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Edition 34

August 15, 2025

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Community News

Tioga Medical Center Welcomes Three New Providers, Strengthening Access to Care - Jamie Eraas, CEO, Tioga Medical Center

At Tioga Medical Center, we are excited to share an important milestone in our ongoing journey to provide accessible, high-quality healthcare for our region. We have officially added three new providers to our care team—an investment that reflects not only our commitment to growth but also our dedication to our patients and the values that define us.

One of these new providers has already joined our clinic and is available for appointments. The other two will begin seeing patients in the coming months, and we look forward to formally introducing them to the community very soon. One of these incoming providers will also step into the role of Medical Director and Chief of Staff, a critical leadership position that ensures our clinical standards remain high and our team is aligned in delivering excellent care.

These additions are not about numbers—it's about accessibility, which we recently defined as one of our core values. For us, accessibility means more than having open appointments. It means creating a system where patients feel confident that their needs will be met, where they don't have to wait weeks for care, and where strong relationships with trusted providers are built right here at home. We know rural healthcare faces unique challenges, and we've been deliberate in our efforts to find the right people to meet those challenges. This hiring process has been thoughtful and intentional. We've taken the time to find the right providers who believe in the power of rural medicine – people who understand that what we do here is personal, and rooted in relationships, and only possible when we work together.

These additions will allow us to reduce wait times, improve continuity of care, and increase scheduling flexibility. But more than that, they represent a step forward in building a system of care that reflects who we are and what we value as a community: relationships, reliability, and respect for every patient who walks through our doors.

As we look ahead, I want to personally thank our patients, staff, and community partners for your trust and support. The growth of our team is made possible because of the strong foundation you've helped us build.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, please call Tioga Medical Center at 701-664-3368. We look forward to continuing to care for you and your families, now with even greater accessibility and commitment.

Tioga Medical Center welcomes Jennifer Reynolds, FNP-C

Tioga Medical Center is excited to welcome Jennifer Reynolds, FNP-C, to its growing team of providers!

Originally from Stanley, Jennifer earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Minot State University in 2018 and went on to complete her Master of Science in Nursing from University of North Dakota in May 2025. Her clinical training included rotations at Tioga Medical Center, Mountrail County Medical Center, and Trinity Health – New Town Clinic.

Jennifer brings a strong background in emergency, inpatient, outpatient, and swing bed care, delivering compassionate care to patients with a wide range of acute and chronic conditions. Her clinical interests include health screenings, chronic disease management, joint injections, pediatric care, mental health management, and comprehensive men's and women's health. She maintains certifications in BLS, ACLS, and PALS.

To make an appointment with Jennifer, call 701-664-3368.

Jennifer is the first of three new medical providers joining Tioga Medical Center this year—part of the organization's continued commitment to expanding access to high-quality care in the region.



Acro Stars Gymnastics: Registration open for fall season! - Jordan Schmitt ACS Board of Directors

"We have classes for gymnasts of all ages and skill levels — whether your child is a seasoned tumbler or brand new to the sport," says Tanya Hill, President of Acro Stars Gymnastics.

Class Offerings:

Parent + Tot (Ages 1–3): Enjoy hands-on fun with your little one while helping them develop fine motor skills, balance, and fundamental movement patterns.

Tiny Tots (Ages 3–5, potty-trained): The perfect stepping stone into our Recreational Program, introducing basic skills and building confidence in a fun, encouraging environment.

Recreational Gymnastics: Learn the core shapes, techniques, and skills of gymnastics using apparatuses such as bars, beam, floor, and vault — all while fostering strength and coordination. Additionally, Acro Stars offers Junior Olympics and XCEL competition programs through USA Gymnastics, as well as a high school competition program through the North Dakota High School Activities Association.

For more information, including class times, visit www.acrostarsgymnastics.com. If you have any questions, please send a message to the Acro Stars Facebook page or call 701- 641-6902.

Based in Ray, Acro Stars Gymnastics is a nonprofit organization proudly serving athletes from Ray, Tioga, Wildrose, Powers Lake, Stanley, and Williston.

Our mission is to inspire every gymnast to reach their personal best — both on and off the mat.



Send us your Pics for the 2026 NCC Calendar

2026 Photo Contest – Deadline October 1st!

We are in search of special photographs that depict the beauty of our area for the 2026 NCC Calendar.

Entering our free photo contest is easy.

