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Laurie Furuseth — Chief Financial Officer
Kristina Kitchens — Donor Relations & Community Outreach Coordinator

— CONTACT US —
✓ 701.572.9275
✓ www.WillistonState.edu
✓ 721 E. Highland Dr. « Suite D
  PO Box 1286
  Williston, ND 58802-1286

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Bringing Communities and College Together
Greetings from the Office of the President at Williston State College! As we quickly roll into the Holiday Season of 2023, please find below some updates to WSC capital projects and a few other important updates.

First, the Crighton Childcare Project. This project was completed in early September with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. I’m pleased to report that the Childcare Learning Center is reaching capacity quickly, and staffing is at 100%. For the ribbon cutting ceremony, we invited the President and Provost of Valley City State University to attend and share some words of collaboration and partnership. VCSU Teacher Education students will be utilizing this Center to earn practicum and internship hours for their programs and will assist with staffing for the Center. Since the ribbon-cutting, VCSU has added two additional Teacher Education programs to our partnership.

The second major project is the ‘Turf Project’ for the WSC baseball and softball fields. Work on those fields, to convert them to synthetic turf, inside a formal complex with lights, concessions, and updated grandstands, is slated to begin after the spring, 2024, baseball and softball seasons. As of this writing this project is 100% on schedule.

The final capital project is our state-of-the-art ‘Healthcare Training Facility’. As of this writing, we have some exciting updates in terms of hiring an architect to fully design the project and a construction manager to manage the project. WSC has hired JLG Architects and JE Dunn, both Williston-based organizations, to design and manage this project. Additionally, we are about to post a position to hire a Director of Healthcare Training that will lead, guide, and oversee the development of up to a dozen new healthcare-related programs over the next few years.

On the athletics front, I’m pleased to report that WSC’s Clay Target team won a National Championship in the varsity division of the USA Clay Target National Championship tournament. WSC had the top three shooters in the nation. Grantlee Hoffman of WSC shot a perfect score (100/100) to win the top honors, Clay Ceynar shot 99/100, and Neil Dahl shot 99/100. Congratulations to Coach Penny Slagle, her assistant coaches, and student-athletes for this premiere level of performance.

In closing, I’d like to wish everyone a safe and peaceful Holiday Season. Also, I’d like to share a special thank you to every faculty and staff member of Williston State College for their passion and dedication to our students, and to the WSC Foundation for its strong support of all the College’s faculty, staff, and students.

Bernell Hirning
Happy New Year

from WSC and the WSC Foundation. Every year seems to fly by faster and faster, leaving us asking, “Where did that year go?” We’ll attribute it to the age-old saying, “Time flies when you are having fun.” Working on a college campus helps create a fun environment filled with energetic students who are eager to learn. Helping them prepare for their future is the reason we exist. We are thankful for the life and fun our students bring to campus.

Two major projects for Williston, our surrounding communities, and for Williston State will bring even more opportunities to make next year fly by as well. The new Healthcare Training Facility will begin to take its shape in the early parts of the summer and will be a fantastic addition in so many ways. Look for a complete roll-out of this project in the upcoming months.

But one of the main focuses of this Teton Thunder issue is another exciting addition with the Athletic Complex Improvements project which should begin construction around May 1. The largest piece of the complex is converting the baseball and softball fields on campus to full synthetic turf. The addition will be a tremendous benefit, allowing our college and high schools in and around Williston to practice and compete more frequently without having to travel great distances to do so.

Though we’ll admit this project is one that likely should have been done years ago, we are committed to making it right by not letting another year go by without our community having turf fields for our youth spring sports. We are actively seeking contributions to this wonderful community project and have included information on what the project will contain within this issue of the Thunder. Please consider supporting this project and watch for the drastic changes near the end of spring.

Besides these two major capital projects, the various ways to support the students of Williston State continue to be at the forefront of our mission. Scholarships, updated lab equipment, modern learning technology, trees and landscaping around campus are just a few examples in which our donors make learning better for the students of WSC.

Charitable giving is a great way to support our community and we thank you, in advance, for any consideration in support of Williston State College. We would not be who we are today without the generosity of our many donors, our alumni, our faculty and staff, and our community. We are proud to call Williston home. Enjoy family and friends as we welcome the new year.

