

Report from Wells County District Court

By Anne Ehni
This report is for public informational purposes and is not a complete representation of all activities or cases heard in the Wells County District Court. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
Judge James Hovey presided over the following cases Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in Fessenden.
Abby Schwan, of Anamoose, ND, pleaded guilty to theft and unlawful dispensing of a controlled substance. Originally filed as felony charges, both were deemed a misdemeanor at sentencing. Schwan was sentenced to pay restitution of \$20,000 to Sheridan Animal Hospital and court fees or \$775. Payment in-full must be remitted by April 11.
Schwan was sentenced to 360 day confinement at the Department of Corrections, suspended, three years supervised

probation and other standard conditions of sentencing.
Jace Fritz, of Bowdon, ND, pleaded not guilty to a Feb. 25 charge of driving under suspension. A pretrial conference has been scheduled for June.
James Martel, of Selz, ND, pleaded not guilty to driving under suspension. A pretrial conference was scheduled for June.
Mandy Olson, of Douglas, ND, pleaded not guilty to a Nov. 6, 2024 charge of practicing law without a license. Olson requested a jury trial.
Mark Snedaker, of Harvey, pleaded not guilty to March 4, 2025, charge of unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, marijuana. He pleaded not guilty and presented the court with a valid medical marijuana card. The charges were dismissed.
Tiana Jimenez, of Bowdon, pleaded not guilty to two charges: preventing arrest and disorderly conduct. A pretrial conference has been scheduled for June.
Other cases scheduled for April 9 were rescheduled because the defense attorney from Bismarck was ill and unable to attend Wells County District court.

Cotton sentenced to 4 years in prison

By Nathan Price
Foster County Independent
“The conduct in some of these charges is some of the most egregious, vile, reprehensible conduct that can be directed towards a child.”



Carrie Cotton

Those are the words of Southeast District Court Judge James Hovey just before sentencing Carrie Beth Cotton to nearly four years behind bars on Tuesday, April 8.
Cotton had been facing numerous charges ranging from violating restraining orders, harassment and stalking, to impersonating law enforcement.
She had originally pleaded not guilty to all charges and seemed ready to take her case to trial. Her first appointed attorney was granted a motion to withdraw, claiming Cotton was demanding actions unsupported by the law and facts, and she intended to reject a settlement.
However, on March 28, Cotton officially changed her plea to guilty, but only on an Alford basis – meaning she maintains

her innocence but recognizes the state’s likelihood of being successful at trial.
Before her sentence was announced, her victims were given an opportunity to deliver impact statements.
“My children have been targets for several years. Even with your protection orders in place this woman continues to stalk my family,” said Hope Carr, who fought back tears as she recalled some of the messages sent to her children.
“Carrie has shown up at my children’s school and events, even after the order protecting them. She continues to contact them on social media and make sexually explicit comments.”
She went on to read some of those messages sent to her children, which were indeed graphic and sexual in nature.
Christopher Bittmann, the Carrington Police Chief who Cotton impersonated on social media, also read aloud some of the graphic sexual language Cotton sent to children via social media, adding that her actions have had an impact on his family as well.
“This case is really emotional to me too,” said Bittmann. “Carrie Cotton is one of the most vilest people I’ve encountered in my 14 years of law enforcement, let alone my life.”
Following the victim impact statements, Cotton spoke on her own behalf and admitted to making bad decisions, but said her mental health was to blame and that she’s taking steps to improve herself.
Her defense attorney recommended to Judge Hovey that Cotton be sentenced to just 60 days of electronic home monitoring, followed by two years of supervised probation.
However, Hovey ultimately imposed significantly more stiff sentences.
“Every time she’s in and needs to take responsibility for something, it’s the mental health problem,” said Hovey just before announcing his sentence. “I don’t know how long I can keep letting her use that as an excuse to victimize people.
“She’s been the petitioner or respondent to 35 protection or restraining order proceedings, many of them with these very victims.”
With that, Cotton was sentenced to 360 days’ imprisonment with no time suspended on four separate counts. He also directed those four sentences to run consecutively, meaning they’ll combine for a total of 1,440 days – nearly four years – behind bars.
All prison time for the other charges against Cotton were suspended. Hovey also granted seven days’ credit for time already served, and further subjected Cotton to three years of supervised probation upon her eventual release.
Among the many conditions of probation Cotton must obey, are that she can’t possess any firearms or any type of surveillance equipment, that she can not gamble or enter any gaming sites without written permission, and that she can not use or subscribe to any internet provider, use another person’s internet, or use internet through any commercial venue unless approved in writing.
Cotton was remanded into custody with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation immediately following Tuesday’s sentencing.