Simply mail or email entries to: NCC

ATTN: Stephanie: PO Box 38, Ray, ND 58849

Or

ncc@nccray.com with the subject line Photo Contest 2026

All photos submitted are being showcased on our facebook page

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Inspirational Quote	Tioga Trivia	Bible Verse of the Week
I've failed over and over again in my life. That is why I succeed. -Michael Jordan	How many students are attending Central Elementary School this year? Prev Edition Answer: Chevron	I keep the Lord in mind always. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. -Psalm 16:8
A Little Chuckle	Did you know?	
Ole and Lena got lost hiking, Lena said, "Should we call for help?" Ole replied, "Nah, if we're lost, they'll never find us here anyway."	The Bible is the most shoplifted book.	

Community News

Tioga Medical Center awarded for efforts to improve rural stroke care

The American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Rural Recognition Gold award recognizes efforts to address the unique health needs of rural communities

People who live in rural communities live an average of three years fewer than urban counterparts and have a 40% higher likelihood of developing heart disease and face a 30% increased risk for stroke mortality — a gap that has grown over the past two decades. Tioga Medical Center is committed to changing that.

For efforts to optimize stroke care and eliminate rural health care outcome disparities, Tioga Medical Center has received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Rural Recognition Gold award. The American Heart Association, the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, recognizes the importance of health care services provided to people living in rural areas by rural hospitals that play a vital role in initiation of timely evidence-based care. For that reason, all rural hospitals participating in Get With The Guidelines- Stroke are eligible to receive award recognition based on a unique methodology focused on early acute stroke performance metrics.

"We are proud that our team at Tioga Medical Center is being recognized for the important work we do every day to improve the lives of people in northwest North Dakota who are affected by stroke, giving them the best possible chance of recovery and survival," said Jamie Eraas, Tioga Medical Center President and CEO. "As a hospital in a rural community, we deal with characteristics, such as extended interfacility transportation times, and limited staffing resources. We've made it a goal to make sure those hurdles do not affect the standard of care our stoke patients receive.

"Rural communities deserve high quality stroke care. I'm proud of our team for their commitment to stroke care excellence and this achievement."

The award recognizes hospitals for their efforts toward acute stroke care excellence demonstrated by composite score compliance to guideline-directed care for intravenous thrombolytic therapy, timely hospital inter-facility transfer, dysphagia screening, symptom timeline and deficit assessment documentation, emergency medical services communication, brain imaging and stroke expert consultation.

"Patients and health care professionals in northwest North Dakota face unique health care challenges and opportunities," said Karen E. Joynt Maddox, M.D., MPH, co-author on the American Heart Association's presidential advisory on rural health. "Tioga Medical Center has furthered this important work to improve care for all Americans, regardless of where they live.



Central Elementary Updates - Timothy Schaffer, Principal



New Staff:
Miss Alexa St. Pierre – 3rd Grade Teacher Miss Maura Mills – 1st Grade Teacher Mrs. Meghan Lalim – Secretary
Mr. Brent Danks – 3rd Grade Teacher Miss Sara Iverson – 2nd Grade Teacher Mrs. Lindley Benson – School Counselor

Staff Changes:
Mrs. Lori Germundson – Librarian; Ms. Jayd Mullen – Kindergarten; Mrs. Michelle Manire – Speech-Language Pathologist

Enrollment & Curriculum:
We are anticipating approximately 306 students for the 2025–26 school year. For comparison, the 2024–25 school year began with 320 students and ended with 312. This year, we will be implementing a new ELA curriculum.

Building Transition: Central will remain a K–6 building until Christmas. At semester break, 6th grade will move to the new addition at the high school, and Central will transition to a K–5 building.

Concert Updates:
Thanks to the new addition at the high school, grades 1–6 will hold their concerts there, providing more seating and parking for families. Kindergarten concerts will remain at Central and will continue to be held during the afternoon.

We are always looking for substitute aides, cooks, janitors, and teachers to help when staff members are out. If you're interested in subbing, please contact Mr. Schaffer at 701-664-3441 or email tim.schaffer@k12.nd.us.

Mark your calendars

JAug 18: Tioga City Commission Meeting 7PM City Hall
Aug 18: First Day of School - Tioga Public Schools
Aug 20: Community CPR Class 6PM Tioga Ambulance Bay
Aug 21: Tioga Airport Authority Board Meeting 6PM Tioga Airport
Aug 21: Tioga HS Fall Pep Rally 6PM - Tioga Park Pavillion
Aug 25: EMT Classes Begin - Contact Erin Sundhagen @307-680-6452



MEET THE TEACHER - Mr Rizzo: My name is Mike Rizzo and I'm new here to Tioga. A little bit about me, I'm originally from Central New York, have coached college football for 3 years between Massachusetts and Maine. During that time, I have trained college athletes, taught a college-level weights class, before I ended up coming to North Dakota to teach in 2015. I have taught in Alexander and the Williston School Districts. Most of my time here has been as a PE teacher. Family-wise, I am married with two daughters that are 1 and 3 years old that love to run around and be active.



