

STORM REPORT



September 18th 2026

Issue 19

Oakes, ND

THE LIGHTNING ROUND HIGHLIGHTS

Homecoming

By: Danna Quezada

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In just one week, the halls will be filled with creative outfits, fun activities, and students filled with joy. Next week is homecoming week for Oakes, and everyone is excited. Volleyball has two games next week. Tuesday, they play Tri-State at home. If you decide to come, bring about 6-7 fans for yourself because it is hot in there. Then on Thursday they play BCN at Barnes County North. Homecoming week is wrapped up with the football game against Sargent County on Friday.

I asked some of the coaches questions about the homecoming games. I asked about how the crowd affects the team's energy. Roxane Miller said: "Our crowd plays such a significant role in our matches. Their support gives us confidence, creates momentum, and keeps us fighting for every point. Come out, get loud, and cheer on the Oakes Tornadoes! Your support truly makes a difference!"

Then I asked the football coaches if playing during homecoming week adds any extra pressure. Greg Dobitz said, "For a football coach, it is a week full of some "extra" distractions, and when you coach 14-18-year-old boys, extra distractions are not always the best thing. The game on Friday should be the most important thing for our team. We can be involved in all those things, but we can't take the focus off Friday night." Hunter Greenmyer gave us the perspective as a former player at Oakes. Mr. Greenmyer said, "As a former player, I was 2-2 in homecoming games as a starter. Mr. Dobitz used to say this a lot, and he probably still does: "All of these fun things are great and all, but what does everyone remember? Did you guys win the football game on Friday night? Everyone likes homecoming, all the things we do, and how we show spirit."

SEPT. 21ST
PEP RALLY

- North Gym
- 9:15 a.m.

- Hot Dog Eating Competition
- Dunking Contest
- Mattress Racing

SEPT. 21ST
POSTER MAKING

- Union Square
- 3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Any supply donations are deeply appreciated!!

SEPT. 22ND
SPLASH A SENIOR

- South Parking Lot
- 11:05 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. & 4:45 p.m. - 2nd set of JV VB

*VB and FB players will only be at the earlier time!

SEPT. 25TH
FINAL PEP RALLY

- Cheers
- Announcements
- Mini Competitions
- Wish the FB players luck

SEPT. 25TH
TAILGATING

- Games
- Dirty Soda Stand
- Face painting
- Portraits by kids



I asked Mrs. Haafke what her favorite part of homecoming week was. She responded, "Seeing the school community come together to show their school pride. It's fun to see students, staff, and community members participate in the dress-up days, activities, and other homecoming traditions."

Homecoming also comes with fun outfits and activities, but if people don't get involved, then it won't be as fun. So, I asked our student council president how students can get more involved during homecoming week. Swaye Jackson said, "The most obvious one is participating in our dress-up days! Something that I think would make homecoming more exciting is if students would cheer loudly and be super obnoxious at our pep rallies. A few other cool things that students can do this year are dunking contests, mattress racing, guess the lyric, and cheering on the students' staff volleyball game."

Swaye also talked about activities outside of school that she would like students and community members to be a part of. "On September 21st, there will be poster making for the homecoming games in Union Square from 3 to 7. Then, on September 22nd, there will be "Splash a Senior" during junior high lunch and C-squad/JV. The last event is a tailgate party before the football game; there will be face paint, portraits by kids, and games. Whoever wins the games will get prizes from small businesses in town. Homecoming is just around the corner, so make sure you have your fun activities, your school spirit, and your yelling voices for the cheers.

50 POSTER BOARDS ALREADY DONATED BY SHADOW LANES!

JOIN US FOR

POSTER MAKING

COME DECORATE A HOMECOMING POSTER TO SUPPORT OUR ATHLETES! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

MONDAY SEPT. 21ST
3:30P.M.-7:00P.M.
@ UNION SQUARE

SPLASH A SENIOR

Buy a bucket and dump it on a senior of your choice!