Go Tetons,

Hunter Berg
Teton Athletics is very busy with all of our winter sports in full swing with practices and games! Teton Hockey started the season with a very road-heavy schedule but there will be many opportunities to catch them in action at the Conlin Arena located inside the Raymond Center.

Coach Triplett has our Women’s Basketball team playing very well early as they have a 11-2 record through the first 12 games. They are a perfect 11-0 in Mon-Dak play thus far! The Lady Tetons have also had the honors of a player being named Mon-Dak player of the week three times. Taylor Moffat has received this recognition twice, while Canzas Hisbadhorse has received it once.

Our Men’s Basketball team has a record of 4-9, 1-6 in Mon-Dak play. We are competing and are finding ourselves in close games, but struggling to execute and finish games down the homestretch. We are very young with 11 of our 12 rotation players being Freshman, we are focusing on continuing to get better as we get more experience with college basketball and hope to play our best basketball in January and February.

Coach Przybilla and Coach Ward are working hard with their men and women in the weight room and batting cages so they are ready to hit the ground running with their respective seasons. Let’s hope for an easy winter so we are able to see them play on campus this spring!

Alex Herman
Interim Athletic Director,
Head Men’s Basketball Coach
Giving Day 2023 was a resounding success! Thanks to all of your generous contributions, we were able to raise over $60,000.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, faculty, and staff for their unwavering support towards Williston State College and the Williston State College Foundation.

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to some wonderful contributions, our Accounting department was able to purchase several laptops for classroom use by students.

A memorial gift is a thoughtful way to honor and remember loved ones who have passed away. Since 2020-2023 Gifts have been received in memory of the following individuals:

- Al Bervig
- Arlene Tvedt
- Cathleen Strinden
- Coke Aafedt
- Eugene Emery
- Fay Halverson
- Frances Corner
- Garvin Stevens
- George Solberg
- James & Frances Shannon
- Jean Maisey
- Joe Meyer
- Kenneth Olson
- Leora Sukut
- Lorraine Langberg
- Marcia Owens
- Mary Lou Saunders Black
- Nicholas A Voller
- Nicholas and Dorothy Layon
- Rosella Hagen
- Sadie Rauser
- Shirley Olson
- Stacy Grupe
- Suzi Kay Lee
- Travis Gunlikson
- Warren J Livdahl
- Luella Olson

If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please call 701.572.9275
Williston State College is one of the schools that takes part in the Dakota Nursing Program, preparing students through a comprehensive LPN curriculum. Through classroom and clinical learning, students enrolled in the 11-month program gain the knowledge and skills to find success in a number of medical environments as practical nurses. We are so happy to announce that Williston State College’s LPN program ranked #1 in the State of North Dakota with a perfect score of 100 points.

Consider an endowed gift to the Williston State College Foundation. Individuals and businesses who pay ND State Income tax may qualify.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIFT AMOUNT</th>
<th>$5,000</th>
<th>$10,000</th>
<th>$25,000</th>
<th>$50,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Federal Tax Savings</td>
<td>($960)</td>
<td>($1,920)</td>
<td>($4,800)</td>
<td>($9,600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ND State Income Tax Credit</td>
<td>($2,000)</td>
<td>($4,000)</td>
<td>($10,000)</td>
<td>($20,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET COST OF GIFT</td>
<td>$2,040</td>
<td>$4,080</td>
<td>$10,200</td>
<td>$20,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For illustration purposes only. Please consult your tax advisor.

CONTACT HUNTER BERG 701.572.9275
TO VISIT ABOUT POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF ENDOWED GIFTS TO THE WSC FOUNDATION
On September 18th, 2023, we held our Outstanding Alumni Banquet, where we honored 22 exceptional individuals, including our very own Hunter Berg. Each one of these outstanding individuals has made a significant impact on Williston State College, and we were grateful for the opportunity to recognize and celebrate their achievements.

