

The Storm Report

OAKES TORNADOES UPDATES

March 13th, 2026



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

BY: LILA IVERSON

This time around for our staff spotlight, we are highlighting Mr. Schneider, our 7–12 math teacher. He teaches Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, and Intro to Computer Science. Mr. Schneider has been working at our school since the beginning of his career and has been here for the past seven years.



"Getting to interact with all the students, getting to need to learn more about them, and helping them grow and overcome some challenges that they are facing throughout their lives, whether it's school-related or personal-related," he said, was his favorite part of his job. In which he passes with a level four, he is good with helping kids understand the content that he has given. His favorite class is algebra, based on content.

"I decided on teaching my senior year of high school, and I've stuck with that, and I don't think I regret it," he said when he thought about considering a different career. Mr. Schneider is also a basketball referee. He has been a referee since his freshman year at college, over a decade, 11 years to be exact. He most enjoys "the camaraderie," so you meet a lot of people through refereeing, and you rep with different people all the time, so getting to hang out before and after the games is my favorite part. You do not remember a lot of the games. You remember the people that you hang out with" side of referring.

From teaching math to refereeing basketball games, Mr. Schneider stays busy and enjoys working with students. We are glad to have him at our school.

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BY: AVA THOMPSON

Seniors, It's time to apply. Paying for college is expensive. Scholarships can help a lot. The good news is there are many scholarships just for you Seniors. You just have to apply. Down below there are links that will help you. **(If it is marked in orange its a link.)** Make sure you watch for updates and deadlines on the Oakes Public School Website. (Deadlines are usually between January and April.)

Local Scholarships check out:

- Local businesses
- Banks
- Farms and Ag groups
- Hospitals
- Community clubs
- Family honoring loved ones
- Your job (some employers offer scholarships)
- Churches or community groups

There are many more listed online. Some are for certain majors like agriculture, healthcare, education, or trades so keep a look out for those.

For not as local scholarships check out

- The college you plan to attend
- Scholarship search websites

The more you apply for, the better your chances.

Links on how to Write a good essay are down bellow.

- [How to write a good college essay to win money.](#) YouTube Video
- [Scholarship Essay: Format examples and don'ts](#) YouTube Video
- [Scholarship Essay Tips](#)
- [RUReadyND Scholarships](#)

Deadlines Matter

Most scholarships are due between January and April. Do NOT wait until the last minute. Start now. Make a list of ones you want to do. Keep track of due dates.

Tips

- Check out the OPS Scholarship pages
- Ask questions if you are confused
- Start Early
- Watch Videos & Research how to make a good Essay

Your future will thank you for taking the time to earn free money!

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED...

BY: AVA THOMPSON

A note from Mr. Wentworth

Seniors check out the following websites

[Local Scholarships](#)

[Statewide Scholarships](#)

[College/University Scholarships](#)

Talk to your college advisor. They will lead you to scholarships too.

Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for scholarships and make sure you let your college know you are planning on attending their school.

Juniors:

Start thinking about where you want to go to college, get a resume, brag sheet (A sheet that hypes you up) ready to go and start thinking who your letters of recommendation would be as graduation comes faster than you think.

If you have questions, talk to:

Ed Wentworth – High School Counselor

Email: ed.wentworth@k12.nd.us

Phone: 701-742-3234 ext. 326

He can help you:

- Find scholarships
- Check deadlines
- Look over essays
- Answer questions



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THE START OF TRACK SEASON

BY: ADDIE UMBREIT

If you're wanting something to do to stay active during the spring, be with friends, or reach personal goals, track and field opens the door for all of these opportunities. This sport gives you the chance to grow as an individual and a teammate all in one. You have the freedom to excel in events of your choice, build connections, and so much more.

