

The Flickertail Times

Chair Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee,

The Flickertail Times is North Dakota's premiere source of fake news (satire). Additional content includes North Dakota culture, such as sports, politics (including hosting our popular State of the State Bingo), music, destinations and history, with the occasional meme from time-to-time. Since our creation, we have grown to over 4,000 followers on our combined social media channels and reached an estimated 1,000,000+ individuals through our stories and social media postings. Our goal is to provide a little comic relief in our day-to-day lives and celebrate North Dakota. Occasionally the Flickertail Times is known to cause some good-humored fun and mischief. But if we've offended anyone, ope, sorry.

It's no secret that North Dakotans love their sports. Some would argue that our state revolves around them. Class B basketball, for example, is known to empty out entire towns as communities travel to cheer on their home teams. North Dakota State University's nine FCS football championships have garnered worldwide attention. And UND's hockey program is one of the best in the country. And for the record, in our opinion, the deer season opener should be a school holiday.

But if you want to cause a little division in North Dakota, just ask your constituents what sport should be "the official sport of North Dakota." Chances are, you'll get a lot of responses. And for good reason. The North Dakota High School Activities Association officially administers 11 boys' sports and 14 girls' sports among our Class A and B schools. Yet curling is not one of the sports listed. Nor will you find any public or private college in North Dakota, from what we've gathered, that has its own curling team.

So what's the answer then? What should North Dakota's official sport be?

Pretty sure that's a question that is perhaps too big, too divisive for the legislature to settle.

But we do have a suggestion.

Currently, North Dakota Century Code lists no soup as the official soup of our great state. And we're pretty sure there's a general consensus of what the most popular soup is in the Peace Garden State: knoephla.

In case you've been living under a rock, Knoephla originates from Germany, consisting of chicken, potatoes and dumplings. And as the North Dakota Tourism website indicates, over 43% of North Dakotans have German heritage – the largest heritage in the state (<https://www.ndtourism.com/articles/north-dakota-history>). In fact, North Dakota Tourism lists

on its website some of the best places you'll find knoephla (<https://www.ndtourism.com/articles/cultural-cuisine>).

Knoephla has been the subject of television commercials for popular restaurant chains and often the menu highlight for restaurants statewide. And you'll be hard-pressed not to find a church cookbook or a local who's convinced they have the best tasting knoephla in the state.

That's why in 2022, we challenged North Dakota Attorney General Drew Wrigley to issue a fun AG's opinion on who has the best knoephla in the state. The contest was open to anyone. And while contestants had a very short window of time to prepare their soup, entries arrived at the State Capitol from all parts of the state, including as far east as Park River.



North Dakota's favorite soup is worth celebrating, which is why the legislature should consider amending SB 2229, by striking line seven of the bill and replacing it with the following:

Knoephla is the official soup of the state of North Dakota.

By making this change, the legislature has the opportunity celebrate knoephla's culture, encourage communities to host their own soup contests (supporting tourism and economic development) and like any good knoephla recipe calls for, let the "official sports debate" simmer awhile.

Sincerely,

Teddy Meadowlark
Founder, Flickertail Times