

Dakota Datebook by Steve Hoffbeck

Burlington Subsistence Homestead Project

January 30, 2025 – The town of Burlington, eight miles west of Minot, was a coal-mining town since its founding in 1883. The first Burlington mines were small operations that provided lignite coal for the local area and some for shipment to Grand Forks. By the 1920s, Burlington’s small mines struggled, due to competition from large strip mining operations and the underground mines at Wilton, but the small coal mines still gave employment to about 70 miners. Of these, 30 were immigrants, mostly from Eastern Europe. As the Great Depression hit in 1930, the coal veins near Burlington had nearly been depleted. The mines provided some income for miners during the fall and winter months, but demand for coal declined as the economy worsened and the miners worked only a few days per week. Summer work on farms for the men also declined, since rainfall dropped below normal from 1928 to 1934. The miners were reduced to living in rented shacks.

During the dry summer of 1934, two local men, coal-miner Bob Oliver and businessman Einer A. Madsen, developed a plan to help the demoralized coal-miners and their families. The men sought funding from the North Dakota Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, the state agency created to channel New Deal funding to worthwhile projects. Mr. Oliver and Mr. Madsen asked for authorization to establish “homestead units” for unemployed miners on land near the junction of the Des Lacs and Mouse rivers,

just northwest of Burlington. Miners would grow vegetables, mainly potatoes, in the summer and work in local coal mines in the winter. The construction of a dam would provide irrigation for the vegetables. The plan, dubbed the “Burlington Project,” gained approval in November, 1934. The project eventually consisted of thirty-five housing units on plots of land eight to ten acres in size. On this date in 1936, a local newspaper reported that 15 of the homesteads in the Burlington Project would

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be built by the Huston and Mackley Construction Company of Minot. Each of the homesteads consisted of a modest-sized house, a small barn “for a cow or two,” a chicken house, and a pig shed “for several porkers.” This federal resettlement project assisted 35 families until 1946, when the federal government ended its role in the Burlington Project, turning it over to the state of North Dakota.

“Dakota Datebook” is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all the Dakota Datebooks at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the “Dakota Datebook” podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shopprairiepublic.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEEKLY ONGOING EVENTS/REMINDERS:

***AA Fellowship Corner Meeting Schedule:** Monday 7 p.m., Wednesday noon, Friday noon, Saturday 8 p.m. ***NA Meetings:** Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 701-845-3705. The meetings are held at 320 2nd Ave SE in Valley City. ***Barnes County Museum,** is open and welcoming visitors from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed on Sundays. The museum is located at 315 Central Ave N, Valley City. Call Wes at 701-845-0966 for tour and additional information. ***Barnes County Veterans Service Office Veterans Coffee Hour** welcomes BC Veterans to a meet and greet with other area veterans every third Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Office is located at 575 10th St SW, Suite #7, Valley City (same building as Sheriff’s Office). Refreshments and treats will be provided.

***Celebrate Recovery,** a Christ centered 12-step program for every hurt, habit or hang-up meets 6:15 p.m. free will donation meal, 7 p.m. large group, 8 p.m. small group with childcare available at Connect Church, 320 Central Avenue South in Valley City. For more information call Tanner Nielsen @ 701-840-5281 or Erin @ 701-213-6834. ***Drivers License at Grand Stay Hotel & Suites,** 271 Winter Show Road in Conference Room every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information call 701-328-2500. ***Everbridge - Barnes County Emergency Notification System,** is a great way to get community updates directly on your phone. Download the app or choose to receive emails, phone calls or text messages on winter road closures, severe weather warnings, missing or endangered persons alerts and more. You choose what you want to be notified of and how you are notified. Go to www.co.barnes.nd.us

Click on resident alert button. Click on “sign up” button to add your information to this notification system. Create your account. Sign up for alerts. ***Roller Skating at the Rec. Center,** Sunday’s 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Optimist Club. ***St. Catherine Quilters** make quilts for those in need, meeting every Thursday from 1-4:30 p.m. and 6:30-9 p.m. in the basement gym of St. Catherine School. All are welcome, no experience necessary and supplies are provided. Questions call Christine 701-840-2580 or Lela 701-845-8352. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** **Thurs., Jan. 30** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Tuna noodle hot dish, Mixed vegetables, Mandarin oranges. Activities: 1:00 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes. • Nome Schoolhouse: Thirsty Thursday, Join us from 5-9 p.m. Location: 200 1st Ave. Nome, ND (701) 850-7764 **Fri., Jan. 31** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: BBQ chicken, baked potato, corn, fruit cocktail. • The Jamestown Regional Entrepreneur Center and the Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation are hosting an in person training presentation about small businesses and housing. This event is FREE and open to the public. Jan. 31st at the Skoal Conference room in the Memorial Student Union at VCSU. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. For more information, go to: jre-center.com/events. Questions?: katherine.roth@uj.edu.

