

Taylor-Richardton teacher honored as Stark County’s best

Robin Rivinius wins top award for nurturing students’ growth through creative and compassionate teaching

By RubyAnn Stiegelmeier

The Dickinson Press

Robin Rivinius, a first grade teacher at Taylor-Richardton Elementary, has been named the Stark County Teacher of the Year by the North Dakota Teacher of the Year program. Nominated by three of her peers, Rivinius is known for her dedication to meeting students where they are, developing creative learning opportunities, and most of all — staying out of the spotlight.

“She’s not the type of person who would nominate herself for this award,” said Bonnie Dahmus, the school’s administrative assistant. “She does all this because she cares.”

Before joining Taylor-Richardton Elementary in 2017, Rivinius spent eight years in early childhood education, conducting home visits across an eight-county region in southwest North Dakota. She holds a bachelor’s degree in child development and family science, along with two master’s degrees. Although she initially moved into school-based teaching for family reasons, she said her background continues to shape her classroom approach.

“I use all of those experiences to help me do what I do now,” said Rivinius, who currently teaches a class of 25 students. “It’s all been very helpful.”

Fostering a growth mindset in her students is central to Rivinius’s teaching philosophy. Beyond her classroom duties, she successfully helped apply for grant funding to build a greenhouse on school grounds. The raised beds serve as hands-on learning tools for agriculture and science, and the vegetables — including potatoes, lettuce, and more — are used in student lunches, thanks to a partnership between staff and the cafeteria team.

Lindsey Gullikson, principal at Taylor-Richardton Elementary, praised Rivinius’s commitment and teaching style.

“Her passion for teaching is evident through the care and commitment she shows to every student who enters her classroom,” Gullikson said. “She creates a learning environment where children feel seen, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. She strives to educate the whole child in all aspects.” Gullikson added, “This



photo | RubyAnn Stiegelmeier

ROBIN RIVINIUS, first grade teacher at Taylor-Richardton Elementary.

honor of being named County Teacher of the Year is a reflection of her tireless efforts, research-based strategies, and the deep relationships she builds with students, families, and staff. As Mrs. Rivinius would say, ‘You can do

hard things’ — and she is a true testament to that statement. We are incredibly proud of her and grateful to have her as part of our TRE family.”

Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota Superintendent of Public

Instruction, emphasized the value of recognizing educators.

“It is a pleasure to honor these outstanding teachers, who have been recognized by their peers and the students and families they serve as being exemplars of their profession,” Baesler said. “All North Dakotans should be grateful for the work our educators do to help develop our state’s new generations of citizens.”

The praise for Rivinius isn’t limited to adults. Walking through the halls, she’s greeted with hugs from students — one of whom offered a cheerful farewell: “Adios, Rivinius!”

Without missing a beat, she replied, “After a while, crocodile!”

Robin is the daughter of Rueben and Ruth Pastian of New Leipzig and is a 1995 graduate of Elgin/New Leipzig Public School.

LIBRARY CORNER

ELGIN PUBLIC LIBRARY • 584-2181
MON. - FRI. - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Well, we have had some very needed rain. However, the cooler temperatures after 90 degree weather is a bit of a shock. I saw this morning that we had a freeze advisory. Maybe this next week will be better.

The summer reading program will start June 2 and run until August 8. We will be recording the reading log for all of those that have registered with the Beanstack Program on the North Dakota State Library. This app will track the amount of books you have read and offer reading challenges throughout the program.

Registration is May 27 - 30. Stop in and fill out the registration sheet.

We are still looking for volunteers. If you would be interested, please contact us at 584-2181 or stop in and visit with us.

Please remember to check your due dates and return your borrowed items either in person during our business hours or in our drop box right outside the door. Remember, you can always call to renew your items if you are not finished with them.



2025 MOTORCOACH TOURS

Mystery Tour	July 13-17
Medora 60th Anniversary	July 23-25
Folklorama	August 8-11
Mackinac Island & Duluth	Aug. 31 - Sept. 6
Washington, D.C. & Gettysburg	September 12-20
Nashville & the Smoky Mountains	October 1-10
Branson Holiday #1	Oct. 31 - Nov. 6
Branson Holiday #2	November 7-13
Branson Holiday #3 (Minot/Devils Lake boarding)	November 13-19

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 NORTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Notice of Election

Elgin/New Leipzig School Board Election

The Elgin/New Leipzig Public School will be holding the annual school board election on June 10, 2025. Voters may come to the polls at the Elgin/New Leipzig Elementary School Lobby in Elgin between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are available at the Elgin/New Leipzig School District office in Elgin. (Please remember to bring your photo ID).

Three (3) three-year positions are open for election this year. Chad Gappert is running in the Rural Area, designated as the area outside the limits of the incorporated cities of Elgin and New Leipzig. Robert Mead is running in the City of Elgin, an area within the city limits of Elgin. Lamont Gaugler is running in the City of New Leipzig, an area within the city limits of New Leipzig. Gappert, Mead, and Gaugler are all incumbents for these positions and are running unopposed. Write-in options are permissible for all positions.

By order of the Board of Education
Elgin/New Leipzig Public School
District No. 49
Elgin, ND 58533
Gayle Beyer
Business Manager

5/29, 6/5

HELP WANTED

The Carson Meals Program for seniors is looking for a cook from June 18 - July 22 while the current cook is on medical leave. We have part-time cooks that can fill in some of those dates, but would prefer someone that could cook most of all of those dates.

For more information,
please call Andrea at 701-226-6237.

Elgin/New Leipzig Public School HEAD COOK POSITION

Elgin/New Leipzig School District is seeking applicants for a **head cook position** for the 2025-26 school year to begin duties August 10, 2025. This position requires menu planning, daily food inventory, and food ordering. Experience in similar positions is preferred. If interested, please contact Gayle Beyer at 701-584-2374 to submit your application.

E/NL is an equal opportunity employer.

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WEST RIVER TRANSIT SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 1

Road trip to Hazen Jam Session!

The bus will leave Our Place Cafe in Elgin at 2:00 p.m. MST.

The bus will pick up at

- Community Center, New Leipzig
- Carson Manor, Carson

*Music starts at 6:00 p.m. and we will stop at Dairy Queen in Beulah.

The price of the bus ride will be \$15.
Call 1-888-682-5826 to reserve your space on the bus.

Wednesday, June 11

Four Bears Casino trip!

The bus will leave Our Place Cafe in Elgin at 9:00 a.m. MST and return at 4:00 p.m.

The bus will pick up at

- Community Center, New Leipzig
- Carson Manor, Carson

*We MUST have 10 passengers to receive the \$30 play and meal package rate

The price of the bus ride will be \$30
(\$30 of free play money and meal is included).

Call Judy at 701-584-2036 or 618-690-3834 to reserve your space on the bus for 4 Bears.

Public transit - all ages welcome.