Located in the South Parking lot outside of the gym lobby

Tuesday
September 22nd
11:07 a.m - 12:27 p.m
&
4:45- 2nd set of JV

FB & VB players will only be at the earlier time

HOMECOMING

DRESS UP DAYS! SEPTEMBER 21ST-25TH

Monday SEPT 21 **MEME/CELEBRITY DAY**
Dress up like your favorite celebrity or a person from your favorite meme

Tuesday SEPT 22 **RHYME WITHOUT A REASON**
Find a friend(s) and wear rhyming outfits
Example: Cleaning lady and Slim Shady

Wednesday SEPT 23 **COUNTRY VS COUNTRY CLUB**
Wear your best cowboy OR country club attire

Thursday SEPT 24 **I THOUGHT IT WAS...**
Think of your favorite dress up day and wear that!
Example: "I thought it was USA day"

Friday SEPT 25 **ORANGE, BLACK, AND WHITE**
Show off your Tornado spirit and we'll see you at the football game!



The Message Beyond the Game

By: Dani Lee

Some games are remembered for the scoreboard. Others are remembered for what they stood for. During the Suicide Prevention Night last Thursday, the focus went beyond the court and brought the Oakes community together for an important cause.

Suicide Prevention Night was an opportunity to raise awareness about mental health and to remind people that struggles are not always visible. Even when someone looks happy or like their usual self, they may be dealing with things others can't see. Creating a space where people feel comfortable and safe talking, listening, and asking for help can make a major difference. The night also showed that mental health is something everyone can play a part in supporting. Whether it is checking in on a friend, listening without judgment, or simply letting someone know they are cared about, small actions can make a significant impact.

Although volleyball was still the center of the night, the event went beyond the competition and the game. The gym was filled with purple and teal clothing, purple and teal pins to grab, short speeches between sets about suicide prevention, and informational brochures about warning signs, prevention strategies, and available resources, as seniors Swaye Jackson and Rebecca Schlader stated. Swaye said the large crowd at volleyball games makes the event meaningful to the community of Oakes and even the opposing team. "Volleyball games usually have high attendance, and it is the best way to spread suicide awareness to protect the people we love," said Jackson.



The Message Beyond the Game Continued...

Although the night happens once a year, the message behind it is meant to continue throughout the year. Both seniors emphasized the importance of supporting the ones around you and how important it is to pay attention to your peers. Becca said we can look for changes in people we know, such as withdrawing from friends or expressing feelings of being hopeless. Schlader said the best way to help out is to check in with them, listen without judgment, and encourage them to reach out to a trusted adult.

For both organizers, the biggest goal of the night is making sure the community all has someone they can turn to and that they belong here. Swaye stated, "I truly hope every person here knows they belong and are loved." Becca hoped anyone who may be struggling would leave the game knowing they are not alone and there are people, given in the tiny town of Oakes, ND, who care and will take the time for you. As Swaye put it, "Be a kind person, stop judging others, and check in with the people you care about constantly." You never know what people are going through, recognize the signs and show up for those around you.



Pictures taken
by Monica Jo
Ptacek



Girls Golf

By: Aliyah Friedt

The Oakes girls golf team is small but mighty, with just 5 girls. With such a young group, the team is focused on building experience, confidence, and friendships. Having a smaller and younger team can come with challenges, but it also gives the girls time to grow, as they can get more one-on-one time with Coach Schieler.



When asked why more girls should give golf a try, Schieler said that golf is a sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime and offers many opportunities beyond high school. “Even if you've never golfed before, we would love to have you come give it a try and join our team,” Schieler said.

Each practice and meet gives them a chance to learn new things and gain experience. When I asked one of the girls what golf has taught her, patience and persistence were the main takeaways. She said, “It can be frustrating when the ball doesn’t go where I want, but it has taught me to keep trying and not give up.”

When asked what she is most proud of the team for accomplishing, Coach Schieler pointed to the girls’ growth in their mental game. Golf can last several hours, and much of that time is spent without a coach nearby, making it important for players to stay positive and focused on their own. “Being able to control your own mental attitude and look at each shot as a new opportunity is what can take you from being an okay golfer to an excellent golfer,” Schieler said. She is proud of the effort the girls have put into improving this part of their game throughout the season. As the season continues, the girls hope to build their skills, support one another, and show that a small team can still make a big difference.