**OUTSTANDING ALUMNI**
- Allen Domagala
- Jeanne Brevik
- Craig Oksol
- Kim Bekkedahl
- Robert Eynon
- Kathy Kalil
- Mark Barstad
- John Haskins
- Martin Hanson, Jr.
- Don Wick
- Arvid Boe
- Kirk Schoepp
- Patty Schoepp
- Javayne Oyloe
- Diane Satermo

**OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AND FACULTY AND STAFF**
- Dennis Kvalheim
- Richard Lund
- Faye Krogen
- Joanne Bakken
- Randy Waitman

**OUTSTANDING FACULTY AND STAFF**
- Rita Ann Deichert
- Lana Olson
- Carol Hauser
- Ken Quamme
Front row left to right: Joanne Bakken, Carol Hauser, Catherine Oksoi, Kathy Kalil, Diane Satermo, Lana Olson
Middle row left to right: Richard Lund, Randy Waitman, Jeanne Brevik, Kim Bekkedahl, Rita Ann Deichert, Patty Schoepp, Faye Kroger, Allen Domagala.
Back row left to right: Martin Hanson Jr, John Haskins, Arvid Boe, Robert Eynon, Don Wick, Mark Barstad, Kirk Schoepp, Ken Quamme.

Hunter Berg and his family
Teton Baseball and Softball will witness a comprehensive facility upgrade beginning around May 1, 2024. The project is an important one for Williston and surrounding communities. Establishing turf baseball and softball fields allows for more spring practices and games to be held in Williston.

For the past number of years, both the Tetons and Williston High School have had to travel to find playable fields early in the spring, losing out on home games and practices. Though the weather is impossible to change, dealing with that weather will be easier with synthetic turf fields. Turf will allow for easier snow removal and a faster melting process. The turf playing surfaces will bring the complex up to speed with the rest of North Dakota’s major cities.

Community support for the project has been and will continue to be sought as the fundraising process kicks into high gear. “Early commitments from the WSC Foundation, the City of Williston, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Williston Boys Baseball Committee, the Teton Booster Club, and Williams County have provided valuable support before we enter the public phase of fundraising. We have also had generous gifts from local families and individuals, local businesses, and alumni who have kicked the project off. This project, like many in our community, will take a large effort but it will be well worth it. We can’t say ‘Thank you’ enough to those that have stepped forward,” said Hunter Berg who is helping lead the fundraising effort.
There are many ways to support the project with further details in the following pages of the Teton Thunder. Follow the transformation this summer in person, online at www.willistonstate.edu, or by following any of the Williston State College and WSC Foundation social media accounts.
WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE
ATHLETIC COMPLEX CAMPAIGN

“Bringing Synthetic Turf Baseball and Softball Fields to the Community of Williston”

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Construction will begin in the spring of 2024 so fields will be playable in the spring of 2025. Though preparing for two phases of fundraising and construction if necessary, the goal is to fundraise and complete the complex in one phase.

The WSC Foundation has provided up to $2 million in matching funds for any sponsorships/donations. Donations may be a one-time payment or spread over a period of up to 5 years with payment options of monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Recurring payments can be invoiced or charged to cards.

Total Campaign Goal: Up to $5.6 Million

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase I</td>
<td>$4 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthetic Turf</td>
<td>$2.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured Perimeter Fencing</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Grandstands with Press Boxes</td>
<td>$600,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms and Concession Building</td>
<td>$500,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidewalks</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology, Sound, etc.</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>$1.6 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lights</td>
<td>$1,100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plaza, Sidewalks, Landscaping</td>
<td>$400,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Board</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimates Only

