

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (open) Every Tues @ 7pm. 1st Lutheran Church basement 326 Bluff St, Enderlin, ND 58027
"COMFORT MESSAGE: Visit the First Lutheran Church Facebook page (FirstLutheranEnderlin) to hear a positive message. A new message is posted weekly." We have decided to discontinue the phone line.

ENDERLIN AREA FOOD PANTRY - Open the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Hours 9am-6pm. Located in First Lutheran Church, Enderlin. Serving the Enderlin, Alice, Sheldon, and Nome area.

RANSOM COUNTY FOOD PANTRY: Call the Food Pantry at 701-308-0905 by Wednesdays at 5 p.m. to receive a food basket to be picked up on Thursdays between 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Ransm County Food Pantry.

ENDERLIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: will hold their monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. during the school year and 9:00 a.m. during the summer months at the Enderlin Insurance Agency.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR THE VFW AUXILIARY: The monthly meeting of the VFW Auxiliary will be held on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Enderlin VFW clubrooms.

ENDERLIN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER BONE BUILDERS: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS at 10:00 am "Helping to Fight Osteoporosis" *Improve Balance, Increase Energy, Bone Density, Mobility and Lower Blood Pressure FREE, Open to the Public of all ages. **Whist every Tuesday at 12:30 PM & Dominos last Thursday of every month at 12:30 PM.**

VETERAN'S SERVICES available every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1pm - 3pm at the Enderlin VFW Club.

ENDERLIN MUSEUM HOURS: The Enderlin Museum located at 315 Railway Street is open from May through September on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 9 to noon, or by appointment. The Museum is filled with displays and artifacts from the area and there is also a research area. Tour groups are always welcome. Phone 701-799-0725 or 701-73-9743 if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

ENDERLIN LIBRARY HOURS: Monday - Friday 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

INTERESTED IN GIVING TO A LOCAL CHARITY IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF A LOVED ONE?

Enderlin Area Booster Club, 858 Center Street, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin Youth Baseball, 5991 133 1/2 Ave SE, Enderlin, ND 58027

Veterans Monument, VFW, 225 3rd Avenue, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin Alumni Association, PO Box 81, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin Fine Arts Association, PO Box 32, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin Municipal Library, 303 Railway, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin/Sheldon Rural Fire District (Rescue Squad), PO Box 43, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin Sunflower Festival, 5010 133rd Ave SE, Enderlin, ND 58027

SMP Health - Maryhill Auxiliary, 110 Hillcrest Drive, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin Park Board, 411 Railway, Enderlin, ND 58027

SMP Health - Maryhill, 110 Hillcrest Drive, Enderlin, ND 58027

HEART Program, 221 3rd Ave., Enderlin, ND 58027

Sheldon Public School District #2 Scholarship Fund

Donations to: Enderlin Dollars for Scholars, Attn: Cindy Hansen, PO Box 102, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin Community Cemetery, PO Box 84, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin Historical Society and Museum, Attn: Secretary/Treasurer, 13296 55th St. SE, Enderlin, ND 58027

Maple River Senior Center, 221 3rd Avenue, Enderlin, ND 58027

Enderlin-Sheldon Wildlife Club, PO Box 121, Enderlin, ND 58027



by Cecile Wehrman
**NDNA
Bill is first step
toward eliminating
public notices in
newspapers**

We've all seen them, those oxymorons – postal service, military intelligence, government efficiency.

Well here's a story from right here in North Dakota that's all about spending \$150,000 in taxpayers' hard-earned cash to create something that's already free.

Proponents of SB 2069, which was brought by the PSC as a "backstop" to protect against newspapers failing to publish a hearing notice, would give all units of government the option of also posting notices on the Secretary of State's website.

PSC staff claim this is not an attempt to remove public notices from newspapers, but the bill comes with an appropriation aimed at giving a state agency the ability to publish all public notices -- thereby duplicating a service newspapers also provide, and it's free. Consider:

■The North Dakota Newspaper Association already maintains a public notice website, www.ndpublicnotices.com -- which a member of the Senate State and Local Government committee has conceded is far superior to the Secretary of State's website -- at no cost to the state or consumers.

■Newspapers are already REQUIRED BY LAW to publish all of their public notices on this website, at no additional cost to the unit of government and the public can access all notices at no cost.

■The rate of missed public notices is tiny. For instance, the rate of error on 583 administrative rules placements last year by NDNA was .03 percent. None of those few errors invalidated the notice.

■NDNA has proposed a process whereby we will specially handle PSC hearing notices, but commission staff have rejected it. It's worth noting the genesis of this bill was a single missed PSC hearing notice 18 months ago.

Bills like this morph over time. What starts as "may" becomes a "shall." This bill applies to ALL units of government -- cities, counties, townships, not just state government -- and the committee giving this bill a DO PASS has made clear that's where they want this to

DID YOU KNOW....