Superbowl Predictions



By: Jase Peters

The NFL season started on Wednesday, September 9th. Many people are starting to make early Super Bowl predictions. So, I took it upon myself to ask some OHS football fans for their predictions. Some die-hard fans think that it may be the year they win it all.

Mr. Sagert's prediction is the Vikings versus the Broncos, 35-17 Vikings win. When I asked him why he picked the Vikings to win, he responded, "Because the Vikings are the best team in America." Right now, this could be considered a major hot take. Considering that the top five Super Bowl favorites are the Rams, Bills, Chiefs, Seahawks, and then Ravens. Although Mr. Sagert may have had a slightly delusional prediction, a few others I interviewed didn't. Other staff, like Mr. Peterson, had two of the favorites make it, Rams versus Ravens, 27-17. Although this was his prediction, he also wanted the Vikings instead of the Rams but changed his mind.

Local sports announcer Garret Meehl also gave us his prediction, predicting the Los Angeles Rams to beat the Buffalo Bills, 24-17. To make his prediction, Garrett talked about odds, probabilities, and sportsbooks and how you don't really need to know much about football to make a prediction. "Odds represent the sportsbook's assessment of an event's likelihood along with the potential payout associated with that outcome." Garret did make it very clear that he does not participate in sports betting. He just finds it interesting how there are so many models based on several factors within sports betting. For example, "home field advantage, injuries, weather, team performance, and strength of schedule" can help people make their own Super Bowl prediction, along with many more different things. Maybe things will go the way some die-hard fans want them to, or will fans like Mr. Sagert keep living a delusion?

The Little Store

By: Bode Andersen



The new gas station, The Little Store, will be a large-scale fuel facility with 10 pumps. The station isn't strictly a truck stop; "It is not a truck stop, it is designed as a modernized, full-scale convenience forecourt." It will have high-flow diesel lanes with satellite pumps to fuel large vehicles. The station will offer your regular fuel blends such as 87, 89, 91, and E15. The new facility has been engineered to last well beyond 30 years of operation and a 50-year structural lifespan.

You might be wondering what the plans are for the building like; will it be fryer food or will they have a café/restaurant? The convenience store is scheduled to open in fiscal year 27. It is currently designed on the inside to be a modernized retro space. The space inside will be divided. The south side will be dedicated to a traditional sit-down café, and the north side will be the convenience store. The food that will be offered will be grab-and-go and a menu for indoors. "Featuring a simple selection of staple items like burgers and breakfast items. Derek and Scott are thrilled to bring the soft-serve ice cream back to the community. The concept will basically mirror a Dairy Queen menu. Derek and Scott have had several good conversations with Dairy Queen. "We had several positive conversations with Dairy Queen about bringing a franchised location to the site. However, the footprint of the existing building and limited space for a drive-through did not work for their franchise criteria. We look forward to providing the same treats independently".

"The concept of the Little Store, "your big time saver", is built on affordability, speed and straightforward operations." Operating over multiple states and many communities with nationwide competition. Their main focus is to provide their customers with great respect and accommodate them as best they can. They will be offering some deals, such as 2 gallons of milk for \$5 and 4 Rockstar energy drinks for \$5 as well. They are fully committed to making their pricing the best and most affordable they can and staying in competition with the local gas stations. They want the little store to be the most affordable option versus the other stations in the community.



The Little Store Continued...

The little store will be owned and operated by Scott Roney and Derek Medveb. Their company spans multiple states and has over 250 employees across their stores. Derek and Scott are happy to be starting up their new station and helping the community with more affordable options.

All the construction, such as all the concrete and installing the pumps will be done by Oday equipment based out of Fargo and Andersen farms will be setting the fuel tanks in. Oday will be the general project manager. "Oday Equipment specializes in fuel station construction and repair." Oday has mobile crews from their Fargo and Duluth branches to be able to achieve the new station in a nice and timely manner. The onsite work is scheduled to begin in the next 2-3 weeks, and their progress will be fast. Oday Equipment is a very good company and has worked with Derek in previous stations.

