

Want to know the Fargo landmarks featured in the 'Tankhouse' film?

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# The Forum

OF FARGO-MOORHEAD



WDAY photo  
World War II veteran Bud Leinen was a member of a group of 160 veterans who all agreed the lone surviving member would receive a bottle of Virginia Dare red wine. Leinen is the last member and plans to donate the wine to a local museum.

# Last man standing

## Wahpeton-Breckenridge WWII vet sole member of club

**By Kevin Wallevand**  
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**Wahpeton, N.D.**

Sit down at the Vets Club in downtown Wahpeton with World War II veteran Bud Leinen, and you quickly learn he remembers everything.

He remembers the day he was drafted into the army as an 18-year-old boy from Breckenridge, Minn. He didn't graduate from high school and was shipped off to the South Pacific in 1944. As part of the 1778 Combat Engineers in Okinawa, Japan, he helped build roads and airports.

When he returned home from the war, he and more than 160 other World War II veterans from Wahpeton-Breckenridge formed a club and made a pact.

The group of men had fought in Europe and the islands in the South Pacific. And their agreement? The last one standing gets a bottle of Virginia Dare red wine.

Now, the honor of last man falls to Leinen. From that crowd of more than 160, he is it.

His "Last Man Standing Club" had about \$400 left in the bank, so he donated it to the veterans home in Fergus Falls.

"I had to close it down in 2018 because our last three passed away — all together — and I was all alone. No more members," Leinen said.

When Leinen's friend Doyle Gyltin heard about the agreement, he decided to surprise him with a special gift: An oak case to showcase the wine

LEINEN: Page A5



Special to The Forum  
North Dakota State men's basketball player Tyson Ward presents a championship ring to Landon Solberg of West Fargo on Aug. 28 as Bison head coach Dave Richman looks on. Solberg, 12, died this week after a nearly two-year battle with brain cancer.

# Landon's faith was unshakable, even in the face of the unthinkable

## 12-year-old inspired Bison team, Wentz and others

In a world in which every message is polished, every statement parsed, every word carefully crafted — all for maximum effect — how can a little boy be so impactful just by being himself?

Perhaps it comes with innocence. Maybe Landon Solberg wasn't yet old enough to complicate things, so he just lived the way kids live, enjoying the moments for what they were and looking forward to the next one, whatever it might be and whenever it might come.

There must have been times of darkness, perhaps many of them, but Landon never let on publicly and instead faced his future with a grace and courage that defied his age. He died a bigger man than many who'd been dealt his hand, yet he was only 12.

Landon and his parents, Travis and Andrea, received a diagnosis of brain cancer when he was 10, forcing conversations no young child should have to have with their mom and dad. Discussions of one's own mortality in elementary school? That's far too soon to learn that life is not only unfair, but

sometimes brutal.

Landon's response to his parents will forever be remembered.

"It's OK. God might just want me when I'm 11 and that's OK."

His faith was unshakable, even in the face of the unthinkable.

Landon Solberg died Tuesday, Sept. 17, after a 19-month battle with anaplastic astrocytoma, a rare malignant brain tumor. His story became well-known locally because North Dakota State men's basketball coach Dave Richman, a neighbor of the Solbergs in West Fargo whose own children were friends with Landon, began wearing T-shirts bearing the words "Landon's Light" to spread the word.

On the back was a line from a Harry Potter book: "Happiness can be found in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

Landon turned on the light for many. He gave, even as so many were



MIKE McFEELY  
The Forum

LANDON: Page A3

# 'Racially motivated' comments preceded shooting, suspect told police

## Slain food truck owner was 'not prejudiced,' cousin says

**By Raju Chaduvula**  
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FARGO — A verbal confrontation that occurred before the fatal shooting of Jason Halvorson, a local food truck owner, in June might have been racially charged, according to information provided during a court hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

Halvorson, a white man, was shot multiple times at about 1 a.m. on June 7, and Kareem Lee Byrd and Charles Edward Harris III, both black men, were later charged in connection with the killing.

Those close to Halvorson told The Forum they don't believe he would have said anything racially insensitive.

"That's not the way Jason is — he's not prejudiced," said Michelle Rohrich, Halvorson's cousin, adding that she was shocked when that information came up during Wednesday's hearing.

