



# Editorial

By Benjiman Cartwright

I hope everyone had a wonderful 4th of July weekend! We spent it at the lake with family and friends. While we were out on the lake we had our pontoon and Kevin and Misty Millet's boat to carry everyone along. After some tubing and cruising around a quick stop to Lulabelle's for ice cream was needed, I snapped a pic of the group heading up the hill. It was fun to have everyone out tubing and enjoying the nice weather. This week shows that it will be a hot one so make sure you drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and wear sunscreen.

My prayers go out to the families affected by the massive floods in Texas. I wrote a quick note on front page about watching out for the scams that follow tragic events. Just be careful and make sure you donate to things that are in need.

I received an email about the issue with AI (artificial intelligence) and the use in scientific research papers. I think that there will have to be a designation of using AI and not. The problem is that people are passing AI off as human wrote. The use of AI has its place and can be helpful, but in research items, the use should be designated as such. Until they find a solution, the data has to be scrutinized a lot more. AI uses certain words and patterns. A group of researchers did a study on papers from before ChatGPT was introduced and after, they found that before, 72.9% of excess word choices were nouns and after 66% of excess words were verbs and 14% were adjectives. With this data, they concluded that at least 13.5% of the papers published in 2024 were written with some about of AI processing. This raises concerns about the accuracy and integrity of some research. Another report I had received talked about how AI will disrupt industries that rely on the scarcity of technical creations skills, such as sales, marketing, software development, and legal services. When AI gets good enough, this will create an issue for these spaces. It just will have to be a shift like there always is with technology, move from ink and quill to pen and paper, to typewriter, to computer and printer and so on. Another thing is with the technol-

ogy advancing like it is, you have to be careful for deepfakes. These can now be videos not just pictures that look and sound real, but are AI created fakes.

I stopped at the post office to purchase a roll of stamps. I was informed that on the 13th of July the cost for a regular stamp will increase from \$.73 to \$.78. Small flat rate is going to \$11.70 from the previous cost of \$10.65. Save yourself a few dollars and get some stamps before the increase.

I purchased some 3D marker dots for the 3D scanner. These allow the scanner to know where it is in space. The seller listed them for this purpose. The problem is that I don't think this person understood how the markers work, because these were just printed on a regular printer. If that worked, anyone could just print their own. These need to be reflective, and a specific size. So after I messaged them informing them that they did not work, they said they would just refund. I explained that they should pull the listing as they don't work for anyone and to save the hassle from others. Come to think of it when I am writing this, I think one package was retaped up, probably someone else found out the hard way. So off I go to order some actual reflective marker dots.

The syrup that we mainly use at the coffee shop is having distribution problems. At first we just started noticing that items were out of stock and my orders were getting cancelled. It would show in stock when I added to my order, but later that day get cancelled. After a few weeks I have tried ordering every time I can, some get through and others don't. I had seen a letter that they were having problems with a relocation of the warehouse and getting things going better. Then another letter said that it was because of a bottle issue, they were switching to a different bottle. But either way, now its about 6 weeks in, and most items are out of stock everywhere. We may have to get a different brand in to fill in until they get it straightened out. And to top it off, they increased the price over 46% in the last couple months. I hope the price drops back down a bit after they get the out of stock issue fixed.

Have a great week everyone!