A look back at early area history as found in early newspapers and the archives of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum by *Susan Schlecht*

Museum website: www.enderlinmuseum.org

This week's article was found in the *December 4, 1924* issue of the *Sheldon Progress*. It is reprinted below exactly as it appeared in that paper.

ENDERLIN BOY ACCIDENTLY SHOOTS SELF WITH .22 CALIBER RIFLE

Fatal Accident Happened Sunday While Boy Were Hunting Near Town

4 COMPANIONS WITNESS DEATH

Another Case of an "Unloaded" Gun Bringing Grief Into Happy Home.

An appalling accident happened near Enderlin last Sunday when Chester Rafferty, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Rafferty of that city, shot and killed himself with a .22 caliber rifle.

The accident happened about 4 p.m. when young Rafferty in company with four other boys, between the ages of 14 and 16, were hunting rabbits about three miles north of Enderlin.

Chester had borrowed the rifle from one of the other boys and was looking down the barrel to see if it were clean, not knowing that it was loaded. The gun in some way accidentally discharged, the bullet entering his left eye and lodging in the brain. The wounded lad lived for about 25 minutes after the accident but did not regain consciousness.

He is survived by his parents and a brother and sister. Funeral services were held yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon at 2 o'clock from the M. E. church in Enderlin. Interment was made in the Enderlin cemetery.

Sue's Comments: According to information on the 1920 Enderlin census, William and Elgona Rafferty had come to North Dakota about 1912 from Wisconsin. William was employed as a boiler maker in the Soo roundhouse here and the family lived on Bluff Street West. By the 1930 census they were living on Myrtle Street with their two children Ethel and Lawrence. William was about 10 years older than his wife.

Watch for more history next week! MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum, Inc. shall be the collection, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the Enderlin area.

go.

This bill would, for the FIRST TIME EVER, equate publication on a government website with adequate public notice and once that rubicon is passed, there's no going back.

Once state government has spent \$150,000 of taxpayer money duplicating a system newspapers are already providing, it will be much easier to make the case those print publications in newspapers are no longer necessary.

Tune in, if you will, to a hearing Friday, where more than one member of the committee made their disdain for newspapers clear along with direct statements about where they hope this goes in the future: <https://tinyurl.com/jnw675fj>

Though the committee has discussed SB 2069 several times since the original hearing, no one from the committee has responded to NDNA about a proposed amendment we made, nor invited us back to the committee to explore remedies other than spending \$150,000. They don't see us as the public's advocate. They see us as "milking" state government, when the whole point of public notice is to provide information to the public and oversight of government! We know voters understand this, and it's something all of us must now fight to keep.

NDNA research shows voters are adamantly opposed to public notices on government websites. Only 18 percent of North Dakotans said they trust government to be the only source of public notices. Yet, elected officials and state employees are hellbent in duplicating services newspapers are already providing and they're unwilling to work toward a cheaper solution.

Whether you are a local government official, a citizen who believes in keeping public notices in newspapers, or frustrated money is being spent needlessly, please contact your district senator to urge a NO vote on SB 2069.

As I originally testified before this committee, no human endeavor is perfect, but NDNA -- and local newspapers -- have an exemplary record of publishing public notices. Afterall, if notices don't run, newspapers don't get paid!

The North Dakota Newspaper Association has offered to work with state government to find a way to use our own well established public notice website to achieve the same aim as SB 2069, but the hand we've extended has been rebuffed, the reputations of 73 individual newspapers impugned, and the wishes of citizens ignored.

SB 2069's cost is out of proportion with the risks it aims to negate. Make no mistake, it's aim is to eventually put the fox on guard of the henhouse of government information.

ND State Chair and National Committeeman will headline- Dist. 24 Dem-NPL to Elect Officers at Feb. 16 Reorganization Meet

Bradley Edin, Chair of the District 24 Democratic-Non-Partisan League (Dem-NPL) Party, announced that State Dem-NPL Chair Adam Goldwyn and Democratic National Committeeman Jamie Selzler will headline the Sunday, Feb. 16, District Reorganization meeting at party headquarters, located in the lower level of the Straus Mall, 200 Central Ave. North in Valley City, starting at 2 p.m. "North Dakota and the rest of this country have seen non-stop turbulence since Donald Trump was sworn in as President on January 20. Behind a virtual blizzard of illegal Executive Orders allowing a billionaire outsider to gain access to our nation's financial machinery, and capriciously daring Congress, the Courts, and the People to stop him, he seems bent on destroying our country's standing in the entire

Where Does Time Go?

By Lynn Bueling

I keep looking for it. I just can't find it, so I wonder where it went. My thoughts of such things stirred one day as I emptied the dishwasher. I lifted a clear bowl from the rack and remarked that it was a nice one. Mary reminded me she bought it at the rummage sale held by the Methodist church in Sheldon to clear the building of anything that wasn't nailed down. The building had been built with sturdy stone in the early '50s and will probably be standing a couple hundred years from now. But the church fathers said to sell it all when attendance and membership dropped to almost nothing. A family bought the building and converted it to their private home.

The building contained a wealth of memories that came back that day. I made sure to take Mary to one of the classrooms and show her the closet where I hid from my Bible school teacher one day. We had to step out of the way for buyers who were carrying the pews from the sanctuary. I lingered for a time in the dining room where we'd meet for opening exercises at Bible school, many times singing "Onward Christian Soldiers."

The structure we called city hall fell to a wrecking machine in short order one day. The Sheldon community used it as a multi-purpose facility for so long that it's hard to believe it's gone. It saw year-round use for basketball games, class plays, school carnivals, graduation ceremonies, public dances, roller skating, elections, even concerts. (Bobby Vee played there once.) It's demise even prompted me to write a poem which began "Bewildered ghosts rose amid bird-flurry the day city hall fell."

The wrecking crew hadn't finished its work since a few years later the brick schoolhouse became targeted. It's hard to drive by today and look at its blank space. Many of us spent all twelve years of our schooling in that structure. While there might have been some weak spots, most of us think we got a good education. The school's twelve grades drew students from the surrounding area. With fewer families and smaller families working the farms, enrollment dwindled to a point where the school was no longer sustainable. We still have our memories. I can still hear its creaking hardwood floors and the footfalls on the stairways.

Buildings aren't the only gauge for the passage of time, though. People come and go in our lives and leave an impression. For the most part their time on earth amounts to more than the obituary that said, "I was born, I blinked, and it was over." Obituaries become a historical source, even when we never knew them. I found interesting local examples.

John T. Hickey operated a livery stable in Sheldon, a fact which tells us he was just an ordinary small town businessman, right? In his obituary we learn that he previously led an eventful life and was present at a historical event called the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Custer had divided his army into three groups and Hickey, a freighter, stayed back with Major Reno's command. Later, in his storytelling days in Sheldon he "often related with much vividness the stirring times of encounters with the savage Indian tribes that roamed over the state." Hickey was one man I would liked to have visited with. He is buried beside his wife in the local cemetery.

While visiting cemeteries in the sandhills area we went about our business of placing flowers on some of the graves. At the old Owego Church cemetery, I spotted a solitary marble marker standing on the west side. The inscription read: James M. Kinney, Wagoner, Co. B., 10 Minn. Inf. Who was he? It turns out with some research that he was a freighter and came through this area with the so-called Sibley Expedition of 1863.

Research never turned up the reason for his settling in this area and being buried in a solitary grave at Owego. A local man, Henry Ylvisaker, made the application from the War Department for his headstone. Kinney impressed the editor of the Sheldon Progress one day in March, 1911 when he walked sixteen miles on a snowy March day to Sheldon. He wanted to catch the next morning's NP train to Lisbon to enter the soldier's home.

The name of Ed Pierce must be included. Coming to Ransom County in the early 1880s he became involved in the Ransom County Immigration Office, banking, and state politics. His prominence becomes apparent when we read of his death in 1927. His memorial service, even though held on a windy, snowy day in November still drew three hundred people, including state officials. While his burial took place in Minneapolis, we still remember while driving by the stately home he built in Sheldon.

A cemetery full of stories grows here as it does in all communities. When I visit it some of the tombstones name people whom I know nothing about. Obituaries for them can't be found, so history of their lives has faded into the mist of time.



world!" Edin said.

Having our State Party Chair and National Committeeman present is an honor, but also a measure of how seriously Democrats here at home see events at both the national and state levels as grave threats to our future," Edin added.

Selzler and Goldwyn recently returned from Washington, DC, where they engaged with national party leadership, members of Congress, and former Administration staffers. Goldwyn was elected Vice-President of the Association of State Democratic Committees for the Mid-Western Region, and both he and Selzler will be working closely with the new Democratic National Committee Chair, Ken Martin from Minnesota.

Events will begin with coffee and conversation when the doors to the Straus Mall open at 1:30 p.m. Remarks from Selzler and Goldwyn, with a brief Question-and-Answer period, will be followed by election of officers.

Chair Edin has announced he is stepping down. Other District 24 Officers eligible for re-election are Charlene Rawson, First Vice-Chair; Allen Blume, Second Vice-Chair (Policy); Tom Ricker, Secretary; and Mike Ferrell, Treasurer. In keeping with party rules, the floor will be open for nominations of other candidates. Party officers are elected for two-year terms and are eligible for re-election.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to be District 24's Dem-NPL Chair," Edin said. "There is much more to life than politics, but events of the past few weeks prove how

