

# Editorial, Opinion & Misc. News

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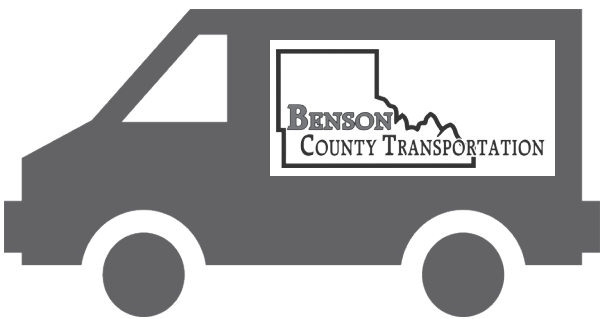
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**NDNA**  
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



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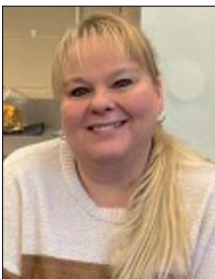
**GRIN and BEAR IT** *Wagner*



“Would you like to take it for a test mow?”

### More smiles

By Sue Klemetsrud



### North Dakota newspapers thankful for legislative votes

BY CECILE WEHRMAN

Executive Director, ND Newspaper Association  
On the whole, North Dakota legislators understand the importance of newspapers, and their actions during the 2025 legislative session show it.

Legislators protected the publication of county minutes in newspapers, voting down a bill that would have given the option to post them only on county websites; voted to keep highway bid notices in newspapers rather than only posting them on trade or government agency websites; restored the historic practice of spreading publication of insurance abstracts across all newspapers in the state instead of just eight; passed a postal resolution asking for better delivery service for newspapers and consumers alike; and on Wednesday [April 16] passed a bill that gives legal weight to [www.ndpublicnotices.com](http://www.ndpublicnotices.com), a website maintained by the ND Newspaper Association.

SB 2069 was the first bill I testified on back on January 9, and the last of the five bills passed among those we were most concerned about. The bill provides two backstops for legal notices in the rare instance a newspaper fails to publish a notice, counting a notice at [ndpublicnotices.com](http://ndpublicnotices.com), as well as a notice on a state agency website, as fulfilling legal notice -- while leaving requirements for publication of print notices in place.

Because I wrote on this topic earlier in the session, it's important to let people know what is NOT happening.

The state will NOT be developing a public notice website capable of cutting newspapers out of public notice placements at some future point. It was, however, a discussion among some legislators who saw this bill as a way to take a step toward eliminating the costs of publishing notices in newspapers.

When you know there are people in government who feel notices in newspapers have no value, it can seem like your house is on fire.

But the votes on some of the bills I mentioned above show that, by and large, legislators support upholding newspapers as the vehicle for delivering public notices.

Just look at some of these tallies: HB 1380, the county minutes on the web bill, failed in the House 80-13; HB 1398, restoring the historical abstract publication process, passed in the House 86-6; and SB 2069,



Cecile Wehrman

though it had a closer vote in the Senate -- possibly due to some confusion since we opposed it originally -- passed in the House 72-17; SB 2062, taking highway bids out of newspapers, failed 89-4.

That feels, to me, like an incredible showing of support for the importance of public notices in newspapers.

Now, 73 privately owned businesses operating newspapers can breathe a sigh of relief, along with voters.

We know citizens give overwhelming support to the concept of a trusted third party like newspapers having oversight of public notices.

SB 2069 as passed will now solve the issue of a public hearing needing to be rescheduled because one out of a dozen or more papers required to publish it had a miss.

I wish I could say newspapers are perfect, but every business occasionally has a hiccup due to illness, death, employee turnover -- heck, even a cyber attack -- which can cause highly consequential notices to be missed.

You'll still never convince me that a website alone is where public notices should be placed, because the mechanism for people to see them is much different than for people sitting down with a newspaper delivering news about their community along with notices about the government actions that may impact them.

However, in the end, SB 2069 is a good compromise -- providing an alternate avenue for people to learn of a pending hearing when unforeseen disruptions impact newspapers, while leaving alone the printed newspapers' supremacy as the trusted place to access public notices in North Dakota.

### A springtime twist on classic chicken soup

Chasing away those final cool days in the spring can be done in a cinch: just turn classic chicken noodle soup into a fresh, lemony meal. This lemon chicken orzo soup calls to mind those classic broth soups from when you were a kid, but with a flavorful spring twist. Serve with fresh cucumber sandwiches for a veggie-forward meal and find more soup inspiration at [Culinary.net](http://Culinary.net).

**Lemon Chicken Orzo Soup**  
Courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

2 carrots  
2 celery stalks  
3 tablespoons butter  
2 cups cooked, chopped chicken

1/3 cup lemon juice  
2 teaspoons lemon pepper  
6 cups broth  
1 cup orzo  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
1 tablespoon onion powder  
1 tablespoon thyme  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 cup heavy cream



4 ounces cream cheese  
1 cup Parmesan cheese  
2 teaspoons celery salt  
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
Salt, to taste  
Pepper, to taste  
Chicken salad croissants, for serving

Chop asparagus into bite-size pieces. In large pot, place asparagus, butter, onion powder, garlic powder and 1 cup broth. Cook over medium heat until asparagus gets tender.

Transfer to blender with 1 cup broth and blend until smooth. Transfer back to pot and, over medium heat, mix in cream cheese, remaining broth and Parmesan cheese. Add celery salt and Italian seasoning. Cook while stirring, blending seasonings in well, then add heavy cream. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Serve with chicken salad croissants.

-- Family Features

### Asparagus soup is easy, creamy spring goodness

For a soup that smells as divine as it tastes, warm up your home with the fresh scents and flavors of creamy asparagus soup. Pair with chicken salad croissants for a simple weeknight meal without the hassle, then visit [Culinary.net](http://Culinary.net) to discover more spring soup solutions.

**Creamy Asparagus Soup**  
Courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

2 asparagus bundles  
3 tablespoons butter  
1 tablespoon onion powder  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
3 cups broth of choice, divided

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SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 11 a.m.

Pierce County Fair Community Building, 208 2nd Ave. NE, Rugby, ND



Online bidding for pedal tractors:  
[westadauction.hibid.com](http://westadauction.hibid.com)

**COLLECTIBLES**  
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-1928 Lincoln "L" Dietrich 1/16  
-1933 Cadillac V-16 Town Car 1/16  
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-1908 Rolls Royce 1/16  
-Many model cars 1/32  
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-Buffet, matches table  
-China cabinet  
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