

DICKEY COUNTY LEADER

The Official Newspaper of Dickey County

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Dakota Plains Credit Union
Come grow with us!

Summer Cookout

Thursday June 26th, 2025

Details

- Join us for lunch starting at 11:00 until 1:00 P.M.
- Northern Brain Freeze is back again this year!

120 1st St N Ellendale, ND 58436
www.dakotaplainscreditunion.com

New mural takes shape on intersection of Main & 281

Working on a scaffold a few feet away from the busiest intersection in Dickey County, Morgan Fischer (2021 EHS grad) began work last week on a giant painting that will soon replace the weathered mural that has graced one of Ellendale's most visible walls for the last 37 years. "I'm hoping to finish it by July 9," Morgan said, "Although that will require good weather." The mural is being funded by Ellendale Tourism and is intended to represent the town and provide a bold welcome to visitors and potential new residents.

The existing mural, with its western theme, was painted in June 1988 by Ellendale native Boyd Blumer, who served as an art instructor at UND-EB in the 1970s (see the June 13, 1988 *Leader*). Blumer's work was part of preparations to celebrate the centennial of the founding of the state of North Dakota, an anniversary that prompted countless local history and heritage projects in Ellendale and throughout the state.

Morgan is not a novice mural painter. Two years ago she painted the much-loved butterfly mural on the east side of the Radermacher building (see below), greatly enhancing the view for those heading west on Main Street and for those peering out of the big glass windows inside the Evergreen building.

Growing up in Ellendale, Morgan always had an artistic bent, and this was nurtured when she attended Kids Art classes led by Jamie Eberle, an



A last look at an old familiar scene: outlining the new mural was the first step of this long and detailed process. When asked if being up on the scaffold made her nervous, Morgan said that after a few hours she gets used to it. She did say, though, that the big semis that rumble only a feet away can make it hard to concentrate. (photo by Ken Smith)

accomplished artist who has done several local building murals as well.

As seen in the photo, preparation for the mural is a detailed affair. Morgan first made an outline of the mural space before applying an initial

base-coat of white paint. As progress continues day to day, motorists and pedestrians are left to watch the new project take shape, speculating on its final appearance. If you see Morgan out on the street, be sure to thank her for her efforts!

Ellendale Lions Club

STEAK FRY

Wednesday, July 2nd
5:00 to 7:00 pm at
Ellendale Legion Hall

10oz New York Strip Steak,
Baked Potato, Coleslaw and Dessert
\$25.00 per Person

Funds raised will help fund
Lions Club projects in Ellendale

To Go Orders:
701-349-3496

ALSO: The Opera House lunches, featuring walking tacos, chili dogs, and more, are available each Friday from 11:00 to 1:00. Stop by and enjoy visiting with old and new friends, and help support O.P.E.R.A.'s mission at the same time!

84 year-old cross-country bicyclist enjoyed Ellendale

"I'd like to talk to the newspaper editor, can you direct me to him?" That was what a bicyclist in a fluorescent green jacket asked a strolling couple on a pleasant June 6 afternoon in Ellendale. As it turned out, they could, and it didn't take them long to direct him towards the *Leader* editor.

James D. Mann of Tallahassee, Florida had pedaled over from Ashley that morning. The day before, he'd ridden from Linton to Ashley. Before that, his daily stops were in Bismarck, Hebron, and Dickinson. His journey had begun in Beach, the westernmost town in North Dakota on I-94. His destination was Iowa.

A fair number of long-distance bicyclists pass through Ellendale, and we are familiar with several newspaper articles the *Leader* has published about them in years past. But Jim Mann is probably the oldest: he showed us his driver's license, and it indicated that his birth date was January 30, 1941. That makes him 84 years old.

Though he mentioned several physical challenges he's had in recent years—one requiring a heart stent—he's stayed fit enough to travel safely on road shoulders for 50 to 100 miles per day.

He does, however, have an advantage over other long-distance bicyclists we've met in the past: he travels on an ebike. An electric motor, powered by an 8-lb battery, assists his pedaling and makes things go smoother and easier.

In our visit, it soon became evident that Jim liked to talk, so we invited him to our home



"I couldn't have tolerated sitting at home in retirement," said 84-year old Jim Mann, who has gone on numerous bike travel adventures in the last 20 years. His long distance treks, he said, have had a positive effect on his body and his mind. "I really believe staying active has kept me on the right side of the grass," he told the *Leader*. (photo by Ken Smith)

where we had already planned to fry steaks for dinner. Throughout the meal, our 84-year old guest regaled us with stories of bicycling adventures he'd had during his nearly 20 years of retirement.

Nearly three weeks later—just this Monday morning—Jim returned to Ellendale, having retrieved his car from Beach. He stopped by the

office to say hello before heading to Iowa to get his bicycle and then head home to Tallahassee. While he was retracing his route from Bismarck to Ellendale in the comfort of his air-conditioned Subaru, Jim told us he could hardly believe he had pedaled all those miles. But he had, with a little help from an 8-lb battery.

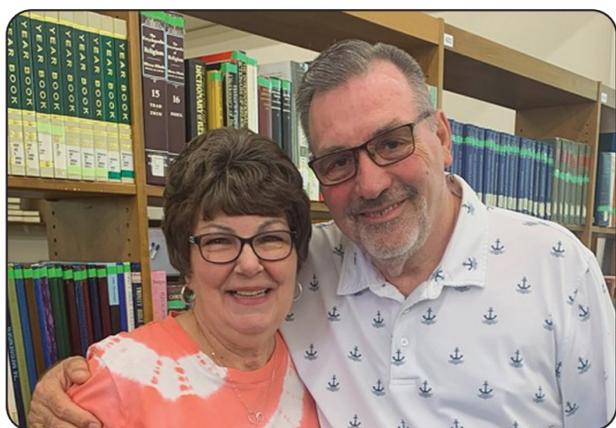
We wish all the best to Jim in his future travels.

