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The Communicator

Your Community Connection

Edition 1
April 1st, 2024
tiogandnews@gmail.com



PO Box 93,
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701-664-3838

Community News

Tioga Area Economic Development Board welcomes you to the first edition of The Communicator!

It's been roughly 71 years since the community of Tioga has been without a local newspaper. The closing of the Tioga Tribune last year has left a void of communication for our community. Although not a replacement for a traditional newspaper, The Board of the Tioga Area Economic Development Corporation's hope is that this communicator will serve as an opportunity to keep our community connected...to share updates from our local business owners and leaders, celebrate accomplishments, remind you of important dates and events in the area, and finally, if you are new to Tioga, we hope you get a bit of insight into our great community.

You'll notice advertisements for local businesses/TAEDC Members. Please support these local businesses as they work hard to support you and meet your needs. The strength of a rural community is largely dependent on the strength and support of it's local businesses.

This is your community news! Your input/suggestions/articles are welcome. You can share with us via email at tiogandnews@gmail.com and we encourage you to do so.

-TAEDC Board Members: Wendy Lenzen, Chris Norgaard, Judy Odegaard, Nathan Germundson, Taryn Bergstrom, Robert Harms and Tim Sundhagen

From the Desk of Tioga Medical Center President/CEO - Jamie Eraas

The annual membership meeting of Tioga Medical Center was held on March 18th, 2024 in the Clinic Wellness Center. I would like to share the highlights of my CEO report with our community.

Members of our leadership team recently attended the American Hospital Association Leadership Conference in Florida. Many of the sessions presented information illuminating the challenges and triumphs of delivering healthcare services in rural America. A few of the trends being seen are misinformation and lack of trust, burnout and staffing issues, aging infrastructure, consumerism as big box stores are entering the healthcare industry, lack of specialty care, fiscal deficits and struggling local economies. During the sessions we learned innovative ways that facilities are addressing these challenges, and we look forward to implementing several of them at Tioga Medical Center.

Looking back at 2023, this was a year that held many changes at Tioga Medical Center. The biggest change being our leadership team. This began in January as I stepped into the role of President/CEO. Holly Bryant was hired to fill the CFO position in February and throughout the year we had 11 additional department leaders that were hired. We are proud to report that these new department leaders have brought a new level of excitement and many fresh ideas to Tioga Medical Center. Their willingness to serve our patients and residents is remarkable and I look forward to watching them continue to grow into their roles and lead their staff to new levels.

Another highlight in 2023 was the creation of the Roughrider Network. This is a network of rural ND Critical Access Hospitals and Clinics that was created to increase clinical quality, pool member resources, manage financial risk, and improve community health. The members in this network consist of 23 of the 24 Critical Access Hospitals in ND. Collaboratively the Roughrider Network represents 225,000 patient lives which is similar in size to the patients Altru represents. When we work together to represent this number of patients, we suddenly have a seat at the table when negotiating payor contracts and are able reduce costs through group purchasing. At the AHA Leadership Conference this North Dakota network was spoke about several times with references such as this: "Everyone needs to pay attention to what is happening in North Dakota...they are leading the nation on what rural healthcare can and will look like in the future..." While this is exciting, I want to assure you that Tioga Medical Center remains an independent facility and your care will not be altered by the development of this network.

In closing, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our patients. Your trust in our healthcare services is the cornerstone of everything we do. Your well-being and satisfaction drive us to continuously improve and innovate. We are committed to providing you with the highest quality care, tailored to your individual needs. Your health and comfort are our top priorities, and we are honored to be your partners on your journey to overall wellness. Thank you for choosing Tioga Medical Center as your healthcare provider. We look forward to serving you with excellence and compassion in the days ahead.

****Look for Jamie's discussion regarding 2024 goals and initiatives for TMC in the next edition of The Communicator!**

Mark Your Calendars

April 1st: A public hearing for annexation of Hess Corporation/Hess Gas Plant, LLC will be held by the Tioga City Commission @6:00PM at the Tioga City Commission Hall.

• Tioga City Commission Meeting will be held @7PM following the public hearing at the Tioga City Commission hall.

April 3rd and 10th: Gearing Up for Kindergarten 6:30-7:30pm, Central Elementary

April 8th: Filing deadline to have a candidate(s) name printed on the ballot for the City of Tioga is April 8th, 2024 by 4:00 PM.

City Offices to be filled at the June Election are:

One City Commission President 4 Year Term

2 City Commissioners 4 Year Terms

Three Park Board Members 4 Year Terms

One Municipal Judge 4 Year Term

April 13th: NW Veterinary Service Mobile Vaccination. Cats 9-10AM, Dogs 10-noon @Tioga Fire Hall



Hours:

Wednesday -1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Thursday -12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Friday -1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Saturday -10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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Inspiration

People of character do the right thing even if no one else does, not because they think it will change the world but because they refuse to be changed by the world.

-Michael Josephson

Tioga Trivia

What was the name of the newspaper in Tioga before the Tioga Tribune?

