

Dakota Gardener: Have You Planted Your Garden Yet?

By Kelsey Deckert, Horticulturist, NDSU Extension

We are rounding out the month of May already! Is anyone else wondering where the month went?

May is the month for planting gardens. Somebody asked me just last week, "Have you planted your garden yet?" When I get asked this in mid-May, I tend to chuckle to myself before I give my spiel on why my garden isn't planted yet.

Living in the central part of the state, around mid-May is our last frost date. I have learned my lesson, as many experienced gardeners have.

Several years ago, early May was beautiful and warm. On Mother's Day weekend that year, temperatures were above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, and I went ahead and planted my garden. It was about a week later when frost hit; my gardening season just ended before it started. I purchased more seeds and plants and replanted. From that lesson, I never plant prior to Memorial Day weekend. I learned that patience is the best practice for getting past the last potential frost date.

Each year, when I am preparing for my garden, I always add something new to the garden or landscape. I have gotten used to my husband putting up a new bed, new planters or even new yard décor for Mother's Day. It has become routine each year for the last few years for him to ask what this year's yard or garden project will be. We always complete the new project before even thinking about planting the garden.

In April, after attending Gardening Day Saturday in Grand Forks, I decided what my Mother's Day project was going to be. I listened to a speaker from Bailey's Nursery give a presentation titled "All About Hydrangeas." The presentation focused on the breeding process and how varieties were developed.

At the end of the presentation, he shared his top recommended varieties for North Dakota. I wrote them down and spent a good portion of the drive home going down a rabbit hole about hardy, compact varieties. I have always liked hydrangeas and have wanted to get a hydrangea tree for my yard.

As I was researching, my husband said, "Do I even need to ask what this year's project is going to be?" So rather than sharing the variety of hydrangea I was going to plant, I explained I needed a new bed for them and the perfect place for it. He surprised me not only with the hydrangea bed, but also with a second bed next to it for perennials.

We wrapped up that project last week, and I can't wait to see it come to life this growing season. If you are wondering which variety I chose, I landed on Little Lime Punch Panicle Hydrangea.

As I finish writing this column, the answer to "Have you planted your garden yet?" is no. Once my Mother's Day project is finished

each year, then I move on to choosing seeds and flowers for my garden beds. This Memorial Day weekend, you will find me out in the garden planting. I have my seeds and flowers ready to go.

For more information about gardening, contact your local NDSU Extension agent. Find the extension office for your county at <https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/extension-county-offices>.

Minutes Of The Stanley School District No. 2

STANLEY COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 15, 2026

PRESENT: BOARD PRESIDENT MATT RULAND; VICE PRESIDENT DYLAN ENGER; DIRECTOR ROBBY NICHOLS; DIRECTOR BETH DEAN; DIRECTOR MEGAN FRITEL (VIA PHONE); SUPERINTENDENT TIM HOLTE; BUSINESS MANAGER BETH HALL; ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL BROOKS STAFSLIEN; ELEMENTARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JENNIFER TRONSET; HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL PAULA BROWN

VISITORS: MARY KILEN, BRANDI LARSON, QUINN SAUBER, KATHY RULAND

STUDENTS: MYA MORTENSEN, KYLIE JOHNSON

President Ruland called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance was recited. Nichols moved to approve the consent agenda with two additional items: Teacher Contracts & Baseball Coach request. Enger seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Dean moved to accept March 19, 2026, regular board meeting minutes. Enger seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Nichols moved to approve the General Fund, Capital Project, Activity, and School lunch expenses. Dean seconded motion. All in favor, motion carried.

GENERAL FUND: ACELLUS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LLC 1,659.00; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC 1,588.72; BACHMAN, DANITA 20.00; BACHMAN, RIVERS 55.00; BRAVERA INSURANCE CENTER 321.00; BRAVERA VISA 4,295.65; BRAVERA 16.00; BREWER, SARAH 126.03; CITY OF STANLEY 847.58; COBORN'S INC. 956.07; DAKOTA BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH 5,175.00; ETSYSTEMS, INC 2,811.18; EVERSFRING SUITES 949.65; H. A. THOMPSON & SONS 6,168.25; HANSON, SARA 208.55; HILL ENTERPRISES, LLC 219.43; HINDS, ELIZABETH 300.00; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPT 549.99; JOSTENS, INC. 579.55; JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD 125.97; JW PEPPER & SON INC 40.87; K SQUARED ELECTRIC 377.18; MARTENS WELDING 600.00; MEIERS OIL CO. 3,595.07; MOUNTRAIL COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER 87.59; MOUNTRAIL COUNTY PROMOTER 249.30; NAPOLES, ARIK 130.00; ND CENTER FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION 229.00; ND COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL LEAD 397.00; NETWORK SERVICES COMPANY 145.58; NORTH DAKOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL 40.00; NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR ASSOCIATION 250.00; O'REILLY AUTO PARTS 38.66; PEARCE DURICK PLLC 1,852.50; PETERSON, NICHOLAS 102.00; PINNACLE 6,171.87; QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC. 333.39; RAMADA BISMARCK HOTEL 440.00; RTC NETWORKS 2,111.67; SCHOOL SPECIALTY, LLC (0.00); SCHOW, AMANDA 102.00; SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO., THE 213.20; STANLEY AUTO & TRUCK PARTS 26.08; STANLEY HARDWARE ACE 1,428.74; STOUT, JENNA 276.22; SUPREME SCHOOL SUPPLY 800.00; SYSCO NORTH DAKOTA, INC 1,061.49; TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 400.68; TREASURE BAY, INC. 732.45; TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES, LLC 4,150.65; VERIZON WIRELESS 400.29; WALLWORK TRUCK CENTER 90.12; WILLIAMS, DAVID 170.39; TOTAL: 54,016.61

