

LIBRARY CORNER

REVIEWS SUBMITTED BY JEANINE PAHL

HOURS: MON, TUES & THURS 1:30-5:30PM, WED 1:30-7:30PM, FRI 1:30-3:30PM.

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Clive Cussler's Cold Fire by Graham Brown

(NUMA Files #22) A powerful U.S. military plane destroys a missile over the Arctic—but then suddenly disappears. Investigators discover it was hijacked and the crew killed. It may have crashed in the Arctic Ocean, and now Russia, China, and the U.S. are all racing to find it, each suspecting the others. A small American research team is sent in, but tensions quickly rise toward conflict. Kurt Austin and his team uncover the truth: a single person is secretly manipulating the world's powers as part of a dangerous plan for revenge.

Dungeon Crawler Carl by Matt Dinniman

(Book 1 of 8) Breaking up is bad—but being stuck with your ex's cat is worse. Even worse? An alien invasion that destroys Earth and turns survivors into contestants on a deadly space game show. Carl, a Coast Guard vet, and Princess Donut the cat must survive a dangerous, video game-style dungeon filled with

traps and strange creatures—all while entertaining alien viewers. In this game, survival isn't guaranteed—but putting on a show is.

Rocket's Red Glare by James Patterson

Nat Phillips leads a team of highly skilled former military specialists. They're on standby at home—until a presidential campaign is interrupted by a murder. Now the threat is inside the United States, from Nantucket to Washington, D.C., turning a crisis into a real and dangerous mission.

Our Quarterly Public Library Board meeting will be held on June 18th at 4:00. The public is welcome to attend.

We continue to have a generous collection of Large Print books from NDSL. Stop by and look!

Bookworm Discovery Class - 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 in the library. (Year round)

Lego Lovers - 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00. (September-May)

Hoeven pressing Forest Service to better manage prairie dogs

WASHINGTON – During a hearing of the Senate Agriculture Committee this week, Senator John Hoeven pressed for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to more proactively manage prairie dog populations on USFS lands, which are impacting ranching operations and adjacent private lands. Hoeven outlined to USFS Chief Tom Schultz language he included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Interior Appropriations bill that calls on the agency to:

Limit prairie dog habitat to no more than 1.5 percent of federal land in any single grazing allotment.

Establish a one-mile buffer between federal lands and state and private lands.

The senator stressed that current USFS policy has not created a sufficient buffer, resulting in prairie dog encroachment upon adjacent, non-federal acres, damaging the landscape and creating a real hazard for livestock.

Schultz responded that USFS expects to release a plan in the next month, and

Hoeven secured a commitment from Schultz to visit North Dakota and discuss the plan in detail with local grazing groups.

"Prairie dogs are a big problem in the Dakota Prairie Grasslands," said Hoeven. "Our grazers are losing ground, not just on federal lands where they are permitted, but on their adjacent private lands. The existing buffer isn't getting the job done. I appreciate that Chief Schultz is working to comply with the legislation we passed, and I look forward to reviewing the plan the Forest Service is developing, which should be released in the next month. At that time, we will arrange a meeting with the Chief to get input from our local grazers and make sure this new plan works for them."

In addition, Hoeven thanked Schultz for USFS' continued efforts, including those of USFS Deputy Chief Chris French, to control noxious weeds on federal lands. Hoeven continues to work to advance the \$4.5 million grant to local grazing groups for weed spraying.

Public Notices

www.ndpublicnotices.com

CITY COUNCIL MEETING May 12, 2026

The City Council met at 6:00 PM at Oakes Community Center/Zoom with the following members present: Mayor Sitzler, Council: Harris, Day, Kelly, D Hollingsworth & J Hollingsworth. Employees present: Chad Raatz, Matt O'Brien, Fallon Kelly and Zasha Johnson.

Engineer Report: Josh Roehrich presented an updated schedule for the water plant improvements, well demo will take place in June, the remainder of the work will be completed in the fall. He submitted a change order that was needed due to need to replace membranes for RO skid and an additional valve replacement. D Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve change order #1, carried. Day moved, Kelly second to approve Moore invoice 8855 for work on the project, carried. Invoice 8854 from Moore was submitted for technical assistance at the water plant. J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve invoice, carried. The bid for the sanitary manhole replacement was awkward to Naastad Brothers, with work scheduled for July. Moore invoice 9099 for work on the project was presented. D Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to approve invoice, carried. The Highway 1 Connectivity study is being finalized and will be presented at the June meeting.