Derek and Scott have faced a few challenges with getting approval from the city. From Derek and Scott's point of view, they want an honest process where every business is treated fairly and held responsible under the same rules and regulations. Derek and Scott understand that ordinances are meant to be clear and equal, and to ensure everyone has the same chance and is treated the same. But I don't think it is right for the city to shut Derek and Scott down when they have met all the guidelines and rules and have been very accommodating to the community residents. When Derek and Scott are treated unfairly and differently from other people, they will speak up about it. "We will always pursue this process in its true and correct form, and we will absolutely raise concerns when discrepancies occur." Even with the community disputes about the new station, Derek and Scott eventually got the go-ahead from the city. "Elected representatives are public stewards chosen to fairly uphold rules for everyone equally, not to alter them at will." As construction gets underway, the community will soon begin to see The Little Store take shape and prepare to become a new part of Oakes.



Study Halls



By: Jase Peters

Study halls: some people love them, some people hate them. Some people may ask, "What is a study hall, and what are they used for?" To answer your question, a study hall is a class dedicated to doing schoolwork. Many believe that study halls help students not fall behind because they give them an opportunity to ask teachers and other classmates for help. At OHS, study halls are no longer a choice. Why? Well, study halls are not completely gone; it is more of an adjusted use of the hour.

See, the JH classes all still have a class called WIN. This is used in place of a study hall but still serves a similar purpose. WIN time is an hour where JH kids get a period made for reading books and getting other schoolwork done. For the freshmen, they have an every-other-day study hall that coincides with their principles of marketing class. Moving on to juniors and seniors, instead of an hour that they can use for study hall, upperclassmen get an open hour. This can be used in any way they would like to use it, an extended lunch, one hour more of sleep, or getting out an hour early. What do you think?

High School Principal, Mr. Lynch, said that "students have asked me a lot in the previous years about having an extended lunch period." This gives upperclassmen that opportunity. It also gives them the opportunity to go to work earlier, get ready for after-school activities, or open a period for their academics if they need it." This ultimately sparked the idea of an open hour for the upperclassmen in high school.

Teachers Summers

By: Tristin Hill



This summer, our teachers enjoyed time with family, friends, and hobbies.

Mrs. Neer spent time with her kids and visited the Laura Ingall's Homestead, the Great Plains Zoo, Glacier National Park, and Alexandria, Minnesota



Mr. Schneider went to the lake, did some home improvements, and traveled to Tampa, Florida, to watch the Tampa Bay Rays play the New York Yankees.



Mr. Peterson attended his children's baseball and softball games, started a family YouTube channel, and traveled to Medora to visit the presidential library.



Overall, our teachers had a fun and relaxing summer filled with family, travel, hobbies, and new experiences. From visiting exciting places to spending time with loved ones, each teacher made the most of their summer break.

SRCTC Classes

By: Lewis Nava

Some students might be wondering why we do not have Ag classes this school year. The main reason is that our school could not find a qualified teacher to teach Ag. The school put out advertisements for the job and reached out to some people who might have been interested. Sadly, nobody with the right qualifications applied.

This is not just a problem for our school. There is a shortage of teachers in a lot of different areas right now. This makes it harder for schools to find teachers for certain classes. Ag is one of those classes that needs someone with the right experience and qualifications.

Even though we do not have Ag classes this year, the school is still going to need to look for a teacher. It might take some time to find the right person. The school will need help from the community and others to find someone who would be interested in teaching Ag here.

Hopefully, we can find a qualified Ag teacher in the future so we can have Ag classes again. Ag is an important class for our school and community, so it would be great to have it back.

Missing Work

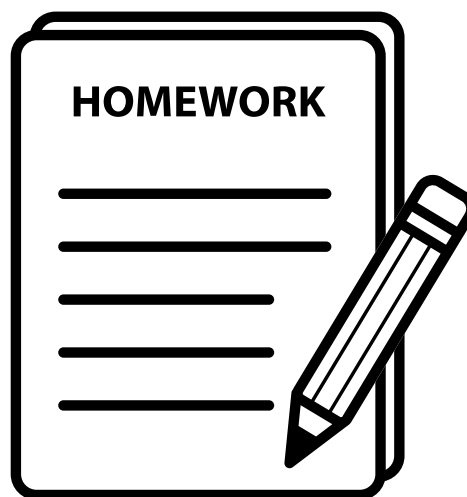
By: Matvei



Keeping up with missing assignments is an important part of student life. As a student, sometimes it's a struggle to stay on top of all the assignments. On average, in Mr. Sell's classes, around 2-4 people per class have a missing assignment amongst the high school. Mrs. Bopp's 7th grade class was stated as: "It's really bad..." (Mrs. Bopp). Comparing the two, it seems as though junior high students are more likely to get missing assignments.

