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The Communicator

Your Community Connection

Edition 35
September 1, 2025
tiogandnews@gmail.com
www.tiogand.org

Tioga
Area Economic Development Corporation
OIL & ENERGY CAPITAL
OF NORTH DAKOTA

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Community News

Grand Marshall Named for 66 th Annual Tioga Farm Festival - Jamie Eraas

Roger and Georgia Blestrud have been chosen as Grand Marshals of the 66th Annual Tioga Farm Festival. The Blestruds are longtime residents of rural Tioga, and their history with the Farm Festival goes back to the beginning.

"I was in high school when Mr. Arlo Howe, the school Ag teacher, started the Farm Festival. I would bring grain samples to be judged, but was never able to get a ribbon!" Roger stated reminiscing about his first memories with the event. "Georgia and I have enjoyed attending the Farm Festival for many years and taking part in the activities. It's always a special time of the year when September comes in Tioga."

As a 1961 graduate of Tioga High School, Roger recalls a favorite memory of Farm Festival weekend that happened just a few years ago. The class of '61 held a class reunion during Farm Festival weekend, and many members attended the home football game that Friday night. "Ryan Eraas recognized our class over the P.A. system during the game for being loud and active with our cheering. I have attended many sporting events in Tioga, and that game is one of my favorite memories," Roger said.



Georgia and Roger's favorite things about Farm Festival weekend each year include seeing people who return to Tioga who they do not see much during other times of the year. "The parade, guest entertainment, and Sunday church service and meal are always some of our favorite parts of the weekend," Georgia stated, "and of course eating slices of pie at the Zion Lutheran Church pie booth!" The Blestruds are also looking forward to seeing the new addition to the Tioga Community Center up close for the first time this year as well.

In addition to raising three children (Tana, Derek, and Kya), the Blestruds have been active members of the community. Roger has served on the Tioga Hospital board, as well as numerous committees and boards at Zion Lutheran Church. He was also the Clerk and Treasurer for Bicker Township, north of Tioga, for over 40 years.

Roger and Georgia are honored to be this year's Grand Marshals, and would like to thank all the people who have served on the Farm Festival committees over the years to help keep this Tioga tradition going for 66 years.

Congratulations, Roger and Georgia Blestrud! You are deserving Grand Marshals, and we thank you for all you continue to do for Tioga and its residents.

Dakota Hope Clinic to Host "WORTHY" Banquets Across the Region - Stacey Scott

Dakota Hope Clinic, serving Minot, Tioga, and Bottineau, is inviting the public to its upcoming "WORTHY" Fundraising Banquets — evenings dedicated to celebrating life, hope, and the power of community support. Guests will hear uplifting stories of how lives have been saved and futures transformed through the care and compassion offered at Dakota Hope. Staff members will share firsthand experiences of walking alongside women and couples during some of the most difficult moments of their lives, and how community generosity makes it possible for clients to choose life and discover new possibilities for their future.

The banquet schedule is as follows:

□ Minot: Monday, Sept. 15, at the ND State Fair Center □ Tioga: Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the Tioga Community Center

□ Bottineau: Monday, Sept. 22, at the Cobblestone Inn

Dakota Hope Clinic offers a safe and confidential place for anyone facing an unexpected pregnancy or parenting challenge. Clients can receive free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds, along with pregnancy and parenting education classes. The clinic also provides resources for post-abortion healing. Since opening in 2013, Dakota Hope has provided support and care to more than 2,500 clients. The Tioga clinic, which opened three years ago, has been especially valuable in reaching families in rural areas who might not otherwise have access to these services.

Organizers say the banquets are not only a time to hear moving stories but also an opportunity to celebrate the difference that community members have made and continue to make through their generosity. All are welcome to attend. RSVPs are requested by Sept. 5 at dakotahope.com/events or by calling 701-852-4675.



Dakota Hope
Clinic

MINOT BOTTINEAU TIOGA

Tioga Area EDC Small Business Spotlight: Skin By Legacy

Skin By Legacy Tioga opened doors Feb 2024. Skin By Legacy is a branch of Legacy Health Clinic of Minot. My Medical Director is Cim Berg Hooker, FNP and the guy behind the scenes, Blake Hooker- Practice Manager. Our goal is to bring big city conveniences to the rural area and surrounding communities. We offer a variety of Aesthetic/Med Spa services like Botox, Neurotoxins, Dermal fillers, Chemical peels, Microneedling, PRP, Sculptra, Skinvive, Kybella, Red light therapy, HydraFacial's, Dermaplaning, Science based Skincare, IV Hydration, Vitamin Injections.....etc. We customize each treatment to our clients wants and needs. We believe in staying educated with the latest aesthetic trends and being innovative in this evolving industry.

A little about your Skin By Legacy Nurse Injector Sarah Rice BSN, RN. I am a local gal here living on a farm outside of Tioga. Married to a farmer, we have six amazing children and two beautiful grandkids. I have worked at Tioga Medical Center for seventeen years as a RN and still work PRN in Surgery. I became a Certified Nurse Injector January 2022. Completed Medical Aesthetics Training Next Level Injectables course April 2024. I have been practicing aesthetics for three and a half years with the past year and half under Skin By Legacy Tioga. It's been a joy learning, growing and getting to know my clients and all the hands-on experience has added so much value to my passion of helping clients that sit in my chair. Tioga location is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We are excited to announce the branching of our second Skin By Legacy location in Stanley that opened August 13th, 2025 that will be now open on Wednesdays. To book online anytime for Minot, Tioga or Stanley go to www.legacyhealthclinic.org/c. Skin By Legacy phone #701-822-3143. You can check us out on FB or IG. We'd love to see you in our chair.



