I am 100% behind this as everyone needs to be

informed.

A person could go on at great length about the referendum, but at the end of the day I just want the public to be educated on the information that is out there. Please think about the future of our students. They are the ones that depend on us to make good decisions on their behalf. Oakes is an extraordinarily strong and proud community and with your support we will make our school system even stronger.

Thank you,  
Brian Seyer

## Cooper's Corner by Martha MacLeod

At the airport



Last week my sister, Judy, came from St. Louis, Missouri to visit. I drove to Fargo to meet her at the airport. Cooper, the nine month old Shih Tzu, was sitting on his platform in the backseat. Before leaving town we stopped at Corner C Store for gas and then we were on our way.

I explained to Cooper several times that we were going to get Judy. She was here for a month in December and he became very attached to her. In fact, when we dropped her off at the airport for return flight to St. Louis, MO he didn't realize what was happening until we were driving south on I-29 and she wasn't in the car. Then he cried and howled. So now I wasn't sure if he would understand her arrival. No doubt what he heard me say was, "Blah Blah Judy Blah Blah airport."

At Hector Airport we waited in the cell phone area until Judy's plane landed and she sent a text. We drove to the passenger pick up area and parked next to the curb. It wasn't long until Judy

came through the door and then the excitement began.

I was in the driver's seat holding Cooper in my arms. When Judy opened the door to the passenger seat to get in, Cooper jumped out of my arms and leapt for joy at Judy, nearly knocking her over. He weighs fourteen pounds now so he is a chunk. He landed on the sidewalk and began running around in circles. He was so happy. I panicked. I was afraid he'd run into the street so I got a treat that I began waving and calling, "Treat! Treat!" But Cooper wasn't interested in treats. He ran over to the very serious looking security guard and put his paws on his knee. Before the guard could say, "Get down, you little rascal," Cooper was running back to Judy. But Cooper didn't stop there. He kept racing around in circles until a young airport employee was able to catch him and bring him back to the car. I held him tight until Judy got in. We both let out a big sigh of relief when we were in and the doors were closed. Judy and I are of a certain age now so we can't really chase after an exuberant puppy on the loose.

We drove to Panera's for a

late breakfast and decided that one of us would go in and bring out the food and we would eat in the car. We didn't want to risk a repeat performance of Cooper's escapade at the airport. Although once we knew he was safe we both had a good laugh. The little pup provides some entertainment for two elderly sisters.

Around food, Cooper is well trained. He didn't bother us while we ate because he knew when we finished he would get some tasty bites of egg and bacon. And the minute we drove back onto I-29 south he was asleep in his bed and slept in the backseat all the way home. He now has a map in his head. He knows when the car slows down and we drive into Oakes. Approaching the garage he lifts his head and is ready to jump out.

But there is one thing I remember to do: I always stay in the car with Cooper until the garage door is down. It keeps him from running out and around the neighborhood. Dad always said, "If you're going to have a dog, you have to be smarter than the dog."

And so it is.

## SHAPE YOUR FUTURE ON MARCH 4 North Dakota's Republican Presidential Caucus

Find your voting location at NDGOP.org

## Letters to the Editor policy

The Oakes Times welcomes letters to the editor on issues of public interest. To be published, letter must:

- Be signed and include your address. Unsigned letters will not be considered. Letters may not contain thank you's.
- The Oakes Times reserves the right to edit for length, taste and libel considerations. Letters must be 250 words or less and deal with only one topic.
- Be legible.
- Preference will be given to letters from the Dickey County area. Letters from outside the area will be considered if they are of sufficient interest.

### COMPLETE DISPERSION BRED HEIFERS & COWS - 8 & UNDER - RED & BLACK

The disposition is excellent on both the cows and bred heifers. Complete health program statement available from primary veterinarians. Herd is the result of 40+ years of careful herd management and 30+ years of AI breeding. All animals have been ultra-sounded and sexed w/ individual calving dates. AI heifers due 3-7. AI cows due 3-13. Bull bred cows due to start 3-21. 2023 whole herd call average weaning weight 569. Majority are Red Angus x Simmental or Angus x Simmental breeding. Cows are age sourced and all are home raised. Sorted into age groups of 3-4 and 5-8 year olds. Prices vary by group. This is an opportunity that doesn't come along often. The cattle must be seen to appreciate their quality and disposition.