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TIOGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO RESUME CLASSES ON MONDAY, AUGUST 18th



The Tioga Public Schools' 2025-2026 school year will begin on Monday, August 18th.
Central Elementary school days will run from 8:35 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tioga High School days will run from 8:40 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.
Teacher workshops are scheduled for Wednesday, August 13th through Friday, August 15th.



TIOGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGISTRATION

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

ALL Tioga High School students, grades 7-12, are required to register at the High School or Online on Tuesday, August 5th or Wednesday, August 6th, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the office closed between 12:00 to 1:00 on both days.

Lunch money and participation/activity tickets can be purchased during registration. Payments can also be mailed in advance to Tioga High School, Attention: Secretary, PO Box 279, Tioga, ND 58852. There will be no free meal program for the 2025-2026 school year.
Those desiring further High School information can contact Brodie Odegaard, High School Principal or Jayme Jorstad, Secretary at 701-664-3606.

ELEMENTARY INFORMATION

KINDERGARTEN, NEW, AND RETURNING Central Elementary students must register at the Central Elementary school office or online on Tuesday, July 29th or Wednesday, July 30th, from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN TESTING will take place on July 29th & July 30th. Testing is by appointment only. If you have not been contacted, parents are asked to call Meghan at Central Elementary, 701-664-3441, to set up an appointment. Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before July 31st to register. Students will NOT be allowed to register or be tested unless a birth certificate is presented.

Lunch money and participation/activity tickets can be purchased during registration or by stopping by the office before the first day of school Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Payments can also be mailed in advance to Central School, Attention: Meghan Lalim, PO Box 69, Tioga, ND 58852. There will be no free meal program for the 2024-2025 school year.

Those desiring further Elementary School information can contact Timothy Schaffer, Elementary Principal, or Meghan Lalim, Secretary at 701-664-3441.

LEGAL NAME REQUIRED

The 1989 ND Legislature passed a law (NDCC 15-47-48) that requires all schools to use a student's legal surname for all communications such as school records, report cards, etc. Students must be registered using their legal name.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Kindergarteners and all students required to be up-to-date on immunizations

Section 23-07-17.1 section of North Dakota State Law entitled Inoculation Required before Admission to School mandates that all students through grade 12 meet a minimum number of required immunizations prior to school entrance. These requirements can be waived only for medical, philosophical, moral or religious reasons.

Reminder: Students entering the 7th grade must have their Tdap and Meningococcal vaccinations. Students entering 11th and 12th grades are now required to have 2 Meningococcal vaccinations. Immunization requirements are posted on the school's website in the Forms folder under Documents and on the health department website: <http://bit.ly/NDVaccination>

Upper Missouri District Health Unit comes to Tioga Clinic every third Thursday of the month for immunizations. UMDHU is making a special trip to the clinic on August 20th for immunizations needed for school. **Please call UMDHU at 701-965-6813 for an appointment or more information.**

SPORTS PRACTICES TO BEGIN

Sports practices will begin on the following days:

Football, High School August 7th, Junior High August 11th Volleyball, High School August 18th, Junior High August 25th Cross Country, 7th-12th August 11th Girls Golf, 7th-12th August 4th

ALL students participating must have a yearly physical prior to beginning practices.

INFORMATIONAL TOOLS

Parents can access school information through the school website at www.tioga.k12.nd.us.

Follow us on Facebook or Twitter @TiogaPirates. Follow Central Elementary on Facebook @centralelementary.

Download our free app "Tioga Public Schools, ND" on iTunes or GooglePlay for notifications including weather delays, and last minute changes.

PowerSchool can be accessed on the school website or <https://tioga.ps.state.nd.us/public>. Through Power School, parents and students can keep track of lunch balances, grades, attendance, and more. Parent and student passwords are handed out during registration at both schools.

Lunch account balances may be made by debit or credit payments online through e-Funds for schools. Online payments require the student's last name and 5-digit PowerSchool ID at:

<https://payments.efundsforschools.com/v3/districts/56029/confirm-quest>.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and punctuality in class is essential for students to excel in their educational accomplishments and to do their best work. Parents are asked to call the school when their children are absent or tardy. Students 18 years or older may provide their own excuse notices. Without notification, an absence will be considered unexcused.

