

Day.
 •The Grant County Court-house will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, for Presidents' Day.

•The Grant County Commissioners will meet Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 9:00 a.m.

•The Grant County Coyotes boys' basketball team will host Underwood on Thursday, Feb. 19.

•The Flasher Bulldogs boys' basketball team will host Center/Stanton on Thursday, Feb. 19.

Grant County to develop health improvement plan

Grant County is a great place to raise children, with friendly people and quality healthcare. However, the county is exhibiting declining community engagement and cohesiveness and needs to encourage healthier lifestyles.

Those are the findings of a Grant County community health assessment, conducted in 2014.

Grant County's health needs were assessed by a team including Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center in Elgin, the Custer District Health Unit and the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota. Many community members participated through interviews, community group meetings and surveys to conduct the community health assessment in Grant County.

The assessment produced the following highlights:

Respondents identified the community's top assets as:

- Friendly and helpful people
- Health care
- A safe place to live
- A good place to raise kids
- The cleanliness of the area

Following careful consideration of all results and findings of this assessment, community members determined that the significant health needs or issues in the community are:

- Attracting and retaining young families
- Ability to retain doctors and nurses in the community
- Declining community engagement and cohesiveness
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles

Data compiled by County Health Rankings show that with respect to

health outcomes, Grant County performs very well, landing in the top ten percent of counties nationally. While residents report good overall health, however, the county fairs poorly on individual factors that influence health.

Factors in which Grant County was performing especially poorly included:

- Adult obesity – six points above the state rate, and the third highest rate of any ranked North Dakota county
- Physical inactivity rate – 30 percent higher than the state rate
- Excessive drinking – more than one in three residents affected, more than 60 percent above the state rate, and the highest rate of any ranked North Dakota county.

Grant County residents surveyed also expressed concerns with alcohol and substance abuse among youth.

•Access to exercise opportunities – the percentage of individuals who live reasonably close to a physical activity site is half the North Dakota average

•Uninsured residents – nearly twice the state rate, and the highest rate of any ranked North Dakota county

•Preventive screening – considerably less than the state rate

•Children in poverty – nearly twice the state rate

•Inadequate social support – 13 points above the state rate

"The assessment helped us find out what the community sees as issues in the county and the health improvement plan will be a way for us to address these issues and hopefully work toward creating a healthier community for everyone," says Custer

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Valentine's Day is Saturday, Feb. 14



Grant County Dollars for Scholars Bucks for Baskets

True Value has pledged a \$50 donation, Double R Meats has pledged a \$25 donation, WRT has pledged a \$25 donation, and Del's Carpentry has pledged a \$25 donation for the Grant County Coyotes boys' basketball game vs. Underwood on Thursday, February 19.

Contact Us At:

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Area Deaths

Jeannette Quinn, 68
 George Gross, 83
 Ethel Davenport, 81

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KFYR Kafé comes to Elgin

Todd Mitchell, radio personality from KFYR radio, hosted the popular KFYR Kafé from Our Place Cafe in Elgin on Friday, Feb. 6. Several local business people were featured on the air talking about the many fine qualities of life in Elgin. Pictured is Branch Manager of the First International Bank & Trust, Aaron Levorsen with Mitchell.

years of classroom experience. She began teaching in 1980 at Trenton, ND. After one year at Trenton, she accepted the music position in New Leipzig and taught K-12 music until 1990 when she began teaching at the Elgin school. The past four years, she has also been teaching at the Roosevelt School in Carson.

MDU Resources Foundation recently donated \$20,000 towards an emergency standby generator for Dakota Hill Housing in Elgin.

June

Happy 75th birthday to Marlene Hintz of Joplin, MO, on June 9.

The Elgin Days Celebration kicked off on June 6 with Hamburgers in the Park. There were many events and activities to enjoy throughout the weekend, including the 53rd Annual Elgin Rodeo. The 2014 Parade Marshals were Mayor Duane and Gail Schatz.

The Summer Reading Program, "Fizz, Boom, Read," sponsored by the Elgin Public Library will run throughout the summer.

Eldon S. Jensen of Lemmon, SD, was honored at the 2014 South Dakota Funeral Directors Association State Convention in Deadwood recently, for his 50 years of continuous service to the funeral profession. The Jensen family operates funeral homes in Lemmon and Faith, SD, and Hettinger, Mott and Elgin, ND.

The tenth annual National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR) will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, June 22-28. Among local contestants this year are Cedar Kraft, eighth grade student at Grant County Junior High School, who placed second at the ND State competition, and Chaysen Boldt, a seventh grade student at Flasher Public School who placed first at the ND State Competition. They will be competing in the small-bore rifle shooting competition.

(continued next week)

Thursday, Feb. 12	Friday, Feb. 13	Saturday, Feb. 14	Sunday, Feb. 15	Monday, Feb. 16	Tuesday, Feb. 17	Wednesday, Feb. 18
35 27 Partly cloudy	33 0 Partly cloudy	19 15 Cloudy	40 24 Sunny	29 -1 Cloudy	12 3 Partly cloudy	24 13 Sunny

Reported Weather

Date	Hi	Low	Precip.
Feb. 2	18	0	.00
Feb. 3	14	-9	.00
Feb. 4	16	-13	.00
Feb. 5	36	7	.00
Feb. 6	34	12	.00
Feb. 7	57	16	.00
Feb. 8	32	25	.00