



Locations
 Esmond Harlow Maddock
 Hamburg Carrington New Rockford
 Sheyenne Harvey Niles
 Fessenden Oberon Minnewaukan Leeds

SPRING IS HERE!!



As you get those planters ready to roll - contact us for maintenance parts you may need.

Brad 230-1364 :: Andy 302-8054



Maddock 438-2861

Benson County Commissioners --

(Continued from Page 1)

incident the prior day that involved an individual fleeing with a stolen gun; both were recovered. The sheriff addressed a gas bill from Alexandria, Minn. (where a light bar had been taken for repair) and one from O'Reilly that will be refunded. Sheriff Rode also addressed a bill for sheriff's office pens that Commissioner Horner considered excessive. The sheriff said that pens had been purchased in previous years and he did not understand what the issue was now. Commissioner Horner stated that he did not think purchasing pens was a good use of public funds, and since some of them said "Sheriff Rode" and were to be paid with public funds, the pens may conflict with campaign laws. Sheriff Rode said he did not campaign with the pens, and since the bill hadn't been paid after several months, there were now finance charges. He commented on merchandise that a previous sheriff ordered with his name on it. County Auditor Erickson said that the state's attorney had advised the previous sheriff to discontinue that practice. Commissioner Horner said that he had received comments about the pen purchase. The sheriff replied that he had gotten positive feedback. Commissioner Kuk read an email reply from the sheriff earlier this month that addressed the pens. Commissioner Davidson recommended not having names

on the pens going forward, but otherwise did not feel it was a major issue. The commissioners approved a motion to pay the bill for the pens with the stipulation that they not contain personal identification. The motion carried, with Commissioner Horner voting no. State's Attorney Wang discussed the reversionary clause that the county adopted in 2013 regarding property that returned to the county for unpaid taxes. The clause (or restrictive covenant) required that property taxes continue to be paid on the purchased property, in effect excluding non-tax-paying entities from buying the forfeited parcels. The state's attorney reviewed his correspondence with other attorneys who urged that the clause be removed, citing equal protection laws, ND Century Code and a 1962 court case. In the interest of avoiding legal action, the state's attorney recommended that the commissioners undo the restrictive covenant and make it retroactive. The board voted to do so. Chair Stadium asked if the board would be exposing itself to backlash. State's Attorney Wang did not think so. He recommended that purchasers of forfeited property receive direct notice that the clause had been revoked. The board approved a motion to reappoint Oscar Kleven, Valerie Wood, Donald Hanson and Doris Griffin to the Benson

County School Reorganization Board for three years beginning May 7, 2025. The commissioners revisited whether to install cameras in the commissioner room to livestream the meetings and/or act as a security measure. Commissioner Davidson asked the board if they wanted to "go live." Commissioner Kuk said that it had been a goal of hers since being elected. Commissioner Horner asked if the public could request access to the meeting through Microsoft Teams; County Auditor Erickson said they could. Commissioner Kuk asked whether the public could watch the Teams recordings later, and said that YouTube was her preference. She stated that a camera in the commissioner room added to the board's transparency and could deter disruptive behavior if attendees knew they were being watched by the public. Chair Stadium said he liked the idea of having a camera and microphone to record the meeting, but did not want the commission meetings to be seen as entertainment. Commissioner Griffin reviewed the methods already available for the public to learn what happens at commission meetings. The board concluded to advertise that Microsoft Teams recordings of the commission meetings could be made available on request and to see whether they could be placed on the Benson County website. County Auditor Erickson revisited the issue of owing money to Ramsey County for indirect social services costs. She indicated that further review found that the Ramsey County auditor's office had money on hand that had never been distributed, so Benson County does not owe anything and actually should receive money back. Commissioner Horner suggested that Ramsey County, host for the Mountain Lakes Human Service Zone, have more control over social services accounting. A committee is needed for the request for proposals (RFP) process that the county decided on for the Flora curve realignment. Commissioner Horner volunteered to be on the board, which will also include the county auditor and highway superintendent.



Filming at the Fort Totten State Historic Site.