FOOD SERVICE FUND: CASH-WA DISTRIBUTING CO OF FARGO, LLC 2,457.46; COBORN'S INC. 138.52; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION 2,036.43; GRAY'S DAIRY 3,312.25; HOBART SALES 1,404.47; PAN O GOLD BAKING CO. 879.96; SYSCO NORTH DAKOTA, INC 21,439.20; TOTAL: 31,668.29

STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND: AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC 661.67; BRAVERA VISA 3,412.47; BSN SPORTS 39,067.45; COBORN'S INC. 506.98; CONTINENTAL ATHLETIC SUPPLY INC 1,686.66; COPPER RIVER FLORAL DESIGN 185.00; DAKTRONICS INC 50.00; EVERSFRING SUITES 2,878.80; FLEDELAND, ROCKY 80.00; HERNANDEZ-PEREZ, CINDY 351.56; HOABY, LINDSAY 182.02; HUNT, KENDELL 2,063.04; KANENWISHER, JENNIFER 2,920.00; MOUNTRAIL COUNTY PROMOTER 126.50; ND FCCLA 100.00; PEPSI COLA BOTTLING 180.00; PIONEER MANUFACTURING COMPANY INC 1,980.65; POWERS LAKE SCHOOL 240.00; STANLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL 12.00; STANLEY LAUNDROMAT & TANNING 273.00; STANLEY SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUND 11,124.20; SURREY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 41 65.00; SYSCO NORTH DAKOTA, INC 997.87; THORNE, CALLI 4,500.00; WILDWOOD COUNTRY CLUB 100.00; WORLDSTRIDES 1,892.00; TOTAL: 75,636.87

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: COMSTOCK CONSTRUCTION, INC 61,779.59; RTC NETWORKS 5,350.00; STANLEY HARDWARE ACE 1,382.95; TWOTREES TECHNOLOGIES, LLC 21,180.91; TOTAL: 89,693.45

Financial Report

Bravera Bank - Close Money Market Account - \$11,000 remaining in this account. Requesting permission to close.

Fritel moved to approve the closure of the money market account and deposit into the new DMM account. Enger seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Bravera Bank - Capital Projects Account - Request permission to switch from MM to checking that incurs more interest on balance. Enger motioned to table until next meeting. Nichols seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Student Council Report

Jr class VP, Mya Mortensen, and class representative, Kylie Johnson, gave updates on past and upcoming events.

The successful St. Patty's day dress up the blood drive that was canceled due to the bus breaking down

The election for next week The Easter egg hunt

The 2nd Annual Jacob Hynek Memorial Twilight Meet on May 1, 2026

The hosting of a bake sale

Elevate Stanley

Brandi Larson, Quinn Sauber and Kathy Ruland, Elevate Stanley Community Members, gave a summary and requested volunteers.

Elevate Stanley is a group of community members that would like to partner in the future for various activities.

Elevate Stanley is in the beginning stages.

With the help of Souris Basin Planning Council, is looking at a study that will cost between \$15K - 25K approximately. They will help to seek out funding and feasibility studies for the potential community center.

High School Project Update

No ETA on Greenhouse completion

Waiting on detergent dispenser for meat lab

Hoist installation pending

No word on existing Greenhouse future

Have not seen credit for the counter-tops

11 month walk-through coming up

Request for 3 ergonomic lift desks - Quotes

Discussed the options for purchasing the desks

Discussed what to do with the current furniture - can reuse elsewhere

Was notified of an ergonomic grant being issued by Workforce Safety - Beth will apply

Enger approve up to purchase amount of Gaffaney's desks with caveat to explore the ergonomic grant. Nichols seconded. Motion carried.