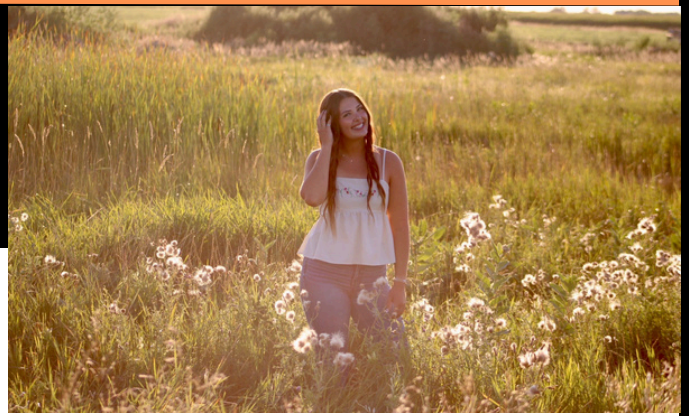
Observing this information, I was curious as to why students in general struggle with missing assignments. So, I decided to ask Mr. Sell what he believes the reason for this is: "I think that procrastination plays a huge role in people falling behind. The most common response is, "I'll do it later," and things come up, then they never get to it." Is what he responded with. To help with ideas to finish work, I asked a student named Loden, who said, "I set aside an hour a night to work on my homework." That is from the student's perspective, and if we ask a teacher the same question, Mrs. Bopp recommends, "I recommend that learners use their time wisely to complete assignments before the due date. Be aware of upcoming activities and plan around them."

We can take this information and lead into student mindsets. Loden says, "I think people stay behind because they are lazy and don't want to do the work." As Loden says, people can simply not do the work because they choose not to. So, it may not be a time issue, or even something to do with smarts; it could simply be a mentality issue. When students change the way they approach their work and take responsibility for completing assignments, missing work can become less of a habit and more of an opportunity to improve. In the end, success isn't always about having more time or being smarter; sometimes, it is about having the right mindset and choosing to put in the effort.



Senior Spotlight

By: Mrs. Haafke



For this senior, volleyball, track, and HOSA have been some of the biggest parts of her high school experience. Through all three, she has made some of her favorite memories, had some great opportunities, and most importantly, found people who have become like a second family.

You may know this senior by her nickname, “Murph,” which came from her initials. One thing you might not know about her is that she really enjoys whistling and, according to her, she is pretty good at it. So if you hear some impressive whistling in the hallway, you may have found her.

Some of her favorite high school memories are the class field trips. The destination is fun, but there is something special about everyone being together, bonding, and collectively talking about how much they miss school while being very happy that they are not actually in class. Somehow, field trips have a way of making everyone appreciate school a little more while simultaneously being very glad they are not sitting in a classroom.

After graduation, she will be joining the Air National Guard and plans to attend college to pursue something in environmental science. She also has some advice for the underclassmen: get involved. Whether it is a sport, club, or something completely new, give it a try. There is something for everyone, and high school goes by faster than you think.

When it comes to school lunch favorites, there is one answer that comes without hesitation: pizza boats. They are a clear favorite, and if pizza boats are on the menu, you can pretty much guarantee this senior is going to be happy.

Her most used emoji is 🤔, which can apparently mean either confusion or suspicion. Honestly, that seems like a pretty useful emoji to have. Her biggest pet peeve is when someone will not just tell her exactly what they want. She would much rather have the answer than play a guessing game and risk getting it wrong.