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Inspirational Quote

God looked down on the earth he created and said, "I need a caretaker for this world I have made" and so, God made a Farmer
-Paul Harvey

Tioga Trivia

What is the largest crop grown in Williams County, ND

Prev Edition Answer: 306

Bible Verse of the Week

The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land.

-Deuteronomy 28:8

A Little Chuckle

Why can't a farmer keep secrets on the farm?
Because the corn has ears, the potatoes have eyes and the beans stalk.

Did you know?

Farmers will have to grow 70 percent more food than what is currently produced to feed the world's growing population by 2050

Community News

Celebrating 40 Years of Service: Susan Wolla

Today, we honor a familiar face at The Bank of Tioga who recently celebrated a remarkable milestone. Susan Wolla, Vice President of Consumer Credit, is commemorating 40 years of dedicated service. We are celebrating this amazing milestone on Tuesday, September 9 at the Tioga lobby from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with a cake and coffee open house.

Additionally, The Bank of Tioga will make a \$1,000 donation to a charity of Susan's choice. Susan chose to split this gift between two organizations that hold deep personal meaning for her and her family.

Her first charity of choice is the Tioga High School Trap League, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting youth shooting sports in Tioga, North Dakota. The league raises funds annually to help cover league costs and purchase essential supplies. After a period of inactivity, it was successfully reorganized in the spring of 2022 and has since experienced steady growth, now proudly supporting 39 student athletes for this season. Her grandson is an active participant, making this a heartfelt contribution that supports both youth and community.

The second recipient is the Upper Missouri Bible Camp (also known as Springbrook Bible Camp), located just outside Epping, ND, about 30 minutes from Tioga offers year-round activities for people of all ages. Many of her grandchildren as soon as they're old enough join in the fun, faith and fellowship every summer, a beautiful generational gift.

As a lifelong resident of Tioga, Susan's connection to The Bank of Tioga began early. After returning from college and marrying her high school sweetheart, she accepted a part-time banker position. Within six months, she transitioned to full-time and has since held numerous roles, with bookkeeping and operations being among her favorites.

In a recent interview in the North Dakota Bankers Association, "Banker You Should Know" spotlight, Susan shared reflections on her career and community involvement. Nominated by The Bank of Tioga President Savanna Hendrickson, Susan was praised for her compassion and care for both clients and community members.

"I was seeking a career that offered both long-term stability and meaningful professional growth. The Bank of Tioga was a perfect place to build a future, not just for myself but for the community I care about."

Susan's career progression from the frontline to her current officer-level role is one of her proudest accomplishments. She credits her early experiences giving her a deep understanding of client needs and operational challenges. Banking has transformed over the years yet trust and personal connection remain at the heart of it all, especially for bankers like Susan.

Susan is actively involved in the Tioga Chamber of Commerce, enjoys serving meals at community events, and participates in financial wellness programs at local schools.

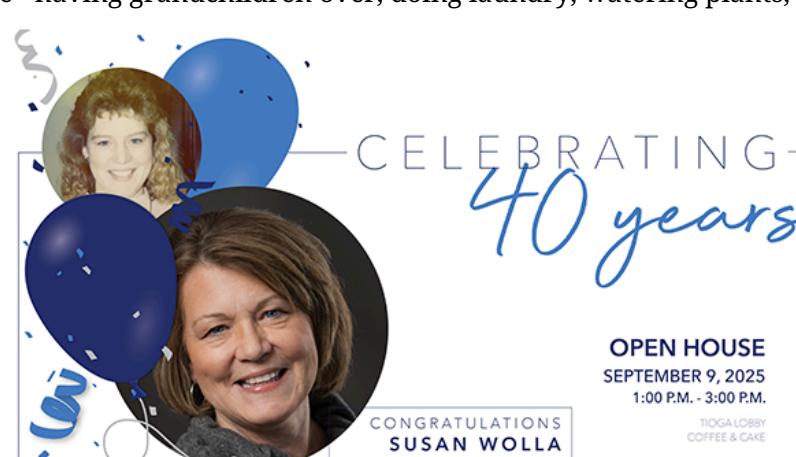
"I hope to lead with excellence and kindness, creating an environment where people feel valued, supported and empowered to do their best work."

Outside of work, Susan cherishes time with her husband Jay, their three adult daughters, and eight grandchildren - all of whom live in the Tioga area. "I find joy in the simple routines of home life - having grandchildren over, doing laundry, watering plants, organizing drawers or just watching the sunset from my patio."

Susan credits mentors in her life for encouraging her to find her voice, trust her instincts and embrace the responsibility of her various roles.

When asked how she defines success, Susan shared: "Living with purpose, love and authenticity. Cultivating meaningful relationships, nurturing your well-being and staying true to your values. Courage comes after the first step, not before."

Susan's story is a testament to the power of dedication, community and heart. Whether it's mentoring a coworker, supporting a client's financial journey or giving back to causes close to home, Susan Wolla is truly a banker we are all honored to know.



Mark your calendars

Sep 1: Labor Day - No School
Sep 2: Tioga City Commission Mtg 7PM Tioga City Hall
Sep 2: Volleyball vs Glenburn 5:30PM
Sep 5-7: Tioga Farm Festival
Sep 9: Volleyball vs Divide County 3:00PM
Sep 10: Dry Fork Township Mtg 5PM Community Center Meeting Room
Sep 11: Patriot Day

Tioga School Construction Update - Ryan Albrecht

The new gym at the high school is still on track for a late October/Early November opening. There was good news with the football field and that the new sprinklers were tested and ran yesterday. The field is scheduled to have sod laid down this week.

We are crossing our fingers that we will be able to play a home game at the end of the regular season. The track should hopefully be poured soon as well. It will be great to be able to host track meets again this spring.

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