LANDMARK NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Named Landmark</th>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>Location of Signage</th>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Number Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Complex Naming</td>
<td>$500,000.00</td>
<td>Multiple, Largest Signage Available</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Field Naming</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
<td>Multiple Around and Amongst Field</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teton Victory Stampede</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
<td>Stampede in NE Corner of Complex</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plaza Naming</td>
<td>$150,000.00</td>
<td>Inside Main Entrance, Between Fields</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandstand Naming-Baseball</td>
<td>$125,000.00</td>
<td>Amongst Grandstand</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandstand Naming-Softball</td>
<td>$125,000.00</td>
<td>Amongst Grandstand</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Gate/Welcome Center</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>Main Entrance</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teton Trail Naming</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>Inside Complex</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teton Stampede-Single Donor</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>Around Complex</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>Four Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Box-Baseball Naming</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
<td>Rabon Field</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Box-Softball Naming</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
<td>Leininger Field</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Park Naming</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
<td>Inside Complex</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession Stand Naming</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>Concession Stand</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan Zone Naming</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>On Both Fields</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>Four Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legends Wall Naming</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>Inside Complex-Near Plaza</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>SOLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Butte-Baseball</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>Behind Baseball Grandstands</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Butte-Softball</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>Behind Softball Grandstands</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building the Herd Stampede</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
<td>Around Complex</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>Multiple Available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Details on Landmark Namings included in later pages
## PREMIER SPONSORSHIP/AD OPPORTUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsorship</th>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>Location &amp; Size</th>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Number Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) Scoreboard Sign-Largest</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td>Bottom of Softball Scoreboard</td>
<td>No future renewal-Lifetime</td>
<td>One Available-Softball Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Scoreboard Signs-Smaller</td>
<td>$75,000.00</td>
<td>Side Panels of Scoreboards</td>
<td>No future renewal-Lifetime</td>
<td>Four Available-Two on Each Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Dugout Signage-Both Fields</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
<td>Back of Dugouts-4' x 8'</td>
<td>Sign good for 10 years, with right to renew</td>
<td>Eight Available-Four on Baseball, Four on Softball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Dugout Signage-Both Fields</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
<td>Ends of Dugouts-3' x 5'</td>
<td>Sign good for 10 years, with right to renew</td>
<td>Eight Available-Four on Baseball, Four on Softball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) Flag Pole-Both Fields</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>4’ x 6’</td>
<td>Sign good for 10 years, with right to renew</td>
<td>Two Available-One on Each Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(F) Foul Poles-Both Fields</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
<td>2’ x 8’</td>
<td>Sign good for 10 years, with right to renew</td>
<td>Four Available-Two on Each Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Light Poles</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>4’ x 6’</td>
<td>Sign good for 10 years, with right to renew</td>
<td>Fourteen Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(H) Bullpen Lanes</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
<td>2.5’ x 4’</td>
<td>Sign good for 10 years, with right to renew</td>
<td>Six Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I) Batting Cage Lanes</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>2.5’ x 4’</td>
<td>Sign good for 10 years, with right to renew</td>
<td>Six Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(J) Outfield Fence Signs</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
<td>5’ x 12’</td>
<td>Sign good for 5 years, with right to renew</td>
<td>Twenty Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(K) Digital Video Board Sign</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>Digital Video Board Sign</td>
<td>Sign good for 5 years, with right to renew</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sponsorship Opportunities will be honored on a first-come basis.

---

### CAMPAIGN SUPPORT LEVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turf Complex Support Level</th>
<th>Donation Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diamond Level</td>
<td>$100,000.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum Level</td>
<td>$50,000.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Level</td>
<td>$25,000.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Level</td>
<td>$10,000.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Level</td>
<td>$5,000.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Level</td>
<td>$2,500.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Level</td>
<td>$1,000.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Level</td>
<td>$250.00+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Support Levels along with donor’s name will be displayed on a donor board inside the front entrance to the complex.*
THE CASE FOR COMPLEX COMPLETION AND FACILITY UPGRADES

The centerpiece for the campaign is converting the entire playing surface of both diamonds to synthetic turf. Spring seasons for baseball and softball in North Dakota often lead to shortened windows for practices and games. Each year brings numerous instances when both the Tetons and Williston High School lose a number of home games. Synthetic turf would allow more practices and games to be held in Williston for the college, the high school, and surrounding communities.

Interesting Fact:

Williston is one of only 2 large cities in ND that do not have turf baseball and softball fields.

In addition to the turf, the complex will receive upgrades to secure the complex with exterior fencing, offer better seating with new grandstands on both fields, and establish restrooms and concessions serving areas to enhance the player and fan experience. Field lighting is also planned to lengthen the amount of time in each day the fields will be playable, especially important during the spring seasons.

WSC ATHLETIC COMPLEX DONATION/SPONSORSHIP FORM

Donor Information:
Name: ___________________________ Total Donation Amount: ___________________________
Sponsorship or Naming Opportunity (if applicable). Ex: Back of Dugout-Rabon Field: ___________________________

Contact Information:
Main Contact: _____________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: _____________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: __________________ Zip: __________________
Home Phone: __________________ Mobile Phone: __________________
Email: _____________________________________________________________________________

Payment/Pledge Information:
☐ One-Time Payment
☐ Check enclosed (Check made payable to WSC Foundation)
☐ Please Charge Card
☐ Please Mail Invoice on this date (Month, Year): __________________

☐ Recurring Payments/Pledge
Pledge Period: __________________
Frequency of Payments: ☐ One Year ☐ Two Years ☐ Three Years
☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annual ☐ Annual
Payment Type: ☐ Mail Invoice ☐ Charge Card