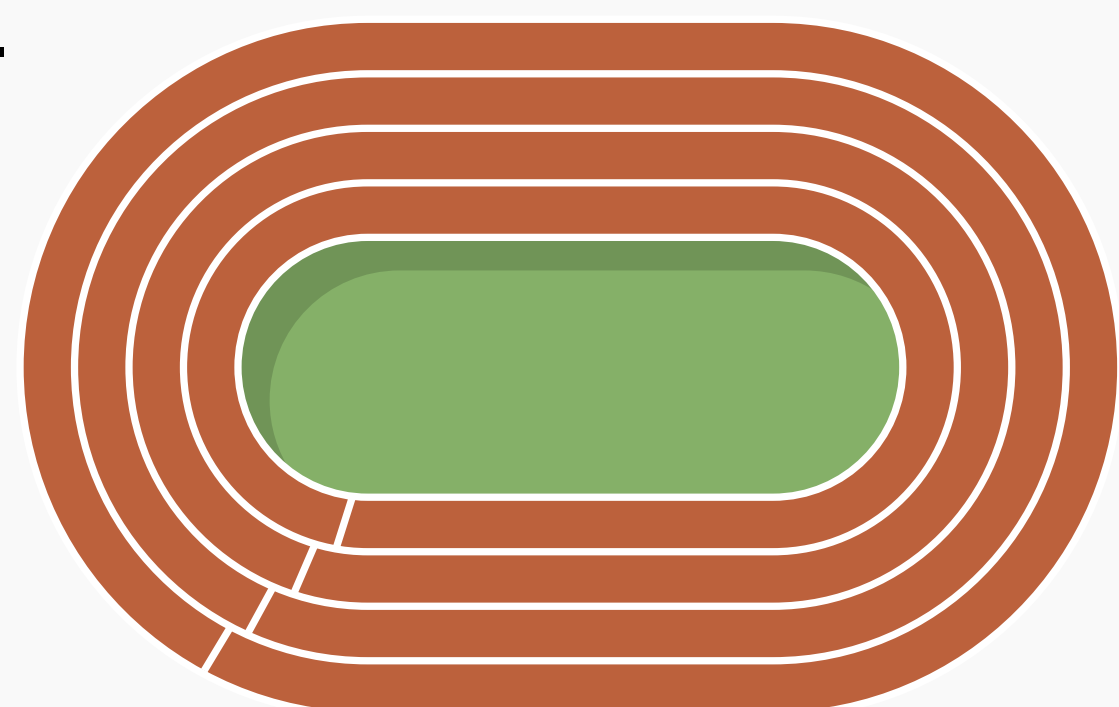
Participating in this sport requires lots of training physically and mentally. It's important you take care of yourself in order to reach your full potential in training. You can take care of yourself physically by getting enough sleep, eating well, and even cutting out energy drinks. Mentally, keeping a positive mindset, visualize yourself succeeding, and learning to control your reactions and thoughts when you make mistakes can help your overall performance.

Along with taking care of yourself, it's helpful to have goals. Setting goals for yourself and as a team can give you a specific target to reach. An individual goal could range from trying to set new personal records or work harder during practice. For the Tornadoes, Coach Miller says, "Our goal is to have our athletes compete with heart, support their teammates, and continually push themselves to improve, always striving to give their best effort and achieve new personal records."

In order to reach your goals, it's important to fuel yourself for practice. Making sure you're drinking enough water or maybe even having a quick snack before practice can help you sustain your energy throughout your training. For example, a quick snack could be eating a granola bar or even some fruit. Moreover, after practicing your muscles may feel sore which is why it's important to stretch to improve blood flow and reduce muscle tension.

Starting a new season means there's a lot to look forward to. Coach Miller looks forward to seeing the new group of athletes and what they can accomplish, saying, "Track gives athletes a chance to compete against others but also challenge themselves to improve and chase personal records." Additionally, she mentions, "Along the way, they learn to support teammates, celebrate successes, and meet athletes from other schools."

