



♦ MENU ♦
May 7th: Chicken strips & tater tots
May 8th: Teriyaki Chicken, Lo Mein and Egg Rolls
May 9th: Ham and Cheese Sub with Broccoli Cheese Soup
May 12th: Tator Tot Hotdish
May 13th: Grill Our Burgers and Hotdogs
May 14th: Col Cut Sandwiches with Chips and Fruit Salad

♦SPORTS♦
05/08
Softball: C Team Game vs. Bottineau Public School @MLS High School 4:30 pm
Softball: Varsity Game vs. Ray @Ray High School 4:30 pm
Softball: C Team Game vs. Bottineau Public School @MLS High School 6:00 pm
Softball: JV Game vs. Ray @Ray High School 6:00 pm
05/09
Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Bottineau Public School @Bottineau High School TBD
Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Langdon Area @Bottineau High School TBD
Softball: Varsity Jamboree vs. TBA @North Softball Complex (Fargo, ND) TBD
Softball: Varsity Jamboree vs. TBA @ North Softball Complex (Fargo, ND) TBD
Softball: C Team Game vs. Minot North @South Hill Complex 10:00 am
Softball: C Team Game vs. Minot North @South Hill Complex 11:30 am
05/12
Track: Girls Varsity Meet vs. TBA @Rugby High School 2:00 pm
Track: Boys JH Meet vs. TBA @Rugby High School 2:00 pm
05/13
Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. TBA @Westhope Golf Club 9:30 am
Golf: Boys JH Meet vs. Dunseith @Garden Gate Golf Course 10:00 am
Track: Boys JH Meet vs. TBA @Bottineau High School 1:30 pm

Session bills that have been signed by Governor

Ann Estvold, NDNA Legislative Intern

Gov. Kelly Armstrong has now signed 536 bills into law as Friday, May 2, 2025. Below are summaries of some of the bills signed into law in the past week:

Courts

HB 1032 authorizes cities to sign agreements to share municipal courts. The municipal court would have jurisdiction over ordinance violations of any city served by the court. In a city with fewer than 5,000 people, a municipal judge may be part-time and not licensed to practice law.

Under HB 1425 the state’s attorney for each county may create and administer a prosecution-led diversion program. A prosecuting attorney and the defendant would need to agree to suspend prosecution and eventual dismissal of an offense, on the condition that the defendant does not commit any new criminal offense during the agreement.

Education

House Bill 1160 bans student cell phone use from “bell to bell” while on school grounds. School districts are required to implement policies that deny students access to personal electronic devices during instructional time. The bill allows schools to make their own decisions about student phone use during school-related activities, including bus rides, field trips and sporting events. Students who need personal electronic devices for medical reasons, or as part of their individual education program, are exempt from the law.

Under HB 1247, a school district would have to develop a safety plan to protect a student who has been sexually assaulted by another student in the school. The plan must include provisions to prevent the assaulter from having contact with the victim; an expulsion hearing for a convicted student; the possibility of transferring the convicted student to an alternative education or virtual education program; or transferring the con-

Softball: Varsity Game vs. North Prairie @MLS High School 4:30 pm
Softball: JV Game vs. North Prairie @MLS High School 6:00 pm

♦IMPORTANT DATES♦

May 5th
Spring Music Concert
May 7th
National Honor Society Ceremony
May 12th
Kindergarten Graduation
May 13th
Elementary Play Day
May 14th
HS Semester Tests
May 15th
Preschool Graduation
May 16th
Last day of school dismissed at 10:30
May 18th
Senior Graduation

Track results from Coach Nelson:

Top 8 finishers at Rugby’s Varsity Meet: 5/1/2025

1st place 4 by 800m relay: Miraya Strand, Brynn Strand, Alyssa Woodall, Avery Boll

3rd place 800m run Avery Boll

8th place 400m run Logan Weems

8th place 1600m run Pedro Ramirez



victed student to another school or building in the district. The school would need to determine the duration of a separation based on the victim’s wishes, the age of the convicted student, i the nature and severity of the offense, and input from the students’ legal guardians.

