

State Forest Service sent two engines three firefighters to Nebraska fires

North Dakota is supporting the Nebraska wildfire fight by sending two North Dakota National Guard 600-gallon “Bambi Buckets” for aerial firefighting via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

As of March 19, Nebraska’s two largest fires were currently burning at 67% and 78% contained with a combined area of 771,110 acres.

Additionally, the North Dakota Forest Service sent an engine and three firefighters to assist crews battling the Qury Fire in South Dakota’s Black Hills.

“When our neighbors ask for help, North Dakota answers the call, just as other states have come to our aid in times of crisis,” Gov. Kelly Armstrong said. “We thank and pray for the success and safety of our firefighters and all those putting themselves in harm’s way to protect life and property from these wildfires.”

North Dakota state agencies are monitoring the situations in Nebraska and South Dakota closely and stand ready to offer support as requested through various state-to-state compacts including EMAC.

The conditions so far this year have produced significant, even historic, events across Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and South Dakota. As winter recedes, these

conditions can be expected to continue moving northward. North Dakota has had 58 wildland fires reported so far this year with much of the southwest corner of the state experiencing periods of high fire danger.

The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services has already convened Fire Readiness Level calls with state agencies and partners to ensure staff and equipment are prepositioned as conditions warrant and are prepared to offer surge support as requested by local, tribal, and federal departments and agencies.

North Dakotans can mitigate the risks of wildland fire by monitoring the fire danger in your area as well as abiding local burn restrictions in place. You should always learn before you burn at NDRresponse.gov/burn

For landowners considering burning piles this spring: Check conditions and restrictions—learn before you burn at NDRresponse.gov/burn; Burn only on days with low wind as piles *can* and *do* reignite in the wind, sometimes days later; Create a 10-foot cleared mineral perimeter; Create compact piles of natural debris no bigger than 4x4x4 feet; Always keep watch over the fire as it burns and recheck piles days after burning to ensure embers are extinguished.

University of Mary introducing students to Cyber security

High school students who enjoy gaming, puzzles, coding, or exploring technology behind the scenes will soon have a new arena to test their skills.

The University of Mary will host its inaugural CyberConnect CTF (Capture the Flag) cybersecurity competition on April 14, inviting students in grades 9–12 to compete in a fast-paced, gaming-style environment while learning about careers in the rapidly growing cybersecurity field. Hosted by the Gary Tharaldson School of Business, the event runs from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Chick’s Place in the Lumen Vitae University Center on the University of Mary campus. Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m.

Students may register either as a team of four or individually. Those without a team will be placed on one by event staff. Participation is free, lunch is provided, and the top teams compete for cash prizes of \$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second, and \$500 for third. Teams must register by March 27 at UMary.edu/CyberConnect.

Introducing Students to Cybersecurity

CyberConnect was created to connect students with a field that touches nearly every career.

“As the digital age advances and cyber threats become more sophisticated, so too does the importance of cybersecurity,” said Tanya Taplin, director of cybersecurity and assistant professor. “The University of Mary is hosting CyberConnect to connect high school students with the cybersecurity industry and introduce them to the field.”

Taplin added that the competition encourages students from diverse backgrounds to consider careers in technology.

“We want students of all demographics to consider the cybersecurity and IT industry as a career choice,” she said. “We are trying to raise awareness, spark interest, and show students that cybersecurity can be a rewarding and exciting career. Ninety-nine percent of jobs use technology — every student should be cyber aware.”

Where Gaming Meets Cyber Defense

Capture the Flag competitions — or CTFs — simulate real-world cyber defense challenges in a competitive format. Teams solve technical puzzles to uncover hidden digital answers, called “flags,” earning points on a live scoreboard.

“The University of Mary CTF competition stands at the intersection of gaming and cyber defense, offering students a platform to develop skills that will define their future careers,” said Dr. Kevin Fishbeck, director of computer information systems. “These events simulate real-world cyber attacks in areas like cryptography, forensics, and web exploitation. They are Continued Page 11

Datebook

“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.

Snow Geese at Tewaukon by Jack Dura

March 23, 2026 – North Dakota is a popular stopover for migrating waterfowl. Even endangered whooping cranes make a pit stop here, but the migrating snow geese at Lake Tewaukon are one of the most impressive sights. They’d give Alfred Hitchcock’s movie “The Birds” a run for its money. The little lake and the sky above it become a cloud of white as hundreds of thousands of snow geese swirl and swim. The geese flock to Lake Tewaukon in March, usually around this time of year, at times totaling over seven hundred thousand birds.

