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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to introduce myself and my family. I am Amy Pederson, recreation manager for Valley City Parks and Recreation, and my husband, Dean, is a farmer. My children include my daughter Mackenzie (18), daughter Peyton (15) and son Carver (13). Mackenzie is a freshman at NDSU, Peyton is a freshman in high school and Carver is a 7th grader.

We stay very busy farming and running to our kids' different activities. I have definitely enjoyed seeing my kids involved in many parks and recreation activities over the years. They continue to be active in many programs today. I encourage each of you to get involved with events and activities within your communities. The park and recreation fields truly are amazing; take advantage of what each of your communities has to offer.

I would like to thank all of you for making the 2018 NDRPA State Conference a success! Dickinson Parks and Recreation did an outstanding job hosting this event. Their staff went the distance to accommodate everyone in attendance. I also want to thank Dana Schaar Jahner and her staff for all their hard work. Last but not least, I would like to thank George Hellyer from Grand Forks for a job well done as our president of NDRPA for the 2017-18 year.

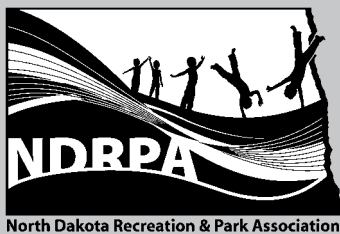


Pictured left to right: Dean, Peyton, Mackenzie, Amy and Carver

The Valley City Park District is gearing up to host the 2019 NDRPA State Conference Sept. 10-12. If anyone has ideas on sessions, please let me know as our staff is planning already.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the upcoming year as your president of NDRPA!

*Amy Pederson
NDRPA President*



Mission

Advancing parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.

Strategic Goals

1. Member Services: Provide training, information and networking for parks and recreation stakeholders.
2. Policy Advocacy: Represent parks and recreation interests on public policy issues.
3. Public Outreach: Promote the benefits of parks and recreation and the importance of conservation, health and wellness, and access.



Jan. 15	<i>FOCUS</i> Deadline
Feb. 7	Parks Day at the Capitol
March 19-21	Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course, Bismarck
April 22-24	Midwest Conference, Laramie, Wyo.

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Next *FOCUS* deadline: Jan. 15, 2019

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New Leadership Elected to Board of Directors

Ashley Krasicki from Williston is the new president elect and Katie Ettish joined the NDRPA Board of Directors as the chair of the External Affairs Committee at the Sept. 13 annual meeting in Dickinson. Board contact information and a list of committee members can be found at www.ndrpa.com.

Mark Your Calendar for 2019 Events

NDRPA is excited to co-host Parks Day at the Capitol with the ND Parks and Recreation Department Feb. 7 in Bismarck.

NDRPA will host its 16th annual Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) Course on March 19-21 in Bismarck. Take advantage of this first-class training to

ensure playgrounds are safe for children. Registration and scholarship information will be available in December at www.ndrpa.com.

NDRPA's signature event – the State Conference – will be held Sept. 10-12 in Valley City.

More details on these events will be posted on the NDRPA website at www.ndrpa.com and distributed via the monthly *NDRPA eUpdate*.

Make Sure NDRPA News Arrives in Your Mailbox

Do you receive the *NDRPA eUpdate* in your inbox each month? If not, make sure you provide NDRPA with your email address by contacting sschutt@clearwatercommunications.net.



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Bismarck Earns National Accreditation

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) joins the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the 2018 NRPA Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Ind.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies and is a measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety, and services.

As part of the accreditation process, BPRD had to demonstrate compliance with 151 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation to benefit the community.

"There are over 12,000 park and recreation agencies in the country, and only 178 are accredited. Bismarck Parks and Recreation District is very proud of this distinction and shares this honor with the citizens of Bismarck," said Randy Bina, BPRD executive director.

The process of accreditation is extensive and involves a formal application, self-assessments, a site visit by a team of trained visitors that results in a written report, and a hearing with the commission to grant accreditation. Once accredited, the agency must uphold the standards by submitting an annual report and is reviewed again in five years.



BPRD was first accredited in 2008 and was reaccruited in 2013. BPRD was the first and remains the only accredited park and recreation agency in North Dakota. BPRD Executive Director Randy Bina and Board of Park Commissioner President Brian Beattie accepted the reaccruited honor on behalf of the district, staff and the Board of Park Commissioners.

