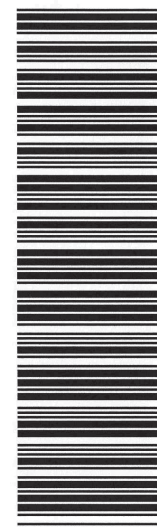


# THE HERALD



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## Three abandoned mines reclaimed in Hettinger County

LUANN DART  
For the Herald

Three abandoned coal mines from decades ago are being reclaimed back into pasture, farmland and wildlife habitat in Hettinger County this year, including the Weinandy Mine, the Albrecht Mine and the Regent Mine.

The projects are being completed under the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program, administered by the N.D. Public Service Commission.

Approximately 23 acres are being reclaimed this year, with completion expected the end of September, according to Joan Breiner, assistant director of the AML Division at the N.D. Public Service Commission.

The largest reclamation project is the Regent Mine, located a mile west of Regent and a mile north of Highway 21. About 17 acres of the 26-acre site are being reclaimed to tillable land, and a portion of the mine will also be reclaimed to wildlife habitat, with trees planted next year.

The Regent Mine started in 1926 and continued until 1962, averaging 2,000 tons of coal a year. From 1946 to 1952, the mine averaged 6,000



(Left) The Albrecht Mine is a one-acre site in the New England area which is being restored as wildlife habitat. This is the area before reclamation. (Right) The Albrecht Mine site being reclaimed.

| Submitted Photos

tons a year, Breiner said.

The abandoned mine included two water-filled pits and a 35-foot highwall, which is the last point where the surface was cut to dig into the coal.

The 5.5-acre Weinandy Mine located 3 miles west of the Regent Mine is listed as an underground mine, although reclamation is occurring on the surface, where a 20-foot highwall exists.

"So, at some point, it converted from an underground to a surface mine, but we have no idea when that happened," Breiner

said.

That mine is part of a pasture and will be reclaimed as pastureland.

The Albrecht Mine is a one-acre site in the New England area which is being restored as wildlife habitat, where trees will also be planted next year. The mine included piles of spoiled material and erosion was occurring, Breiner said.

"We're going to plant trees and make it more wildlife friendly," Breiner said.

During the reclamation process, a plan is designed to reclaim

the landscape back to its original condition as much as possible, based on surrounding landscape and the landowner's wishes. The topsoil is stripped and stockpiled, and earth is moved to reclaim the property, Breiner described.

Reclamation of the three mines in Hettinger County is budgeted at \$270,000.

The AML Program was approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1981 under authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Program

funding comes from a federal reclamation fee on coal that has been mined in the United States since the late 1970s. These fees are placed into the AML fund and the money that North Dakota receives from this fund is used to eliminate existing and potential public hazards resulting from abandoned surface and underground coal mines, according to the project's website.

"So, all the coal mines that are currently producing coal pay an 8 cent per ton of coal mined fee to the federal government," Breiner said. Each

year, the North Dakota program applies to the federal government for a grant for reclamation

As the result of amendments to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act enacted in late 2006, the federal reclamation fee will be collected through Sept. 30, 2021. North Dakota receives \$3 million per year, starting in 2015 and continuing at that level until the program ends in 2022. The AML Division plans to address most of

Mines

Cont. Pg. 5

## Taxable sales show second-quarter increase

LUANN DART  
For the Herald

Hettinger County reported the fourth largest percent increase in taxable sales in North Dakota in the Second Quarter 2020 North Dakota Sales and Use Tax Statistical Report released by the N.D. Office of the State Tax Commissioner.

During April, May and June 2020, Hettinger County reported \$2,569,506 in taxable

sales, compared to \$2,187,469 in the second quarter of 2019. That was a 17.46 percent increase from second quarter 2019 to second quarter 2020.

Grant County reported the largest percent increase in taxable sales in North Dakota, at 26.98 percent. Also notable, only 16 of North Dakota's 53 counties reported positive gains in the second quarter 2020 compared to second quarter 2019.

Taxable sales

are gross sales less nontaxable sales. Businesses must remit sales tax on taxable sales.

Taxable purchases in Hettinger County were at \$190,927 in second quarter 2020, compared to \$226,266 for the second quarter of 2019.

Taxable purchases are taxable goods purchased by businesses for their own use on which they did not pay sales tax to suppliers. Also included are purchases of goods to be installed into real

property by contractors who did not pay sales tax to suppliers. Businesses and contractors must pay use tax on these goods. Those purchasing items over the internet on which sales tax is not charged, are obligated to report "taxable purchases" and remit the appropriate use tax, the report states.

