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The Communicator

Your Community Connection

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October 15, 2024
tiogandnews@gmail.com
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Area Economic Development Corporation
Tioga
OIL & ENERGY CAPITAL OF NORTH DAKOTA

PO Box 93
Tioga ND 58852
701-664-8233



Community News

This Edition Dedicated to the First Responders, Medical Staff, and Volunteers in our communities : The Real Heroes



Fighting the wildest fire we've seen in our careers - Nathan Germundson

When volunteers of the Tioga Fire and Ambulance Departments hear their tones on the pagers go off, they have no idea what they will be getting into.

On Saturday October 5th when our call came in for Mutual Aid with Ray Fire Department, none of us probably thought we would be fighting the wildest fire we have seen in our careers.

That day was filled with blood, sweat, and tears. It was also a day we learned that our resources are much larger than one would think. There were so many people trying to help, not only the volunteer fire departments from across western North Dakota, but the Farmers risking not only their equipment, but their own lives to protect their neighbors' lively hoods. The oil companies, not only hauling water but providing blades and dozers trying to make fire breaks. People text and call to see what they can do to help. The amount of support was unreal and made me proud to live in western North Dakota.

Governor Burgum said it right when he visited, 'the people of North Dakota ban together and just get the job done'.

The support did not end on the fire ground...when we returned to the station, there were spouses and other members standing by, waiting for us to get back. They had food ready for us to eat. Ambulance and hospital staff were checking over our firefighters to make sure everyone was doing ok. So many people from the community dropped off food, snacks, and beverages. The love and support that was felt by the community was truly overwhelming.

All our members are volunteers. When the call goes out for help, they drop what they are doing and respond. That means leaving work, missing out on a family meal, missing a ball game or missing an anniversary or birthday party. We are grateful to the families and employers in our community that allow our members to leave home and work to answer the call. And most of them continue to pay the responder when they leave their job to respond. TFD spent the next 3 to 4 days hitting hot spots in tree rows and smoldering power poles. It was a long week for our responders and our neighbors to the west.

This fire broke out at the beginning of fire prevention week. There were some discussions to postpone the activities that we had lined up for the week. But the heart of a volunteer never quits giving and everyone wants to keep going full speed ahead

with the plans. The department hosted the entire elementary school at the fire hall on Thursday, giving them education on fire safety.

The week was finished with the pancake breakfast. The turnout from the community and surrounding area was great. It was nice to see neighboring fire departments coming to support us, community members thanking us over and over for our dedication.

The best thing I saw and heard on Friday night and Saturday were the members of the Tioga Fire and Ambulance coming together to prepare the meal. There was a lot of laughter and comradery, it was a great healing event for our members. These women and men that serve in these departments, truly are the best of the best. Hearts of gold that continue to give day in and day out.

Nathan Germundson FF/EMT

President of the Tioga Fire and Ambulance Depts.



Mark your calendars

Oct 15th: West Bank Township Mtg 3-6PM @ Tioga Comm Center
Oct 17th: EDC Member Meeting 12:00PM @ Side Street
Oct 18-19th: Bakken Nightmares Haunted House 8PM @ TCC
Oct 21st: Tioga City Commission Meeting 7PM Tioga City Hall
Oct 23rd: First Lutheran Church Fundraiser 5-7PM @ FL Church
Oct 25-26th: Bakken Nightmares Haunted House 8PM @ TCC
Oct 27th: Tioga Halloween Party 3-10PM @ Tioga Comm Center
Oct 31st: TMC Trail of Treats 3-4:30PM @ Tioga Medical Center

Tioga School Calendar

Oct 15th: Volleyball vs Powers Lake-Burke County 4:00PM
Oct 15th: School Board Meeting 6:30-7:30 PM @ THS
Oct 16, 23, 30th: Pirate Branch In school bank 8AM @ Central Elem
Oct 16th: End of Quarter 1
Oct 17-18th: No School (Teachers Convention)
Oct 19th: 1st round 9 Man playoffs - Football
Oct 20-27th: National FFA Convention
Oct 22nd: Volleyball vs Ray 3:00PM
Oct 30th: THS Career Fair



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Inspirational Quote

"Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much."

-Helen Keller

Tioga Trivia

How many volunteer firefighters and EMT's does the Tioga Fire and Ambulance dept have currently?

Last Weeks Answer: Rick Farrow Jr

Bible Verse of the Week

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose'.

Romans 8:28

A Little Chuckle

What do you call a woman with one leg?

Eileen.

Today in History:

1933: The 20th Amendment to the Constitution went into effect, changing the start of the presidential term from March to January

Community News

Tioga Medical Center thanks Staff and Partner Facilities for Exceptional Support During Wildfire Response - Jamie Eraas, TMC CEO

In the wake of recent wildfires that impacted our region, Tioga Medical Center would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff and the numerous partner facilities who joined forces in a rapid and coordinated response effort. Their tireless work ensured the safety and well-being of both patients and the wider community during this challenging time.

