

STORM REPORT



October 16th, 2026

Issue 21

Oakes, ND

THE LIGHTNING ROUND

HIGHLIGHTS

Help Us Make the Headlines

1 Help Us Make the Headlines

2 Club Events

3 A day in the Life of a Student

4 Study Tips

5-6 Senior Spotlight

7 Free Hour

8 Caffeine Cart

9-10 Diesel fuel relief

11-12 Generational Lunch

13 Undefeated NFL Teams

We have the headlines covered, but we need your ideas! The Mass Media class is looking for our next great feature article, and we want to know what YOU would like to read about.

What is happening around Oakes that deserves a little more attention? Who should we interview next? Is there a student, staff member, or community member with a story worth sharing? Maybe you have a question you've always wanted answered. Whatever your idea is, we want to hear it!

We are also looking for guest authors! So far this year, we have had three guest authors share their writing with us: Garret Meehl, Mrs. Dobitz, and Easton McHarry. We know there are more great stories and ideas out there, and we would love to give them a place in The Storm Report. You don't have to be a professional writer to contribute. If you have something to say, we want to help you share it!

Have an idea for a story or want to submit an article of your own? Let the Mass Media class know! We would love for you to give your input or submit an article!

[Submit Requests Here](#)

Clubs in Action



By: Danna Quezda

School club events bring fun activities, new friends, and skills to practice for the future. Here at OHS, we have the opportunity to be in 5 clubs. We have DECA led by Jeffrey Miller, HOSA led by Cary Wertz, FFA and FCCLA led by Anna Kemmer, and Student Council led by Kayla Meierotto.

HOSA always has events, but its upcoming event is Fall Leadership. I have asked HOSA president Rebecca Schladar what Fall Leadership was. She responded with, “Fall Leadership is an amazing opportunity for students to volunteer, learn about health careers, and meet new people. We conduct a short business session, then split up into workshops full of fun medical, crafts, teamwork, and volunteer activities. Overall, HOSA’s fall leadership allows you to learn and grow. It is also a fun excuse to skip school.”

DECA also has some upcoming events, so I asked Jeffrey Miller about it.” He responded with, “Fall leadership conference in Fargo gives 1st year DECA students a chance to compete and officers a chance to plan out the year's activities. We also have a fruit sale coming up.”

After DECA, we have FFA, and they just had a big event happen. So, I have asked Erin Rodine what the event was about: “FFA members from our chapter recently attended the FFA Fall Leadership Conference in Bismarck, ND. The conference gave members the opportunity to learn more about leadership, meet new people, and build skills they can use in both FFA and everyday life. Members attended one of four sessions: Blue, Gold, 101, or Aspire.”

Another club we have is Student Council, which is having a pizza fundraiser, food drive, and a hat and glove drive. Student Council advisor Kayla Meierotto said, “There will be a student council conference in December (Jillian Miller is running for class representative for the state board).”

All these clubs have so many events coming up, so hopefully, you help them out in all their fundraising activities. Clubs are so much more than having fun. It is about helping people out and giving the students skills for the future.

A Day in the Life as a Student

By: Dani Lee

For many students, the school day is a constant race from one class to the next, followed by homework, activities, and responsibilities outside of school. For Gabby, a typical day starts with her ASVAB class, followed by Cybersecurity, ELA, Law and Justice, Algebra 2, Biology, and Sign Language. After arriving at school, she waits for the first bell to ring by working on her ASVAB.

Gabby said that the busiest part of her day is math and reading because that is when the most work gets done. One of the hardest parts about being a student for Gabby is staying on top of everything and handling pressure while keeping good grades. To stay organized, she uses a planner. She has her priorities listed out every day: school, sports/activities, then friends and life outside of school.

After the final bell rings, Gabby's day is not necessarily over. She usually uses that time to do homework and chores or spends time with her friends. Her favorite part of the school day is sign language, partly because she can also work on other homework during class. When school is stressful, Gabby stays motivated by thinking about her future goals and past accomplishments.

One memorable moment happened when Gabby first started sign language. While taking a knowledge test, her best friends got the opportunity to learn how to sign Gabby's name. "I always think that sharing my learning with someone is so fun," said Gabby. Moments like this make her busy school schedule more rewarding.

Even with a packed schedule, being available for personal interests is important to her. If someone followed her around for a day, the biggest surprise would be that with so much to do, she still finds the time to do things she is passionate about. Balancing school, activities, friends, and personal time may not already be radar, but staying focused and organized helps make her future possible.

Study Tips

By: Lewis Nava



School can get stressful when you have homework, tests, projects, and other things going on at the same time. Sometimes, it feels like there is not enough time to get everything done. The good news is that there are simple ways to make studying easier and help improve your grades. By building good habits, you can feel more confident and less stressed about school.

Stay Organized

Keeping track of assignments and test dates can help you avoid falling behind. Use a planner, a notebook, or your phone to write down important due dates and reminders. You can also make a to-do list to help you remember what needs to get done each day. Try to finish your assignments early instead of waiting until the last minute. Staying organized can help you manage your time better and make schoolwork feel less overwhelming.