Track is a great way to stay active while building connections with people not only in your school, but other schools as well. Even though the weather can be a battle, practices can be long, and there's tough competition, the reward from your tough training will show in the performance of your events.





JANITOR APPRECIATION

BY: BREANN YOUNG

Our school stays clean and welcoming every day because of the hard work of our custodians. One custodian who helps make that happen is Joan Orner. She works behind the scenes to ensure the building is safe, clean, and ready for students and teachers each day.

Joan shared that many students don't realize how much work goes on when school isn't in session. She said, "I don't think the students know what all we do in the summer with all the deep cleaning we do." During the summer, she spends a lot of time deep cleaning classrooms, floors, and other parts of the school so everything is ready for the next school year.

Even though the job can be busy, there are parts she really enjoys. Joan said her favorite part of the job is interacting with students and staff around the school. She also shared that vacuuming is one of her favorite tasks because it is relaxing for her.

One of Joan's favorite memories happened when the school flooded. She said, "My favorite memory is when the school flooded and how all the staff and custodians worked together to get it done in record time! It truly did take a village!" This moment showed how everyone in the school community can work together when something unexpected happens.

Cleaning classrooms is also a big part of Joan's job. She explained that cleaning one room can take anywhere from 20 to 30 minutes, depending on how dirty it is. With many classrooms and hallways in the school, Joan spends a lot of time making sure everything stays clean for students and teachers.

Custodians like Joan play a huge role in making our school a wonderful place to learn. The next time you see Joan Orner in the hallway, remember all the work she does behind the scenes. A simple "thank you" can go a long way in showing appreciation for everything she does.

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BY: KALYN HAAFKE

From freshman year athletics to finding her place in Mass Media, this senior's high school journey has been both fast and fun. During her early years, she participated in volleyball and basketball and spent two years involved in HOSA. Each experience helped shape her into the person she is today.

Her favorite class is Mass Media because she enjoys writing, learning new things, and contributing to the yearbook. The opportunity to explore new topics and be creative has made the class especially meaningful to her. Outside of school, she loves spending time with friends, driving around, and listening to music.

One of the biggest challenges she faced in high school was staying focused and completing her work on time. Over the years, she has learned the importance of responsibility and time management, a lesson she plans to carry with her into the future. If she could give advice to her freshman self, she would say to stay positive, get your work done on time, and not wait until the last second.

Moving from Texas to North Dakota as a freshman was a major adjustment, but it also gave her a fresh start. Looking back, she is proud of how much she has grown and how she has adapted to living in one place for more than just a few months. Her friendships have also shaped her journey. She has learned important lessons about trust and discovered that sometimes the best friendships come later in life.

After graduation, she plans to attend college to pursue accounting and build a future she is proud of. Her goal is to begin her career, create a stable life, and help others in any way she can.

She is most proud of learning not to worry about what others think and instead choosing to simply live her life. To her, being a senior means recognizing how much she has grown and being able to offer advice and encouragement to younger students.

She values the close bond she shares with her family, especially her mom, whom she considers her biggest influence. She credits her mom for always being there with steady support, encouragement, and guidance throughout every stage of her life.

As she prepares to begin this next chapter, her mom offers this heartfelt advice:

“As you start college, believe in yourself and stay true to who you are. It is okay if your path changes because growth often means discovering something new. Stay positive when things feel hard, choose kindness, and respect yourself enough to never settle for less than you deserve. I am so proud of the young woman you have become, and I will always be cheering you on.”