McCullough and Widme Receive Honors from Dakota Chapter PGA

The Dakota Chapter Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) held its annual Dakota Chapter Awards and Fall Meeting in October. Two key staff at Fargo Park District's Edgewood Public Golf Course were recognized for their contributions to the game of golf in the tri-state area.

Greg McCullough, head pro since 2000, was awarded Facility Promoter of the Year for his leadership, record of service to the facility, section and association, involvement in civic activities/local charitable causes, and outstanding character.

Chris Widme, assistant pro since 2015, was awarded Assistant Golf Professional of the Year for his leadership, character, service to the game of golf, facility, and image as a PGA member.

Additionally, McCullough was elected to the PGA Quarter Century Club in recognition of his service to the PGA of America with honor and pride for 25 years.

Dakota Chapter PGA awards seven chapter awards annually. Recipients are nominated by their peers for the honor, and each nominee is reviewed by a panel of industry professionals.



Greg McCullough



Chris Widme

Continued on page 8



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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

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Fargo-Moorhead Hosts The RedBall Project

Bouncing around the Fargo-Moorhead (FM) area Oct. 4-10 was *The RedBall Project*, a critically acclaimed and provocative work by artist Kurt Perschke. The RedBall has traveled to 31 major cities around the world, including Paris, Montréal, Chicago...and now Fargo!

Throughout the week, the 15-foot RedBall was at a new location each day – squished between buildings, on bridges and bursting from alleys. The RedBall pushes the boundaries of what public art can be – where the location, function and creative process are more important than the meaning of the object itself.

Bringing *The RedBall Project* to the FM area was led by Minnesota State University Moorhead, Plains Art Museum and many sponsors. The Fargo Park District hosted the RedBall at the Lindenwood Pedestrian Bridge Oct. 7 and the Fargo Park District main offices Oct. 8. The Fargo Park District played a supportive role in the transportation and installation of the RedBall each day. For more information on the project, visit www.redballproject.com.



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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

Continued from page 8

New Facility Opens in Dickinson

Dickinson Parks and Recreation is excited to announce the newly constructed Stark County Veterans Pavilion. The facility overlooks the Veterans Memorial, as well as Memorial Park, creating a beautiful backdrop for any event hosted there. The pavilion is a great self-serve rental facility equipped with an oven, refrigerator, double sink, tables and chairs for 150 people, cable TV, and a sound system to host any type of gathering. The Stark County Veterans Pavilion officially opened in August and hosted the opening night activities for the 2018 NDRPA State Conference.



Bismarck Building Named WWI Centennial Memorial

The World War Memorial Building, a downtown recreation center and a Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) facility, has been named an official World War I Centennial Memorial.

This distinction comes from the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library's desire to name 100 memorials in 100 cities on the anniversary of the United States entering World War I.

Because of this distinction, BPRD received a \$2,000

matching grant to be used toward the restoration, conservation and maintenance of this historical treasure. The grant was submitted by Susan Wefald, Bismarck, vice chair of the ND World War One Centennial Committee.

"Susan has long had a fondness for the World War Memorial Building, its history and story, and approached the Board of Park Commissioners with her request to apply for the grant," said Randy Bina, BPRD executive director. "We appreciate her and the committee's interest in helping us continue to honor the history of the building, to maintain it and allow the community to use it."

The World War Memorial Building was built with the support of Bismarck and Burleigh County voter approved bonds in a special election in 1929. The building was completed in 1930 and consisted of a convention hall, National Guard armory, gymnasium, and additional rooms for community purposes. The timing of the building's completion was appreciated when the North Dakota Capitol building burned down in January 1931. The facility's gym space and meeting rooms were used by the North Dakota Legislature that year. The first boy's state basketball tournament was held in the



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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

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facility in 1933, with Bismarck High School crowned as champions.

Today, the World War Memorial Building has three basketball/volleyball courts, a youth gymnasium, a racquetball court, and a fitness/karate room. Youth and adult recreational programs keep the 88-year-old building busy. It is also home to the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra offices.

