

This Week's
Spotlight

Veterans
Office To
Open NEW
Accessing
Telehealth

CAVALIER, ND—The VA Fargo Health Care System, in partnership with the Pembina County Veterans Service Office, is thrilled to announce the grand opening of our new Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS) site on September 16, 2025. This site will be located at the Pembina County Veterans Service Office in Cavalier, ND (308 Court House Dr, Door #4) on the 2nd floor of the Law Enforcement Building. This innovative ATLAS site is a key component of the VA Anywhere to Anywhere telehealth initiative, designed to enhance access to care for Veterans in Cavalier and the surrounding communities. By establishing an ATLAS site at the County Veterans Office, we are breaking down common barriers that Veterans face, such as lengthy travel times for appointments, inclement weather conditions, and unreliable internet connectivity at home. At this location, enrolled Veterans will discover a welcoming, private space complete with internet access and state-of-the-art technology to connect with their VA providers using VA Video Connect, the VA's secure and reliable video-conferencing application. Upon arrival, Veterans will be warmly welcomed by an on-site attendant who will assist with check-in and resolve any basic technical issues. It's important to note that while the attendant is there to support, they are not VA employees and will step away once the appointment begins—ensuring your privacy and confidentiality. This ATLAS site represents a significant advancement for those receiving care through the VA Fargo Health Care System.

We invite all Pembina County Veterans and their families to join us for the opening event from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on September 16th, 2025**. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet with our dedicated County Veterans Service Officer Revel Sapa, explore the equipment, and engage with our telehealth experts—empowering you to take full advantage of these important healthcare resources. Don't miss out on this chance to improve your access to care!

+

Weekly Chuckle

Why do people say, "Tuna fish sandwich"?
That's like saying "Chicken bird sandwich."

I just saw a cop pull over a U-Haul truck. I think he is trying to bust a move.

Love One Another Now:
Meeting the Growing
Needs of Local Kids

By Michele Moquist

In 2014, what began as a three-week back-to-school ministry has since grown into a year-round lifeline for families across Pembina County and the Valley-Edinburg School District. Love One Another Now—known simply as LOAN—is a nonprofit organization founded by Lorna Ratchenski with a simple but profound prayer: "God, show me how I can help my community."

"Be careful what you pray for," Lorna chuckled in a recent interview. "I prayed that prayer, and look at LOAN today, how God has grown this ministry opportunity."

From the very beginning, Lorna has been joined by a dedicated team of board members who work side by side to make LOAN possible: Macie Shane, Paula Holen, Betty Paton, Kelly Brown, Lori Schluchter, Roxane Cameron, and Miranda Scholler. Together, this committed group shares the leadership, vision, and countless hours of work that keep LOAN running. "It really takes all of us," Lorna explained. "No one person could do this alone—it's teamwork, and God's blessing, that keeps us going."

What started with a few racks of donated clothing has become an essential resource for area children and teens. In August alone, LOAN outfitted 196 students with school clothes, shoes, coats, and supplies. The numbers are staggering:

- 1,350 shirts
- 700 pairs of pants
- 300 pairs of jeans
- 150 hooded sweatshirts
- 196 coats
- 175 pairs of snow boots
- 196 packages of socks and underwear
- 196 hats and gloves
- 196 backpacks filled with school supplies, water bottles, and hygiene items

Altogether, that's thousands of pieces of clothing and essentials in just five weeks. And the need keeps climbing—LOAN has already helped 50 more students than last year, and demand typically grows even further once the snow flies. Behind the scenes, the LOAN board works tirelessly to ensure every appointment is prompt, confidential, and efficient—so families not only receive what they need but also feel respected and cared for in the process.

Each child who visits LOAN receives a generous bundle: sweat shirts, pajamas, pants, sweatshirts, pajamas, coats, boots, shoes, socks, and underwear—everything needed to start the school year with dignity and confidence. Teachers often refer students they see in need, and foster children also benefit from LOAN's outreach.

But today, LOAN is facing a challenge. What was once a

building filled with coats, boots, and winter gear has been reduced to just a handful of items. As of September 6, shelves that overflowed in July now stand nearly bare. For example, only six pairs of junior high and high school-sized snow pants remain, and there are no gloves left for older students.

The organization runs entirely on donations and the dedication of volunteers. While LOAN stretches every dollar by bargain shopping, the demand has far outpaced the supply. "As money comes in, it seems to go out just as fast to keep up with the need," Lorna explained.

Still, LOAN is more than clothes. It is about dignity, care, and love. Lorna remembers one young boy proudly showing off sneakers with flashing lights on the heels. When she teased that her shoes didn't light up, he looked at her seriously and said, "You're too old for light-up shoes." Lorna laughed, adding, "Next time, I'll have a pair too."

Another story highlights LOAN's impact over time. A young girl who began visiting LOAN as a kindergartener returned this fall as a high school student. After selecting school clothes, she asked to see the prom dresses. To her delight, there was a beautiful pink gown waiting—the exact color she had been hoping for. "It fit perfectly," Lorna recalled, "and she clutched that gown with the same joy she once had when carrying her very first backpack from LOAN."

These moments remind the community that LOAN is about more than fabric and shoes—it's about hope, confidence, and the quiet reassurance that someone cares. And those moments are made possible because an entire board of women work together to ensure LOAN's shelves stay stocked and its doors stay open.

Upcoming events to support LOAN include a barbecue meal and bake sale with auction viewing on October 25, followed by an online auction November 17–21. From December through February, LOAN will host its annual "Love on LOAN Gym Shoe Event," with a goal of collecting 400 pairs of shoes—the same number given away to students this fall.

As Lorna reflected, she returned to the words on a sign above her church door: "You are now entering the mission field." "For me," she said, "that mission field is right here in our community."

LOAN's shelves may hold clothes and shoes, but what the organization truly provides is hope, dignity, and love. The need is growing, and LOAN cannot meet it alone. The community is invited to share in this mission—through

prayer, financial gifts, and/or donations of new and gently used clothing.

To learn more, donate, or view LOAN's Amazon wishlist, contact Lorna Ratchenski at 701-265-2423.

LOAN Board of Directors

Macie Shane, Paula Holen, Betty Paton, Kelly Brown, Lori Schluchter, Roxane Cameron, Miranda Scholler, Lorna Ratchenski

LOAN: By the Numbers

August 1 – September 4, 2025

- 196 students served
- 1,350 shirts distributed
- 700 pairs of pants
- 300 pairs of jeans
- 150 hooded sweatshirts
- 175 pairs of gym shorts
- 196 winter coats
- 175 pairs of snow boots
- 196 packages of socks
- 196 packages of underwear
- 196 backpacks filled with supplies, water bottles, and hygiene items

Growing Demand:

- 50 more students served this year than last year
- Only 6 pairs of junior high/high school snow pants remain
- Shelves that once overflowed with boots and jackets are now nearly bare

Upcoming Goal:

- Collect 400 pairs of gym shoes for the 2025–26 school year





MAG1® Universal Tractor Trans-Hydraulic Fluid
2.5 Gallon — # MAG00522
CASE OF 2 **\$30.49** /each



MAG1® Automatic Transmission Fluid
2.5 Gallon — # MAG00902
CASE OF 2 **\$30.49** /each



MAG1® AW ISO 32 Hydraulic Oil
2.5 Gallon — # MAG00322
CASE OF 2 **\$32.99** /each



We carry a Complete Line of Wizard Products!
CAVALIER EQUIPMENT
Phone 265-4977 • Hwy. 5 West • Cavalier, ND
HOURS: Monday-Friday 8AM TO 5PM • Saturdays 8AM to 12:00 Noon