Card Information (if applicable):
Name on card: __________________ Card Number: __________________
Expiration: __________________ 3 Digit Code: __________________ Billing Zip Code: __________________
Email (To send receipt): __________________________________________________________________
Signature: __________________ Date: __________________

Return Form To: Williston State College Foundation • PO Box 1286 • Williston, ND 58802-1286 or email it to: hunter.berg@willistonstate.edu

Questions or want to visit about the project? Contact Hunter Berg with the Williston State College Foundation:
Office Phone: 701-572-9275 • Mobile Phone: 701-220-8445 • Email: hunter.berg@willistonstate.edu
Multiple naming and sponsorship opportunities will exist in the newly upgraded athletic complex. Below is a listing of some of the opportunities with examples of similar signage options. Final signage design will continue as the complex progresses.

**Athletic Complex Naming**
The Athletic Complex Naming is the largest impact naming opportunity as the complex is highly visible on the campus and in the community due to its location at the busy intersection of University Avenue and 18th Street East. Complex naming signage will be the largest of any signage and will be located around the outside of the complex and inside the complex at multiple locations.

**Teton Victory Stampede**
The Victory Stampede is an exciting feature for the complex. The Stampede will be elevated on a pedestal platform and located between the two fields. The design is to light up when the Tetons score a run. It will be highly visible even when the complex is not being used and will be a head-turning attraction for the complex.

**Plaza Naming**
The Plaza will be located just inside the main entry gate and will be a gathering place for fans before, during, in-between, and following games. It is planned to house a donor recognition wall as well as the Legends Wall and parts of the Teton Trail. Seating is also planned for spectators who are enjoying food from the concessions stand.

**Grandstand Naming**
Each field is planned to receive a new grandstand that will contain stadium-style seating for an improved viewing experience. Seating for 150 fans is anticipated. Naming and signage will be located so that any traffic in and out of the complex will see it clearly.

**Teton Trail Naming**
The Teton Trail will be the pathways and sidewalks that connect the spaces of the complex for those in attendance. It is planned to also educate visitors to the history that surrounds our immediate area with learning stations that highlight the Lewis and Clark Expedition and historic landmarks along the Missouri River. Naming would be visible at every educational station.

**Teton Stampede-Single Donor**
Four named Teton Stampedes are planned to be located on the grounds around the complex. Each Teton Stampede will be a large, eye-catching display that celebrates the Teton mascot and athletic logo and will incorporate a bit of art to the complex and campus. Signage will located at each of the Stampedes recognizing the donor.

**Press Box Naming on Leininger Field**
The Press Box will be located amongst the grandstand on Leininger Field, home of the community’s fastpitch softball. Signage will be highly visible to passers-by and for fans and visitors inside the complex.

**Mini Park Naming**
A small park-type area is designed for fans with young kids who may get restless watching the action. It will be located between the two fields and adjacent to the Plaza so those in charge can keep a good eye on their activity.
**Fan Zone Naming**

Four Fan Zones are planned to allow those fans who may want to bring a lawn chair and watch the games from an area other than behind the plate of each field. Initial design is thought to be similar to a single-level deck with open area for fans to relax and enjoy the games.

**Legends Wall Naming**

The Legends Wall will highlight a history of baseball and softball in our community, including the successes of our area teams and individual players.

**Heritage Butte Naming**

Each field will house a display that highlights the history of Teton Baseball and Softball. Significant moments, games, contributors, teams, and players of both programs will be celebrated in written and pictured form.

**Building the Herd Stampede**

The Stampede theme will also be available for those donors who want to contribute to building a stampede by donating one or multiple buffalo of the larger stampede. Each buffalo will recognize the donor who made the stampede possible.
The WSC Teton USA Clay Target League had its inaugural season in the fall of 2022. They competed in MCAC alongside all North Dakota junior colleges and Minnesota schools.

After only one year the WSC Teton Trap team are the USA Clay Target League College National Champions!

Grantlee Hoffman achieved a perfect score of 100/100 clays and was awarded the first place honors as the National Champion. Following him, WSC Teton’s Clay Ceynar secured the second position with a score of 99/100 clays. Neil Dahl, stood third in the nation with a score of 99/100 clays. Traceson Martinez, secured the 9th position with a score of 97/100.

During the MCAC Tournament in Alexandria, MN, WSC Teton’s Clay Ceynar became the overall conference champion by hitting a perfect score of 100/100 clays in the fall.