TIME SCHEDULES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

8:35 AM - 3:30 PM

HIGH SCHOOL

8:40 AM to 3:35 PM

Period 1 8:40 - 9:29

Period 2 9:32 - 10:21

Period 3 10:24 - 11:13

Period 4 11:16 12:31

Advisory 12:34 - 12:59

Period 5 1:02 - 1:51

Period 6 1:54-2:43

Period 7 2:45 3:35

Lunch period (9, 10, 11, 12) 11:13 - 11:42

Lunch period (7, 8) 12:03 12:31

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Routes are as follows:

#81 - Kellie Holst, driver - (McGregor and NW of Tioga)

#78 - Christie Cole, driver- (City of White Earth)

#79 - Sara Seelye,, Bus Coordinator (White Earth and SE of Tioga)

#73 - James Booth, driver - (N & E of Tioga)

#77 - Camille Borresen, driver (S & W of Tioga)

There will NOT be in-town bussing due to a lack of drivers. Out-of-town bus routes will remain relatively unchanged for the 2025-2026 school year. 701-664-2333 for more information.

Parents may contact Paul Olson, Supt. at

YEARLY PHYSICAL REQUIRED

The ND High School Activities Association requires ALL students participating in athletics to have a yearly physical prior to beginning practices.

"SCHOOL INSURANCE"

NOTICE TO TIOGA PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

The North Dakota High School Activities Association Accident Benefit Fund (commonly called "School Insurance") no longer exists. The Tioga Public Schools does not participate in any other student insurance. There is no "school insurance" for any injuries suffered during school hours such as in P.E. classes or on the playground or for athletic injuries. Parents are responsible for their child's insurance in grades K-12.

WARNING TO ALL PARENTS

Potential serious accidents can occur in all athletics! The ND High School Activities Association recommends that all parents are given this warning. Each year parents sign a consent form permitting their child to participate in sports and a doctor certifies the child to be physically fit. Precautions are taken by the school and coaches for the safety of a child; however, the possibility of a serious accident that could leave a child permanently injured or even paralyzed always exists and must be realized!

LUNCH & BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

Breakfast and lunch will be served starting the first day of school. Student Breakfast will be \$1.50, Student Lunch will be \$3.00, Milk will be \$.40. Information and applications for the free and reduced lunch program will be available at school registration. This application must be submitted every school year to qualify. Otherwise students will NOT receive free or reduced meals. To request this material, please contact the High School or Elementary Office.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Members of the School Board are elected at an annual election held in June of each year. Regular terms are for three years. The School Board members are: Mark Schmidt, Ryan Davidson, Pete Peterson, Jeffrey Moberg, Jr., and Timothy Sundhagen. Ronda Rudnik is the Business Manager. Regular meetings are held once a month in the High School Teachers' Workroom/Board Room. All meetings are open to the public. Special meetings notices will be given to the County Auditor and the Tioga Tribune.

HIGH SCHOOL STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Paul Olson-Superintendent Brodie Odegaard-Secondary Principal Ronda Rudnik-Business Manager Ryan Albrecht-Athletic Director Bridgette Odegaard-Technology Coordinator Cindy Hatch-Secretary
Counselor-Kerissa Schaffer Science-Debra Moe, Sarah Skarphol Business Education-Mallory Klabo Computer Science-Bridgette Odegaard Social Studies/History-Ryan Albrecht, Emily Donabauer Physical Education-Michael Rizzo, Taylor Nelson English-Ryan Eraas, Nathan Zochert Vocational Agriculture-Jeremy Carkuff Special Education-Kristine Brown, Kinley Bergstrom Mathematics-Amber Helseth, Nicole Duprey Special Ed/Educational Strategist—TBD Family & Consumer Sciences-Sarah Carkuff Art-Tiffany Boyer
Aide-Melissa Tauer, Monica Neether, Denae Binstock, Christie Cole Basic Skills-Kay Larson EL- Mary Ann Halvorson Music/Band-David Halvorson Library-Brittany Rice
Speech Therapy-Michelle Manire
Custodians-Jared Moberg, Sam Tangesdal, TBD Cook Kaycee Hagerud, Tanya Zamora, & TBD