Kate Holten, Halvorson's fiancée, also attended the hearing, and she doesn't believe Halvorson said anything racist. "I've never known

MURDER: Page A5



David Samson / The Forum  
Kareem Byrd appears in Cass County District Court on Wednesday, Sept. 18, for a preliminary hearing on charges connected to the fatal shooting of Jay Halvorson in June.

## INSIDE TODAY'S FORUM




Why the new 'Downton Abbey' movie is basically 'A Very Brady Renovation.'

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**Today's weather**



77°  
62°

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Details, D4



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# 'Protecting our people and land'

## Standing Rock pipeline protests fuel momentum to sustainable future

**By Natasha Rausch**  
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FORT YATES, N.D. — Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman Mike Faith said passersby would probably never know that the reservation's northern border was the site of international news when thousands of protesters gathered to help the tribe fight the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

When the nearly yearlong protest ended in early 2017,

Standing Rock's Environmental Protection Agency spent about \$800,000 and 11 weeks to clean up leftover trash, generators, wood stoves, pup tents and dozens of broken down cars from protesters who weren't ready to leave when newly minted President Donald Trump reversed his predecessor's order and allowed the pipeline's

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FARGO • MOORHEAD



# Army Corps asks judge to dismiss ND’s lawsuit seeking reimbursement for DAPL costs

**By John Hageman**  
Forum News Service

BISMARCK — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asked a federal judge to dismiss the state of North Dakota’s lawsuit seeking to recoup \$38 million for its response to the Dakota Access Pipeline protests Tuesday, Sept. 17, arguing the state was responsible for enforcing criminal law at the protest site.

North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem filed the lawsuit two months ago. He has argued the Corps inaction required the state to provide a large public safety response to the protests, which resulted in hundreds of arrests over eight months.

Three protest camps were located on Corps-managed land near the oil pipeline’s Lake Oahe crossing, but the agency didn’t enforce requirements for protest-

ers to have permits, among other shortcomings, the state’s lawsuit argued.

In a response filed in U.S. District Court in North Dakota Tuesday, the Corps said it communicated with local law enforcement and tribal leadership about problems stemming from the protests, and it assisted with clearing and cleaning up the camps. But it said Congress has provided the Corps with “limited authority” to enforce regulations and rules on property it manages.

“The federal government acquired the Corps-managed land around Lake Oahe without accepting any special criminal jurisdiction over this property,” the Corps wrote. “Thus, North Dakota has the authority and responsibility to enforce criminal law on the Corps-managed lands at Lake Oahe.”

Stenehjem, a Republican, said

in an interview that the Corps’ “preposterous” response is the “same old, tired argument that they’ve been making from the beginning.” He said Tuesday’s filing represented the first response the state has received from the Corps in two years regarding the protest costs.

“They are responsible, and were from the beginning, to ensure that their own laws and regulations were being enforced,” Stenehjem said.

In its response, the Corps also cited the concept of “sovereign immunity,” which it says shields the federal government from lawsuits absent a waiver, and referred to its permitting and enforcement decisions in responding to the protests as “discretionary.”

The agency also referred to the federal government’s “contentious and tragic” relationship with Native American tribes and

said its response to the protests “took place in the context of this complex and contentious history.” The protests stemmed from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s concerns that the pipeline threatened its drinking water and sacred sites, drawing thousands to south-central North Dakota.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline from western North Dakota to Illinois was spearheaded by Texas-based Energy Transfer and began service in June 2017, after President Donald Trump moved to approve it once he took office.

In a statement issued in July, members of North Dakota’s all-Republican congressional delegation said they supported the state’s lawsuit because the “Army Corps allowed the protest on its land, and our state was forced to pay for law enforcement and public safety costs.”

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BRIEFS

Fargo police seek help finding runaway teen

FARGO — The Fargo Police Department is asking for the public’s help in locating a 16-year-old girl who has been missing since leaving her home with a friend Saturday, Sept. 14.



Livingood

Breanna Livingood was last seen leaving an apartment on the 4300 block of Ninth Avenue Circle South, Fargo police said in a Wednesday Facebook post. Police said it is not known where she may have gone and described her as a runaway.

Livingood, who police say also goes by the name “Thompson,” was wearing a sweatshirt and sweatpants and has a tattoo on her right wrist of a “line with a sun coming up.”

Police ask anyone with information about her whereabouts to call their local law enforcement agency or the Red River Regional Dispatch Center at 701-451-7660. Tips can be texted to 701-730-8888.

