

## Regional Roundup Crosby Seeks Fix at Lagoon

If all goes according to plan, Crosby residents and visitors may not hold their noses when driving by the city’s sewage lagoon much longer.

The city council on April 7 approved the purchase of three solar-powered aerators that the manufacturer claims will reduce odors by keeping water moving, even in winter. The vendor is Sunflo2, based in Bismarck and rural Wilton.

For a total price tag of nearly \$117,000, the project includes the aerators and anchoring system, installation, training and a sludge survey, as well as devices for monitoring the system.

Prior to the council’s approval of the project, City Water Superintendent Paul Sannes briefed council members about conversations he’d had with other municipalities using Sunflo2.

“They’re ecstatic about it,” Sannes said.

--The Journal, Crosby

## Mountrail Considers Priorities

The Mountrail County Job Development Authority and Souris Basin Planning Council are hosting community roundtables to establish priorities and action steps and build on insights from the JDA’s 2023 strategic planning.

The discussions aim to help JDA and Souris Basin be in the know about community priorities. For instance, in Plaza, priorities include a new community center and a grocery store.

Things discussed at the meeting in Stanley included a community/rec center, continued support for the health center and attracting businesses like a good steakhouse.

The community center seemed to be the top priority for those attending, who noted that it can benefit people of all ages and help people want to stay and establish roots in a community.

--Mountrail County Promoter, Stanley

## Kenmare Prepares EMS Site

The city of Kenmare is preparing the former elementary school property for the construction of a new ambulance hall.

Volunteers, including ambulance and fire department members, recently cleared the property of trees, sidewalks and fencing.

“The ambulance will get all the preparation of the grounds ready this year, and probably be building next year,” Mayor Arlen Gartner said.

The fire department also has future plans to put on additional bays at the current fire hall, just south of the site for the new ambulance hall.

Gartner added that the Kenmare Park District is going forward with building a splash pad this summer, also at the old school site. The splash pad is meant to replace the city’s aging swimming pool, which has not operated since 2019.

--Kenmare News

## Airport will Expand Parking

To address parking issues at the Williston Basin International Airport, an additional parking lot will be constructed this year.

At the Williston City Commission meeting on April 8, the commission voted in favor of advertising for bids, starting May 31, to build this lot.

In a memo to the city commission, Airport Director Anthony Dudas explained that this project “will provide approximately 250 additional parking spaces and overhead lighting.”

Dudas said the airport currently has room in its existing lots for about 550 cars, “depending on how everybody parks,” but had as many as 682 vehicles at one point last December.

“The parking lot was pretty full and very much overfull,” Dudas said. “People had to be creative in their parking areas.”

--Williston Herald

## ND Newspapers Thankful for Legislative Votes

**By Cecile Wehrman  
NDNA Executive Director**

On the whole, North Dakota legislators understand the importance of newspapers and their actions during the 2025 legislative session show it.

Legislators protected the publication of county minutes in newspapers voting down a bill that would have given the option to post them only on county websites; voted to keep highway bid notices in newspapers rather than only posting them on trade or government agency websites; restored the historic practice of spreading publication of insurance abstracts across all newspapers in the state instead of just eight; passed a postal resolution asking for better delivery service for newspapers and consumers alike; and on Wednesday passed a bill that gives legal weight to [www.ndpublicnotices.com](http://www.ndpublicnotices.com), a website maintained by the North Dakota Newspaper Association.

SB 2069 was the first bill I testified on back on Jan. 9, and the last of the five bills passed among those we were most concerned about. The bill provides two backstops for legal notices in the rare instance a newspaper fails to publish a notice, counting a notice at [ndpublicnotices.com](http://ndpublicnotices.com) as well as a notice on a state agency website, as fulfilling legal notice -- while leaving requirements for publication of print notices

in place.

Because I wrote on this topic earlier in the session, it’s important to let people know what is NOT happening.

The state will NOT be developing a public notice website capable of cutting newspapers out of public notice placements at some future point. It was, however, a discussion among some legislators who saw this bill as a way to take a step toward eliminating the costs of publishing notices in newspapers.

When you know there are people in government who feel notices in newspapers have no value, it can seem like your house is on fire.

But the votes on some of the bills I mentioned above show that, by and large, legislators support upholding newspapers as the vehicle for delivering public notices.

Just look at some of these tallies: HB 1380, the county minutes on the web bill failed in the House 80-13; HB 1398, restoring the historical abstract publication process, passed in the House 86-6; and SB 2069, though it had a closer vote in the Senate -- possibly due to some confusion since we opposed it originally -- passed in the House 72-17; SB 2062, taking highway bids out of newspapers failed 89-4.

That feels, to me, like an incredible showing of support for the importance of public

notices in newspapers.

Now, 73 privately owned businesses operating newspapers can breathe a sigh of relief, along with voters.

We know citizens give overwhelming support to the concept of a trusted third party like newspapers having oversight of public notices.

SB 2069 as passed will now solve the issue of a public hearing needing to be rescheduled because one out of a dozen or more papers required to publish it had a miss.

I wish I could say newspapers are perfect, but every business occasionally has a hiccup due to illness, death, employee turnover -- heck, even a cyber attack -- which can cause highly consequential notices to be missed.

You’ll still never convince me that a website alone is where public notices should be placed because the mechanism for people to see them is much different than for people sitting down with a newspaper delivering news about their community along with notices about the government actions that may impact them.