Dickinson Hosts Third Annual Chalk Walk

Dickinson Parks and Recreation held its third annual Chalk Walk event in August. Multiple artists from around Dickinson as well as the public were invited to create beautiful art on the walkways of Memorial Park. Local band Dakota Routes was also invited to perform for participants.



Morgenson Receives State Honor

Lynn Morgenson, Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) landscape specialist, was honored with a Trees Award by the ND Forest Service. The Trees Awards recognize individuals, organizations and agencies who contribute to forestry activities in North Dakota.

Morgenson received the Excellence in Government award during halftime of a North Dakota State University (NDSU) football game, known annually as the Trees Bowl.

Morgenson plants, cares for and maintains hundreds of new and established tree plantings throughout the BPRD system. It is not uncommon for her to be found watering on weekends and extended workdays to ensure all plants are given appropriate care to make sure they thrive and survive.

She was also recognized for her part in tree research in North Dakota. She has been instrumental in planting various species of trees in Bismarck's parks and tracking that data for the NDSU Woody Plants Department. Morgenson's work on this Western Tree Trial plantings project allows BPRD to try a variety of new trees, enhance the beauty and diversity of parks and support tree research.



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PARK DISTRICT NEWS

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Rydell Skatepark Opens in Grand Forks

After a much-anticipated wait, Phase 1 of the new skatepark in Grand Forks officially opened to the public Sept. 23. Families and skate enthusiasts alike joined the Grand Forks Park District and members of the Skatepark Committee for an open skate and ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the Rydell Skatepark located at Kannowski Park.

The excitement of the new facility drew a large crowd, sporting everything from skateboards and scooters to BMX bikes and inline skates. People of all ages have been busy using the Rydell Skatepark every night since it opened, something about which those closely involved in the project's creation are elated.

"It's just been fun to see how many people are going to the park," said Brian Rydell, whose car dealership donated \$100,538 to the project. "It's attracting a lot of folks to be out of their house and just be active." Skaters and their families now have a safe place to gather and hone their skills.

The Grand Forks Park District, along with the Skatepark Committee, are currently working on raising the funds needed to construct and complete Phase 2 of the project. For more information, visit www.gfparcs.org.



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NDRPA Awards Presented

NDRPA presented eight awards during the 2018 Awards Banquet at the NDRPA State Conference in Dickinson Sept. 12. Congratulations to all the award winners!

Golden Egg Award

This award, established in honor of former Fargo Park District Superintendent Bob "Goose" Johnson, acknowledges outstanding and innovative park projects throughout the state.



Starion Sports Complex
Mandan Parks and Recreation

Partnership Award

This award honors organizations for outstanding contributions to the park, recreation and conservation movement.



Williston Police Association
Williston Police Association and City of Williston

Outstanding Young Professional

This award honors professional members of NDRPA and NRPA who have experience of less than 10 years and are age 35 or younger.



West Fargo Park District
Allison Hauschild



Dickinson Parks and Recreation
Matthew Mack

Distinguished Professional

This award honors professional members of NDRPA and NRPA with more than 10 years of experience.



West Fargo Park District
Barb Erbstoesser



Williston Parks and Recreation District
Darin Krueger

Innovative Programming Award

This award recognizes and honors an NDRPA member agency or organization that demonstrates leadership with advanced groundbreaking ideas in programming.



Kids Camp, Williston Parks and Recreation District
Kristen Swanson

Citizen Advocacy Award

This award honors individuals for outstanding contributions to the park, recreation and conservation movement.



Sharon Odegaard
West Fargo

Scholarship Recognition

NDRPA annually recognizes outstanding university students enrolled in the fields of parks, recreation, leisure, natural resources, and tourism through the Dr. Sandra Modisett Memorial Scholarship.

Rojin Karahan, a junior in the exercise science program at Dickinson State University, and Thomas McClenahan, a sophomore in the sports management program at North Dakota State University, were awarded \$500 scholarships.



Benefits of Playing Multiple Sports

By Joe Barsh, Recreation Manager, Williston Parks and Recreation

As a high school coach and a youth sports coordinator, one particular subject that I come across often is the debate between sports specialization and sports diversification. My answer to this debate comes from what I believe is the fundamental purpose of sports and why kids usually begin playing them in the first place – to have fun.