## PROTESTS

From Page A1

construction to continue.

“We literally picked up every little piece of paper,” said Hans Young Bird Bradley, the brown-fields coordinator for the tribe’s EPA. “We turned over every rock.”

Now, more than two years later, the land surrounding the infamous Cannon Ball bridge looks just as it did before — sweeping green pastures sit on either side of North Dakota Highway 1806, interrupted only by tributaries stemming from the Missouri River. Though cleanup efforts removed any traces of the protest, the Standing Rock Tribe has built on its momentum as it continues to fight the pipeline in court to protect its water resources, and to pursue a sustainable environment within its borders.

“A lot of local people that have been empowered through that movement are continuing their work and trying to make a difference,” said Steve Sitting Bear, deputy director of the Standing Rock Community Development Corporation.

The Standing Rock EPA’s office sits on a gravel road off Highway 1806 and peers out at the Missouri River. The agency, established in the ‘90s, has helped in the tribe’s legal battle against Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners, which owns the pipeline.

Energy Transfer Partners, on its website, said the 1,172-mile pipeline,

which runs under Lake Oahe on the Missouri River just north of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, “is the safest and most efficient means to transport crude oil,” adding that it is constantly monitored by a computer network control system.

But the tribe has said “no” to the pipeline from the beginning, said Standing Rock EPA Director Allyson Two Bears. In the initial legal complaint, the tribe said a leak or spill could contaminate its irrigation and drinking water supply. It also said the pipeline would destroy sites of historic and religious significance. Protesters, who dubbed themselves “water protectors,” started gathering at the site of the proposed line in April, garnering thousands of supporters throughout the protest until the line’s eventual installment.

In the lawsuit’s latest wrinkle, the tribe made a motion for summary judgment in federal court in Washington, D.C., asking the judge for a ruling to vacate the line’s permits and order an environmental impact statement, according to a news release from environmental law firm Earthjustice, which represents the tribe. And this month, Administrative Law Judge Tim Dawson approved the tribe’s status as an “intervenor” in the oil company’s plans to double the line’s capacity to as much as 1.1 million barrels a day. The status allows the tribe to cross-examine the company and call witnesses.

Two Bears, who has

worked for the Standing Rock EPA since 2010, said her ultimate goal from litigation is that “the pipeline will be deemed unsafe, and it will be shut-down.” Chairman Faith has echoed that hope.

Two Bears and Faith have sought funding to install their own groundwater monitoring wells to detect leaks from the line. Currently, the tribe’s EPA physically samples the water to check for hydrocarbons that could indicate an oil leak or spill, Two Bears said.

“My biggest concern is that we have something that goes undetected, and it just starts seeping into our environment,” she said.

As Standing Rock’s legal battle continues, others within the tribe have taken the momentum from the protests to begin building a more environmentally sustainable future.

Just last month, nonprofit GivePower and Standing Rock’s Cody Two Bears unveiled North Dakota’s first solar energy farm in Cannon Ball, saying in a statement that “it pays tribute to everyone who’s come to Standing Rock and all their hard work and tireless dedication toward protecting our people and land.”

The nonprofit Standing Rock Community Development Corporation (CDC) also took its cue from the protests.

In December 2016, Brian Thunder Hawk started creating the new organization. He took the lesson from the pipeline protests saying, “if we can create a narrative change

throughout the country with Indigenous people, we can do it here as well.”

In the first year, the new group surveyed community members in each of the tribe’s eight districts that stretch across about 1 million acres to find out what they want in their community. In the midst of a blizzard in December 2017, Thunder Hawk and Sitting Bear met at the house of the EPA’s Young Bird Bradley, where they mapped out the focus areas for the group, based on what community members had told them.

By the end of the night, the group had determined four objectives, each aligning with a cardinal direction that has a sacred meaning according to the tribe’s beliefs. The west means “protection,” aligning with the group’s objective of community development. The north is strength and nourishment, aligning with the objective of food sovereignty. To the east is a new day, matching up with youth development, and the south is the ancestors, aligning with language and culture.

In that moment, when each goal aligned with a sacred direction, it all clicked. “It was a moment of silence,” Thunder Hawk said.