Youth enjoyed cooperative games at the Wells County Farmers Union party in Harvey's armory.

Wells Co. Farmers Union camp announced

Fifty two youth and adults attended the free viewing of “Snow White” at Harvey’s Central Cinema, hosted by the Wells County Farmers Union. Following the film the attendees enjoyed a pizza party at the Harvey Armory.
The armory was a perfect setting for playing cooperative games and reviewing the registration process for Farmers Union Camp. Two camp scholarships were awarded as door prizes.
Junior Campers (3-6 grade grads) have the opportunity to spend a four-day, three-night stay at any of the six camps at James River (Jamestown) or four camps at Heart Butte (Elgin) between June 9 and July 25.
Senior Campers (7-12 grade grads) have the choice of a four-day, four night stay at any of the two camps at James River and four camps at Heart Butte between June 10 and August 2.
Scholarships are available for the early registrants. Go to www.NDFU.org to find out more about the camping program and to register. NDFU membership is required to attend camp and receive awards. A family membership is \$30 per year and is easily obtained on line.
Campers earn prizes for referring friends along with

awards for attending a number of camps and EPIC Events. The Wells County EPIC Event (Day Trip) will be August 4 this year. The destination is in the planning stages and will be offered to grades 1-12.
The North Dakota Farmers Union is a grassroots organization committed to the advancement of family farm and ranch agriculture and quality of life for people everywhere through member advocacy, educational programs, and cooperative initiatives and insurance services.
The youth program includes agricultural and cooperative education, Ag Stem projects, and leadership building.
“Stewardship of the Earth” is a topic Wells County Farmers Union likes to address yearly. This year Earth Day will be celebrated with students in the 21st Century after school program at the Fessenden-Bowdon School on April 22 and with a clean-up activity tentatively scheduled for 2 pm, April 27 at the Westside Park in Harvey. Look for more details in the Herald-Press next week or call 701-471-4748.

Happy Birthday!

To add or remove a birth date, call 701-324-4646 or send an email to heraldpress@midconetwork.com

- April 13:**
Allan Meckle
Beverly Meckle
Leslie Hieb
Terry Solberg
Lucille Wiedmeier
Fern Leintz
Tara Weinmann
Lola Mattheis
Sharon Riedesel
Justin Hafner
Shadyn Melson
Corey Bergrud
Trey Bergan
Anne Pfeiffer
- April 14:**
Mitchel Vetter
Russel Vetter
Marvin Hornbacher
James R. Weinmann
Patricia Olson
Oliver Retzlaff
Jeff Pfau
Elaine Sellner
Everett Shepherd
Madeline Roller
- April 15:**
Brooke Schmeets
Jane Swanson
Arvadell Leard
William Ongstad
Elmer Strand
Danica Grossman
Thomas Keller
Gary Petrek
Lynn Burleson
Gilbert Schmidt
Rose Budish
- April 16:**
John Jay Seibel
Betty Selzler
Betty Vetsch
JoAnn Bienek
Jane Hager
Jason Anhorn
- April 17:**
Colton Steedsman
Terry Kraft
Rachel Deck
Kim Martin
Toni Houchin
Kristi Riedesel
Ann Rafferty
John Fredrickson
Richard Campbell
- April 18:**
Floyd Wangen
Ross Schilling
Brittaney Berg
Kevin Theige
Shaun Christenson
Ashley Michelson
Joel Anhorn
Travis Reddig
Christopher Kunz
Kyle Wangen
Vera Risovi
- April 19:**
Jeanette Deede
Cory Jones
Chad Kline
Tina Hager
Lara Schuh
Brittney Rud
Donna Schander
Travis Tesch
Dean Hjelden