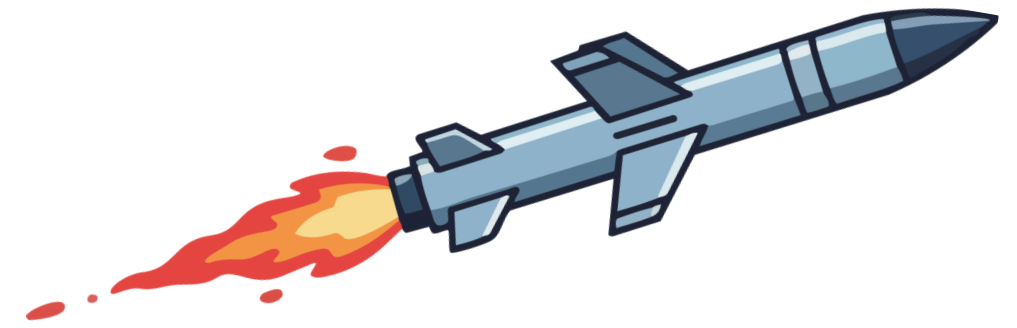
With that support behind her, she steps into the future confident, resilient, and ready for what comes next.



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U.S AND ISRAEL ATTACK IRAN

BY DYLAN QUANDT



On the dawn of February 28th, U.S. forces moved swiftly alongside Israeli units towards key locations inside Iran. Strike targets included Tehran, the heart of the nation. Morning light had just broken when operations began. Preventing nuclear progress drove the mission forward. Early reports confirmed that the actions focused on military centers.

Planes roared first, followed by long-range missiles, and then small flying drones joined later. Military camps, hidden launch pads, radar towers, and rooms where top Iranian officials met behind closed doors were all hit. Near the center of Tehran, explosions tore through a key site late at night. That strike reached a room full of commanders during a meeting. Officials in Iran stated that their leader, Ali Khamenei, did not survive the incident.

Immediately, Iran fired back, launching drones and missiles towards Israel and American bases across the Middle East. Although air defenses shot down many of the incoming strikes, several still hit their targets, leaving behind harm, wounded people, and 6 U.S. troops lost their lives. Officials from both Israel and the United States stated that the mission aimed to reduce danger, particularly stopping progress on atomic bombs. Afterward, during a public address, Trump commented on the situation, saying that the armed forces achieved strong results through their actions. Government figures in Washington added that they stood prepared to respond further should Tehran continue its assaults.

Things could shift suddenly. If more nations become involved in the fight, tensions might escalate quickly. Routes carrying oil run through this area, which could shake the markets. Yet, a few global figures are pushing talks, aiming to pause the battles. The balance of power remains between them, yet what comes next remains unclear. Nobody can say whether the fighting escalates completely or talks slowly take hold instead

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SPELLING BEE

BY: NADYSEN MCKAY



Students gathered this week for the school's annual spelling bee, where participants competed to prove their spelling skills. One by one, students stepped up to the microphone to spell challenging words in front of classmates, teachers, and judges. The competition showed the hard work and preparation each student put in, while also creating an exciting and supportive atmosphere. In the end, the event celebrated learning, confidence, and the dedication of all the students who took part in the spelling bee.

The spelling bee has been an important academic competition for many years. The first national spelling bee in the United States was held in 1925 and was organized by the Louisville Courier-Journal. Students from different schools competed to see who could spell the most difficult words correctly. Over time, the competition became more popular and began including students from across the country. Today, spelling bees are held in many schools to help students improve their vocabulary, spelling skills, and confidence. The tradition continues to encourage learning while giving students a chance to challenge themselves and compete in a fun and educational way.

In an interview, Ainsley shared her experience participating in the spelling bee. She explained that some of the hardest words for her to study were “chignon” and “hors d'oeuvres”, with “hors d'oeuvres” being the most difficult because it took the most time to memorize. Ainsley also said she felt nervous when it was her turn because she was worried about spelling a word incorrectly in front of everyone. During the competition, the trickiest word she was asked to spell was “avocado”. When asked what advice she would give to younger students participating for the first time, Ainsley said they should study as much as possible. She explained that practicing often and reviewing difficult words can help students feel more prepared and confident when it is their turn to compete.

