

YOUR NEWS

TALK TO US



Tara Klostreich
Publisher
 tara.klostreich@wahpetondailynews.com



Diana Hermes
General Manager
 diana.hermes@wahpetondailynews.com

Candace Engstrom
Production Manager
 candace.engstrom@wahpetondailynews.com

Cameron Sutphin
Reporter
 cameron.sutphin@wahpetondailynews.com

Shoba Dasari
Reporter
 shoba.dasari@wahpetondailynews.com

David Topolewski
Sports Reporter
 david.topolewski@wahpetondailynews.com

Classified Liner Advertising
 wahpetondailynews.column.us/display/classifieds

Jackie Odom
Regional Customer Service Representative
 jackie.odom@capjournal.com

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FAQs
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 Wahpeton, ND
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Hankinson's 'Gumball Machine' bubbles up over \$2,000 for Cares for Cancer

BY SHOBA DASARI
 REPORTER

In a heartwarming initiative that has spanned nearly a decade, Hankinson Elementary School sixth-grade teacher Eric Grohnke has turned a simple gumball machine into a powerful fundraising tool that benefits Cares for Cancer.

The machine, located in the teacher's sixth grade classroom, has raised more than \$15,000 since 2014. This year, the campaign set a new record, collecting \$2,039.84.

The idea for the machine came after Grohnke's mother passed away from cancer in 2009. Wanting to honor her memory, Grohnke decided to donate the gumball proceeds to Cares for Cancer, an organization that helps cancer patients and families who need help with bills or travel to appointments.

Cares for Cancer is more than just cancer patients. There is funding available to any individual currently battling any medical illness or condition and their families, if they qualify for granting.

Every year, sixth grade students enthusiastically buy gumballs, with many students purchasing them before and after school. The machine also features special prize gumballs, offering rewards such as candy bars, homework passes, and even football cards.

The excitement doesn't stop with the younger students, many high schoolers also join in, purchasing gumballs after school.

One of the most exciting events each year is "Gumball Day," held in March.

During this event, the



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Hankinson Elementary sixth grade students and Eric Grohnke, a sixth grade teacher with the gumball machine.



Brycen Wahler, left, a Hankinson Public School sixth grader, at the gumball machine with Bentley Grohnke, a first grader and son of Hankinson Elementary School sixth-grade teacher Eric Grohnke.

sixth graders take turns supervising the gumball machine, which is moved to the hallway by the gym. Students, teachers, and even high schoolers flood the machine, eager to purchase a gumball for a good cause. This year, Gumball Day raised over \$200.

In 2017, the fundraiser took on a more personal meaning when a sixth grade student was diagnosed with cancer. The class, moved by his situation, decided to donate the entire year's gumball proceeds to him.

That year, the fundraiser raised \$2,010, setting the previous record for total donations until this year's impressive \$2,039.84.

Grohnke reflects that the gumball machine has become a valuable tool for teaching students

the importance of giving back to others.

"It's fun for the students to enjoy the gumballs, but they realize that at the end of the day, there is a bigger purpose for our machine," he said.

"It wouldn't matter if we raised thousands of dollars in our gumball machine or only a couple of dollars," said Kinlee Steffens, a sixth grade student. "What matters is it's a great opportunity to be able to raise money for a great cause."

Every year the Cares for Cancer benefit in March has become one of the most anticipated highlights for the school community.

Looking ahead, any funds raised after the benefit are carried over to the next year's sixth grade class, continuing the cycle of giving.



SUBMITTED

Lidgerwood Public High School and Middle School students taking part in a science experiment. From left, Ava Frolek, Christian Kackman, Ryker Stroehl and Kolten Schram.

Advertisement for Mowing Bids

Notice is hereby given that the **Lidgerwood School District** will receive bids at Lidgerwood Public School, 28 3rd AVE SE or PO Box 468, Lidgerwood, ND, until 4:00 PM, April 4, 2025.

