

valley news & views

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Your Weather



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Hi, hello and welcome
to our subscriber
of the week:
Dallas Grundstrom
West Fargo, ND

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AG: Land values on the rise, see the value comparison **PG. 2**



STATE: Legislative update on bills passed **PG. 4**



EDUCATION: Senior spotlight - meet two from the 2025 Class of DPS **PG. 9**



DVE senior Brady Reilly sprinted hard to the finish line against East Grand Forks competitor in the men's 100 meter dash during the meet in Grafton last week. Reilly had a successful day, earning state qualification in both the 200 m and 400 m events.

Photo by Jamie Rarick

**MORE TRACK PHOTOS
& MEET RESULTS
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Valley-Edinburg schools to vote on school referendum

By Mike Alan Steinfeldt

On Tuesday, April 29 residents living within the Valley-Edinburg School District will be asked to take part in a critical vote which will have implications stretching well into the future.

Currently Valley-Edinburg District 118 operates three buildings located in Edinburg, Hoople, and Crystal.

Valley-Edinburg primary houses Pre-K through second grade in Hoople. V-E Intermediate teaches students in grades three through six in Crystal and students in grades seven through twelve are taught in Valley-Edinburg secondary school in Edinburg.

After years of study and public input a plan to address building inefficiencies and improve learning spaces in within the district will be put in place.

If The plan is adopted by voters, it would close school operations in Crystal. The building itself would be vacated, but not demolished. The district says it will work with local leaders to explore beneficial community uses for the space.

If voters do not approve the plan, all three school buildings will remain in use, but the district will most likely have to pay higher costs for critical maintenance and any other improvements to the schools.

To approve the changes on April 29, voters in the district would have to vote "yes" on a pair of ballot questions – whether to increase the district's debt

'VE SCHOOL CON'T PAGE 9



Crystal, ND school is one of three facilities operating in the Valley-Edinburg school District 118. Photo by Andrea Johnston



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

North Dakota newspapers thankful for legislative votes

By Cecile Wehrman, NDNA Executive Director

a postal resolution asking for better delivery service for newspapers and consumers alike; and on Wednesday passed a bill that gives legal weight to www.ndpublicnotices.com, a website maintained by the North Dakota Newspaper Association.

SB 2069 was the first bill I testified on back on Jan. 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 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.

Family Nurse Practitioner – Certification (FNP-C) Kelly Gahlon, who has worked at Altru Clinic in Drayton for approximately eighteen months, received her masters degree as nurse practitioner in 2022.

Gahlon said she is originally from a small town which relied heavily on volunteers to help out the community. She started volunteering at the local fire department in Thompson, ND, when she was only 13-years-old.

That's when I became interested in the medical field," Gahlon said. "I have been doing health care most of my life."

She later became a paramedic and did that for 23 years, using a portion

Altru staff honors time serving Drayton community

By Christine Jensen

Through years of dedication and service, the staff at Altru Clinic in Drayton has enjoyed their time serving the community. Commemorating those years gives a glimpse into the people who brought wellness to the area through the work they were intrinsically committed to do.

A press release recently issued reads, "After careful evaluation of the utilization of services, Altru has made the difficult decision to close Altru Clinic in Drayton on May 1, 2025, for clinic services including primary care, lab, and radiology services. Therapy services will remain available at the current location. Clinical services will be available via virtual care, or, at Altru locations in Grand Forks. 'Altru remains committed to the Drayton community,' expressed Heather Strandell, Senior Director of Primary Care. 'Our therapy team will remain in the community, and we will help patients get connected with providers at our other locations, or via virtual care.'"

"I was saddened to hear of Altru leaving Drayton. We are actively seeking someone to provide services to our community."

- Mayor Charles Olson -

of that time to attend nursing school. She said she knew she wanted to be a nurse practitioner and after finishing school she was hired at Altru in 2000.

"I have worked for 24 ½ years for Altru. They have been good to me," Gahlon said. "Being from a small town, I enjoyed getting the time to spend with patients. In larger settings, you go from patient to patient but in Drayton I really was able to spend that time with the patients."

One of the things she enjoyed most about her work in Drayton is getting to know people and caring for them and their families.

"They are telling you they appreciate you and that is really rewarding," Gahlon said. "I like the small town and the community, it reminds me of my small town that I grew up in. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Drayton community."

Dr. Joel Walz received his undergraduate degree in biology from the University of North Dakota before attending medical school at UND for four years followed by training in Bismarck with affiliations to UND. He has worked as a doctor for 30 years, 27 of which have been for Altru.

Walz spent 20 years traveling to Drayton to serve the community at Altru Clinic. The days he was available varied throughout that time. He said one of the things he enjoyed most about his work in Drayton is the small feel of the clinic.

"We worked as a tight team," Walz said. "We efficiently addressed the families and felt appreciated in that small clinic."

He said he looked forward to coming to the clinic to work and said it was always so good to catch up with the people he got to know through the years. When Gahlon started at Altru Clinic in Drayton, Walz said they overlapped some and she followed him for a time in the beginning. He stopped coming to the Drayton Community after she was established.

According to Walz, he just had that calling to become a doctor because it is rewarding to see people doing

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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.

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