Bible Verse of the Week

Wisdom is better than jewels, and all things which may be desired are nothing in comparison.

Proverbs 8:11

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A Little Chuckle

Torkel and Hilda were going to meet up with Ole and Lena at an event in Minot, ND at Noon. Torkel and Lena arrived on time but there was no sign of Ole and Lena. About 4:00 they finally arrived and they both looked exhausted. Torkel said, "Vhat in da world took you so long to get here?" "Vell" Ole sighed, "about every 25 miles we saw dese signs dat said CLEAN RESTROOMS, so ve did."

Today in History:

1986: World Oil Prices dip below \$10 a barrel
1991: US Minimum wage goes from \$3.80 to \$4.25 per hour.

Community News

From the Oil Capital of North Dakota – Bakken Update with Kathy Neset

A typical measurement of oilfield activity over the past decades has been the count of drilling rigs. While this is still interesting information, it does not tell the entire story of the current measure and health of the activity of the industry. Currently we have about 41 rigs drilling in North Dakota. This is a good solid number and one that seems to match well with the oil company resources and with the equipment and workforce available.

It is important to note that there is more to the story, however. These 41 rigs drill wellbores two to three miles in horizontal length. For most of ND the vertical depth they drill to reach the Bakken formation averages about 10,000 feet. So, 10,000 feet vertically to the Bakken and then two to three miles laterally results in wellbores with a total measured depth of 20,000 to 26,000 feet. The time to drill these wells is sometimes as fast as 12 days. Absolutely amazing! Once these wells are frac'd and completed they begin producing oil and gas. That means that we are adding a lot of new wellbores into the inventory of producing wells for the state of ND. All these new wellbores need to be maintained and that is where the bulk of the work is now being focused. We can expect to see this field maintenance continue to be needed for decades into the future.

Another area of work that North Dakota leads on is Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS). We have heard a lot about this in ND news recently and the story will continue to unfold. NESET engineers and geologists have been working for the past several years on many of these projects and continue to collaborate with the scientists and engineers at the UND EERC to continue to advance these efforts. The work being done now deals with the subsurface formations and how to safely store and utilize CO2. CCUS will help ND with the development of enhanced oil recovery processes, making our resources all the more valuable. There is a lot of work yet to be done and enhanced oil recovery technology is still a few years away. However, the future is bright to continue to bring value to Tioga in the Heart of the Oilfield and to all of our great state.

From the Desk of Tioga School District 15: Superintendent Paul Olson

With the passing of the bond election on January 8, 2024, preliminary work with the construction project has already begun. Meetings for the construction project have mostly evolved around the subcontracting bidding process and some meetings for design i.e., selecting colors and classroom fixtures. The construction manager is still planning to begin the building construction the middle of June with a hopeful completion date August of 2025.

In other news, our winter sports have concluded, and our spring sports (track, boys golf, softball, and baseball) have begun with the hope for nicer weather to get our participants outside. Our first home game for softball is Monday, April 8th at 4:30, and baseball will be home on Thursday, April 11th at 4:30. Also, our high school prom will be Saturday, April 20th and our Commencement program for our graduating seniors will take place on Sunday, May 19th at 2:30pm in the high school gymnasium.

As with all schools in North Dakota in the spring, we will be providing our students with their annual state assessments in reading, writing, math, and science (NDSA – North Dakota State Assessment). Students in grades 3rd through 8th and 10th grade will be completing these assessments March 26th through April 26th. You are welcome to contact the elementary and high school for specific days for each assessment. Please take time with your children to share the importance of them trying their very best on the assessment. As our teachers work all year long instructing students in building their knowledge and creative thinking skills for them to continue onto the next grade level, we hope they will demonstrate this on their state assessment. Also, please make sure your children get plenty of rest the night before the exam.

Notices

Township Equalization Meetings:

April 1st: Big Meadow Twp Tax Equalization Mtg, 5pm, Wildrose Fire Hall

- Bicker Twp Tax Equalization Mtg, 7 pm, Patty Jensen's home
- Westbrook Twp Tax Equalization Mtg, 5 pm, Tioga Comm Center

April 2nd: Pleasant Valley Twp Tax Equalization Mtg, 7 pm, Ron's Sandblasting

April 9th: Equality Twp Tax Equalization Mtg, 9am, Ray Senior Center

- Dry Fork Twp Tax Equalization Mtg, 6pm, Tioga Comm Ctr
- South Meadow Twp Tax Equalization Mtg, 8am, Samuel, Sagaser's home

April 12th: Tioga Twp Tax Equalization Mtg, 7pm. Trevor Almer's 10434 69th St NW

Who is Benjamin Buck?

Benjamin Buck is the newest member of the Tioga Chamber. His task is to bring awareness to the Tioga Bucks Program and reward our community for supporting Tioga Chamber members. He has \$100 worth of Tioga Bucks to give away each month at an undisclosed Chamber business.



www.tiogandchamber.com



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