Overall, the spelling bee was a great opportunity for students to challenge themselves and show their spelling skills. Participants worked hard to prepare and demonstrated confidence as they competed in front of their peers. Events like this encourage learning, dedication, and good sportsmanship. The spelling bee was an exciting experience for everyone involved and showed how important practice and perseverance are when working toward a goal.

Congratulations to our spelling bee champion Ainsley Neer. We are so proud of you. Keep up the good work, to all of the spelling bee participants.



As surprising as it may sound, we students have about 2 months of school left. So you might wonder how you'll stimulate yourself throughout the summer break. Well, luckily for you, this community has many businesses that are open for hiring; we interviewed 2 of the more well-known businesses in relation to their hiring. If you're interested in finding a job, then you better keep reading—people always find the better job openings by reading the newspaper.

One of the 2 jobs we'll be covering is the Angry Beaver, owned by Shawn and Shana Ulmer. Asking what positions could be filled, he responded with, "I'm always looking for servers to work in the dining room or for banquets and occasionally for dishwashers." As for time, he said that, "The job is typically 4:30 til 9:30 but can go later depending on how busy it is or the time of year." Finally, I asked him about what he thought the benefits of work would be, to which he responded, "Students can benefit by having a very social job that teaches them multitasking, teamwork, having responsibilities, and making good money among many other things."

And for our other half, we're covering the Corner C Store, owned by Amanda Nash. Asking what positions could be filled, she replied, "We usually have cashier or deli positions open for students. You must be 16 years or older to work here." Asking about any benefits, she said, "Benefits include learning responsibility and getting work experience. Also, earning money is great!!" And finally, talking about the best time to work, she responded, "The best time is usually after school or on weekends. I try to be as flexible as possible with people's schedules."

Overall, those are only 2 of the many jobs you have the opportunity of working at here in Oakes. You could work at the hospital, the library, one of the town shops, or the theater; any job can fit as long as it fits you. Just remember to find a job that you'd actually be interested in working at, otherwise it's just work for you. So get out there and find some employment; it beats sitting around being an under-stimulated bum. For more jobs that could potentially peak your interest, please check the link

<https://oakesnd.com/jobs.php>

Thank you.

NORTH DAKOTA RURAL HEALTHCARE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

BY: JYLES MEIER

A major new program is bringing attention to healthcare in rural North Dakota. Kelly Armstrong recently announced a large investment in small communities throughout the state.

North Dakota has received 200 million dollars in federal funding to launch a new rural health transformation program. The program is designed to improve health care access, quality, and services for people in rural areas. Many small towns struggle with limited hospitals, fewer doctors, and long travel time to get medical care. State officials hope this funding will help solve some of these problems.

This program started early 2026 and will go for about 5 years and will focus on strengthening hospitals, clinics, and community health programs. The goal is to make sure rural communities can receive good medical care close to where they live instead of having to travel longer distances for it. Funding programs like these are very important in states like North Dakota, because communities are small and spread apart. Improving rural healthcare can help families stay healthier and make rural towns stronger over all.

For North Dakotans, this program could mean better access to doctors improve medical facilities, and also more support for local hospitals.

STATE DECA

BY: MCKENNNA ALLSTON

State DECA has come and gone once again. DECA is a career and technical student organization. This year, six students went to compete: Micah Malmberg, Lexi Harris, Marley Foss, Mallory Harris, Avery Kapfer, and Amanda Harris.

Students participate in activities outside of competition, including minute it to win it games. Marley said that her favorite part was the opening session because of the energy and excitement from everyone; she describes it as really fun.

Lexi said that her favorite part was the Minute to Win it games. Both students mentioned that they enjoyed getting Insomnia Cookies. Lexi and Mallory competed in a start-up business plan, making it to the finals. Marley competed in automotive marketing, where she placed 5th.

This year, Marley will go to ICID (International Career Development Conference) to compete in her event. Lexi and Mallory will be going to attend a leadership conference. The ICID will be in Atlanta, GA, from April 25th to 30th.