Statewide, taxable sales and purchases decreased 22.5 percent during the second quarter 2020 compared to the second quarter 2019.

Taxable sales statistics are just one snapshot of economic activity in an area, the Office of the State Tax Commissioner states. Individual city data was not available.

"Caution is urged in drawing conclusions from comparisons made of individual county and city totals shown in this report. Statistics in this report are not necessarily a completely accurate measure of any particular level of

economic activity in the state or in any county or city for any specific year. For example, businesses that deal only in exempt sales or services do not file sales tax returns and, therefore, their sales are not included in this report. A complete economic analysis should include other economic factors that are indicators of business activity, in addition to the sales statistics contained in this report," the report states.

## Mines From Pg. 1

the problems associated with another 10 miles of dangerous highwalls, over 3,000 acres of lands affected by underground mine subsidence, and other hazardous conditions at abandoned surface and underground coal mines before the program may end in 2022.

So far, the state has reclaimed about 150 mines, focusing on the mines that are physical or economic hazards.

“Our goal is to reduce the hazard,” Breiner said. “We’re not going to reclaim all of them. We reclaim the ones that are considered hazardous.”

The state has an inventory of approximately 1,500 abandoned coal mines, Breiner said.

“But we don’t have records on every mine. Like the Albrecht Mine, we have no information. We know there was a mine there, just because the land had been disturbed,” she said.

The project reclaimed the Havelock Mine in Hettinger County in 2013, and completed filling sinkholes between the Regent and Weinandy mines this fall.

All work is completed at no cost to the landowner, and reclamation is completed only if the landowner agrees.

“That’s another aspect of this. We have to work with the landowners on this,” Breiner said.

“Even though we’re such a small program, we do good work. We want to help people,” she said.



The largest reclamation project in Hettinger County is the Regent Mine, which included a 35-foot highwall, shown here prior to reclamation. | Submitted Photo



This photo was taken standing on the former highwall at the Regent Mine, looking northeast following reclamation. | Submitted Photo



The 5.5-acre Weinandy Mine before reclamation. | Submitted Photo



The Weinandy Mine after reclamation. | Submitted Photo

## ND Firefighter’s Museum Hall of Fame to induct local firefighter

The North Dakota Firefighter’s Museum is proud to announce the 2020 Inductees into the North Dakota Firefighters Hall of Fame.

Induction into the Hall of Fame is conferred upon outstanding individuals whose contributions to and leadership of the fire service within the State of North Dakota have been a milestone in the development of those services; whose actions have served not just their community, but have contributed significantly to the fire service on a regional, statewide, or national basis; and, whose leadership and accomplishments in these areas are widely recognized and respected in the North Dakota fire service.

The 2020 Inductees into the North Dakota Firefighters Hall of Fame are:

- Terry Hartman – Regent, ND Active Firefighter since 1979 (Retired 2019) with Regent Rural Fire Department Fire Chief – 40 Years, Training Officer – 40 Years
- Oliver Repnow – Underwood, ND Active Firefighter since 1980 with Underwood Fire & Ambulance and Nodak Speedway Fire / Rescue Fire Chief, Fire District Board Member, Past President & Trustee of NDFA, Past ND EMS

Association Board Member.

We will also be recognizing our 2019 Inductees:

Jay Wolsky – Carrington, ND John Hocking – Minot, ND

The public is cordially invited to the Hall of Fame Induction and Banquet being held in Garrison, North Dakota. The event will be held on Saturday, October 10th, 2020, at the Garrison City Auditorium. The festivities will commence with an Open House at the ND Firefighter’s Museum at 4:30pm, Fallen Firefighter’s Remembrance Ceremony at 5:00pm, followed by a social, and supper to be served at 6:00pm with the banquet and induction ceremony to follow.

Tickets for the event are \$25.00 each and Kids 12 & under are \$10.00. The banquet meal will include Prime Rib, Baked Potato, Vegetable, and Coleslaw. Reservations and tickets can be obtained by contacting McKaila Behles at 701-463-2345 or by e-mail at ndfm@restel.com. Please come and join with us to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of our 2017 Hall of Fame Inductees and honor all firefighters across the state for their contributions, leadership, and accomplishments to the state of North Dakota.