Put Your Phone Away

Phones can be one of the biggest distractions when studying. Checking messages, watching videos, or scrolling through social media can waste a lot of time. Sometimes, you may plan to check your phone for just a minute but end up spending much longer. To avoid this, try putting your phone in another room or turning off notifications while you study. This will help you focus on your work, finish assignments faster, and remember more of what you learn.

Take Short Breaks

Studying for hours without stopping can make you feel tired and lose focus. Taking short breaks can help your brain rest and make it easier to concentrate. Try studying for about 25 minutes and then taking a 5-minute break. During your break, you can stretch, get a snack, drink some water, or walk around. Afterward, return to your work feeling refreshed and ready to learn more. Taking breaks can make studying easier and help you stay focused for longer.

Senior Spotlight

By: Mrs. Haafke

If you're looking for her, there's a pretty good chance you'll find her at a rodeo. Whether it's a jackpot, local rodeo, or High School Rodeo, it has been the biggest part of her high school experience. Along the way, she has traveled all over the state with her mom, sister, horses, and even her cat, Merle. Yes, the cat goes to rodeos.

Rodeo became a bigger part of her life when her sister decided to compete in junior high rodeo. Since then, the sisters have spent years traveling, competing, and growing together. For her, some of the best memories come from sharing those experiences with her family.



Outside of rodeo, she has been involved in FFA, 4-H, HOSA, Student Council, and Honor Society. One of her biggest accomplishments was becoming a two-time state champion in HOSA with her partner. That took plenty of practice, studying, and reading the book approximately 4,000 times until they knew it inside and out.

Since arriving at OHS as a nervous ninth grader, she has become more talkative, outgoing, and willing to "go with the flow." She would also like to think she has become more organized, although some people might debate that claim. Her friends describe her as independent, outgoing, and caring.

Senior. Spotlight. Continued...

One thing many people don't know about her is that she was born three months early, weighing just 1 pound, 13 ounces. She has certainly made the most of her time since then! Not every rodeo experience has gone as planned, though. During her first High School Rodeo as a sophomore, she fell off her sister's horse in the middle of a run. Not exactly the debut she was hoping for, but at least it makes a good story now.

When she isn't at school or a rodeo, she enjoys spending time at the lake with her mom's side of the family. Looking ahead, she hopes to continue her education in child behavior while pursuing rodeo. England is also at the top of her dream travel list.

If you spend enough time around her, you'll probably hear one word more than any other: "genuinely." From rodeo arenas and HOSA championships to family lake days and long drives across North Dakota, she has made plenty of memories during her time at OHS.

As she prepares for what comes next, she hopes to keep learning, rodeoing, and doing what makes her happy. She may have started life at just 1 pound, 13 ounces, but she is ready to take on whatever comes next. And knowing her, she'll probably do it with a horse trailer packed and a "genuinely" thrown into the conversation somewhere.



How do Students use Their Free Hours?

By: Matvei

A free hour during school gives students extra time to get things done outside of class. Some students use it to study, work, or relax. So, I got curious and asked Elisa Neer to see how a student uses their free hour and if it gave her a sense of responsibility.

Elisa said she usually goes home, picks up extra hours at one of her jobs, or catches up on schoolwork. When she had less to do, she sometimes uses her free time to enjoy her hobbies. She also said she sometimes helps other students with homework or things they do not understand in class.

When asked if she uses her free hour wisely, Elisa explained, “At first, I didn’t always use my free time the best, but over time it has helped me develop better responsibility and time management.” To summarize, she feels as if she got better at being a more responsible student by using her free hour to create a more productive time. She also says having a free hour has helped her finish tasks she might not have otherwise.

Overall, Elisa’s usage of the free hour shows how some students use three free hours to balance school, work, and personal interests. It can also teach students important skills, such as responsibility and time management. Lastly, a free hour is what you make of it, whether you use it for hobbies, schoolwork, or even work.

Caffeine Cart

By: Tristin Hill



The Oakes High School Caffeine Cart is a fun and convenient way for students and staff to enjoy delicious drinks during the school day while supporting a good cause. The cart offers a variety of drinks, including hot coffee, iced coffee, dirty sodas, and bubblers, so there is something for everyone to enjoy. Students in grades 9–12 and all school staff can place orders through an email sent out each week, making it easy to choose a favorite drink ahead of time. Honor Society members work together to prepare and deliver the drinks, typically on Wednesdays, helping keep everything organized while bringing a little excitement to the school day.

The Caffeine Cart is more than just a way to get a nice drink; it also helps raise money for organizations such as the Oakes Area Food Pantry, the Stronger Together Foundation, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. By purchasing a drink, students and staff are helping make a difference in their community and supporting people who need it. Honor Society members enjoy working the cart because they get to help others, give back to their community, and connect with people they might not normally see throughout the school day. Whether you need a little caffeine boost to get through the day, want to try a new drink, or simply want to support a great cause, the Caffeine Cart is a great opportunity to do all three. So, make sure you look out for the weekly email, place your order, and enjoy a delicious drink.