Everyone heading to get some ice cream for the boat ride

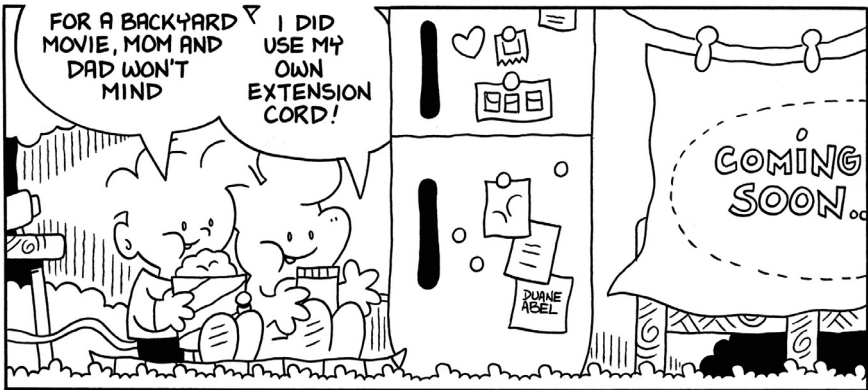


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**Westhope, ND 58793**  
**Stop in the Coffee Shop**  
**when its open, they can**  
**take you news or pay-**  
**ments If you have some-**  
**thing to drop off after**  
**hours the door slot is still**  
**available, its just to the**  
**side of the door now. If**  
**you want to call and we**  
**are not around my cell is**  
**(701)818-1230 and**  
**Amanda's (701)625-1087**  
**If we cannot answer**  
**please leave a message**  
**and we will return the**  
**call.**  
**The office number is still**  
**(701)245-6461 and email**  
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6	5	8	7	4	1	2	3	9
3	4	2	5	9	6	8	1	7
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## ZED by Duane M. Abel



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## Social Security Matters

by Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens



### Ask Rusty - Can I Switch to a Taxi Driver Job Without Hurting my Social Security?

**Dear Rusty:** I opted to draw my Social Security retirement benefit early and work part time. The company I work for has decided to pull me from field work due to my age and health. Although they are great keeping me at 20 hours per week running for parts and doing office work, I'm not sure how much longer it will last. I'm thinking of taking a taxi driving job to keep my income enough to live on. The way it would work, I would lease the cab for some amount of dollars per day, set my own hours to work and collect anywhere from \$1.40 to \$4.00 per mile, depending on what type of fare. My question is: how does Social Security look at that type of employment? Would I be held to the 15 - 45 hours a month standard? I could never come close to making the \$1,200 to \$1,300 a month I need by working so little. Any advice is greatly appreciated. Signed: Seeking Advice

**Dear Seeking:** If you go ahead with your plan to lease a taxicab instead of continuing your current employment, you would, in effect, be considered "self-employed" and would submit your income tax return to the IRS accordingly. Social Security would get your earnings information as reported to the IRS, and it would be your net earnings from self-employment (after deducting all your business expenses) that is reported to SSA by IRS. There is, however, a special rule which would apply to you in your first calendar year of self-employment while collecting early Social Security benefits.

Since, in your first year, some of your earnings would be as a part-time employee paying SS FICA payroll taxes, Social Security would first look at your earnings as an employee to see if you exceeded the annual earnings limit (\$23,400 for 2025). Then, upon starting your self-employment, Social Security would look at the hours you spent performing "substantial gainful activity" (e.g., driving your taxi) each month and, if you spent more than 45 hours per month in that capacity, you would not be considered "retired," and thus, not eligible for Social Security in any month you exceeded that amount of hours. If you earned less than the annual limit in total (both as an employee and while self-employed), you would

get benefits for all months of the year. But if you earn more than the annual limit, you will get no benefits for any month you exceeded 45 hours as a self-employed person. Again, this only applies during the first calendar year of self-employment - in the following year only your net earnings from self-employment would count toward the annual earnings limit.

In effect, SSA would use the hours-worked standard to see if you are truly retired or actually working. If the latter, they would withhold SS monthly benefits for any month you exceed 45 hours working while self-employed (up to and including December of your first calendar year of self-employment), and only if your total income (as an employee and while self-employed) exceeds the annual limit.

So, if your goal is to net \$1,200 - \$1,300 per month as a self-employed taxi driver, that would be well within the limits of the annual earnings test (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly). But there may, or may not, be a reduction in your Social Security benefits during your first year of self-employment, depending on when you start as self-employed. Note that SSA will ask about your work plans when you apply, and if you expect to stay under the annual limit (working part time in both capacities), you should get full SS benefits. Just be careful to stay under the annual earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits. FYI, earnings from before your SS benefits started don't count toward the earning limit.