Now that may sound a bit shallow but, as the basis of my argument, having fun leads to even stronger supporting factors for sport diversification over specialization. Understanding that playing sports is fun could lead to a correlation between having more fun by playing more sports.

Furthermore, sports are life tools and certain life lessons can be presented more clearly through certain sports over others. Say, for example, the patience and persistence needed in the sport of baseball, or the response to adversity and learning to pick yourself off the ground in football, or even the importance of teamwork seen in basketball and soccer.

Even individual sports teach participants the importance of focus and consistency. Psychologically, playing multiple sports teaches participants to learn how to handle different circumstances through diverse experiences, which require them to maintain consistent mental preparation. This can lead participants to develop a comfortability with high stress moments and enable them to maintain a clear focus on the task at hand.



Physically, playing multiple sports better develops the body and minimizes overuse injuries. Socially, playing multiple sports exposes kids to more kids, thus creating a more diverse culture and enabling them to become more accepting of differences.

Sports specialization follows the theory that a concentrated effort on one sport results in higher skill development and a higher ceiling of success for the individual in that particular sport. While sports specialization may seem appealing, I would argue that the risk of sports specialization is much greater than its potential reward.

In general, most of the physical fundamental skills needed in sports, such as hand-eye coordination, speed, agility, and endurance, are relative to many different sports in their own special ways. Yes, skill building is very important and takes a focused effort on each separate sport activity, but that doesn't mean it can't be done while participating in other sport activities.

In the grand scheme of things, participants don't set themselves apart by the physical attributes mentioned above, or even through skill building, but by the intangible attributes of work ethic, mental toughness, physical toughness, determination, and accountability that are seen in all sports. As a sports fan, I have seen many instances when skill did not lead to success on the playing field or court. As a coach, I would rather lead a team that possessed the intangible attributes over the physical ones 100 percent of the time.



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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Logan Cossette is the sales and customer service coordinator for Fargo Park District's (FPD) Courts Plus Community Fitness. He spent most of his life living in Arizona before moving to Fargo four years ago. Half of his family lives in Fargo while the other half lives in Arizona, so he gets to

enjoy warm winters and nice summers. When he's not lifting at Courts Plus, he is probably hanging out with friends. He loves being around a lot of people at any social event.



Rod Erdahl has been hired as a maintenance worker for Mandan Parks and Recreation (MPR). He loves spending time with his wife and son and greatly misses his two daughters at UND. Erdahl likes hard work and learning about everything. To

relax, he plays video games like a teenager.



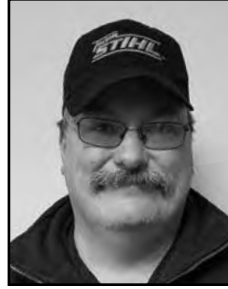
Carter Hanson was hired as park maintenance II for MPR. He graduated from Mandan High School in 2015 and continued his education at Bismarck State College where he received a certificate in heating, ventilation and air conditioning. In his spare time, you can usually find him

at a hockey rink or working as a part-time firefighter with the City of Mandan.



Angelique Kube is the front desk coordinator for FPD's Courts Plus Community Fitness. She is married with two dogs and three cats. She went to Minnesota State University Moorhead and studied art history. Kube enjoys camping, hiking, baking, sewing, and

knitting. She has taught sewing and craft classes to children and adults.



Richard Hermann is a mechanic for FPD. His wife's name is Lisa and he has four children: Andrea, Andrew, Aaron, and Aidan. Hermann graduated from Moorhead High School and Northwest Tech as a diesel technician. He enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time.



Jesse Maki is the customer service and information coordinator at Grand Forks Park District's (GFPD) Choice Health & Fitness. Maki oversees the front desk staff and disseminates fitness programs and services. Originally from Minneapolis, he recently retired from the Air Force with 20 years of service.

He has completed two associate degrees with the Community College of the Air Force and is working on finishing his bachelor's degree in organizational management.



Heather Ralph is the new child sitting assistant manager for GFPD. She was hired as a part-time employee two and a half years ago and has been promoted to manager. Ralph is excited to begin her path as a full-time employee and enjoys working in an environment where she gets baby snuggles daily and works with people who treat her like family.



