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Edition 46

February 15, 2026

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Community News

A Night for Tioga: A Community Comes Together!

On December 12th, the Tioga Area Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with Tioga Medical Center, proudly hosted our first annual gala, A Night for Tioga, at the Tioga Community Center. This event represented far more than an evening of celebration it was a statement of commitment. As the EDC, we wanted to demonstrate that we are established, invested, and fully dedicated to supporting the organizations and institutions that make Tioga strong. One of the most important pillars of any rural community is access to quality healthcare. Rural healthcare is not just a service it is essential to sustaining families, supporting our workforce, and ensuring long-term community growth. Partnering with Tioga Medical Center was a natural choice, and we were proud to stand alongside them in showcasing both the strength of our healthcare system and our shared commitment to Tioga's future. The gala also provided an opportunity to highlight the Tioga Community Center, a beautiful facility that represents the pride and progress of our town. Seeing the space filled with community members, local leaders, business owners, and supporters was a powerful reminder of what makes Tioga special. The evening featured a live and silent auction, along with an outstanding meal prepared by Pour Decisions. Most importantly, it brought together people who care deeply about our community. Thanks to the incredible generosity of those who attended, donated, sponsored, and volunteered, we raised over \$27,000 during our first annual event. These funds are for the capital improvement project fund. Just as important as the dollars raised was the sense of unity and shared purpose felt throughout the evening. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who played a role in making A Night for Tioga a success our sponsors, donors, volunteers, partners, and every individual who attended. Your support sends a clear message: Tioga believes in its future. This event was only the beginning. We are excited to continue building on this momentum and are already looking forward to hosting A Night for Tioga again in December 2026. Together, we will continue investing in our community, supporting our local organizations, and ensuring that Tioga remains a place where people are proud to live, work, and call home.



NCC Announces the Retirement of Kelly Heier



NCC announces the retirement of Kelly Heier, who has dedicated almost 36 years of service to the company. Kelly began his career with NCC on August 21, 1990, as an Installer and has steadily advanced through the organization, taking on roles as a Combination Technician, Central Office Technician, Network Specialist, Network Supervisor, and ultimately serving as Network Manager at the time of his retirement.

Throughout his career, Kelly was instrumental in keeping the network running and completed several major network and equipment upgrades. He consistently carried out the duties of his position with a very high level of dedication to the members and customers of NCC. Kelly's commitment and dedication are hallmarks of his time at NCC.

His last day at NCC will be March 20, 2026. He plans to spend more time with his grandkids and following them in their activities, camping and traveling. We extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Kelly in his well-earned retirement.

Please join us in celebrating Kelly at his Retirement Open House on Friday, May 1, 2026 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Ray Golf Course clubhouse. Light appetizers and cake will be served.



Tioga Medical Center Launches Preventative Health and Wellness Outreach Program

Tioga Medical Center is proud to announce the launch of a new quality improvement effort designed to strengthen preventive health and wellness in our community.

Through this initiative, trained staff members will contact patients by phone to assist with scheduling important preventive services, such as routine check-ups and health screenings. All outreach calls will come from 701-587-9392

This program is not a solicitation or scam. It is a trusted, no-cost service provided by Tioga Medical Center to support patients in staying up to date on their health care.

"Our goal is to make it easier for patients to access care and maintain their health," said Shelby Davis, Tioga Medical Center Chief Operating Officer. "By helping patients schedule needed screenings and appointments, we can improve both individual wellbeing and overall community health."

The program is part of the organization's ongoing commitment to quality improvement, patient-centered care, and health equity. Outreach staff are trained to answer questions, provide guidance, and connect patients with the care they need.

About Tioga Medical Center A nonprofit healthcare system, Tioga Medical Center proudly serves the communities of northwest North Dakota with clinics in Tioga, Ray and Powers Lake; a 25-bed critical access hospital; a Long-Term Care center; and Independent Living apartments.



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Inspirational Quote	Tioga Trivia	Bible Verse of the Week
Your thoughts shape your reality.	What was the name of the first church in Tioga? Prev Edition Answer: Robert Fuson	In everything you do put God first and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success. ~ Proverbs 3:6

A Little Chuckle	Did you know?
Lena asked Ole, "How do you spell Mississippi?" Ole replied, "The river or the state?" Lena sighed, "Just answer the question Ole!"	Your shoes are the first thing people subconsciously notice about you. Always wear nice shoes.



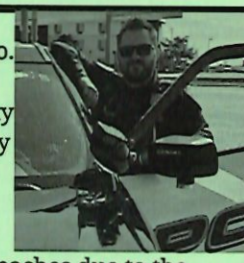
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Update from Tioga Police Department:
 My name is Chief Cody Hallin, and I have approximately five and a half years of law enforcement experience. I was born and raised in northern Minnesota. After graduating from high school, I attended Bemidji State University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. I relocated to Williston in the summer of 2020 and began my law enforcement career with the Williams County Sheriff's Office before joining the Tioga Police Department. In my free time, I enjoy staying active, watching sports, and spending time with my German Shepherd, Ghost, and my girlfriend, Mariah. I also value returning to Minnesota to spend time with my family at the lake. What I value most about law enforcement is the pride that comes with wearing the uniform each day and the opportunity to serve as a source of protection for the community. I am honored to serve the great community of Tioga and remain committed to ensuring its continued safety.