At retirement, TBC librarian recalls lifetime of service, opportunities, and blessings

By Trinity Greetings
Ellendale, North Dakota

This spring Trinity alumni Phyllis (Seibold) Kuno retired from her service as Librarian at Trinity Bible College and Graduate School. Phyllis and her husband, Dan, both alumni, share a heart for young people and have been involved at Trinity for over 50 years of combined service. They married in September of 1975 and have two children and eight grandchildren. Enjoy the Kuno's stories of fond memories from their time at TBC and how God proved to be reliable throughout their lives.

Phyllis and Dan attended Trinity in the early 1970's and their time as students was full of fun memories. Phyllis recalled the lunch menus that never changed, and all the different music groups. She sang in multiple groups including Soul Purpose, the Troubadours, and choir. Events like Sadie Hawkins Week and recurring parts of campus life also brought back the joy of being a student.



Phyllis and her husband Dan Kuno, who attended Trinity in the mid 1970s, have been associated more closely with the school and for longer than perhaps any other Ellendale residents. They share a vast storehouse of memories that connect the school's present with its past.

"The cafeteria had different decorations every Wednesday evening and was sort of a date night—decided by whoever you matched up with in the opposite lunch line," said Phyllis.

Dan and Phyllis both recalled

how chapel produced an abundance of spiritual growth in their lives—and the orange pews! Dan specifically remembered a revival week with speaker Dick Eastman that impacted his life.

"One night Eastman asked us to bring any idols to the altar—so people left for their dorm rooms and brought back stuffed bears, car keys, shotguns, and more; anything that was distracting them from putting God first. Another night he had everyone go to the gym, gather in groups of ten out of the 400 students that attended, and pray. That night I experienced the power of God in a new way I never had before."

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Public Service Commission (PSC) reaffirms JETx approval

By Masaki Ova, *Jamestown Sun*, June 19, 2025

BISMARCK — The North Dakota Public Service Commission on Wednesday, June 19, unanimously denied a request to reconsider a vote on the JETx transmission line project.

The PSC granted Otter Tail Power Co. and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. certificates of public convenience and necessity for the JETx project in November.

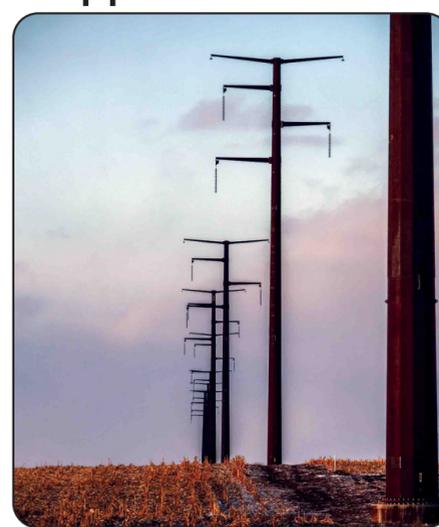
"We very much appreciate the PSC sticking with their previous order of approval," said Stephanie Hoff, director of communications for Otter Tail Power. "There are processes in place for large projects of this nature for a reason, and we believe that the PSC handled its previous decision appropriately and according to the process that was designed for this very purpose."

The proposed Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line project covers 95 miles and has a cost estimate of \$440 million. The project connects the Otter Tail Power substation north of Jamestown along North Dakota Highway 20 to the MDU substation near Ellendale. The line will have a 345-kilovolt capacity and will be capable of moving electricity in either direction as needed.

The project was requested by the regional power grid operator Midcontinent Independent System Operators (MISO) and is promoted as a way to improve regional power grid reliability. MISO manages the power grid for a 15-state area and parts of the Manitoba province. Hoff said the purpose of the project is to ensure the transmission lines aren't congested, which could lead to less reliability and resilience in the grid.

"Now is the time for us to do this project because we have the opportunity to do it in a very cost effective way for customers in this region with our involvement in MISO," Hoff said. "I think the key exciting factor is that this project helps to ensure that North Dakota continues to remain a viable and vital part of this region. It needs the energy to do so, and we just want to make sure the energy can get from point A to point B the way it needs to."

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This early 2018 telephoto view of the 345Kv Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE) transmission line previous to stringing, illustrates the type of towers that will be used for the planned JETx line between Ellendale and Jamestown. A number of landowners in townships between the two locations have expressed objections to the plan.

While the PSC has reaffirmed JETx, some townships within the proposed route have recently enacted zoning ordinances that would require structures be to be at least half a mile from inhabited homes or dwellings, instead of the 500-foot setback required in the North Dakota Century Code.

Last week, Stephanie Hoff, a representative of the Otter Tail Power Company told the *Leader* that as of yet, "The project hasn't been able to obtain landowner waivers of those setbacks and thus has requested variances." Hoff reaffirmed the project's objectives, stating that "we are continuing to work with local landowners, townships, and counties to secure permits. That's been our goal and practice since the beginning."

(photo by Ken Smith)

Recycling Pick Up		Recycling Dumpster Pick up					
Garbage Pick Up		Garbage Dumpster Pick Up					
June							
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
A	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
B	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
A	29	30	1	2	3	4	5