



In my hometown

A weekly roundup of news from the region.

► Northwood, N.D.

The loss of Grand Forks Air Force Base's 319th Air Refueling Wing will hit home for city government in Northwood, N.D.

City Administrator Marcy Douglas, who has been a leader in the community's recovery from an EF-4 tornado in August 2007, likely will be moving to Kansas sometime in the next few months.

Her husband, Chris Douglas, is a flight chief with the 319th Wing, which will be leaving Grand Forks over the next two years.

"We'll probably be moving by early 2009, but by April for sure," she said in a telephone interview from Kansas, where the family was looking for housing.

The city of Northwood already has begun advertising for a replacement, who has worked for the city since 1997.

"We currently have orders for McConnell Air Force Base," she said. "That's where the majority of the crews of the Grand Forks base will be going because that's where the majority of the tankers are."

McConnell, located near Wichita, Kan., is home to the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, as well as the 194th Air Refueling Wing and the 931st Air Refueling Group.

Grand Forks is home to three squadrons of KC-35 tankers, including 38 planes and about 2,000 active-duty personnel. Another 4,000 family members and civilian employees are connected to the base at its current mission strength.

The refueling wing will be replaced in Grand Forks by part of the Air Force's Unmanned Aerial System mission, hosting the Predator and Global Hawk UAS. The unmanned vehicles will be piloted by troops from the North Dakota Air National Guard in Fargo.

The Douglas family has lived in rural Northwood for 14 years. They have two children, 12-year-old Courtney and 9-year-old Collin.

Earlier this year, Marcy Douglas was presented with the 2008 Marketplace for Entrepreneurs Social Entrepreneurial of the Year award by Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., and North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner.

The city of Northwood will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2009.

► Devils Lake

The Devils Lake Park Board is entertaining a proposal to revive the Skyline Skiway Snow Ski Resort, a popular ski resort that closed in 1997.

Devils Lake businessman Collin Evenson offered to donate \$3,000 worth of time and money to revive the resort, which was located just off N.D. Highway 20 south of Devils Lake.

Evenson said it could become a world-class snowboarding resort that could boost winter tourism in the Lake Region.

Skyline Skiway was a popular destination in the 1950s. In its later years, Skyline Skiway was operated by volunteers. It had a bar lift to tow skiers up the hill and an old groomer to maintain its three runs.

The Park Board agreed to look at the proposal but cautioned supporters that it may not be economically feasible to bring it back to life.

► Crookston

People in northwestern Minnesota will talk today about how the region can address transportation and transit issues as they relate to people with disabilities.

The Long Road to Work: A Transportation and Employment Dialogue in Greater Minnesota, runs from noon to 4 p.m. today at the Northland Inn in Crookston. The event is sponsored by the Minnesota State Council on Disability, Options Resource Center for Independent Living and other agencies.

The seminar is designed for employers, transit providers, governmental officials and residents from 12 counties in northwestern Minnesota.

It is one of three planned in rural Minnesota. Others will be in Fertus Falls and Marshall.

► Thief River Falls

The city of Thief River Falls likely will host at least one public hearing in 2009 on the proposed annexation of 1,325 acres of land adjacent to the city's north side.

The city wants to annex 355 acres of North Township and 970 acres of Rocks bury Township in an effort to

build additional housing.

Some North Township residents, including Township Supervisor Dave Strong, pressed the city's long-range planning/annexation committee for some answers to questions about utilities and other matters at a recent meeting. Strong lives in one of the proposed annexation areas.

City officials said they are trying to provide information about the proposed annexation and that public hearings will be held in the near future.

► Fertile, Minn.

Could the Fertile, Minn., American Legion Club find new life as a youth center?

That's what some people are thinking. The Fertile Legion building is for sale.

A group from the Resurrection Free Lutheran Church in Beltrami, Minn., toured the club recently. The proposal is simply an idea now, according to Don Edmund, church youth director.

The parties have yet to talk about what the community might think about the idea, financing and fundraising to get the project done, he said.

► Mayville, N.D.

Mayville State University and Bismarck State University have entered into a partnership for students in their early childhood programs.

The agreement will allow students taking courses at Bismarck State to apply their credits to Mayville State's Bachelor of Arts degree program in early childhood.

Students will be able to continue their studies on campus in Mayville or through its online education program.

Mayville's early childhood program prepares graduates for administrative or teaching jobs in several specialties, such as child care, preschool teaching, family day care, child care resource and referral, infant-toddler programs and administration.

— Compiled by Kevin Bonham

The Associated Press contributed to this report