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My name is Zach Reising, I'm one of the newer Officers at the Tioga Police Department. I initially started with the Department in June of 2024. I'm originally from a small town in Nebraska but I moved to North Dakota almost four years ago. I'm a family man as well as a man of faith, and I hope to be able to make an impact for the better in our little corner of the state. Prior to joining Law Enforcement I served in the United States Marine Corps as an Infantry team leader with a specialty in machine guns. I was fortunate enough to serve with the prestigious 2nd battalion 10 Marines in Echo company. During my time in I went on my first deployment on the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit for a year. On the MEU I served all over the world to include Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam, Hawaii and Australia just to name a few. While in those countries we spent most of our time training the armed forces of those nations in close quarter battle (CQB) and military operations in urban terrain (MOUT). We also received a lot of training in jungle warfare as well as amphibious assaults on beaches due to the unique terrain and climate of Southeast Asia. As Marines we also shot a lot of rounds and blew up a lot of stuff, just to name a few of the things we trained in during that time. On my second deployment I served in the Nineveh Province of Iraq, prior to deployment! was able to move to Weapon Company as a team leader in Combined Anti Armor Team (CAAT). This was a defining moment for me in my enlistment as this was considered an honor bestowed on senior Marines who were knowledgeable and had good reputations. In CAAT the main difference from a line company like Echo was that if any friendly element was in contact with enemy troops, we would roll out as a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and flank the enemy with heavy machine guns as well as Tube launched. Optically tracked. Wire guided. missile systems (TOW) and assault the enemy by fire and maneuver. My time in the military was an integral part of shaping who I am today, my deployments had many challenges and many hard days, but I wouldn't trade them. The sense of duty and brotherhood is something that I've truly missed sense I left the service; I've had a few jobs that have similarities, but some aspect was always missing. Due to my time in the military, I always felt that I would be a good fit in Law Enforcement, who doesn't want to drive a squad car and get paid to shoot. I spent some time in other trades before landing here but I finally made the transition, and it wasn't disappointing. So much of what I previously learned directly correlates with Policing, it's been an easy transition. My fellow Officers have also made me feel right at home, it's nice to have that sense of comradery and purpose once again. I absolutely look forward to serving the Tioga!



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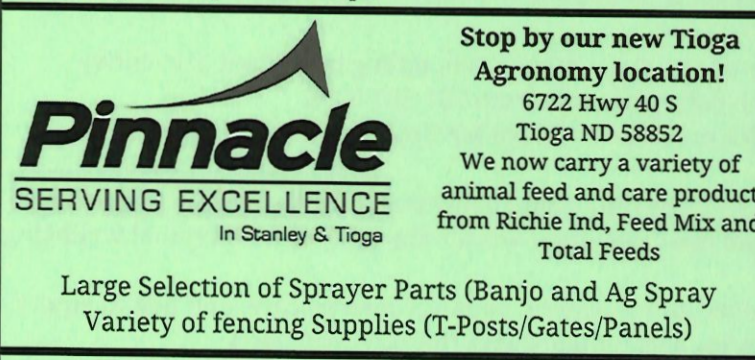
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My name is Kaare Hallesy. I am originally from the Williston area and grew up attending school locally. Every summer, I had the opportunity to spend time in Montana with my grandparents on their ranch. My main hobbies include shooting when I am able and when weather permits, reading, traveling, and playing video games with my friends. I first became interested in law enforcement when I spent time with my dad after school at his workplace, which at the time was the Law Enforcement Center, where he served as the Director of Emergency Services. During this time, I spent many hours in his office and met several officers, which inspired me to pursue the same career path. This interest was also driven by my desire to help people and make a positive impact on the community. My law enforcement career began in Garrison, North Dakota. Within a year, the city signed a contract with the McLean County Sheriff's Office, and I unfortunately lost my position. Afterward, I took a short break from law enforcement and worked in a different field. However, I quickly realized how much I missed the profession. I later applied with the Tioga Police Department while Josh Nelson was serving as Acting Chief of Police. From the moment of my interview, I immediately felt welcomed by the agency. After being selected to join the department, every member of the team made me feel supported, and I am grateful to have found an agency where I can continue to grow professionally. What I enjoy most about law enforcement is the opportunity to continually learn new things, help others, and be part of something larger than myself. Most importantly, I value the strong sense of camaraderie and brotherhood within the profession, and I look forward to building those relationships with my fellow officers. I am honored and excited to serve the Tioga community to the best of my ability.



Prayers to the Family of:
 Riley Renee Pederson: June 9, 2005 - February 9, 2026
 "May there be comfort in knowing that someone so special will never be forgotten."-Julie Hebert

Mark your calendars	Tioga School Calendar
Feb 16: President's Day Feb 16 Company Meeting CC Feb 17: City of Tioga Commission Mtg 7PM Feb 17: Airport Meeting @ 7pm Feb 23: Tioga Municipal Court 6:30pm	Feb 16: No School (President's Day) Feb 23: Reg 3 GBB @ Minot Feb 18: Gearing Up Kindergarten 6:30 Feb 27: BBB Districts @ Newtown Feb 18: School Board Mtg 6:30PM Feb 19-21: State Wrestling @ Fargo Feb 21: District BBB Play In game



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This communication is produced by Tioga Area Economic Development Corporation