After only one year, we are proud to announce that our Clay Target trap team won the National Championship, with our athletes taking first, second, and third place. Additionally, we had a conference champion shooter.

Congratulations to our WSC Clay Target League coaches, Penny Slagle, Tyler Hess, and Robert and Tara Blanton for their hard work, as well as all of our Clay Target team members.
TEAM MEMBERS

Clay Ceynar
Neil Dahl
Traceson Martinez
Isaac Haugen
Grantlee Hoffman
Hunter Olson
Leyton Brunelle
Kellen Hodnefield
Samantha Lindquist
Keaton Brunelle
Reece Engleman
Margaret Huettl
Josh Rodriguez
Coach Penny Lee Slagle
Coach Robert Blanton
Coach Tyler Hess
Manager Tara Blanton
Last season’s historic Teton Baseball season, and specifically its post-season run to within a few outs of an appearance in the Junior College World Series, is a story any athletic department and college would love to share but the on-the-field success is only part of the story. The Teton Baseball team has always been an important part of the campus. The life the team has brought to classes, to the activities on campus, to home basketball, volleyball, and hockey games is a tremendous asset. Today, the team brings over 40 students to the school, one of the largest contributors to on-campus and full-time student populations. Though Teton Baseball is filled with great games and great players leading to hundreds of great stories, one story that is mostly unknown may be one of the most important.

Teton Baseball has a long history. The program started in 1966, joining basketball as the two pioneering sports for the young school. It was begun as a way to recruit potential students to the college in an attempt to grow its enrollment numbers. From its inception, the team achieved athletic success including state and conference championships highlighted by talented players through the early ’70’s. The program produced its first “big-leaguer” when pitcher Jon Ellefson was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in 1973.

But from 1975-1978, Teton Baseball was nowhere to be found. Recollecting why there was no baseball at the college is a bit of a mystery and difficult to research and recollect. One of the likely causes was a drop in the school’s enrollment. As the oil field economy picked up, more potential students entered the workforce instead of attending college. Fewer students caused a number of cost-cutting measures. An early graduation for the college may have also hindered having baseball as the conclusion of junior college baseball would come two to three weeks after classes were dismissed.

Whatever the root cause, Teton Baseball was discontinued and from all accounts, a return date was not in the plans during the time of its dormancy.

**BRINGING TETON BASEBALL BACK**

Teton Baseball fired up again in the spring of 1978. A group of UND-W students spearheaded the drive to bring the sport back. Our school’s version of the “Comeback Kids” isn’t in reference to coming from behind in games, it’s in reference to this special group of kids that loved to play baseball and inspired the school to bring the sport back to UND-W.

Many of the names that were part of this group are easily recognizable to those in the Williston community. Dean Aafedt and Larry Grondahl were two of the main instigators of the group and have remained a part of the Williston and Teton baseball communities to this day. Other familiar Williston names like Leinen, Kuester, Monson, Allard and Leonard joined forces with surrounding area players to assemble a talented group of students who enjoyed baseball. Randy Pederson from Tioga was so excited when hearing the Tetons were considering...
fielding a team again, he stayed for a third year of college at UND-W. “I wanted to be a part of it. I came back to school just for the chance to play baseball again.” All that was needed was permission to bring it back.

**PHIL RABON—A.D. AND ALLY**

Convincing the school’s athletic director turned out to be a relatively simple job. Phil Rabon was the A.D. at the time and was the first-ever baseball coach at the school. And he was a baseball guy who loved the game so the group figured they’d have a pretty good chance of making headway. Aafedt remembers believing the team had a chance to be good. “We had pitching and lots of left-handed pitching at that. Leinen was a really good lefty, Trangsrud had thrown a no-hitter in a State Legion Tournament in Montana a couple years earlier, big Tom Huff was a basketball player but could throw hard. That’s how we got talking to Phil about baseball because if you have pitchers, you have a chance. And we had some good pitchers.”

Pitching was thought to be a strength, but every other position had somebody who could fill the role due to their previous experience. Call it good recruiting and a little luck, but there were no holes in the potential lineup that needed to be addressed.

“When this group was excited to bring Teton baseball back, I was excited to be a part of it. I was busy with the other parts of my job but I loved baseball and this group of kids loved the game as well,” added Rabon.