Senior Spotlight

By: Mrs. Haafke

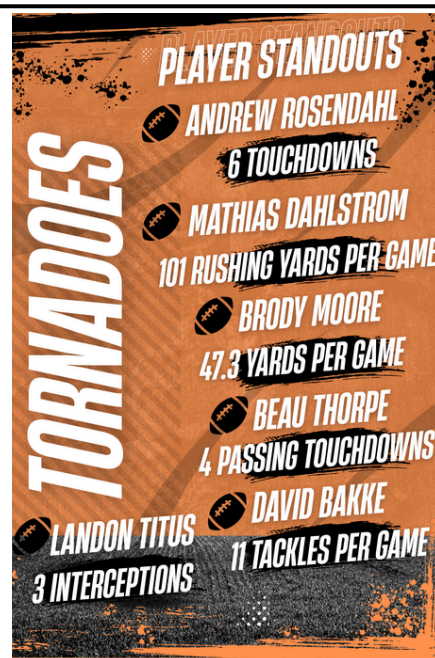
If she could instantly become an expert at anything, she would choose to play an instrument. She has tried a few times, but unfortunately, her brain and musical instruments have yet to reach an agreement. Perhaps one day they will settle their differences.

While many students spend the summer counting down the days until school starts again, this senior actually looks forward to returning. Summer gets boring, and she misses seeing and talking to her classmates. That love for being around her friends and classmates is part of what makes her high school experience so memorable. Apparently, even a few months away from school is enough to make her miss the place she probably spent the rest of the year wishing she had fewer assignments.

And, of course, no senior spotlight would be complete without mentioning her beverage of choice: Bubbl'r, specifically Twisted Elix'r. According to her, it is the OG, and that is really all the explanation we need.

As the Class of 2027 looks toward graduation, she hopes her class will be remembered for showing up for each other. After all the practices, competitions, field trips, laughs, and everyday moments together, it is the people who make high school memorable. And if this senior has anything to say about it, there should probably be a few Bubbl'rs, some pizza boats, and maybe some questionable whistling involved along the way.

Current Football Stats



Library Corner

By: Krista Dobitz



Looking for your next great read? Welcome to the Library Corner! Here, we highlight a few books from the library that are worth adding to your reading list. Whether you're into mystery, suspense, romance, horror, or something a little more realistic, there's always something new to discover. Check out this issue's featured books and see if one catches your interest!

Confessions from the Group Chat by Jodi Meadows

Genre: Realistic Fiction

AR Level: 4.7 / 7 points

Synopsis: What happens in the group chat stays in the group chat... until it doesn't. When Virginia's private messages are exposed for the whole school to see, her social life implodes overnight. As she struggles to rebuild friendships and navigate a mysterious texting friendship, Virginia must figure out who she really wants to be. Funny, heartfelt, and incredibly relatable, this story explores friendship, firstcrushes, and the highs and lows of life online.

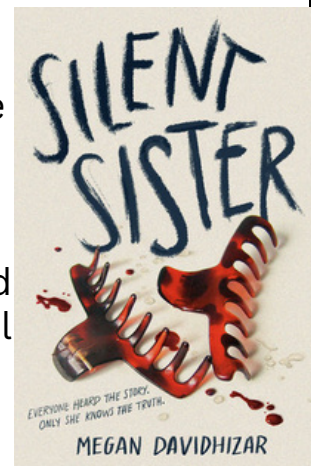


Silent Sister by Megan Davidhizar

Genre: Mystery Fiction

AR Level: 4.9 / 12 points

Synopsis: Two sisters disappear during a school trip, but only one returns. Grace wakes up injured, covered in clues, and unable to remember what happened to her missing sister, Maddy. As suspicion grows and secrets begin to surface, Grace races to uncover the truth before it's too late. Full of twists, suspense, and shocking revelations, this mystery will keep readers guessing until the very last page.



The Kill Factor by Ben Oliver

Genre: Horror Fiction

AR Level: 5.8 / 13 points

Synopsis: Imagine a reality TV show where the prize is freedom... and losing could cost you your life. Emerson joins The Kill Factor, a competition for young offenders who are promised a second chance through a series of challenges. But when contestants begin disappearing, she realizes the game is far deadlier than anyone suspected. Packed with action, danger, and a chilling look at fame and social media, this dystopian thriller is impossible to put down.

