

HARVEST

CONTINUED from A1

of the current week. Not everyone can say this, but this year has been too wet.”

The dry weather will help the crops dry, aiding in harvesting and storage, and reduce soil moisture, which will help combines and trucks move across the field without any issues with mud, Kjellberg said.

“It is hard to get a combine and grain cars through a wet field,” Kjellberg said.

Weather challenges this growing season have varied from area to area, but some fields have dealt with too much moisture, wind and hail storms or an early frost throughout this summer, Ritchison said.

“We don’t want the

frost too early,” Kjellberg said. “We need it to stay away until everything is ready to harvest.”

The average date for the first frost, a temperature of 32 degrees, is Sept. 29 in southern Stutsman County or Sept. 30 in the northern part of the county. The average first hard freeze, a temperature of 28 degrees or lower, is Oct. 7.

“It is very likely that any areas that survived the early frost of Sept. 6 and 7 will have a very late frost this year,” Ritchison said. “I don’t foresee another freeze until late October.”

Gale said the early September frost had been spotty and only damaged portions of fields in some areas.

“The worst was near McHenry and Binford,” he said.

The wet weather this

summer has also brought white mold to some soybean fields in the area, Kjellberg said.

“It is expected,” she said, “but not much of a yield hit.”

Wet weather also delayed some of the small-grain harvest although that seems to be completed now in Stutsman and Foster counties.

“Right now, some of the farmers are chopping corn,” Kellberg said, “and they are looking at their row crops.”

Bumper crops don’t seem to be in the forecast this year, she said.

“Average,” Kjellberg said. “Some spots above average and some fields storm-damaged.”

Gale expressed pessimism about the soybean yields in Foster County this year.

“It has been a terrible

year for soybeans,” he said. “We are hoping for an average yield for corn.”

The ideal fall weather in the forecast for the next weeks will aid soybeans and corn yields and harvest.

“We would like to have at least two more weeks until a frost,” Gale said. “The weather forecast looks good for that.”

Kjellberg had a more specific weather request.

“Dry, sunny and warm with a late frost,” she said. “That is what we need.”

Ritchison said the anticipated weather for the next month should deliver those conditions for most areas.

“It is about as good as you can order this time of year,” he said.

Reach Keith Norman at news@jamestownsun.com



John M. Steiner / The Jamestown Sun
Local row crops like these soybeans still need more warm and dry weather.

PROJECT

CONTINUED from A1

located west of The Arts Center, and launched a capital campaign, “Raising the Bar for the Arts,” to raise funds for the project.

Schmitz said \$2.1 million has been raised of the \$2.4 million capital campaign goal, with just over \$300,000 remaining to complete the phase 1 goal. The second phase will be to renovate two apartments above the building for visiting artists.

“It’s a pretty amazing accomplishment to raise 2.1 million dollars in this community when you’re competing with a lot of other causes,” Schmitz said. “Traditionally in capital campaigns, the last little bit of it is the hardest to raise and that’s what we’re finding.”

The project is expected to provide much-needed space for arts programming for children.

The addition will have a classroom, box office, culinary kitchen, two studios, gallery commons, restrooms, wash room and storage. There will also be a courtyard with a green space south of the new building that will be accessible from the existing Arts Center and the addition. A second classroom will also be renovated in the existing Arts Center building.

Naming opportunities for the project are available, Schmitz said. Bank Forward and Jo-Ida Hansen have the naming rights to the two studios, and the courtyard will be named for the late Shirley Rolfs Meidinger.

“We were one of her benefactors and we happened to receive our first gift from her right around the time when we were thinking about launching the capital campaign,” Schmitz said of Meidinger.

Schmitz expects full programming will begin in January in the new addition.



Kathy Steiner / The Jamestown Sun
The addition will have one classroom, seen here, where work continues. Expanding programming for children was a primary goal of the addition project at The Arts Center.

“That’s when the Jamestown Public Schools will start using it, the culinary kitchen, in the mornings, through their (James Valley) Career and Tech Center,” she said. “And our Arts After School program will be over there and our art therapy program will be there.”

The Jamestown Public School Board approved a memorandum of understanding in 2024 that established a partnership between the James Valley Career and Technology Center and The Arts Center to provide a culinary arts facility, The Jamestown Sun previously reported. When it’s not in use by the schools, others will be able to use the culinary kitchen.

Schmitz said they still hope to hold the Arts After School class and adult cooking classes in

the culinary kitchen before Christmas.

“One of my goals is to really get a lot of use out of that culinary kitchen,” Schmitz said. “The public is really excited about it. And we want to hold classes, we want to encourage clubs to meet there. ... it’s going to be a state-of-the-art kitchen and we want to be able to use it. And if you want to teach a class, let us know.”

She said people don’t have to be an expert, but if they know how to make bread, lefse, kuchen or other things, to contact The Arts Center about holding a class.

Anyone interested in seeing the new space is encouraged to call The Arts Center for a tour, Schmitz added.


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Kathy Steiner / The Jamestown Sun
Work is still to come for the courtyard on the south side of the addition, where events will be accessible from the new addition and the existing Arts Center building. The courtyard will be named for Shirley Rolfs Meidinger.

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**STUTSMAN
COUNTY**




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A G E N D A
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 – 8:30 AM
STUTSMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE –
COMMISSION ROOM
511 2ND AVE SE, JAMESTOWN, ND 58401
Last Revised: 09/24/2025 @ 1:30 pm

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Approval of July 30, 2025 Joint Special Meeting Minutes with Water Resource Board
7. Approval of October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026 NDACo Grant Contract for Vision Zero Coordinator
8. 2026 Budget Discussion
9. October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Start Time
10. October 7, 2025 Budget Hearing Reminder
11. Adjourn Special County Commission Meeting