**SEASON RECAP**

Recapping the entire 1978 season doesn’t eat up a lot of ink space. Because the team had not played for the past few years, schools didn’t know what to expect and were reluctant to schedule games. Coach Rabon called around and was able to schedule 15 games for the spring. The season began with a road trip to Billings, Montana for a three-game set. Coach Rabon couldn’t travel with the team due to a meeting in Minneapolis. So he flew from Minneapolis to Billings to coach the first games of the season. So much for saving on the budget for this new team!

“Rocky Mountain College had a reputation for having a very good baseball team. They reluctantly allowed us to play three games, but we would have to go to Billings. It was amazing. We started off the season knocking off two very good baseball teams in Rocky and Dickinson State,” recalled Rabon. A 3-0 start to the season.

Following that first weekend, weather wreaked havoc on the schedule. Constant changes and postponements and cancellations interrupted the slate of games. Four wins versus NDSU-Bottineau ran their record to 7-0, but a much-anticipated trip to Rapid City for a weekend of games fell victim to yet another snowstorm once the team had driven all the way to South Dakota.

Remarkably, the Tetons didn’t lose until the very last game of the season, finishing with 8 wins and 1 loss. This upstart group had made an impression on its opponents. And as Grondahl and Aafedt remember, Dickinson State, in the final game of the year was going to do everything it could to not let this junior college team beat them all three games of the year. “Rob Lighthizer was Dickinson State’s ace and they threw him during our last game. He was one of the best Legion pitchers in N.D. a couple years earlier,” recalled Aafedt. The final game of the season proved to be the best game of the season, going extra innings before Dickinson broke the 3-3 by scoring two runs in the eighth inning to leave Williston with a hard-fought 5-3 victory.

With only four home games during the season, fans didn’t have a lot of opportunities to watch the talented squad, but home games were well attended, especially by college students which lead to a fun environment. People were excited that Teton Baseball was back.

Early graduation for the college ended the season. “We decided early in the year we wouldn’t play an NJCAA schedule and attempt to enter the post-season,” Rabon said. Aafedt acknowledged the team was playing for something more than just wins and losses.

“There was no chance of post-season play and we knew that. But
we knew there was a chance they would keep it (Teton Baseball) going. We grew up as young kids in Williston watching Teton Baseball and we wanted to help bring it back,” said Aafedt.

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE STORIES
One story that always surfaces is when the team showed up to the ballpark in Billings for its first game. As they opened the metal storage trunks that contained the uniforms, the team quickly noticed that they hadn’t been washed since the last games of the 1975 season.

Grondahl laughed at the memorable scene. “I remember asking Phil, ‘Coach, where’s the uniforms?’ He pointed to these big trunks. We opened them up and started throwing uniforms to each other. We had no idea what was in there and didn’t have time to sort through and find the best fitting ones. And they stunk! There were no belts so we were using white athletic tape to hold our uniform pants up. I’m sure we looked ridiculous. On the other side, Rocky Mountain looks great warming up. They’ve got really nice uniforms and lots of players. We had our twelve guys and looked pretty shabby. But we beat Rocky Mountain both games! I’m sure they couldn’t see us leave town fast enough.”

The away doubleheader versus Bottineau, remembered as the “whitewash game” has remained another memory that team members laugh about now but was anything but funny at the time. For as many games that were postponed, one that probably should have been changed was the trip north on a balmy spring day which saw temperatures top out at 32 degrees. As Aafedt recalled, “The wind was blowing and it was snowing off and on. I think the windchill was seven below! I had a red union suit on to try and stay warm!” Both Pederson and Grondahl remembered vividly Coach Rabon pulling the stretch-out bus right behind the dugout and players would sit in the bus between innings, hoping to warm up just a little bit. They left the confines of the bus only to take the field, take their turn at the plate, or to take a couple warm-up swings.

It can be difficult to remember every play or the final score of any contest, but these types of stories are the ones that make athletics special.

A PERFECT MATCH
Phil Rabon was the perfect coach for these comeback kids. The team itself certainly contained a cast of characters. But anyone that knows Rabon can proclaim he can be a card himself. When first asking Rabon to reflect on the individual players, he quickly clarified what most would consider obvious, “Well…Grondahl wasn’t as good as he says he was!”

When referencing their team, members often used one word to describe the team and their experience—fun.