However, in the end, SB 2069 is a good compromise -- providing an alternate avenue for people to learn of a pending hearing when unforeseen disruptions impact newspapers, while leaving alone the printed newspapers’ supremacy as the trusted place to access public notices in North Dakota.

## Movie Review Working Man

Levon Cade has left his profession behind him to go ‘straight’ and work in construction. He wants to live a simple life and be a good father to his daughter. But when his boss’ teenage daughter, Jenny vanishes, he’s called upon to re-employ the skills that made him a legendary figure in the shadowy world of black ops.

His hunt for the missing college student takes him deep into the heart of a sinister criminal conspiracy creating a chain reaction that will threaten his new way of life.

This action and thriller film is rated R for strong violence, language throughout and drug content. The film is 1 hour and 56 minutes.

Working Man is playing at the Kenmare Theatre on April 25-27. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 7:00 and 9:15 p.m. and Sunday at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.

## Coming Events

**MEETINGS**  
**Sons of Norway Lodge 4-618:** Monday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. for the monthly Social at the Tioga Senior Center. Guests are always welcome.

**Monson Finkenhagen American Legion Auxiliary:** Wednesday, April 23, 5:00 p.m., at the 109 Steakhouse, Lignite.

**Crimson Cruiser Red Hats:** Tuesday, May 6, 5:00 p.m., Caddy’s Shack in Bowbells.

**Burke County Historical Society:** Sunday, May 4, 3:00 p.m., Powers Lake Senior Center.

**EVENTS**  
**Bethel Baptist Church (Powers Lake) Senior Recognition and Potluck:** Sunday, May 4 following the worship service.

**Kids’ Club Program** at Bethel Baptist Church in Powers Lake, Wednesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.

**SERVICES**  
**Powers Lake Food Pantry:** open third Tuesday of the month, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., basement of Legion Hall, 201 1st Ave. W.

## A Look at Legislator Pay

**Ann Estvold,  
NDNA Legislative Intern**

A Minot legislator’s decision to take a week’s vacation during the legislative session has recently drawn attention to the state lawmakers’ compensation and when they receive it.

All lawmakers receive minimum pay of \$592 monthly for each month they serve, which equals \$7,194 annually. Members of the North Dakota House and Senate are elected to four-year terms. The monthly pay is labeled “expense reimbursement or compensation.”

When the Legislature is in session the members are paid \$213 a day, which totals \$1,491 for all seven days of the week. The weekly pay is in addition to their \$592 monthly “base pay.” Lawmakers outside the Bismarck-Mandan area also receive a housing allowance during the session of up to \$2,022 a month.

At the end of the Legislature’s daily floor sessions, during which members of the House and Senate vote on bills and amendments, both chambers vote to “excuse” any members who are absent. If a legislator is excused, he or she receives their daily pay.

This practice drew attention after a report that Rep.

Lori VanWinkle, R-Minot, had decided to take a week off from the Legislature to go on a ski vacation. Annoyed House members called for a vote on whether VanWinkle should be excused, and the motion was approved.

During their time between sessions, legislators are also asked to serve on interim committees to study issues in preparation for the next session. Interim committees typically meet for one or two days every three months. Lawmakers are paid \$213 per day, the same amount as the session, for attending interim meetings.

They are also given meal reimbursement of up to \$45 a day, along with motel and mileage reimbursement. The meal, lodging and mileage costs are the same as the reimbursement paid to state employees for on-the-job travel within North Dakota. Legislators do not receive meal reimbursement during the session.

Members of the Legislature’s leadership and committee chairmen receive extra pay. The majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate and the Speaker of the House are paid an extra \$15 a day during the legislative session. Committee chairmen, and

assistant majority and minority leaders, are paid \$10 a day extra.

The Legislature’s majority and minority leaders, and the chairman of the Legislative Management, are also paid an additional \$424 a month. This is part of the “base pay” for these positions and does not depend on whether the Legislature is in session.

The Legislative Management is a 14-member committee, made up mostly of legislative leaders, that supervises interim studies and handles legislative business between sessions. Its current chairman is Rep. Mike Lefor, R-Dickinson, the House majority leader.

Legislators’ base pay, daily session pay and compensation for attending interim committee meetings are linked to salary increases for state employees that lawmakers include in the budget for state government.

## SUDOKU

								4
		4	9	8	3			
1	2						8	
	3	8		4				2
5			1					6
			2	9				
		7		2				
		5				4	9	
			3		6		7	

Level: Intermediate

**Here’s How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	7	2	9	6	3	1	8	4
3	6	4	1	7	8	9	9	2
1	8	4	4	2	5	2	6	3
8	4	5	6	3	2	7	1	7
9	6	8	1	7	2	4	4	5
2	1	7	5	4	9	8	3	6
6	8	9	7	5	4	2	3	1
7	2	1	3	8	6	4	5	9
3	5	4	2	3	5	4	8	7

ANSWER:

**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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## Thank You

A big thank you to all the businesses and individuals who donated to the Bowbells Easter Event. Everything was so fun!!

**Gooseneck Implement** - I needed a bike! And the bike helmet is the bomb! Thank you. Jaxon Roth

**Lignite Oil** - I was so excited to win this bike. Thank you so much. Lillian Rick

**Steel Reef** -This scooter is sweet. Thanks! Lillian Rick

**Caddy’s Shack** - Now I can keep up with Jax. I love my new bike. Thank you. Leigha Roth



Photos by Joann Ellis