Since then, the group has hosted a youth camp, as well as regalia and art making, fishing and food planting events. Thunder Hawk said one of the biggest milestones, though, was when the CDC purchased a decommissioned public school building in Fort Yates in order to re-

rofit it into a “net zero” structure for an upfront cost of \$4 million. Among other things, that means the building’s electricity and heat will be provided through solar energy, virtually eliminating utility bills. Once rebuilt, the solar-powered building will be a K-12 language immersion school that also features an indoor garden to teach students about food sovereignty on a small scale.

“This project represents everything that the community told us they wanted,” Sitting Bear said.

Sitting Bear said Indian Country is “taking the lead” on the path to environmentally sustainable living. “That’s how we lived for thousands of years,” he said. “And we believe we can do it again.”

Since the pipeline protests, he said, “people are still looking toward Standing Rock to see what’s next.”

Readers can reach Native American issues reporter Natasha Rausch, a Report for America corps member, at 701-241-5528, [nrausch@forumcomm.com](mailto:nrausch@forumcomm.com) or [@n\\_rausch21](mailto:@n_rausch21)

**Moorhead police locate missing teen**

MOORHEAD — A 17-year-old girl who had been missing from her foster home since June has been located, the Moorhead Police Department said Wednesday, Sept. 18.

Moorhead police took to Facebook Monday to ask for the public’s help in finding Sheyenne Rochelle Bell, a girl they said has a history of running away from home. Police said it was possible that she was in the Fargo-Moorhead, Alexandria or Perham areas.

Moorhead police spokesman Capt. Deric Swenson said Bell’s foster parents did not believe her disappearance was suspicious and that it was likely she ran away from home.

## MURDER

From Page A1

him to have a hateful bone in his body,” Holten said.

Byrd appeared in Cass County District Court on Wednesday where he pleaded not guilty to charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Harris, 30, who faces the same charges as Byrd, 20, pleaded not guilty in August.

Joshua Loos, a Fargo police detective, testified in court Wednesday and outlined the details of the investigation.

According to Detective Loos:

Several witnesses near the crime scene reported hearing gunshots. Authorities found seven 9 mm shell casings at the scene.

One witness told authorities he was walking his dog along Sixth Avenue North when he encountered two men and

had a brief conversation with them. The witness said he saw the two men walk toward where the food truck was parked and that he lost sight of them at that point.

The witness told police he heard gunfire soon afterward.

Some time after the shooting, a Clay County sheriff’s deputy positioned near a bridge between Moorhead and Fargo spotted a minivan carrying a passenger who matched the description of a suspect.

Authorities pulled over the minivan. Among the passengers in the van were Byrd and Harris.

Police searched the van and found a backpack containing a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun and a .22 caliber revolver.

Loos said that when interviewed by police, Byrd said he and Harris were involved in a verbal confrontation with Halvorson and that, according to Byrd, Halvorson

said some “racially motivated” things.

Loos testified that Byrd told police they went to Harris’ apartment to retrieve the guns before returning to the food truck and shooting Halvorson. Byrd told police he used the .22 caliber revolver and alleged that Harris used the 9 mm semiautomatic in the shooting, according to Loos.

While Loos didn’t elaborate on the exact nature of the comments made during the confrontation, he said Byrd did become emotional during the police interview and that Byrd told detectives some of what was said brought up negative feelings regarding his upbringing.

Rohrich and Holten told The Forum that Halvorson is not the kind of person to instigate a confrontation, and Rohrich said that even if he were involved in a verbal confrontation, he would not have said anything racist toward another person.

Loos testified that Harris admitted the guns found in the van belonged to him, but denied any knowledge of the shooting. Harris told police that Byrd went for a walk and, upon returning, claimed he shot someone, Loos said.

An autopsy revealed that Halvorson died from multiple gunshot wounds and that two different calibers of guns were used.

Judge Stephanie Stiel concluded there was sufficient probable cause to support the charges against Byrd, pointing to the information Byrd provided to police as well as the found shell casings that matched the calibers of the guns found in the van.

Byrd’s next court hearing is slated for Oct. 17. Harris is set to appear in court Oct. 16.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Raju Chaduvula at 701-241-5466.

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## LEINEN

From Page A1

now in the hands of Leinen, the final face in the club.

“I thought it’s a story that needs to be told,” Gyltin said.

Leinen has aged better than the wine. He now plans to donate the wine and its new case to a museum in Breckenridge to give it a chance

to educate others — especially young people — about sacrifices made, friendships cherished and service to the country in World War II.