Policy Committee

FFK - Suspension & Expulsion - Discussion held. Policy committee recommended this wording: "In such cases, the Board delegates authority to the Superintendent to appoint an appropriate, alternative hearing officer." Dean motioned to approve the first reading of the policy. Enger seconded. Motion carried.

FAAD - Tuition Agreements - Discussion held regarding additions to the policy. First reading approved Dean. Seconded by Nichols. Motion carried.

FFK-BR - Suspension & Expulsion Regulations (Table Until May Meeting) - President Ruland directed to be handled at next months' meeting after Policy Committee meets again.

Building Committee

Fence Repair - Dakota Fence - \$1,550. Fence on east side of track/football field being repaired. Another fence at the Elementary school needs repair. Enger motioned to repair if needed. Seconded by Nichols. Motion carried.

High School Hand Dryers - Quotes received to repair the commons area bathroom hand dryers. K-Squared \$4,180 & Rudolph Electric \$1,900.44. Nichols motioned to approve the Rudolph Electric quote. Enger seconded. Motion carried.

Future Work/Planning - Both the HS & Elem need flooring replaced. Looking at switching color/pattern schemes. Carpeting also needs to be updated/replaced.

Flooring Replacement - will talk with the Finance Committee.

Elementary Heat Pumps - 14 still need replacement. Discussed keeping 14-16 of different sizes on hand to replace as go out.

Letter of Resignation

Mariah Halvorson - Board accepted resignation.

Discussion held regarding hiring. Motion to approve hiring SPED counselor made by Enger. Nichols seconded. Motion carried.

2026-2027 Tuition Agreement

The Davis and Heinele family's do meet the policy requirements for the tuition agreement. Enger motioned to accept the tuition agreement. Dean seconded. Motion carried.

Teacher Contracts

Board given names & salaries of the teachers that have signed 2026-2027 contracts. Motion to approve made by Enger. Dean seconded. Motion carried.

Baseball Coach

Superintendent Holte requested additional assistant coach. Motion to approve 3rd baseball coach made by Enger. Dean seconded. Motion carried.

Superintendent Report

Enrollment report given

Oil & Gas - waiting on April payment for February's production. Always 2 months behind.

Student debt has not changed. Big payment due in June.

Minibus came in. GPS not working. 1 State worked on. Backup camera is not working now.

ND State Fire insurance policy was \$86,200, is now increasing to \$99,000. Discussion to leave on blanket policy due to no coinsurance. Nichols motioned to leave on the blanket policy. Enger seconded. Motion carried.

Superintendent Holte investigated Crowfoot township not listed in Area 2 description. Was found in 1994 minutes.

Reminder there is no school 4/22/2026 for Infinite Campus training.

Principal Reports:

Brown Report:

Content area specialist in math for vertical alignment through early June for all grades.

Jr/Sr banquet this Friday, April 17, 2026

Prom setup going on. Cleanup on Sunday.

FCCLA banquet May 3rd

ASVAB & spring testing going on

Graduation May 24th

President Ruland unable to attend for tassel switch. Other Board member volunteered?

Stafslien Report:

Concerts finished up

State testing just about done

Doughnuts for grownups has been cancelled

Discussed various building needs

There will be a bread fair hosted by NDSU

Math meet on April 24th

Field trips coming up and fun things for K-5 students

Staffing needs - reviewing 2 applicants

Park District took out the ice rink

Tronset Report:

K-5 registration is April 20th-24th

April is reading month

Exploring math curriculum

Reviewing quotes for K through 2nd grade reading programs.

No public comments.

Ruland Adjourned: 6:26 p.m.

Matt Ruland, Board President

Elizabeth Hall, Business Manager

Armstrong Appointed 2027 Chairman Of Interstate Oil And Gas Compact Commission

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) voted last week to appoint Governor Kelly Armstrong as its 2027 chairman during the commission's annual business meeting in Oklahoma City.

The IOGCC is a multi-state government agency that promotes the conservation and efficient recovery of domestic oil and natural gas resources while protecting health, safety and the environment.

Armstrong was attending the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismarck when the IOGCC voted to appoint him as chairman. His one-year term begins October 28. He succeeds Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy as chairman. Former North Dakota governors Doug Burgum, John Hoeven, Ed Schafer and George Sinner all previously served terms as IOGCC chairman.

Established in 1935, the IOGCC is headquartered in Oklahoma City and has 31 member states and seven associate states. North Dakota has been a member since 1954. The commission assists the states in developing statutes, rules and regulations for the oil industry and provides a forum for communication between energy producing states and the federal government. The commission also has international affiliates in Canada as well as several federal agency affiliates.