HB 1498 allows a school board to offer a first-year signing bonus for a first-year teacher who has signed an employment contract and did not teach in North Dakota in the past year.

HB 1533 says each school district must require each student to complete a half-unit of financial literacy or ensure that its curriculum for economics or problems of democracy includes instruction in personal finance. The curriculum would need to include budgeting and management of money, credit and debt, as well as instruction in saving, investing, financial services, taxation, insurance and risk management, and career and retirement planning.

Under HB 1542 a record of an individual’s college admission application is exempt from the state’s open records laws and must be destroyed on request of the applicant or their parent or guardian.

First Responders

Under HB 1139, fire departments are exempt from paying sales tax on goods that are related to fire protection.

HB 1193 allocates \$3.5 million to pay retention bonuses for law enforcement and correctional officers, and to provide tuition and fee payments for trainees.

Under HB 1322, an ambulance service provider may not collect or bill more than the covered individual’s deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or other cost-sharing amount the covered individual would be responsible for paying.

Agriculture

Under HB 1318, labels approved by the Environmental Protection Agency provide sufficient warning about pesticide hazards. Additional warnings are not required.

HB 1332 creates a value-added agricultural production facility incentive program to provide grants for new facilities that produce new products or diversify the

Way to go Sioux Track and Field!

Top 8 finishers at Bottineau’s Varsity Meet: 5/3/2025

7th place 800m run Easton Zimmer with a PR time of 2:28

6th place 1600m run Pedro Ramirez with a PR time of 5:39

6th place Kaden Kirk Discus

6th place 400m dash Leah Heth

3rd place 800m run Avery Boll with a PR run of 2:31

7th place 800m run Alyssa Woodall with a PR time of 2:48

5th place 1600m run Miraya Strand with a PR run of 5:43.

Miraya also broke the Westhope/Newburg school record which was previously held by McKayla Artz with a time of 5:45 which was set back in 2008. Big congrats to Miraya!!

2nd place 4 by 400m relay Alyssa Woodall, Miraya Strand, Brynn Strand and Avery Boll

8th Signe Arnason shotput

We had the following athletes that had PR’s or placed top 15 at today’s meet in various events: Brynn Strand, Skylar Beckedahl, Abriana Lesmann, Leah Heth, Logan Weems, Kylie Thesis, and Yusaf Ghani



agricultural products market. Grants are limited to \$30 million and must be used for infrastructure and construction expenses.

Under SB 2086 a pesticide certification may be denied, removed or suspended if a person is convicted of a crime, is subject to a civil penalty, or has been found to have violated a state law or regulation about pesticide use.

SB 2342 creates a value-added milk processing facility incentive program to provide grants for the reimbursement of infrastructure or other constructions costs for the facility. The grant will be awarded after the facility achieves 100% of the facilities’ processing capacity.

Transportation

Under HB 1053 the state highway system may not be more than 7,700 miles long.

Under SB 2133 blackout plates may be used for an additional fee of \$25 per registration period. Blackout plates must have a solid black background and white numbers and letters.


Miscellaneous

Under HB 1181, words used in state law to reference an individual’s gender have the same meaning as those that refer to the individual’s sex.


Under HB 1226 an individual may not wear a mask, hood or other item that covers, hides or conceals any portion of the individual’s face to conceal their identity while congregating in a public place with others wearing a mask, hood or other face covering.

HB 1442 creates a legislative task force on government efficiency to review and analyze budgets and reports, review the effectiveness and necessity of programs and laws, conduct program evaluations, and submit an annual report detailing its findings and progress in implementing cost-saving measures and efficiencies, along with recommended legislation.

SB 2180 requires every regular meeting of a governing body of a city, county, township, school district, park district or water resource district to include an opportunity for an individual to provide public comment. The governing body may adopt a policy to regulate public comment to ensure it is pertinent to subjects regulated by the governing body.