“Starting the program like that, Phil was the perfect guy. He let us enjoy it and have fun,” said Grondahl. Aafedt echoed the sentiment, saying, “Phil was something else. Nicest guy in the world. So full of energy. It was fun baseball. Phil let us steal if we wanted to. He let us use our baseball minds and trusted us to make good decisions. We knew Phil had a million things going on, but he poured his heart into it.”

Pederson stated Rabon was instrumental in making the experience enjoyable. “Phil had asked me and some others to scrimmage in practice against the Teton Women’s Basketball team in 1977 so we began talking baseball. His enthusiasm had me hooked. That’s why I came back. It was only for 9 games. But it was fun.”

A MEMORABLE TEAM
For Rabon, it’s easy to look back and smile about this team and its accomplishments. But at the same time, he, along with the players, can only wonder what might have been. “It was too bad that team hadn’t been able to play together for two years. There was enough talent on there to do something at the regional level. They were much better than the average junior college baseball team,” Rabon shared.

“If we would have been able to have this team together for a full year and practice together, it would have been fun to see how far we would have gone. We had good baseball players,” stated Aafedt.

WHAT IF?
It’s hard to believe that Teton Baseball wouldn’t have eventually come back as a sport for UND-W. But when asking Rabon to think about what would have happened if this group of students in 1977-1978 hadn’t helped bring it back, he was quick to acknowledge there was no telling how long it might have taken.

“Any other year, we would have had to have gone out and recruited a roster of kids and that takes time. These guys in ‘77-’78, they were here at the school. They didn’t come here to play baseball, but wanted to see it come back. Other years might have been very different. There is no doubt this was the right group at the right time,” said Rabon. “It will always be a special group.”
CONCESSION STAND
DEDICATION

Polly Vinger

Join us as we dedicate and rename our concession stand after Polly Vinger, the incredible woman who ran it for over 20 years.

THE WELL

Wednesday
January 31, 2024
7:30pm
After the Men’s Tetons’ Warm Up

Polly and her team will man the concession stand one last time for this home game!

Come support the Tetons and share this moment with WSC and Polly!
MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Joint schedule for our MBB/WBB. Games are all in Central again for the viewing purposes whether in-person or via livestream.

JANUARY
Wed. 10 vs. Dakota College at Bottineau 5:30/7:30 PM
Sun. 14 at Lake Region State College (Devils Lake, ND) 1:00/3:00 PM
Thurs. 18 vs. Bismarck State College 5:30/7:30 PM
Sun. 21 vs. Dawson Community College 1:00/3:00 PM
Thurs. 25 at Miles Community College (Miles City, MT) 6:30/8:30 PM
Wed. 31 vs. North Dakota State College of Science 5:30/7:30 PM

FEBRUARY
Thurs. Feb. 1 vs. United Tribes Technical College 5:30/7:30 PM
Mon. Feb. 5 at Bismarck State College (Bismarck, ND) 5:30/7:30 PM
Wed. Feb. 7 vs. Lake Region State College 5:30/7:30 PM
Mon. Feb. 12 vs. Miles Community College 5:30/7:30 PM
Thurs. Feb. 15 at Dawson Community College (Glendive, MT) 6:30/8:30 PM
Mon. Feb. 19 at United Tribes Technical College (Bismarck, ND) 5:30/7:30 PM
Thurs. Feb. 22 at North Dakota State College of Science (Wahpeton, ND) 5:30/7:30 PM
Sun. Feb. 25 at Dakota College at Bottineau (Bottineau, ND) 1:00/3:00 PM

HOCKEY SCHEDULE

JANUARY
Fri. 12 at Montana State University 7:45 PM
Sat. 13 vs. University of Montana @ Montana State University 7:45 PM
Sun. 14 at Montana State University 3:30 PM
Fri. 26 Lake Region State College 7:00 PM
Sat. 27 Lake Region State College 3:00 PM

FEBRUARY
Wed. 7 at Dakota College at Bottineau 7:30 PM
Fri. 9 Lake Region State College 7:00 PM
Sat. 10 Lake Region State College 2:00 PM
Mon. 12 Dakota College at Bottineau 6:00 PM
Fri. 16 University of Minnesota Crookston 7:00 PM
Sat. 17 University of Minnesota Crookston 2:00 PM
TETON BOOSTER CLUB PRESENTS

CASINO NIGHT

Save the Date

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH, 2024

THE WELL
WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE