

Dakota Datebook

A radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of ND and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council.

Hypnotist McEwen written by Dr. Steve Hoffbeck

March 4, 2026 – A traveling hypnotist came to Grand Forks in March of 1897 and mesmerized his audiences night after night in seven performances. The hypnotist, known as the “Great McEwen” or as “Professor McEwen,” had a wonderful stage show in which he entertained large audiences with startling feats of mind control and suggestion, all done with care and good humor towards the subjects who volunteered.

Professor McEwen’s performance was publicized in the Grand Forks Herald on this date, explaining how the hypnotist had been performing as a “mesmerist” across the nation for the past five years, and that he had recently been in Fargo for a week of performances, where he earned praise for his “amusement making powers.”

And McEwen lived up to the hype.

He induced two young men into a trance and had them imitate heavy-weights in a boxing match with one foot fastened to the floor.

The hypnotist then put a strong young fellow into a deep trance, commanding him to become stiff and then

placed him in a position where five men sat upon him like a park-bench. After awakening, the man said he felt fine.

Professor McEwen also hypnotized a dozen men and had them assume a rigid position. He then stacked them like cordwood, criss-cross, in a human woodpile.

Another night, the hypnotist induced a willing subject to pantomime that he was fishing. The audience howled as the angler pretended to bait his hook, cast, and catch imaginary fish.

The Great McEwen gave the hypnotic suggestion to a “score” of young men and boys to play a baseball game on the stage, pitching, catching, and fielding an imaginary baseball. One participant attempted to steal a base and got so enthused that he slid clear over the edge of the stage – head-first into an audience that went “nearly wild,” because the “fun was so funny.”

McEwen also put a volunteer into a deep sleep one night, and put him on display in a store window all the next day. He awakened him the following evening.

We do not know if Professor

McEwen used the classic hypnotic inducement of “you are getting sleepy, sleepy.” But we do know, from old newspaper stories, that it was a “week of wonder,” when Mesmerist McEwen mystified, surprised and entranced his audiences in Grand Forks with his skill and showmanship.

Minot UFOs Return written by Jayme L. Job

March 5, 2026 – An unbelievable UFO sighting occurred on this date over the Minot Air Force base in 1967. Unbeknownst to many North Dakotans, the state has proved fertile ground for UFO sightings for several decades. In fact, the state even has a connection to the first UFO sighting in history, when the term “UFO” was first coined.

That 1947 event began over Washington state, when pilot Kenneth Arnold “...spotted nine unidentified objects flying near Mount Rainier.” Arnold’s report led reporters to term the entities, “unidentified flying objects,” or UFOs. Arnold grew up in Minot, attending grade and high school there during the 1920s and ‘30s. After the initial description and media coverage, UFO sightings became much more common. In response, the Air Force created a catalog of UFO sightings in an attempt to chronicle and explain the phenomenon. Referred to as “Project Blue Book,” the catalog documents dozens of UFO reports from North Dakota, most taking place near the Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Bases.

The UFO sighting on March 5, 1967, took place only three days after two sightings were reported near Mohall and Velva. Then on March 5, Minot Air Force Base security teams were alerted when Air Defense Command radar detected an “... unidentified target descending over the Minuteman missile silos of the 91st Strategic Missile Wing...”

When security police responded to the call, they saw a large metallic disk hovering over the missile silos. The disk was ringed with bright flashing lights. Before F-106 interceptors at the base were scrambled, the UFO left the silos, moving first over the launch control facility, and then climbing straight up into the air before taking off at an “incredible speed.”

Between the years of 1967 and 1968, a number of UFO incidents occurred at or near the nuclear missile sites in North Dakota. One eyewitness, Lt. David Schuur, claimed in interviews that a brightly lit UFO hovering near missile sites in 1967 was responsible for initiating a launch sequence at the Echo Launch Control Center. Once the glowing object left the vicinity, Schuur was able to activate the launch inhibit switch. Robert Hastings, the professional UFO reporter who interviewed Schuur, called the interview “one of the most disturbing” of his career.

Mohall FFA Competes at Alumni Winter CDE in Kildeer



Mohall FFA started their busy National FFA Week off by competing at the Kildeer FFA Alumni Winter CDE Contest on Saturday, Feb 22nd. The team continues their successful winter CDE season. Results follow: Ag Sales;(3rd Place Team) , Lenee V.(3rd), Jacob E. (7th), Hudson F., Maci W., Easton S., Jax T., Violet E. Livestock(6th Place Team) Will P.(11th), Shaylee G., Ava H., Keenan L. Agronomy(8th Place Team): Karlee L., Makenna G., Dylon B., Colby T.