SD BAND: Bridging Rural Behavioral Healthcare Needs in South Dakota
By Ryan Groeneweg, Ed.S., BCBA



As a school psychologist working for a small public school, I remember a teacher asking me to observe a student in her classroom. She expressed concerns about an elementary student’s unusual behavior, lack of playing with classmates, lack of communication and even some unusual motor movements, including flapping her hands. This was in 2001, and I was experiencing my first referral for a student who would eventually receive an educational diagnosis of autism.

At that time, autism was considered rare, and providing educational support to meet their needs was challenging. I began to see a growing number of referrals, increasing communication and behavioral challenges, and came to realize that my training and experience as a school psychologist weren’t enough. In 2010, after completing the required coursework and supervision, and passing the National Behavior Analyst Certification Board examination, I began a career as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) in South Dakota. At that time, fewer than 10 BCBA professionals were in South Dakota.

Today, there are 88 active BCBAs registered in South Dakota, far below Minnesota (517), Iowa (282), and Nebraska (300). Even when compared to states with similar rural and frontier characteristics, South Dakota lags behind North Dakota (97), Montana (92), and Alaska (89) . Currently, nationwide demand for behavior analysts is higher than ever. Annual nationwide demand for individuals holding BCBA certification has increased each year since 2010, with a striking 58%

increase from 2023 to 2024.

One major reason South Dakota has fallen behind was the absence of an in-state training program until 2021. Recognizing this critical gap, a partnership between the Public Health and Health Sciences programs in the University of South Dakota’s School of Health Sciences, the University of South Dakota’s Center for Disabilities, and LifeScape -a Sioux Falls-based non-profit organization- launched the Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) two-year graduate program. This program aims to expand South Dakota’s behavioral health workforce and contribute essential public health services across the state.

Students who complete the USD ABA graduate program must independently complete 2,000 hours of ABA supervised fieldwork experience. When you consider that most BCBAs in South Dakota live near the state’s larger population centers, Sioux Falls and Rapid City, it’s apparent that those supervised fieldwork experience hours are mostly completed where supervision is available. This barrier creates limited access to BCBAs in rural communities but highlights a great opportunity: addressing disparities in access to specialists in rural areas. South Dakota continues to experience critical shortages of professionals trained to support individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.

The South Dakota Behavior Analyst Network Development (SD BAND) was formed to address the critical need for enhanced behavioral health services and the greater integration of BCBAs throughout the state, especially in underserved rural com-

munities. This network of state partners includes the University of South Dakota (USD), Community Healthcare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD), South Dakota Department of Social Services (SD DSS), South Dakota Department of Human Services (SD DHS), and the Community Support Providers of South Dakota (CSPSD). SD BAND is tasked with expanding the presence and collaboration of BCBAs within community health centers and other health care settings across South Dakota, to raise awareness among health care providers, adult service providers, and the broader community about the crucial role of BCBAs, and to facilitate their integration into existing service delivery options.

Ryan Groeneweg, Ed.S., BCBA, Mr. Groeneweg has been the Director of Community Education at the USD Center for Disabilities since January 2019. In this role, he is the principal investigator (PI) for the South Dakota Department of Education Training and Technical Assistance Grant (2019 to present), and the South Dakota State Autism Grant (2019 to present). He is also an assistant professor at the USD School of Medicine and the program director for the USD School of Health Science Master in Health Science, with a Specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and the USD ABA Certificate Graduate program. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday’s at 7PM streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday’s at 6am and 1pm.

District 6 Legislative Update

Paul Thomas

The 69th Legislative Session is nearing completion. The initial goal from each chamber was to be done by April 30th. As I write my update on May 1st there is hope that we will be able to complete our work by May 2nd or 3rd, however we may be meeting the following week if compromise cannot be found between our Senate and House positions.

One of the conference committees that is taking a significant amount of time to complete deals with property tax relief and reform. On the reform piece, conferees have agreed to a 3% cap and are working out the details on how to implement this provision. What a 3% cap means is that local authorities could not increase their revenue from property tax by more than 3% per year. There is a clause in the bill that does allow a vote of the people in that political subdivision to raise the cap beyond 3% for four years if a majority of local voters decide to do so.