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STANLEY COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 2 ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION OFFICIAL BALLOT JUNE 9, 2026

Two members of the board to be elected. VOTERS SHOULD VOTE ONCE IN EACH OF THE TWO SECTIONS BELOW

Area 2 consists of the Townships of Powers, Lostwood, Sidonia, Cottonwood, James Hill, Clearwater, Redmond, Palermo, and Crowfoot within the boundaries of the Stanley Community Public School District No.2. This is a three-year term.

Ballot options for Area 2: Deanna Kukowski, Write-in Name, Write-in Name

Area 3 consists of the Townships of Manitou, Ross, and Debing plus that portion of Unorganized Twp 155 Rge 94 and Unorganized Twp Rge 94 within the boundaries of the Stanley Community Public School District No.2. This is a three-year term.

Ballot options for Area 3: Matthew Ruland, Write-in Name, Write-in Name

OFFICIAL BALLOT

PARSHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT #3 JUNE 9TH, 2026

Two (2) School board members from the rural area (outside city limits).

Ballot options for Parshall School District #3: ANISSA HOVE, SHAUN PACKINEAU, ADAM NAATZ, BANDI POITRA, NATHANIEL PACKINEAU, WRITE-IN, WRITE-IN

** CANDIDATES ARE PLACED IN THE ORDER OF RANDOM DRAW **

Watford City Weekend Tickets On Sale Now

Tickets for the first-ever Watford City Weekend are officially on sale. The Minot Hot Tots will take on the St. Cloud Rox in a two-game Northwoods League series in Watford City on July 18 and 19.

The games will be played at American Legion Post 29 Glenn Wahus Memorial Field, giving fans in Western North Dakota the chance to experience Hot Tots baseball in their own community.

Fans can expect the full Hot Tots game-day experience, including Tate R. Tot, a live in-game host, between-inning promotions, on-field games, inflatables, kids activities, Hot Tots merchandise, beer, ballpark food and more.

The Hot Tots have partnered with the Rough Rider Center to bring Watford City Weekend to life, with the goal of giving fans outside of

Minot the same fun, high-energy, community-driven baseball experience that has made Hot Tots games a summer staple across North Dakota.

"The team in Watford City is all about creating fun experiences for their community, so when they approached us about hosting a Hot Tots game there, I was immediately interested," said Hot Tots General Manager Monica Blake. "Our goal is to be one of the premier family-friendly entertainment options in western North Dakota, so bringing the full Hot Tots experience further west is really exciting for us."

Tickets are available now at: <https://minot-hot-tots.nwtickets.com/SingleGame/Tickets>.

NDSU Extension Sets Youth Beef Producers Workshop

North Dakota State University Extension will host the Junior Beef Producers Workshop on June 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Carrington Research Extension Center in Carrington, North Dakota.

The workshop is open to youth ages 10-16 and will provide a full day of hands-on learning opportunities focused on the beef industry. Participants can gain knowledge spanning the beef production process, from pasture to plate, while exploring potential career paths and building practical skills.

"This workshop is all about getting to try things for yourself," says Jeff Gale, NDSU Extension agent in Foster County. "If you want to work with cattle and see how beef is raised, processed and prepared for the table, you're going to enjoy this fun event."

Hands-on sessions will cover a variety of topics, including animal health, nutrition, the calving process and safe handling techniques. At the Carrington Research Extension Center Livestock Unit, participants will evaluate cattle body condition, collect hay samples and engage in additional experiential activities.

During the lunch hour, participants will prepare their own meal while learning basic grilling techniques. The afternoon will include a tour of a local meat processor, where youth can gain insight into beef processing.

There is a cost to attend per participant, which includes lunch and workshop materials. Registration is required to ensure adequate supplies and meal planning.

To register, visit ndsu.edu/jrbeef. For more information, contact Gale at 701-652-2581.

The Carrington Research Extension Center is located at 663 Hwy 281 N, in Carrington.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department announces the following summary of regulations and changes for the 2026-2027 Deer Hunting Proclamation.

Apply online at gf.nd.gov. The deadline for submitting online applications is June 3, 2026.

Table with columns: SEASON, OPENS, CLOSES, AREAS, RESTRICTIONS. Rows include DEER BOW, DEER GUN, MUZZLELOADER, YOUTH DEER, SPECIAL DEER-BOW HERD REDUCTION.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR
• The 2026 North Dakota deer hunting season is set with 39,100 licenses available, 3,200 less than last year.
• A total of 750 muzzleloader licenses will be available in 2026, 56 less than last year.
• A total of 240 nonresident any deer archery licenses available, 60 less than last year.

A complete 2026 deer hunting proclamation is available from the North Dakota Game & Fish Department, 100 North Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095, (701) 328-6300 or online at gf.nd.gov.