Minutes, Auditor and Court Reports: J Hollingsworth moved, Kelly second to approve minutes with spelling error and special event permit corrected, carried. Day moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve police report, carried. Kelly moved, J Hollingsworth second to approve auditor reports, carried.

Building Permits: Day moved, Harris second to approve building permit for Lot 9 & 10 Block 15 Original Plat, Apartments, carried. Kelly moved, Harris second to approve building permit for Lot 6 Block 1 Reko's 2nd Addition, Concrete driveway and curb cutting, carried.

Gaming Site Authorization: Harris moved, Day second to approve gaming site as listed, carried.

1. Oakes American Legion Club – The Legion Sportsbar

Game of Chance Permits: J Hollingsworth moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve game of chance permits as listed, carried.

1. Stronger Together – Raffle
2. Live Like Bobby – Cow Pie Bingo
3. Bear Creek Roughriders – Raffle

Special Event Permit: Day moved, Harris second to approve special event permit as listed, carried.

1. Harvest Inn – Beer Garden at Hockenberry Car Show
Bills: J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve bills, carried.

Aflac	591.64
Agtegra	33.02
American Welding	81.33
Avid Hawk	200.00
Aqua Pure	2762.40
Bear Creek Flying Service	1347.50
Bear Creek Roughriders	5000.00
City of Fargo	42.00
Computer Express	44.99
Corner C Store	21.89
Dakota Improvement	3480.00

Dakota Valley Electric	646.00
DRN	995.45
Dakota Supply Group	150.09
Economy Propane	1013.85
Fabian Pest Control	210.00
Information Technology	175.85
Kustom Machine	194.97
Maguire Iron	3000.00
MDH Construction	472.50
Michael Todd Industrial Supply	3124.49
Midwest Pest Control	138.00
Moore Engineering	632.50
Napa	38.82
OEI	10,143.94
One Call Concepts	21.00
ND Comm Corrections	269.50
NDPERS INS	23,184.94
NDPERS-Retirement	9603.73
Oakes Times	410.04
Oakes Truck & Trailer	1660.99
Otter Tail Power	10,761.52
Praskas	541.11
Rod's Cleaning	80.00
Starion Bank	2,407.04
Sweets & Stories	96.88
Tornado Stop	3605.69
Verizon	478.17
Visa Credit Card-City	559.85
Visa-library	922.04
Vistos	305.04
Waste Management	8719.84
Zacks Repair	168.00
Payroll Taxes	15352.41
Salaries	66,762.59

Visitors: Jeremy Rham from Ottertail Power presented copies of the Franchise Renewal agreement. It is a 20-year agreement last signed in 2006. J Hollingsworth moved, Day second to approve 1st reading of the agreement, pending attorney review, carried. Resident Tiffany Vold spoke about the noise nuisance in their neighborhood caused by the idling railroad engines that sometimes occur for multiple days at a time. She has contacted numerous individuals from the railroad and at the state level of leadership with no real success. City Attorney discussed that railroads are federally run and quiet zone projects are incredibly expensive to pursue. Vold mentioned a ND Infrastructure Grant that may be used to construct a noise barrier, with the possibility of RRWV being a co-sponsor, Johnson will look into this grant. D Hollingsworth mentioned that there was talk of the staging being moved out of city limits, will follow any update on this move.

Committee Reports: Johnson will order a sound system for meetings and try it out. Mayor asked Johnson to work with city attorney to write a letter regarding ordinances for campers in town, especially on residential lots to distribute to the community. Harris would like to look at updating ordinances to limit liquor licenses based on population, possibly one license for every 300 people in town, with the current 6 being allowed until population changes. Also, make a requirement to have electronic ID readers in each business. Kelly pointed out how grass clippings blown into the street have already caused problems with drainage during rain events and would like to see further action taken on those individuals that continue to do it. How to meter and charge trailer parks more accurately for water usage was discussed. The billing amount average

will be figured and brought to the next meeting along with quotes for individual meters being installed "cold-weather ready". The gym floor replacement was discussed and a quote was received from Total Home to replace the tile with a similar product. Would like to get more information on other options such as the sport court type of flooring. Also, try to obtain donations from local groups to help cover costs. Still looking for Grant options to update the spotlight timing control system. Clean-up day at the landfill was chaotic and busy, should have more help next time. J Hollingsworth is working with WSI on an ergonomics grant for some equipment for the public works department. Questions about how residential notifications on 14th Street would occur when the manhole work begins. It is a requirement for the contractor to provide notifications, but the city will also provide notice as soon as the schedule is confirmed. Property clean-up notices were discussed with city attorney stressing that we need to follow through and possibly only do a few properties at a time. Chief O'Brien will submit photos of some properties for the council to review and decide which to move forward with.

