

## Almont

my budget because I think they're very expensive," Tasha laughingly said, who added her hope is the total cost for this project will be between \$120,000 and \$150,000.

"One thing that's kind of helped us a lot [is that] we farm and ranch too; we have a lot of machinery to do a lot of the projects that cost \$200," Deon added.

Experienced in the Airbnb business with a property in Carson, the Steinmetz want to ensure they've laid a strong foundation for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC), as well as proper plumbing and electrical work before opening for commercial use.

"My hope is to be done fall of this year, if everything goes as planned. That was our original timeline, and hopefully we can still meet it. At the time, we didn't know about the electrical and the power and water. We just assumed that it was all like a house," Tasha said.

Due to the connection between the schoolhouse and its next door neighbor, the Almont high school, the Steinmetz say they need to obtain a new electrical transformer box and fig-



photo | Richard Mendoza

**TASHA AND DEON STEINMETZ** are renovating the old Almont K-6 building into an Airbnb to bring people to the community.

ure out a way to funnel water into the building without damaging the high school.

"There is a boiler system that also ran off the old school, so we'll have to put all-new HVAC in it as well," Tasha said.

While most of the items once belonging to the schoolhouse are long gone, large amounts of remnants from the previous owner remain inside the property.

In 2011, the schoolhouse was bought by Terry Lorentzen of Grand Junction, Colorado for the sole purpose of creating a housing facility for oil work-

ers. The city council of the time adopted an ordinance ruling against the creation of "man-camps", though they would make an exception for Lorentzen to continue on with his plan.

Lorentzen's plan, however, would never fully materialize, and the property and the items inside sat vacant for years.

The Steinmetz said they purchased the property in January and then attended Almont's monthly city council meeting to share their ideas where they say

*Continued from page 1*

they were met with little resistance.

"I thought maybe we'd have a little bit of push-back, but we went to a city council meeting the 1st of February, and the mayor is really supportive - the whole city council is pretty supportive," Tasha said.

Tasha and Deon aspire to see their efforts in Almont bring new life to the small town year-round and inspire locals to do the same.

Aspiring to bring new life to Almont year-round, the Steinmetz hope they can inspire others in town to do the same.

"Our hope is that maybe we can create a ripple effect where other couples or people could come into these small towns and try to help revitalize them as well," Tasha and Deon stated. "We grew up in these tiny towns. I'm from Kansas, but I grew up in a small town in Kansas as well, and it's the same thing from here to Kansas; all these little small towns, they're just dying off, and it seems like if we can get people to come spend their time [and] money here, that also helps bring in revenue for the town and small businesses."



photo | Richard Mendoza

**THE STEINMETZ** have already made progress towards creating their Airbnb inside the old K-6 school in Almont. Pictured is what Tasha Steinmetz says will eventually become the living room area.

## HELP WANTED

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*Hablamos Español. Exact project location disclosed later in the interview process.*

## REQUEST FOR BIDS

**Morton County Fair Board – Request for Bids**

The Morton County Fair Board is accepting bids for a concrete project at the Morton County Fairgrounds in New Salem, ND. Contractors may request the official bid packet by emailing: [info@mortoncountyfair.com](mailto:info@mortoncountyfair.com)

Bid deadline: March 30, 2026

Morton County Fair Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

*Published March 18, 2026*

## FARMER'S LUMBER & GAMBLES

**Will host their annual meeting**

**Saturday 3/28 at 2 pm**

**(Meeting inside Gambles)**

**Beverage and Snack will be provided.**

## New Salem Park District JOB OPPORTUNITY

**SUMMER HELP WANTED:** New Salem Park District is in need of lifeguards for the pool and maintenance crew for lawn mowing and park upkeep. If you are interested, provide a letter of interest to the Park at [newsalempark@outlook.com](mailto:newsalempark@outlook.com) or PO Box 165, New Salem, ND 58563

**MORTON COUNTY News Journal**

**USPS - 382-100**

P.O. Box 416 320 1st Ave. NW  
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The Morton County News Journal is published each Wednesday at GS Publishing, LLC, 514 Main Ave., New Salem, ND 58563. Periodicals postage is paid at New Salem, ND and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to: GS Publishing, LLC • P.O. Box 416 New Salem, ND 58563

**Morton County .....\$50.00**  
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**WEEKLY SPECIALS**

<b>MONDAY</b> Lunch Chimichanga \$11. <sup>99</sup> Fajita Quesadilla \$15. <sup>99</sup>	<b>THURSDAY</b> Lunch California Burrito \$12. <sup>49</sup> Burrito Fajita \$16. <sup>99</sup> Half price house margaritas all day	<b>SUNDAY</b> Arroz Con Pollo \$15. <sup>99</sup> Steak and Shrimp \$26. <sup>99</sup>
<b>TUESDAY</b> Street Taco \$2. <sup>00</sup> Speedy Gonzalez \$10. <sup>99</sup>	<b>FRIDAY</b> Lunch Ranchero Cheese Steak \$12. <sup>49</sup> Lindo Special \$19. <sup>99</sup>	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Lunch Burrito Croqueta \$11. <sup>49</sup> Chicken Fajitas \$17. <sup>99</sup>	<b>SATURDAY</b> Tacos Al Carbon \$13. <sup>99</sup> Mixed Fajitas \$22. <sup>99</sup>	

**MON. - SAT. 11am - 10pm**  
**SUNDAY 11am - 9pm**