Note, too, that your monthly Social Security benefit will be actuarially reduced according to how far in advance of your full retirement age you claim SS. Whenever SS benefits are claimed prior to one's full retirement age, those benefits are permanently reduced.

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## In the Past

by Annika Graun

### 100 Years Ago July 2nd, 1925

Time, space and distance have been largely annihilated during modern times, and many things are easily accomplished which a century ago were absolutely impossible. Ninety years ago, in November, 1834, a much-wanted statesman was missing. William IV, having dismissed Melbourne, sent for Sr Robert Peel. But Sir Robert Peel could not be found. He was somewhere on the Continent. Nowadays, of course, a message would be broadcast and the missing statesman would be by airplane. As it was, the king's courier had to spend many days finding Sir Robert Peel, and when he did find him, in Rome, it took the premier-designate 14 days, traveling posthaste, to get back to London and Windsor to take the seals of office. But how things have moved during the last century. But a few months ago Mr. Ramsey MacDonald set out for Paris at nine o'clock, arrived in the French capital at four in the afternoon, took part in an important conference and arrived back in London within 36 hours of setting out.

### 90 Years Ago July 4th, 1935

What was undoubtedly one of the heaviest rains ever to fall in this section was registered Saturday and Sunday when a total of 3.37 inches of rain fell. Rain started to fall Saturday nite about 9 o'clock and came down veritable torrents for about two hours. Water was running down the streets in town level with the side-walks, ditches were full and fields gave the appearance of lakes. A total of 2.15 inches fell Saturday night. On Sunday evening another heavy rain fell which measured 1.22 inches according to the local weather observer. That these rains were more or less local is indicated by the fact that Sherwood had no rain Saturday night and only .25 Sunday. Visitors to Minot Saturday evening reported no rain there and no rings of rain until they reached the Renville corner. The rains extended well over the Westhope territory and came at a most welcome time as some crops were beginning to be in need of a good rain. The rains should have extended to quite a depth. And it is believed will practically assure the eron of enough moisture. Since the above was written another heavy rain fell Monday evening, the climate of a hot, sultry day. A total of 1.44 inches fell here that evening making a total of 4.81 inches in three days, undoubtedly the heaviest rainfall in such a short period in the memory of most local inhabitants.

### 80 Years Ago July 5th, 1945

Leo Fulwiler, Yeoman who is on duty in a hospital ship, writes to a friend in this community under the date of March 16, regarding the Iwo Jima invasion. 'This morning at the quarters, our division officer informed us that censorship regulations have been lifted somewhat\_\_ we may now relate facts that have already been released by the official press news in regards to locations and events that happened 30 days ago more or less. It is a habit of mine that when we hit an island or port where I haven't been before, to sit down and write notes of what i see, hear, feel, ect\*\* To be different, and to make this letter complete I'll type below exactly the same notes I wrote on that day. D Day plus one at Iwo Jima. Romana said. 'You can see land on the horizon'. So what! At 0600 i wasn't much interested in anything but sleep but i got up anyway to take a 'look see'. Three points off the starboard bow, a pyramid silhouette of land lay half concealed in the early morning mist. Around 1000 we were close enough to watch the dive bombers and warships at work. Although smoke arose from various parts of the island, planes and ships concentrated mainly on working over the southern hump. Through binoculars, I watched a dive bomber peel off and come down. I could see the fire of the Japanese guns as they concentrated their fire on that plane, yet she came out of her dice and winged out to sea. Evidently she dropped her bombs because black smoke arose from the bluff. Uncoin touched me on the shoulder and said to watch the phosphorus shells explode further up. I liked that. Later on, joined Rush in setting up a typewriter to list patients received on board prior to sailing. Through the Admitting Office window I watched the stretcher and ambulatory patients come aboard. \*\* Anthony came in and said the men were right off the battlefield taking another look at a marine casualty bleeding freely over his stretcher right outside the office door. I was quite willing to believe his statement. \*\* I was standing by the starboard after much when stretcher bearers came up and carefully laid their burden down. The marine was shot up and human recognition gruesome as \_\_. The sight didn't affect me much and I would have forgotten it, but turn-

ing around to leave I noticed the expression of horror and pity on Martin's face (Martin just turned 19). He was the only one present who let any sign of emotion be revealed on his face. Heavy seas lent a hand in hindering our loading operations, tossing boats willed with stretched cases, at will. We sailed at sundown. The episode of Iwo Jima was over.