Hannah Reichman is the new aquatics coordinator for GFPD. She has life guarded for a little under three years and taught swimming lessons for about two and a half years. What she enjoys most about life guarding is the people she works with and the "regulars." Reichman is excited to share her energy and enthusiasm in hopes of making lessons more fun.



Zachary Zitir is a tennis professional for FPD's Courts Plus Community Fitness. Zitir played tennis at Concordia College. He has worked at Courts Plus since 2015 and coaches men's and women's tennis.

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COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Jonathan Warrey has been part of the Casselton Park Board for eight years and currently serves as president. He decided to become involved in parks and recreation to contribute to the quality of life in his community. "In smaller communities, recreation opportunities may be limited, but it is the park board's responsibility to try to offer quality recreational opportunities for the citizens," Warrey said.

The Casselton Park Board's overall goals are to create quality programming for youth and the entire community. One of the challenges they face is providing new programming, such as soccer, ice skating, a dog park, or pickleball, with limited staffing and facility resources. Another challenge is acquiring new properties to utilize green space, trails and parks.

"NDRPA is a great resource for parks and recreation staff to connect," Warrey explained. "We are exposed to other district's best practices and lessons learned."

Warrey enjoys watching youth baseball and softball and seeing parents cheer on their kids. He likes to see people using the local park, Tinta Tawa Park, and using the open green space. He is also excited to see what opportunities the community's new wellness center will bring to Casselton.

Some of the feature programs Casselton Parks and Recreation offer include summer art programs, Missoula Children's Theater, swimming lessons and water



aerobics, and expanded teams for t-ball and girls' softball with a no-cut policy. The park district also has a fishing pier, golf course, bike trails, walking path, frisbee golf course, and other green space for the community to enjoy.

On Nov. 5, Casselton Parks and Recreation opened a wellness center, Central Cass Community Center, in partnership with the Casselton School District and City of Casselton. The organizations collaborated on the concept, and the community's voters passed a unique financing arrangement.

It includes a \$500,000 commitment from the Casselton Park District and \$2 million from the City of Casselton derived from a one percent sales tax passed for up to 20 years. The Casselton Park District hopes to operate the wellness center with at least a breakeven financial outcome like it achieves with the Cottonwood Golf Course, which it took over in 2014.

The wellness center features state-of-the-art exercise equipment, including treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bikes, a row machine, five half-racks with benches, weight machines, free-weights ranging in lower weights for beginners and seniors to heavy for advanced lifters, resistance bands, and stability balls.

The \$29 million Central Cass Community Center was funded by a tax levy, raising \$18 million for the project, and the rest was paid for by private fundraising, including donations from Tharaldson Ethanol, Scheels, Farmers Union Insurance, Sanford Health, and many private citizens. "It's a terrific example of what a small community like Casselton



can accomplish when organizations collaborate and resources are combined to create something fantastic that the whole community can utilize and enjoy,” Warrey said.



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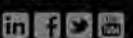
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NDRPA AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

2018 Citizen Advocacy Award

The NDRPA Citizen Advocacy Award recognizes a citizen, elected or appointed official, or volunteer who has demonstrated outstanding contribution to the park, recreation and conservation movement through education and activating the public in their community, state or at the national level.

The 2018 Citizen Advocacy Award recipient is Sharon Odegaard. She retired in June 2018 after serving on the West Fargo Park Board for 24 years, 16 of those as board president.

Land acquisition, new facility development, policy, and budget were four portfolios Odegaard held during her six terms in office. All were critical in correlation to West Fargo's rapid growth and development. She was directly involved with numerous large projects, such as the Rustad Recreation Center.

Odegaard was actively involved and particularly interested in monitoring state legislative action and advised the West Fargo Park District on its testimony in support of building authorities. She was also involved

creating West Fargo's Little Red Reading Bus, a West Fargo School Foundation driven partnership project that brought books to children in West Fargo parks throughout the summer.

In her successful 49-year professional career, Odegaard served the public at the City of Fargo as executive assistant to the Mayor and City Commission. This experience contributed to her wealth of knowledge and understanding of municipal government and public service.

2018 Partnership Award

The NDRPA Partnership Award honors organizations for outstanding contributions to the park, recreation and conservation movement. Recipients must be an agency or organization that has developed a successful partnership to create a project or program that benefits the community, region or state and increases awareness of the importance of parks, recreation and leisure services in quality of life.