Documentary about teacher --

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Mountain and be a Charette, to keep the story and look of the actress as true to life as possible. For Miss Thelma Dagg, things were more cosmically aligned. Rubén's previous advisor, Kalen Napoleon, is from the same city as Miss Dagg. After having worked with her extensively for a few years, Rubén knew she was from New Orleans, the same place as Miss Dagg. Although he knew it was a long shot to ask if she had any knowledge of the family, he asked anyway. Although the number of

people working in this crew is small, they are more than mighty, as they have traveled all over the United States creating and capturing a compilation of memories and reconstructions of moments with Miss Thelma Dagg. Ramona Klein, Rubén Flores, Elijah Whiteside, Kalen Napoleon, Arabella Charette, Teena Dagg and Frank Dagg are the contributors to the creation of the Thelma Dagg documentary.

--Photos by Lottie Caldwell/
 Making Time Photography

'Ready, Set, Bloom' ladies' day event is May 3

Spring has sprung! To celebrate the season, the Maddock Opera House cordially invites ladies of all ages to attend "Ready, Set, Bloom" on Saturday, May 3. Beginning at 11 a.m., this delightful spring affair will include: a luncheon; a coffee, tea and mimosa bar; music by Dakota Blend; a spring fashion revue by Main Street Boutique in Rugby; and a presentation by Rebecca Udem. Rebecca, who is a dynamic speaker, author, consultant and podcaster, will offer advice on how to live more authentically by showing up for yourself, your family and your community. As an added bonus to this event, each attendee will receive a copy of Rebecca's book, *How Mommy Got Her Groove Back*. Reserved tickets for this fun event are available at maddockoperahouse.com.

Outdoor enthusiasts reminded of wildfire potential

Outdoor enthusiasts need to be aware of ground conditions while enjoying spring activities. Increased human activity outdoors in spring, combined with dead ground vegetation and high winds, make this time of year highly susceptible to wildfires. Because of highly variable weather patterns, ND experiences a distinct spring fire season every year. With that in mind, it's important to pay attention to the fire danger index and to follow the appropriate measures. Hunters and anglers are urged to keep up with the daily rural fire danger index, issued by the National Weather Service, to alert the public to conditions that may be conducive to the accidental starting or spread of fires. In addition, county governments have the authority to adopt penalties for violations of county restrictions related to burning bans. These restrictions apply regardless of the daily fire danger index and remain in place until each county's commission rescinds the ban. Information, including restrictions, on current fire danger indexes is available at NDResponse.gov.

Food pantry open Wednesdays in Maddock

The Maddock Community Food Pantry will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Wednesday (closed during the noon hour) until further notice. Anyone who would like to make an appointment to come at a different time should call Joann, pantry coordinator, at 438-2738.

Deadline near for AGC scholarships

The Associated General Contractors of ND have scholarships available for high school seniors pursuing a career in the field of construction. These scholarships are for the 2025-26 school year. The deadline is April 23, 2025. Scholarship details and applications are available at www.agcnd.org/scholarship.

- \$1,500 scholarships available at NDSU for construction management or construction engineering
- \$1,500 scholarships available at University of Mary for construction management or construction engineering
- \$1,500 scholarships available at Minnesota State University Moorhead for construction management
- \$750 scholarships available

at Bismarck State College for construction technology, welding technology, heavy equipment operator, engineering technology, HVAC, diesel technology or other construction-related majors

- \$750 scholarships available at ND State College of Science for construction management technology, civil engineering and land surveying technology, building construction technology, architectural drafting and estimating technology, diesel technology or welding technology

The AGC of ND, an association of more than 400 contractors, suppliers and construction-related companies, has awarded more than \$1.3 million in scholarships since 1964.

ESTATE Auction

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 11 a.m.

Pierce County Fair Community Building, 208 2nd Ave. NE, Rugby, ND

COLLECTIBLES

- Pedal tractors - Pristine condition: Case IH MX285, JD 8530, JD 8520, Oliver 1755, Allis-Chalmers WD45
- Trust Worthy Toy Vehicle collection
- 2) 1/64 Co-op #3 toy tractors
- Cenex gravity wagon
- Cenex trucks
- 1928 Lincoln "L" Dietrich 1/16
- 1933 Cadillac V-16 Town Car 1/16
- 1937 Packard Coupe Roadster 1/16
- 1908 Rolls Royce 1/16
- Many model cars 1/32
- 2 Gallon crock

HOUSEHOLD

- Table w/6 chairs, 1 leaf
- Buffet, matches table
- China cabinet
- Pots and pans
- Kitchenware

TOOLS/SHOP/OUTDOORS

- Pliers
- Bench grinder
- Tap & die sets
- Hammers
- Vise

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Happy Easter

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