



TOM STROMME/Tribune

Eastbound rail traffic has resumed after BNSF Railroad opened its main line tracks near Casselton on Jan. 2 following repairs in wake of a derailment where crude oil tank cars caught fire and burned. Above, a train crosses the Missouri River from Mandan to Bismarck via the historic trestle constructed in the 1880s.

completed wells continue to show higher initial production rates. The report continues “despite the slowdown in completion work because of cold weather this winter, future production growth in the region should not be dramatically reduced.” Nese is confident business will continue as normal and the milestone will be met. The North Dakota Petroleum Council has set a date for the One Million Barrel Celebration — June 25 at the Nese Consulting offices in Tioga.

“It’s a statewide celebration with oil professionals, elected officials, organizational leaders and the general public all coming together in Tioga to celebrate North Dakota’s milestone,”

Nese said. “We believe this milestone is a very important symbol for the Bakken and the state.”

McGarry agrees with Nese’s views on the million barrel milestone and thinks it’s here to stay.

“The oil boom is over,” McGarry said. “We now know it is an industry, not just a boom.”

McGarry’s Bakken interests have turned him more into a North Dakota resident than a Colorado one. In the past three-plus years, McGarry has flown back and forth from Aspen to the Bakken nearly 100 times. He works with oil and gas

clients through R&R Professional Services in Williston and has attended countless city, county, township and special interest meetings.

“I’ve been to more city, county and sub meetings than many of the commissioners,” McGarry said. “Over the past year, the number of bids have decreased significantly to where some investors are concerned whether this shale play is sustainable.”

Generally speaking, McGarry’s Bakken interests include 5,000 single family homes (including duplexes and apartments units), 2.7 million square feet of commercial, 1 million square feet

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