The 2018 Partnership Award recipient is the Williston Police Association (WPA). The association has worked with Williston Parks and Recreation District (WPRD) on several events over the past 50 years. They also help each summer by sending officers to Kids Camp several weeks to "arrest" the supervillains during Superhero week and to talk to the kids about their job during City Heroes week.

The All-City Halloween Party was established to provide a safe environment for children to celebrate Halloween. WPRD provide staff and games, while WPA secures sponsorships to purchase candy and other prizes. The organizations work together to find volunteers to work the stations. The latest event attracted 3,000 attendees.

The Annual Guns and Hoses Softball game is a fundraiser for WPA. Police officers compete against firefighters in a fun night of Jump-N-Inflatables, fireworks, face painting, dunk, and raffle prizes. WPRD provides the venue, staffing for concessions and video board, and promotion.

The Bike Rodeo is another annual event by WPA, which sets up an obstacle course and teaches kids proper maneuvering. WPRD provides the venue, helps advertise, runs a "bike car wash," and covers additional safety rules. WPA provides event-goers helmets and will write "tickets" to any child they see wearing a helmet all summer, which gets kids a free ice cream.

The partnership between WPRD and the WPA is essential to the community because it creates safe environments for families to be active and spend time together.

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Pickleball at West Fargo Park District

Pickleball has recently grown into one of the most popular sports in the country. Who would have thought that a sport created by three dads in 1965 to entertain their children during summer break would turn into such a hit? The West Fargo Park District (WFPD) has certainly seen an increase of players in their community. This fun, fast-growing sport named after a preserved cucumber has become a staple in programming at WFPD's Rustad Recreation Center.

In early 2014, the Pickleball Posse, an organization of local players in the West Fargo area, were looking for a consistent location for pick-up games and tournaments. The organization approached WFPD about making WFPD's Veterans Memorial Arena the Pickleball Posse's home, and from there the great partnership between the two organizations began.

With the Pickleball Posse's need for more court space and additional playing hours, WFPD kept the partnership



in mind during the planning stages for the Rustad Recreation Center. When the Rustad Recreation Center opened to the public in 2016, three indoor pickleball courts were created in the facility's Flex Gym. The Pickleball Posse helped integrate the culture of pickleball into the new facility and assisted WFPD in achieving its goal of providing an innovative and active program for their community.

Within months of the Rustad Recreation Center opening, the demand for court space was much higher than anyone had initially thought, so three more indoor courts were added, increasing the

total number of courts to six. Pickleball playing times were also extended on the facility's schedule. WFPD offered exclusive adult pickleball times Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. for a minimal fee. All skill levels were welcome to participate, and free beginner lessons were also available to new players one day a week. Different types of pickleball play, such as round robin tournaments, were also added.

WFPD soon realized that seniors and those with flexible daytime schedules weren't their only target market for this sport. Evening adult lessons and leagues were created for participants, and free open and family pickleball times were added to the facility's schedule in the evenings to accommodate more ages.

In the summer of 2017, the ND Senior Games approached WFPD about being the host site for their pickleball tournament. With the ongoing interest in the sport and the need for more courts for tournaments, it was decided once again the number of pickleball courts would increase. An additional three indoor courts were added, bringing the total number to nine courts, the most courts in an indoor facility in the community.

After a successful tournament during the ND Senior Games in the facility, WFPD began their bi-annual Battle of the Paddle tournaments. Registrants in the tournaments included players from North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Manitoba.

Currently, WFPD has more than 250 pickleball players actively participating, making this one of the most successful programs offered. These passionate but friendly competitors are finding that the physical activity isn't the only benefit of playing; many enjoy socializing with other players. In the Phase 2 Expansion to the Rustad Recreation Center, a specific room for pickleball has been planned to accommodate the popular sport.



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Grand Forks and Flytrex Launch First Golf Course Drone Delivery Service in U.S



After launching the first fully operational golf course food service drone delivery system in the U.S. in September 2018, King's Walk Golf Course, owned by Grand Forks Park District, and Flytrex, a drone logistics company, have received national attention by multiple media outlets. From interviews with CNN Money and FOX Business to stories published in *Golf Digest*, *USA Today* and many others, the Grand Forks Park District is both humbled and excited to be a part of this new innovative technology. The service has enabled patrons to order food and beverages from the clubhouse restaurant, Eagle's Crest Bar & Grill, straight to the greens and have their items lowered directly to them.