Diesel Fuel Relief

By: Bode Anderson



North Dakota farmers and ranchers are getting some temporary relief from the high diesel fuel prices during the 2026 harvest season. On September 29th, Governor Kelly Armstrong declared a state emergency because of the problem with supplying diesel and its availability. So he issued an order that allowed ag and ranch producers to use cheaper red-dyed diesel, also known as off-road diesel for only off-road use, for example, in tractors, combines, and any vehicle you don't have to license.

But now, with the temporary law passed, farmers and ranchers can run off-road dyed diesel in semis and pickups for anything ag-related. For example, you can run it in farm pickups for hauling livestock, feed, seed, fertilizer, and other ag-related inputs. This also works for semis if you're hauling grain, livestock feed, hauling livestock, seed, fertilizer, farm equipment, and any other ag inputs. This law doesn't just help farmers and ranchers also helps truck drivers. Truck drivers are allowed to use red fuel to haul grain, livestock and livestock feed, fertilizer, seed, equipment, and more.

The state of North Dakota puts a tax of 23 cents on every gallon of regular diesel fuel; red diesel fuel can be anywhere from 20 cents to 50-60 cents cheaper at your local gas station. For example, at the Tornado Stop, regular diesel fuel is 6.40 and dyed fuel is 5.69 a gallon. So there are significant savings on diesel fuel, especially in semis, like when you're spending 1500-2000 every fill-up; the savings can be a few hundred dollars, and they can really add up fast, especially if you're filling up every few days. This new law is only in effect until November 30th, 2026.

Diesel Fuel Relief Continued...

Another reason why this is important to agriculture is that farmers and truck drivers can go through thousands of gallons of diesel while running their operations. Cattle producers also use a significant amount of fuel when hauling cattle and hauling feed and other equipment. And with the high prices, saving 20-60 cents can really add up during harvest.

Since North Dakota is a major agricultural state, this temporary law could help bring the price of agricultural products down. Since North Dakota is huge in agriculture, there is a lot of grain, cattle, and other livestock such as pigs and sheep, and these products are being transported all the time. And when the price of fuel goes up, it costs more money to have the grain sent to the elevator and cattle to feedlots and other livestock. So allowing eligible ag hauling can help lower the cost of transportation.



Generational Lunch

By: Aliyah Friedt



Most students see the lunch ladies every day when they walk through the cafeteria line, but what they might not know is that there are 3 generations back there. Working in the same cafeteria over the years makes their story unique.

Having multiple members who have worked in the same cafeteria is not something you see every day. Their experiences show how a job can really bring a family closer.

While four members have been a part of the school lunchroom story, two of them are currently working together. Each generation has their own memories and experiences. The food served and the daily responsibilities of lunchroom workers may have changed over the years. Hearing from family members who worked in different years helped show how the job has evolved and what parts have stayed the same. For Jenessa, she says, “It makes me feel proud to walk in my grandmother's steps.”

Lisa started at first only because it's what worked best for her family, but it ended up fitting perfectly for her. She also got a bonus: seeing her daughter in the halls every day. Even though only Jenessa and Lisa are the only ones working now, Lisa says, “It is fun to compare notes and share funny stories with each other.” Lisa's favorite food to make in the kitchen is orange chicken; she says the kitchen never used to make it before, and she loves a challenge. Vicki, Lisa's mom, has sure had a fun time with the mashed potato incident as well as, though not funny then, when she dropped a gallon of cheese sauce in the freezer. It was so bad she said, “I can't believe I'm not still in that freezer cleaning it up!” Aside from throwing cheese, her favorite part of working with her mother was getting to spend so much time with her.

Generational Lunch Cont....



The one who started it all was Vangie, grandmother to Jenessa and Lisa, mother to Vicki. I asked Vangie how it feels having 3 generations working in the kitchen; she said, “It makes me proud that my daughter and granddaughters and I have a great work ethic and can share similar opportunities.”

Although 3 generations have been in the kitchen, Vangie stated that nothing has changed, and that she could walk in and find everything the way she had left it.

Vangie also added that even after working over 12 years at the school, she enjoyed it every day.

Overall, having 3 generations work in the same cafeteria is something special.

Even though things have changed over the years, the memories and family connections have stayed the same. Their story shows how one job can bring a family closer together and create a tradition that lasts for generations.



Undefeated NFL Teams

By: Jase Peters



With week 4 of the NFL season coming to a close, let us talk about the teams that are still undefeated. There are only 3 teams that remain: the Chiefs, Vikings, and 49ers.

The Chiefs had a nail-biting win over the (3-1) Raiders, battling to keep their perfect record. This game dwindled down to the final seconds; even with that being said, the Chiefs still held on and won 30-27. The Vikings took on the (0-4) Dolphins at U.S. Bank Stadium. The game also came down to the final minutes of the 4th quarter. The Vikings' defense had quite the dominant performance, with their offense struggling and obvious o-line issues; along with that, the pass game was very rough as well.

The final undefeated team, the 49ers, kicked off against the (2-2) Broncos with another close game, 24-14. This game came down to the defenses in the 2nd half; the 49ers' defense prevailed and took the dub. With only a few undefeated teams remaining, who will be the last one standing?

[Take Poll Here](#)