Bids for mowing and trimming grass at **KUGLER FIELD** for the 2025 season should be submitted in person or by mail in a sealed envelope marked "Mowing Bid"

Bids will be opened during the regular school board meeting at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 8th, 2025.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities in bidding, or to accept such as may be determined in the best interests of the District.

For more information call Jerry Arneson at 701-538-7341.

Notice of Annual Meeting

Farmers Union Oil of Southern Valley

Monday April 7, 2025

Fairmount Community Center

6:00 p.m. Meal 6:30 p.m. Meeting

By Order of the Board of Directors
Barry Gilles, Secretary



- Annual audit report will be presented by Hennen & Associates.
- Election of three (3) directors.
- Stockholder checks will be issued.
- Any other business to properly come before the meeting will be transacted.
- Prizes.

In case of bad weather, a reschedule date will be announced on KBMW Radio.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Hankinson News

100 YEARS AGO — April 2, 1925

George Mather, who made a fine record as street commissioner in Hankinson, has been awarded the contract for dragging the Hankinson-Fairmount road for the west eight miles the coming season. Mr Mather is an intelligent and conscientious road man and his appointment gives assurance that the road will be kept in the best possible condition this year.

75 YEARS AGO — March 30, 1950

A new livestock pest control insecticide has recently been developed and is now recommended for use on animals to control flies, lice, mange and ticks, according to Wayne J. Colberg, entomologist of the NDAC Extension Service. This material is called "Lindane."

50 YEARS AGO — April 3, 1975

North Dakota State Auto Dealers State President Elroy and Mrs. Kinn and Rick left Hankinson on Tuesday to join North Dakota auto dealers in Fargo. From there they will fly to Hawaii where their convention will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu, and the Kona Hilton on the Island of Hawaii.

News Monitor

25 YEARS AGO — April 4, 2000

Thinking is allowed in Dave Hodgson's classroom. Thinking and reasoning were major factors in Wyndmere High School's first-place finish in the "We the People" state-level competition, earning Wyndmere a berth in the national competition. The Wyndmere crew will be heading to Washington, D.C. in early May. Wyndmere has always placed in the top three at the state level.

20 YEARS AGO — April 5, 2005

A shocked and somber silence was in the air last Thursday morning in Fairmount as residents absorbed the news of an apparent murder-suicide in this close-knit community. The victims were Bernice Krause, 50, of Fairmount and her estranged former boyfriend Kevin Karst, 46 of Sisseton, South Dakota. Both appeared to have died from gunshot wounds, according to officials with the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Krause and Karst had lived together for many years though not married, but apparently were separated when the shooting happened.

15 YEARS AGO — March 30, 2010

A day after he rescued a Minnesota hunter from freezing to death, Hankinson's Whitey Bommersbach had a little perspective on his experience. Bommersbach was driving to work when he saw a dim light in the field, and decided to investigate. He came across a hunter wandering through the cattails with water filling his waders. He brought the hunter to his waiting pickup and found the man's eyes and mouth were frozen shut. Emergency rescuers brought the cold hunter to Oakes Community Hospital

Lidgerwood Monitor

85 YEARS AGO — April 4, 1940

Thirty-two years of "outstanding service to the Lidgerwood community" were recognized Tuesday night when hundreds of persons jammed the Lidgerwood auditorium at a party honoring Dr. and Mrs. E.G. Sasse. Dr. Sasse was presented with a gold Hamilton pocket watch, commemorating his service. The net proceeds from the party and dance were also presented to Lidgerwood's No. 1 citizen.

65 YEARS AGO — March 30, 1960

About 1,000 people, many of them from more than 50 miles away, watched the wrestling matches here Tuesday night. Although all tickets have not been returned, it is estimated that the swimming pool fund will benefit by \$800 to \$900.

50 YEARS AGO — April 3, 1975

Lidgerwood students received four star ratings at the small groups District 1 contest at Wahpeton this week. Lynn Randall's trombone solo, Barb Duerr's cornet solo, Kathy Kadoun's tympani solo and the brass ensemble were the successful entries. The star rating qualifies them to attend the state festival at Bismarck.

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