

# AREA VOICES

## Now is the Time to Prepare for Spring Flooding

BISMARCK, N.D. — If you've lived in North Dakota for long, you've more than likely put the wise words "Hope for the best, prepare for the worst" into practice.

Last year, we contended with spring flooding that damaged homes, public infrastructure, hundreds of roads and thousands of acres of farmland in western and south-central North Dakota and up and down the Red River Valley. On top of that, we had the most precipitation in 125 years of recordkeeping from August to October, triggering an unusual bout with flooding during the fall harvest season.

Heading into freeze-up this winter, soils were saturated and rivers were running high from central to eastern North Dakota. These conditions raise the specter of a potentially tumultuous spring flood season looking ahead. Time, however, is on our side, and you should start to prepare now.

One way to protect yourself and your family financially is to consider purchasing a flood insurance policy. Make this suggestion now because these policies typically take 30 days to go into effect.

Some other information to consider:

- Flood damage typically is not covered by a homeowners or renters insurance policy.
- Everyone is at risk of flooding. Where it can rain, it can flood.
- The National Flood Insurance Program is available in 332 participating North Dakota communities, including 46 counties.
- Just 1 inch of water can cause up to \$25,000 in damage to a home.
- More than 40 percent of flood insurance claims in North Dakota come from areas outside of designated high-risk flood zones.

For more information about the National Flood Insurance Program and purchasing a flood insurance policy, visit [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov) or talk to your insurance agent today.

Our State Water Commission has now made it easier to determine your flood risk by creating the agency's Risk Assessment MapService, or NDRAM. This online tool provides users with water surface elevations, flood depths and the ability to download engineering model data. Visit [ndram.swc.nd.gov](http://ndram.swc.nd.gov) to access this flood data

viewer.

Our state agencies are taking a whole-of-government approach to manage whatever flood impacts may come. Planning and collaboration for emergency response to spring floods began in earnest this past December. We have prepositioned equipment and personnel, ready to act whenever needed. Our North Dakota team also offers a host of flood preparation information through the NDRresponse website at [ndresponse.gov](http://ndresponse.gov). Learn how you as individuals, families and homeowners can prepare for potential flood events.

As North Dakotans, we've all dealt with challenging weather conditions, from winter storms to tornadoes to wildfires to floods. And, as with storms of years past, we will continue to show our resiliency by helping our neighbors and working together to build stronger, better prepared communities.

**By North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Insurance Commissioner Jon Godfread, State Engineer Garland Erbele and Homeland Security Director Cody Schulz.**

## Rep. Mitskog as 'pro-life' not validated by her record

By Linda Thorson

EDINBURG, N.D. — Elsie Magnus, Chairman of the District 10 Democratic-Nonpartisan League Party (Dem-NPL), is incorrect in her recent letter "Helping women and their families - isn't that truly prolife," when she attributes a lack of pro-life convictions of District 10 legislators because none of them fulfilled a request by a citizen in the district to sponsor legislation regarding medical assistance eligibility. Although not sponsors of the bill to increase medical assistance eligibility for pregnant women in poverty, all three District 10 Republican legislators voted in favor of the leg-

islation sponsored by Rep. Alisa Mitskog (Democratic-District 25) and three other Democrat legislators.

Elsie Magnus's suggestion that Rep. Mitskog is pro-life because she was a willing sponsor of the medical assistance eligibility bill is not validated by her voting record.

As recent as January 28, 2019, Rep. Mitskog voted against a pro-life bill supported by every pro-life organization in our state. Seventy-three of the eighty-nine North Dakota House members voted in support of the Abortion Pill Reversal Informed Consent law, relating to informed consent requirements before an abortion.

This overwhelming number of legislators believed women have the right to complete information regarding their health decisions. Women not only have the right to be informed; they want to know their options.

The Abortion Pill Reversal Informed Consent law helps women and their families by acknowledging women are strong, capable, and should have the right to know if they change their mind after taking the first abortion pill that they may be able to reverse the chemical abortion procedure. The Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) Hotline Medical Director, who has overseen thousands of calls, stated that

when women are given the opportunity to reverse the effect of the abortion pill, they are extremely grateful.

All three District 10 Republican legislators have long pro-life voting records. Perhaps, if the Chairman of the District 10 Democratic-Nonpartisan League Party truly values pro-life leaders, she should give recognition to the legislators in her district whose voting records indicate long-standing convictions of helping women and children.

*Editor's Note: Linda Thorson, from Edinburg, N.D., is the State Director for Concerned Women for America of North Dakota*



Photo: NDGF

Game and Fish

gf.nd.gov. To be submitted by 4:09 p.m.

turkey application for a 2020-21 license is due by March 31. In addition, turkey license, general game

16 and older game license, etc. These are Game and Fish's turkey hunters licenses.

key hunters are eligible to apply for a valid license, but must be 15 or older by spring. Licenses never expire.

are available in North Dakota. Additional

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## Helping women and their families - isn't that truly pro-life

By Elsie Magnus

LANGDON, N.D. — Being pro-life means many things. Trusted research centers Guttmacher, Reuters, and NCBI.gov report the highest number of abortions occur among the poorest of poor women. To address this issue, a District 10 Democrat presented a bill to legislators currently serving District 10 prior to the 2018-2019 legislative session. Unfortunately, these District 10 Republican legislators were not interested in taking this bill forward. The proposed bill would have increased medical assistance eligibility for poor pregnant women in North Dakota. Currently, women with incomes below 152% of the national poverty rate are eligible for assistance. The bill

aimed to include those with incomes up to 203% of the poverty level.

With his arms full of binders carrying the proposed wording, that very same District 10 Democrat prowled the halls of the state capitol to convince someone to read and understand the proposal. Representative Alisa Mitskog, from District 25, Wahpeton stepped forward and shared the binders with to her colleagues. She was willing to take up the fight to help vulnerable women and children. The bill was eventually trimmed from 203% to covering those at 162% of national poverty rate, and shaped into legislation that passed ND House, ND Senate, and was signed into state law on April 4, 2019. This Dis-

trict 10 Democrat was simply looking for something that would help the lives of impoverished women and their families - isn't that truly pro-life? He was grateful to find a champion in Rep. Mitskog and we appreciate her work.

The District 10 Dem-NPL is proud to have Representative Alisa Mitskog speaking at our District 10 Convention and we hope you will consider joining us! The convention takes place on February 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the meeting room of Pembina County Courthouse, Cavalier.

*Editor's Note: Magnus, from Langdon, N.D., is the Chairman, District 10 Dem- NPL.*