Sign Up For Farm Bureau Week Giveaway

The Renville County Farm Bureau is celebrating Farm Bureau Week March 8-14. They will be awarding 2-\$50.00 gift certificates and 1-\$25.00 gift certificate to the Mohall Jack and Jill grocery store. To enter stop in to the Jack and Jill, fill out your entry and deposit into the container.



OIL & GAS LEASE ONLINE AUCTION

The Board of University and School Lands will conduct an online oil and gas lease auction for one hundred seventy-eight (178) tracts in Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Dunn, Golden Valley, McKenzie, Mountrail, Renville, Slope, and Williams Counties, ND. Bidding will commence March 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. CT and close March 24, 2026. The link to view the tracts and participate in the auction is:

<https://app.efficientmarkets.com/government-listings>

A 3% convenience fee will be assessed. Anyone needing auxiliary aids and services should call Lynn at (701) 328-1921 by March 10, 2026. 02/20/2026

/s/ Joseph A. Heringer, Commissioner

NOTICE OF FILING DEADLINE

CITY OF MOHALL & MOHALL PARK BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing to have a candidate's name printed the ballot for the City of Mohall and the Mohall Park Board is April 6, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. The following offices are up for election:

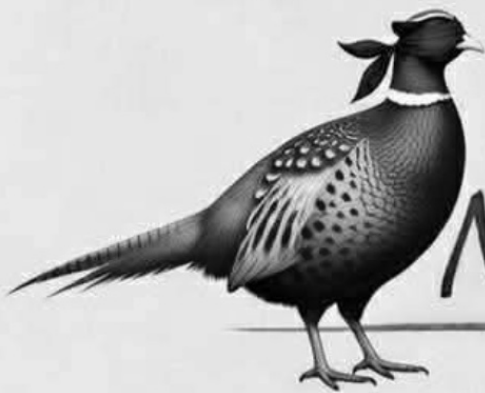
- City Council Member (4 year term)
- City Council Member (4 year term)
- City Council Member (4 year term)
- City Park Board Member (4 year term)
- City Park Board Member (4 year term)
- City Park Board Member (4 year term)

A candidate for a city office or a park board office must turn in a completed SFN 02704

Petition/Certificate of Nomination and SFN 10172 Statement of Interest to their City Auditor by the above deadline date and time.

All forms are available from either your City Auditor or can be obtained on-line at <http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote>.

THE BLIND ROOSTER CAFE



Starting March 2nd

- New Cafe Hours: 11:00AM – 8:00PM Mon-Fri
- Lunch Specials: 11:00AM – 2:00PM
- Appetizer of the Week: Changes weekly
- Take-Out orders – Pick up in cafe

- 3 ways to order from Duke’s Tavern –
 - Call for pick-up 701-784-5920
 - Walk over & put in your order
 - Have your waitress bring over a ticket

– New Friday Night menu –
coming soon

10 Reasons Why Classical Christian Education Is Needed in Today's World

#5: Because Beauty and Wonder Still Matter

Children are naturally drawn to beauty. They love stories, music, art, and the world around them. Many parents worry that modern classrooms move too fast and rely too heavily on screens.

At Christian Crossroads Academy in Stanley, learning makes room for wonder. Children sing, listen to beautiful stories, observe nature, and create with their hands. These experiences slow learning down in healthy ways and invite joy into the classroom.

Beauty helps children love what is good and true. It nurtures attention, gratitude, and care. When students are surrounded by beauty, their hearts are shaped alongside their minds.

Wonder is not a distraction from learning. It is an important part of it. Children who learn to notice and appreciate beauty often grow into thoughtful, joyful learners. Education that includes wonder gives children space to delight in God’s creation and develop a lasting love of learning.

St. Jude Novena

To St. Jude, Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in Miracles, near kinsman and Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need.

To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg to who God had given such great power to come to my assistance.

Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make known your name and cause you to be involved. St. Jude, Pray for us and all who invoke your aid.

Amen

Say three (3) Our Fathers, three (3) Hail Mary's and Glory Be.

Publication must be promised. My request has been granted.

Say this Novena on nine (9) consecutive days.

BASEMENT WATER?



Fix it with a new sump-pump drain system.

FREE ESTIMATE

701-402-2222

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION & MASONRY

REDUCE YOUR 2026 PROPERTY TAX BILL BY UP TO \$1600!

Eligibility requirements for the Primary Residence Property Tax Credit:



- Must own a home in ND and reside in it as your primary residence
- One credit per household, no age or income restrictions
- Must apply and be approved annually to receive the credit



Application Deadline: April 1, 2026
Apply Online: www.tax.nd.gov/prc