As flames threatened nearby areas, our medical professionals, administrative team, and support staff demonstrated extraordinary commitment, going above and beyond their duties. Over 25 Tioga Medical Center staff members responded to the incident—most without even being asked. Many of these individuals voluntarily worked extended hours and provided hands-on assistance, all while maintaining the highest standard of care for patients in our facilities.

A special note of gratitude goes to the ambulance services from Stanley and Trinity, whose swift and professional assistance in transferring patients to facilities for a higher level of care was invaluable. This critical support allowed our Tioga Ambulance services to focus on bringing patients safely to our facility and assisting local fire departments on the front lines. Trinity additionally staged two crews in our hospital parking lot through the night, providing immense reassurance that any patient that came in needing a higher level of care could be transferred without any delay. We truly appreciate their partnership and quick response during this time of need.

Our gratitude also extends to the emergency services that collaborated seamlessly to protect our communities, especially our Tioga Fire and Ambulance volunteers. Their quick action, resource-sharing, and logistical support played a crucial role in battling these fires. We are proud to stand alongside these organizations in our commitment to the health and safety of our community.

As the CEO of Tioga Medical Center, I am incredibly proud to be a part of this outstanding team. The dedication and compassion shown by our staff during this crisis was truly inspiring. I am fortunate to work alongside such an incredible group of professionals.

While the fires have subsided, Tioga Medical Center remains committed to being fully prepared for any future emergencies. We will continue to strengthen our collaborations, train our staff, and equip our facilities to respond swiftly and effectively to any situation.

We once again thank everyone involved for their unwavering dedication during this time. Together, we were able to ensure the safety and health of our community.

From the desk of City of Tioga Commission President, Brett Rienets

Dear friends, neighbors, and fellow residents,

I was asked if I would be interested in giving the community a high-level status update regarding recent and upcoming events in our city. It is my pleasure to do that while keeping it brief but informative, without taking up too much space in this edition of the Communicator.

As many are aware, we recently went through unexpected staffing changes within City Hall. As you might imagine, this was a challenging situation for everyone involved, including our former Auditor, our Commission members, our city personnel, and the community at large. We have a great deal of empathy and respect for everyone involved. For those reasons, and in the interest of balancing both the City's efforts to ensure transparency, while affording due respect for everyone involved, I am happy to try to answer any questions the community may have individually. You are all more than welcome to give me a call or send me a text message and I will do my best to respond in a timely manner. So where do we go from here? The answer is simple...we move forward.

We will be posting an employment opportunity at large soon, and I encourage anyone that would be interested in joining Team Tioga to apply. We are very hopeful the position posting will draw a bunch of interest and that we will have a large candidate pool to vet diligently.

December 10th is the scheduled date to hold the special election for our open Street Commissioner seat. I encourage everyone to get out and vote! Being short-handed on the commission board poses unique challenges from a support system for City employees, along with using up the other commissioners' time that could otherwise be spent in their respective departments, so I'm excited to have that seat filled again.

Lastly, I wanted to offer a special THANK YOU to all of our first responders both locally and in the surrounding areas for your phenomenal demonstration of response, teamwork, comradery, and professionalism during the tragic fires that took place a few weekends ago. I had a brief moment to talk with Governor Burgum about the event and we shared a common perception about what it means to be from North Dakota and specifically this area. Even when something unexpected and unpredictable happens, the one thing that is consistently predictable is that the community will come together and handle the situation in masterclass fashion. It was remarkable how everyone rallied around each other and prevented further loss. Everyone lost something. Some lost everything. The one thing we did not lose was our sense of community. I encourage everyone to take time out of their day to shake the hands of our volunteer firemen, EMT's, law enforcement, and everyone involved in emergency response when you see them. Thank them for keeping us safe and thank them for reminding us how a strong community spirit can make even the most unimaginable and challenging circumstances feel beatable.

A FIREMAN'S PRAYER

WHEN I AM CALLED TO DUTY, GOD, WHENEVER FLAMES MAY RAGE;
 GIVE ME STRENGTH TO SAVE SOME LIFE, WHATEVER BE IT'S AGE
 HELP ME EMBRACE A LITTLE CHILD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
 OR SAVE AN OLDER PERSON FROM THE HORROR OF THAT FATE.
 ENABLE ME TO BE ALERT AND HEAR THE WEAKEST SHOUT,
 AND QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY TO PUT THE FIRE OUT
 I WANT TO FILL MY CALLING AND TO GIVE THE BEST IN ME,
 TO GUARD MY EVERY NEIGHBOR AND PROTECT HIS PROPERTY.
 AND IF, ACCORDING TO MY FATE, I AM TO LOSE MY LIFE;
 PLEASE BLESS WITH YOUR PROTECTING HAND, MY CHILDREN AND MY WIFE.



Prayers to the families of:

Rose Westby: August 11, 1942 - September 21, 2024

Jack Seibel: September 4, 1954 - October 5, 2024

Johannes Nicolaas Van Eeden: - October 5, 2024

Vickie Lee: April 3, 1958 - October 6, 2024

Edgar Coppersmith, II: March 23, 1977 - October 6, 2024

"May there be comfort in knowing that someone so special will never be forgotten."

-Julie Hebert



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