ELEMENTARY STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Paul Olson-Superintendent Timothy Schaffer-Elementary Principal Meghan Lalim-Elementary Secretary
Kindergarten-Jayd Mullen, Morgan Richards Grade 1-Shaunessy Meyer, Maura Mills Grade 2— Annie Kern, TBD
Grade 3-Abby Meiers, Alexa St. Pierre, Brent Danks Grade 4-Emily King, Jessica Pachel Grade 5-Tara Mosley, Jessica Farrow Grade 6-Debra DeMoe, Peyton Tefac
K-6 Science Lab Instructor-
Aides-Veronica, Guevara, Jody Overmyer, Juli Christofferson, Steffani Rostad Special Ed/Educational Strategist-JoAnn Edwards, Caitlin Shavi, Juli Gilder Resource Room Aides-Kayla Patterson, Jessica Jorstad
Title I - Yessenia Neri, Paula Klug Elementary Guidance- Lindley Benson Band-David Halvorson
Music-Rachelle Rehak
Assistant Technology Coordinator - JoAnna Hartsoch Library-Lori Germundson, Renae Booth EL-Mary Ann Halvorson Physical Education-James King
Speech Therapy-Laura Toutges, Michelle Manire Reading Strategist-Kim Landsverk Custodian-Tom Sabinash, Guillermina Cruz
Cooks-Kathy Mora, Ashley McInyre, Carmen Juarez

PARENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Through federal education law, parents have the right to request information on the professional qualifications of the teachers and paraprofessionals at our school. If you are interested in learning this information, please contact the school administration office at (701) 664-2333. Upon this request, you will receive a detailed explanation of the licensing, education and experience of each of our teachers. You will also receive information regarding the names and qualifications of the paraprofessionals at our school.

NOTIFICATION OF TITLE VI, TITLE IX AND SECTION 504 POLICIES (EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICIES) TIOGA PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST #15, TIOGA, ND 58852
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Tioga School District ensures equitable access to, and participation in, Federally-assisted programs for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. District policy states that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, age, sex, handicap, or disability in its educational programs, activities, and employment policies or admissions policies and practices as required under Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that inquiries concerning the application of the above may be referred to: Brodie Odegaard Principal OR Office of Civil Rights Chicago Office Tioga Public Schools Box 279 Tioga, ND 58852 Phone: (701) 664-2333 U.S. Department of Education Citigroup Center 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475 Chicago, IL 60661-4544 Phone: 312-730-1560; Fax: 312-730-1576; TDD: 800-877-8339; Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov

The superintendent has been designated as the person responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Tioga Public School District #15 to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title VI, Title IX and Section 504, leading the process of investigating noncompliance.

TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT #15 2025-2026 School Calendar

August 13-15, 2025 (W, Th, F) Professional Development Days	January 19, 2025 (M) Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
August 18, 2025 (M) First Day of School	February 4, 2026 (W) Early Dismissal - Professional Development
September 1, 2025 (M) Labor Day-NO SCHOOL	February 16, 2026 (M) President's Day Break-NO SCHOOL
October 15, 2025 (W) End of Quarter 1	March 6, 2026 (F) End of Quarter 3
October 16-17, 2025 (Th, F) Convention Days-NO SCHOOL	March 18-19, 2026 (W,Th) Spring Break-- NO SCHOOL
November 11, 2025 (T) Veterans Day Observance-NO SCHOOL	March 20, 2026 (F) Comp Day for P-T Conferences-NO SCHOOL
November 19, 2025 (W) Early Dismissal - Professional Development	April 3, 2026 (F) Good Friday-NO SCHOOL
November 26, 2025 (W) Comp Day for P-T Conferences-NO SCHOOL	April 6, 2026 (M) Easter Monday-NO SCHOOL
November 27-28, 2025 (Th, F) Thanksgiving Break-NO SCHOOL	April 24, 2026 (F) Vacation Day - No School
December 19, 2025 (F) End of Quarter 2 and Last day before Christmas Break	May 22, 2026 (F) End of Quarter 4 and Last Day of School
January 5, 2026 (M) School Resumes	May 24, 2026 (Su) Graduation Exercises 2:30 p.m
August 10 days September 21 days October 21 days November 16 days December 15 days January 19 days February 19 days March 19 days April 19 days May 16 days	
175 days Three Professional Development Days, three holidays (Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Good Friday) and two parent-teacher conference comp days count as classroom days. Those eight days plus 175 pupil contact days equals 183 days. First nine weeks Second nine weeks Third nine weeks Fourth nine weeks August 18-	
October 15 42 days October 16 - December 19 41 days January 5 - March 6 44 days March 9 - May 22 45 days	

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