Unfinished Business: D Hollingsworth moved, J Hollingsworth second to approve the 2nd reading of the update to the Off Highway Vehicle Ordinance, carried. Council reviewed information on the NDIRF Sewer Back-up endorsement. Discussion was tabled until June meeting to gather further information.

New Business: Official Paper Designation, Kelly moved, Day second to designate the Oakes Times as the official newspaper for the city, carried. Sales Tax request was received from the D.A.R.E. program for \$500 to cover cost of year end field trip. D Hollingsworth moved, Harris second to approve request as presented, carried. Tourism tax request was received from Bear Creek Roughriders for \$5000. Kristina Sigaty was present as representative and she gave information on cost of rodeo, attendance and the large reaching draw the rodeo has. J Hollingsworth moved, D Hollingsworth second to approve tourism tax request as presented, carried. Great Plains Oil submitted a notice to proceed with the next phase of their project, including the store and utility infrastructure, along with a request for any specific requirements that need to be addressed. The City Attorney sent a response asking for detailed plans and specs for the water and sewer infrastructure updates as required by City Ordinance.

Announcements & Correspondence: The location of the June meeting will be moved to the Fire Department due to the Community Center being used as a voting location for the Primary Election. Harris moved, J Hollingsworth second to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Mayor
Attest Zasha Johnson
(minutes subject to correction and approval at the next regular meeting)
(Printed in the Oakes Times
June 11, 2026)



Gathering

Oakes 3rd Annual Gathering and 463 Foundation are holding a social in memory of Liam Medd at The Edge in Oakes June 20, at 5:00 p.m.

15 year old Liam Medd died by suicide on February 1, 2021. Liam was an athlete, a boy scout, a great student friend and leader. There were no symptoms or red flags. Liam lived life big and his mom and dad Elizabeth and Todd along with Liam's sister Selma felt they owed Liam their energy to carry on his Legacy. They formed the 463 Foundation with the goal to help kids and families avoid the nightmare that they were enduring.

The mission of the 463 Foundation is to help kids and families understand that there are not always detectable signs leading up to a suicide, that suicide is not reliably predictable, and to highlight the importance of access to resources. Liam's family has provided the opportunity for difficult conversations in an effort to help erase the stigma around mental health challenges and suicide and to provide hope for kids and families. Over the past five years the foundations message has been presented in person to over 10,000 kids in middle school, high school and collage students along with numerous community presentations for families. Elizabeth provided three such presentations in Oakes schools and a community presentation in February.

So plan to stop by the "All You Can Eat and Drink" Social Saturday, June 20 at 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person and donations are welcome.

Donations can also be sent to Dakota Medical Foundation, 4321 20th Ave. S, Fargo, ND 58103, Attn: Designate 463 Foundation.

All proceeds go to 463 Foundation.

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Dean B. Kaner

A fire destroyed 1,000 books in the college campus library. The real tragedy was that 500 hadn't been colored in yet.

VISION ZERO

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Oakes Lions Winners

5/20-26

Trevon Coachran	\$50
Billy Joe Dunn	\$50
Sydney Meehl	\$50
Cindy Guyett	\$100
Troy Sohreiner	\$100
Emily Erickson	\$50
Adam Baxter	\$50

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LETTER POLICY
The Oakes Times welcomes letters to the editor on issues of public interest. To be published, letter must:
- Be signed and include your address. Unsigned letters will not be considered.
- Letters may not be used to thank specific people or organizations.
- The Oakes Times reserves the right to edit for length, taste and libel considerations. Letters must be 250 words or less and deal with only one topic.
- Be legible.
- Preference will be given to letters from the Dickey County area. Letters from outside the area will be considered if they are of sufficient interest.

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