"The sky's the limit when it comes to drone capabilities," said Yariv Bash, CEO of Flytrex. "From delivering snacks and beverages to golfers to assisting in search and rescue operations to performing key inspections, drones are being incorporated into all aspects of life. This is the first of many projects we have planned in the U.S., including an FAA approved pilot in North Carolina which will take off later this year. Golf is a sport with deep-rooted traditions, and there's great interest in using technology to enhance this experience. We are excited to be working with the innovative team at King's Walk to make this inaugural launch a hole-in-one."

To utilize the new system, golfers need only download the "Flytrex Eat" ordering app in Google Play and select the food and beverage items they would like to order for delivery. After choosing from nearby, pre-approved drop-off sites, golfers then place their order and get a confirmation notification. The clubhouse restaurant receives the order, wraps it up, and the package is loaded into the drone by a Flytrex technician and takes

flight within line of sight. The new service is set to slash waiting time, as staff will no longer need to operate a cumbersome "milk-run" route method to bring customers food and beverages.

The phone app provides the customer with the ongoing status of the order in real time. The drone arrives at the drop-off point and remains airborne, awaiting confirmation that the customer is in position nearby. Once confirmed, the drone lowers the order by wire to the ground, using Flytrex's advanced "InAir" wire-drop system to ensure utmost safety.

To ensure compliance with existing legislation, the drones will be operating within line of sight and will fly over specific routes without people below.

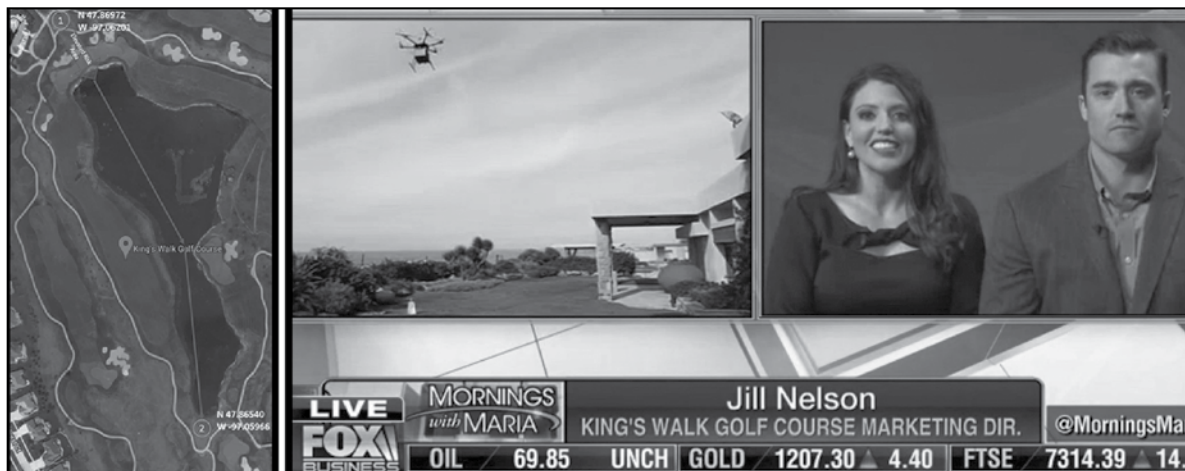
"We continuously strive to innovate for our members, customers and community," said Bill Palmiscino, executive director of Grand Forks Park

District. "At King's Walk, we work hard to enhance our golfers' experience and hope to accomplish this by using drones for convenient food delivery direct to our golfers on the course. By partnering with Flytrex, we are working together to pioneer the golf course of the future."

A testament to the city's forward-thinking policies, the drone initiative was approved by Grand Forks Park District just two weeks after the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC) presented the opportunity to the park board. "We are continuing to build on innovation in unmanned technologies because of the exciting public-private partnerships which have embraced the growth of this industry throughout the

region," said Keith Lund, Grand Forks Region EDC president and CEO.

The drone system used in this pilot has been rigorously tested to ensure it meets the highest safety standards and has already received permission to operate in major cities around the world.





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