Center menu: Hamburger on bun, Au Gratin potatoes, baked beans, apricots. • The Valley Troubadours rehearse tonight at 7 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church. **Tues. Feb. 4** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Chicken parmesan, baby bakers, broccoli, pears. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Advisory board meeting; 1:00 p.m. Pinochle. • Faith Lutheran Church: 10:30 a.m. -Women’s Bible Study. **Wed., Feb. 5** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Ham, Yams, stewed tomatoes, tropical fruit. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders exercise; 12:45 p.m. Bible Times. • Faith Lutheran Church: 1:00 p.m.-Quilters; 3:15 p.m.-Kids Club; 6:30 p.m.-Confirmation at Trinity Lutheran. **Thurs., Feb. 6** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Chicken noodle soup, turkey sandwich, V8 juice. Activities: 5:30 p.m. Super Night: Entree Roast Beef. Entertainment: Doran Chandler, Dave Oakland, & Dean Scoular. • Faith Lutheran Church: No Sunday School. 9:30 a.m.-Worship Service; 10:30 a.m.-Coffee Fellowship. **Fri., Feb. 7** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Cabbage roll, oven potatoes, wax beans, applesauce. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders Exercise; 1:00 p.m. Bingo. **Sat., Feb. 8** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: BBQ chicken, potato salad, peas and carrots, pineapple. **Sun., Feb 9** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Pork loin, mashed potatoes & gravy, Capri vegetables, Mandarin oranges. **Mon., Feb. 10** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Chicken Kiev, Rosemary potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail. • The Valley Troubadours rehearse tonight at 7 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church. **Tues., Feb. 11** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Fishwich on bun, scalloped potatoes, beets, peaches. Activities:

1:00 p.m. pinochle; 3:00 p.m. Action club. **Wed., Feb. 12** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, cauliflower, apple slices. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders Exercise; 12:45 p.m. Bible Times. **Thurs., Feb. 13** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Pancakes, sausage links, breakfast potatoes, juice. Activities: 1:00 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes. **Fri., Feb. 14** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Chili, cornbread, coleslaw, fresh fruit. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders Exercise; 1:00 p.m. Bingo. **Sat., Feb. 15** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Ham & bean soup, ham salad sandwich, apricots. **Sun., Feb. 16** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes & country gravy, peas, pears. **Mon., Feb. 17** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Stuffed peppers, baby bakers, corn, tropical fruit. • Barnes County Courthouse will be closed Monday, February 17, 2025 in observance of Presidents Day. The Barnes County Sheriff’s Office and jail will remain staffed. **Tues., Feb. 18** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Chicken pot pie over biscuit, lettuce salad, applesauce. Activities: 1:00 p.m. Pinochle. **Wed., Feb. 19** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Lemmon pepper tilapia, Au gratin potatoes, green beans, pineapple. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders Exercise; 12:45 p.m. Bible Times. **Thurs., Feb. 20** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Pork chop, mashed potatoes & gravy, carrots, Mandarin oranges. Activities: 11:30 a.m. Birthday dinner; 1:00 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes. **Fri., Feb. 21** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Bratwurst on a bun, potato salad, stewed tomatoes, fruit cocktail. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders Exercise;

1:00 p.m. Bingo. **Sat., Feb. 22** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Tatar Tot hot dish, dinner roll, Prince Edward vegetables, peaches. **Sun., Feb. 23** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Ham, yams, mixed vegetables, apple slices. **Mon., Feb. 24** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Lasagna, garlic toast, wax beans apricots. **Tues., Feb 25** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, broccoli, pears. Activities: 1:00 p.m. Pinochle Tournament. **Wed., Feb. 26** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Grilled chicken, oven potatoes, baked beans, tropical fruit. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders Exercise; 12:45 p.m. Bible Times. **Thurs., Feb. 27** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, peas & carrots, applesauce. Activities: 1:00 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes. **Fri., Feb. 28** • Barnes County Senior Center menu: Beef stew, lettuce salad, dinner roll, pineapple. Activities: 9:30 a.m. Bone Builders Exercise; 1:00 p.m. Bingo. **Sat., March 1** • Amy Pederson, the new owner of Blush Boutique will be having a “Grand Opening” today, March 1st.



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Extended Forecast for Valley City ND



National Weather Service
37/14
Thursday
Sunny, with a high near 37. West north-west wind around 10 mph.
Thursday Night
Partly cloudy, with a low around 14. North northwest wind 8 to 10 mph.
Friday
Mostly cloudy, with a high near 21. East northeast wind around 10 mph.
Friday Night
Cloudy, with a low around 12. East northeast wind 9 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.
Saturday
A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 32. East wind 7 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.
Saturday Night
A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. East southeast wind 6 to 15 mph becoming west northwest after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 22 mph.
Sunday
A 20 percent chance of snow before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25. Blustery, with a northwest wind 16 to 24 mph, with gusts as high as 34 mph.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jeffrey Gunkelman (#07229)
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Attorneys for: Estate
Probate No. 02-2024-PR-00071
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
BARNES COUNTY, STATE OF
NORTH DAKOTA
**In the Matter of the Estate of
Berniece Botner, aka Berniece
Elaine Marie Botner, Deceased.**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Gary Botner has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against said deceased are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to the undersigned, Jeffrey B. Gunkelman, Attorney for the Estate of Berniece Botner, or Gary Botner as Personal Representative of the Estate, at Kennelly Business Law, 117 3rd Avenue NW, Suite 5, Valley City, North Dakota 58072, or filed with the Court. DATED this 10th day of January 2025.
KENNELLY BUSINESS LAW
/s/ Jeffrey Gunkelman
Jeffrey Gunkelman
Attorneys for the Estate

(January 16, 23 & 30, 2025)