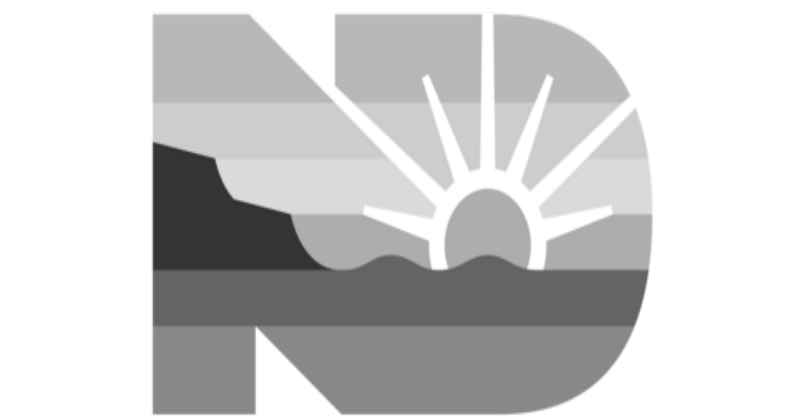
The relief portion of the bill provides increased state payments above the \$500 per primary residence homeowner that has been provided for the last two years. The current Senate proposal is to provide primary homeowners with up to a 75% property tax reduction with a maximum of \$1,650 off their tax bill. This proposal still guarantees the full \$500 credit that homeowners receive and just builds on that. The House position is opposed to the 75% share and had initially proposed paying 100% up to \$1,450.

Most of the budgets have made it through conference committees, however several remain. The budgets that remain are larger ones and are being adjusted to meet our constituents’ needs, still balancing the budget, and allowing funds for property tax relief. These budgets include higher education, K 12 funding, Department of Transportation and the Industrial Commission. The important reminder this time of year is that each Legislator and each District have their priorities. One program is viewed by some as a necessary policy and expenditure while others view their need as equally important. The balancing of these positions is what conferences are all about. You can contact me at paulthomas@ndlegis.gov and by calling 701 626 2777.

MLS Trapshooting



Dylan Potter from Westhope high school shoots a 25 in week 2 of the ND High School Trapshooting League. Dylan shoots on the MLS Trapshooting Team. Congrats Dylan!!!



North Dakota Unveils New ND Icon

MINOT, N.D. – North Dakota’s new icon was unveiled at the 2025 North Dakota Travel Industry Conference. This icon is a colorful representation of the state’s geography, scenery, and spirit. It will be used in conjunction with the “Be Legendary” brand, which for more than 20 years has signified the state’s adventure, hospitality, and pioneering ambition.

"The new ND Icon captures the essence of North Dakota – a place where our opportunities are as big as our skies, and our smiles are as bright as our sunsets," said Commerce Tourism and Marketing Director Sara Otte Coleman. "It will serve as a powerful symbol of our shared identity and a source of pride for all North Dakotans."

The public was invited to participate in choosing the new icon through a widely advertised poll, which garnered over 10,000 responses, with 80% favoring the selected icon.

The icon was designed in col-

laboration with state and local tourism officials and by the experienced marketing professionals at North Dakota advertising agency, The Good Kids. It is inspired by North Dakota's vast and beautiful landscape, characterized by its wide-open spaces, stunning sunsets, and rural charm. It also draws upon the authentic and compelling voice of the "Be Legendary" brand:

- Honest: Reflecting the state's genuine and trustworthy character.
- Real: Communicating in an approachable, conversational, and human style.
- Spirited: Conveying the state's energy, dynamism, and enthusiasm.
- Optimistic: Expressing excitement about North Dakota's future potential and the endless possibilities it offers.

The icon will be used in a variety of applications to promote North Dakota and instill a sense of pride and unity among residents and help improve awareness for our state to attract visitors, businesses, and new residents.

Get your own ND merchandise at <https://belegendary.link/ShopND>.