## New England School News

Thursday, October 1st

Lunch: Meatballs/ Mashed Potatoes & Gravy/Dinner Rolls/ Veggie/Milk  
 GBB 5-6 @ Mott (Armory) – 4 PM  
 VB 7-8 @ Richardton-Taylor – 4 PM  
 VB ABC Hettinger/Scranton @ NE – 4:30 PM

Friday, October 2nd

Lunch: Cook’s Choice/ Milk  
 FB V Linton/HMB @ Mott – 6 PM

Saturday, October 3rd

Sunday, October 4th

Lunch: Pulled Pork Sandwiches/Tortilla Chips & Nacho Cheese Sauce/Milk  
 GBB 4-5-6 @ Trinity – 4 PM

FB JH-JV Grant County @ Mott – 4 PM

VB 7-8 Mott/Regent @ NE – 5:30 PM

Tuesday, October 6th

Lunch: Weiner Wraps/ Baked Beans/Cheesy Hashbrowns/Milk  
 GBB 4-5-6 @ Killdeer – 4 PM

VB ABC @ Trinity – 4 PM

Wednesday, October 7th

Lunch: Tater Tot Hotdish/Dinner Roll/Fruit/ Milk

Thursday, October 8th

Lunch: Baked Potato Bar/Chili/Fruit/Milk  
 VB ABC Beach @ NE – 4:30 PM  
 FB JH Lemmon @ Mott – 5 PM

## Tigers Cross-country Dinius ends junior high XC season undefeated

Seventh-grader Kallie Dinius ended her junior high cross-country season undefeated, as the New England cross-country team traveled to Bismarck for the Skyhawk Invitational Sept. 22.

“That is a huge accomplishment and does not happen that often,” said Coach Ashly Kraenzel.

“Emma Olsonawski had a huge PR (personal record), and a great race! Mark Schmidt PR’d for the season with a huge time drop of over 2 minutes. Brad Krebs also had a huge PR, dropping about a minute. Both Gage Madler and Justin Kathrein battled through their respective races and PR’d as well,” Kraenzel said.

“Overall, it was an amazing day, and every single kid that raced PR’d and ran hard! I am an extremely ex-

cited and proud coach,” she said.

The New England High School varsity cross-country team will next travel to the regional meet in Parshall Oct. 10.

### RESULTS

- 5K Varsity Girls (Messa Kuehl did not run)
  - Grace Dinius, 11th, 2:55.1 (PR for the season)
- 3K JH/JV Girls
  - Kallie Dinius, 1st, 12:48.5 (PR for the season)
  - Emma Olsonawski, 4th, 13:48.2 (PR for the season)
- 5K Varsity Boys (Waylon Kathrein did not run)
  - Justin Kathrein, 5th, 19:42.3 (PR for the season)
- 3K JH/JV Boys
  - Gage Madler, 3rd, 12:02.1 (PR for the season)
  - Mark Schmidt, 8th, 14:38.2 (PR for the season)
  - Brad Krebs, 12th, 15:26.5 (PR for the season)

### ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES relating to Occupational Therapy Licensure Rules (55.5-02 and 55.5-03)

#### Board of Occupational Therapy Practice

will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Administrative Code.

**Mon., November 2, 2020 10:00 am - 12:00 p.m. CST held virtually via <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/899391525> or by phone +1 (571) 317-3122 and then enter access code 899-391-525.**

A copy of the proposed rules may be obtained by calling 701-250-0847. Also, written comments may be submitted to NDBOTP, PO Box 4005, Bismarck, ND 58502, until November 12, 2020. If you plan to attend the virtually public hearing and have any questions, please contact the North Dakota Board of Occupational Therapy Practice at the above telephone number or address at least 5 days prior to the public hearing. Dated this 21st day of September 2020. Carol Olson, Board Vice Chair, NDBOTP

### ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO AMEND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES relating to the Practice of Social Work

#### ND Board of Social Work Examiners

will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code.

**Fri., November 6, 2020 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. by remote means due to the COVID-19 Pandemic at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/727638957> or by phone at +1 (408) 650-3123**

**Access Code: 727-638-957.**  
 A copy of the proposed rules may be obtained by writing the North Dakota Board of Social Work Examiners, PO Box 914, Bismarck, ND 58502-0914. Also, written comments may be submitted to NDBSWE, PO Box 914, Bismarck, ND 58502-0914 until November 16, 2020. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the NDBSWE at 701-222-0255 at least 5 days prior to the public hearing. Dated this 22nd day of September 2020. Nikki Owings, Administrator

# THE HERALD

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