The snow geese migration also marks the start of movement for other waterfowl. Ducks, Giant Canada geese, and teal show up at Tewaukon in early April, with shorebirds like sandpipers and plovers arriving in May. Bald eagles and great horned owls also nest in the area.

The snow geese’s journey from wintering in southern Texas to their breeding grounds in Nunavut Territory, Canada is over 3,000 miles. Stops along the way might include cornfields near Urbana, Illinois, sloughs near Cleveland, and the ditches along I-94 – small wetlands that are some of the first bodies of water to warm up in spring. In North Dakota, they enjoy a paradise provided by the state’s prairie potholes.

Lake Tewaukon is part of the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge. This hotspot for naturalists offers another spectacle in May and June, when it features a chorus of wildflowers.

Spuds’ Day of Firsts by Merry Helm

March 26, 2026 – It was a day of firsts across the river in Moorhead, Minnesota. As reported on this date in 1928, Moorhead High had won its first major sports title by taking the 16th Annual Minnesota high school basketball championship. They beat a Minneapolis team, the Edison Inventors, before a record-breaking crowd of 7,200 spectators in the U of M Fieldhouse.

A reporter wrote, “In the championship game, Edison’s vaunted passing play, which baffled Northfield Friday, was no puzzle to the Moorhead Spudders after they got going in the second quarter.

“Moorhead, which has made frequent appearances in the state tournament as representatives of their section, used a cautious slow approach in invading the Edison’s territory, but once past the middle of the floor, they uncorked clever passes and some accurate shooting that brought them into favor with a majority of the rooters that were from outside the home city of the Inventors.”

Moorhead fans showed up in droves to welcome home their young heroes. Newspapers reported, “From the moment Clifford Halmrast, doughty captain and all-state forward, alighted from the train bearing the championship trophy, until a monster mass meeting was called to order in the high school auditorium, the cheers of the rooters, the blare of the bands, and the shrill cries of the [factory] whistles and [fire] sirens predominated. The victorious players and their coach, Glenn Hanna, were loaded on a fire truck with prominent city officials and were paraded through the main streets of the city.”

Halmrast scored 20 points – the most in any championship round between 1922 and 1944. Both he and guard Earl Moran were selected by newspapermen and officials for the Minnesota all-state team. Moran didn’t know it at the time, but he was way to becoming the first player to make all-state three times.

The Spuds won the state final again the following year - the first team in Minnesota history to win back-to-back championships. They hoped to make it three in a row the following year, but one of their players, all-state forward Pat Hilde, had just turned 20, making him ineligible.

Moran and teammate Carroll “Shorty” Malvey were the only Minnesota players to get to three state finals prior to 1971. After graduating, Pat Hilde, Earl Moran and Shorty Malvey enrolled at Concordia, in Moorhead, where they continued to make basketball history by leading that college to its first Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Title. All three teammates made all-state again – this time at college level.

By the way, the final score in that first state championship game played by Moorhead in 1928 was pretty low by today’s standard: The Spuds, 29. The Edison Inventors, 16!

**REQUEST FOR BID
MORTON COUNTY FAIR
BOARD**

The Morton County Fair Board is accepting bids for a concrete project at the Morton County Fairgrounds in New Salem, ND.

Contractors may request the official bid packet by emailing: info@mortoncountyfair.com

Bid deadline: March 30, 2026. The bid packet will be available Monday, March 16.

Morton County Fair Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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**Applications Accepted
JUNIOR AND SENIOR
LIFEGUARDS**

The Hebron Memorial Swimming Pool is accepting applications for the position of junior and senior lifeguards for the 2026 pool season.

Junior lifeguards must be at least 14 years of age and senior lifeguards must be 15 years of age.

Interested persons are asked to submit a letter of interest and/or resume to Hebron Park Board, P.O. Box 106, Hebron, ND and MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Wednesday, April 1, 2026 for consideration.

Hebron Park Board

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**Hebron Herald
DEADLINE**

The deadline to submit news and advertising for publication in the Hebron Herald is Friday at noon for the Wednesday edition.