Sen. Jerry Klein

From the Senate

April 9, 2025

Changes expected

It’s day 58. The Senate has 87 bills yet to act on and the House has 70. Conference Committees are meeting to work out the difference between the two chambers. If we are going to finish by April 30th, we have some work to do. Finishing by that date gives us seven days to call ourselves back into session if we need to address some major issue that we are not aware of. With changes happening in Washington, we may need to come back to Bismarck to make adjustments. Nothing critical so far from Washington that would affect the current session.
As I mentioned last week we would be voting on a property tax proposal. It has changed a bit from its original introduction. The amount provided for the Homestead tax was increased. The overall dollar amount for each residence is now \$1250. The top amount will cap at 75% of the property tax levied, and the minimum amount of

property tax levied would be at \$500. There are also some intent changes asking the next legislature to look at what might be done to help with property taxes for our agricultural, and commercial properties. My guess is that these numbers are going to change before we are done here.
Most of you probably have heard that the bill to put our state on standard time was defeated. It came from the committee changed to put us on daylight savings time year-round if Congress said we could, and the three surrounding states also changed to year-round daylight savings. Many still felt that we should wait to make any other changes until Congress decides. The bill failed with 15 yeas and 32 nays. Thanks to all who have been sending their comments. It’s been difficult to get back to everyone but thank you.
Until next time,
Jerry Klein

School Menus

Anamoose - Drake

Mon., April 14: Spaghetti
T: Taco-In-A-Bag
W: KFC Bowls
Th: Sloppy Joes
F: NO SCHOOL

Fessenden-Bowdon

Mon., April 14: Spaghetti
T: Taco-In-A-Bag
W: KFC Bowls
Th: Sloppy Joes
F: NO SCHOOL

Harvey Elementary

Mon., April 14: Turkey Deli Sub, Chips, Lettuce, Tomato Slices, Peppers, Fruit, Bun
T: Teriyaki Chicken, Rice, Green Beans, Lettuce, Fruit, Bread
W: Taco Salad, Lettuce, Cheese, Tomatoes, Peppers, Black Beans, Fruit, Bread
Th: Chicken Tortilla Soup, Sandwich, Baby Carrots, Broccoli, Fruit
F: NO SCHOOL

Harvey High School

Mon., April 14: Cheeseburger, French Fries, Baked Beans, Fruit
T: Knoephla Soup, Corn Dog, Celery Sticks, Fruit
W: Taco in a Bag, Lettuce/Cheese, Tomato/Black Olives, Spanish Rice, Fruit, Bread
Th: HWC Chicken Bowls, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Fruit, Dinner Roll, Cookie
F: NO SCHOOL

Maddock School

Mon., April 14: Cheeseburger, French Fries, Baked Beans, Fruit
T: Knoephla Soup, Corn Dog, Celery Sticks, Fruit
W: Taco in a Bag, Lettuce/Cheese, Tomato/Black Olives, Spanish Rice, Fruit, Bread
Th: HWC Chicken Bowls, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Fruit, Dinner Roll, Cookie
F: NO SCHOOL

Community Calendar

To add your non-commercial event, call (701) 324-4646 or email heraldpress@midconetwork.com

- Tues., April 15:** Harvey Job Development Authority Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
Wed., April 16: Drivers license services at Harvey City Hall. Call in advance to schedule an appointment 855-633-6835.
Thursday, April 17: Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m. in the basement of St. Cecilia Church in Harvey. Use the glass doors at the back of the church. For more information call 701-399-9878 or 701-202-4112.

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Offices in Harvey & Anamoose

No Service Charge on Checking Accounts. No Minimum Balance



100th Anniversary
700 Lincoln Avenue
Harvey, N.D. 58341
Phone 701-324-2285

Senior Menu

Wells-Sheridan Aging Council
118 8th St. East in Harvey
Mon. April 14: Chicken Breast in Gravy, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Glazed Carrots, Orange, Cookie, Bread
T: Cabbage Rolls, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetable, Diced

Pineapple, Bread
W: Chili, Small Baked Potato, Fritos, Diced Pears
Th: Roast Beef with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Green Beans, Diced Peaches, Bread
F: Tuna Fish Sandwich, Coleslaw, Peas, Apple

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