For sale: Remaining cattle as of 2/22/24  
52 AI bred heifers (All bull breeds are sold) • 44 coming 3-4 year old cows  
120 coming 5-8 year old cows • Semi truck delivery available.  
Contact: Craig Kemmet - Kemmet Farms, Tappen, ND • 701.226.5431

### Oakes Lions Winners 2/8-2/14

James Averil	\$500	Christine Zink	\$50
Leroy Meehl	\$50	Tessa Engel	\$50
Pat Larson	\$100	Gerry Bosse	\$50
JT Homan	\$100		

## Second Location!

We're here to better serve our Oakes customers.



Lee Falk, Agent  
Jessica Hinke, Sales Associate  
Local agent • Local service  
Competitive rates

Stop by and say hello at our Oakes location!  
9 North 5th St., Suite C  
Oakes (701) 742-2658  
**Nodak Insurance Company**

**PARADIS LAW OFFICE**  
JASON PARADIS  
Attorney at Law  
322 Main Ave • Oakes, ND 58474  
P: 701-742-2736 • F: 701-742-3925 • jason@paradis-law.com

Go "All In" for CHI Oakes Hospital Foundation  
RAISING FUNDS FOR PATIENT EQUIPMENT NEEDS  
MARCH 22 • 6 PM  
ANGRY BEAVER LODGE  
Buffet • Live and Silent Auctions • Bingo  
Games of Chance and More  
TICKETS include Buffet Meal, Cash/Check  
\$50 IN ADVANCE | \$60 AT THE DOOR  
Tickets available at CHI Oakes Hospital  
or by calling 742-3291  
CHI Oakes Hospital Foundation

# Neighborhood Walkabout

Get your ad in the Business Directory for \$10 a week. Only a 3 month contract required.

**CITY CORNER WASTE DISPOSAL SITE**  
Winter Hours:  
1st Saturday of Each Month  
8am - 12pm  
Compost Site Open Daily 8am-5pm  
WASTE WILL NOW BE DISPOSED OF IN LARGE METAL CONTAINERS. TREES AND BRANCHES MUST BE SEPARATED AS THEY ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED IN COMPOST AREA. RECYCLABLE METAL ITEMS & CONCRETE SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM OTHER WASTE.  
CONTACT CITY HALL AT 742-2137  
FOR MORE INFO

**Farmers Union INSURANCE**  
DAVID BERGEMAN AGENT  
OAKES, ND:  
701-742-2268  
FORMAN, ND:  
701-724-6252  
WATS: 1-800-481-6252  
COME SEE US FOR YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS!

**Dethlefsen Chiropractic**  
Dr. Brian Dethlefsen  
Acupuncture • Therapies/Orthotics/  
BCBS/Medicare/Medicaid  
Provider/Sonford Insurance  
Hours: M-F 8-6,  
Saturday by appointment  
14 N 5th St, Oakes  
701-742-2750

**K&S Carpet Cleaners & RESTORATION**  
Free Estimates  
Reasonable Rates  
•Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning  
•Air Duct Cleaning  
•Fire & Water Damage Clean Up  
701-845-5188 • 800-339-5188  
www.kscarpet.com

SERVICE WORK NOW IN THE GWINNER AREA!  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL  
GROTBERG ELECTRIC INC.  
14 NORTH MAIN STREET • GWINNER, ND • 58040  
701-678-2490 • 7 AM - 3 PM

**e-Subscriptions!**  
Get your Oakes Times delivered right to your email every Thursday morning  
Call or email the Oakes Times for details  
742-2361 • oakestimes@drfnet.net

**SISTERS KITCHEN**  
701-742-2013  
604 Main Ave, Oakes, ND

**Edward Jones**  
Your financial partner throughout your life. Give us a call.  
Andrew DeLaBarre  
Financial Advisor  
412 Main Ave.  
Oakes, ND 58474  
701-742-3550