### 70 Years Ago July 7th, 1955

The City of Westhope is calling for bids for 20 blocks of paving bids to be opened at 2 o'clock P.M on Thursday, July 28th. The twenty blocks of asphalt paving, curb and gutting has been broken down into three districts consisting of two blocks in district No. 4, six blocks in District No.5 and four blocks in district No.6. Legal notices appear elsewhere in this issue of the Standard and include a Resolution of Necessity for each district which gives the areas compromising each district. The proposed paving is substantially as outlined in the Standard several weeks ago. The area was broken down into three districts, presumably so that if one district was protested out it would not necessarily kill the whole project. The notice for bids calls for the work to be completed by Oct. 15th. It is our understanding that a week following the opening of the bids, a meeting will be advertised at which time any property owner affected may protest the paving. At that time 51 percent of the losts in any district protested that the project would be killed. Specifications covering plans and estimates of cost are now on files with City Auditor Bentham.

### 50 Years Ago July 3rd, 1975

Because of much community interest, we feel it only right to publicly notify people of some of the policies being followed at the Westhope Poo this season. Some of the rules are as follows. No frayed cut-offs for swimming. No suntan oils, lotions or the like in the pool. Long hair must be tied back. No spectators in the pool area during the general swim, with street clothes on. No mothers in the pool area during swimming lessons, except with the preschool class. Inflatable toys should be limited to young children accompanied by parents who are unable to be in the pool alone. No foul language will be permitted at any time. No foul language will be permitted at any time. No food, gum, etc allowed in the pool area. No running, pushing or dunking allowed. These are the main areas of concern. Violation of these rules can lead to dismissal of the violator for one day for first offense and one week for second offense. There have been many who have asked about adult swimming and lessons Wednesday night from 800 to 900 have been picked. Adults induce 18 year olds and older. Lessons will be taught if enough interest is shown. We would also like to remind parents that they are responsible for their children in the wading pool. The lifeguards will see to it that older children stay out of the wading pool area. One other thing should be mentioned and that concerns closing polities. The pool will immediately close at signs of lightning in the area. The pool will reopen during the next regularly scheduled swim time. weather permitting. This may sound like a lot of rules to be expected to follow for children who are there for fun, but no rule was made without your child's safety foremost on our minds.

### 35 Years Ago July 3th, 1990

The 1990 International Youth Choir will present its premiere performance on Saturday, July 7, at 8:30 p.m. in the James Howell Auditorium in Bottineau. The 54 voice choir is made up of select students from North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. The youth choir will present a varied program of music ranging from the works of the great masters to folk music and selections from Broadway musicals. The choir will be under direction of Dr. Rodney Rothlisberger a native of Bottineau and director of choral activities at Moorhead High School. Dr. Rothlisberger is well known as a choral conductor and organist. He has served on the music faculty of several universities and served as Organist and Choirmaster at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Following the premiere concert in Bottineau, and July 9th in New Rockford, N.D., the International Youth Choir will present a series of good-will concerts throughout the Netherlands, West Germany, Austria and Hungary. The will perform in Passau, West Germany July 11; Pernitz, Austria July 13; Fot, Hungary, July 15; Budapest, Hungary July 16; Graz, Austria July 17; Unterach, Austria July 19; Hengelo, The Netherlands July 22 and Fargo, N.D. July 24th. Lisa Kornkeven of SOuris is a member of the touring choir.