

**Jensen: From student to teacher**  
See Collegiate Congrats, Section B

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## Flickertail Wind files application for zoning ordinance amendments

by Nathan Price

Flickertail Wind, LLC has withdrawn their permit application from Eddy County as they pursue numerous changes to the county's zoning ordinances.

This is the third time they've withdrawn a permit application for the proposed 43,000-acre wind farm, after permits were also withdrawn from New Rockford and Grandfield Townships.

The first two were withdrawn after a last-minute concern was expressed that their respective ordinances - which are virtually iden-

tical to Eddy County's - did not allow wind turbines on agricultural land.

The same concern delayed further action on Eddy County's permit, and a later attempt at a public hearing to discuss an ordinance change was sidetracked after it was insufficiently noticed in the newspaper.

As it turned out, the county's zoning ordinance dictating how such hearings should be noticed did not match state law.

These setbacks seem to have prompted Flickertail Wind to pursue a reset

of sorts - withdrawing all permits and submitting an application for numerous ordinance changes, after which they can resubmit.

The objective seems to be removing any doubt regarding the permitting process, uses on agricultural land and the noticing of public hearings.

Eddy County commissioners were made aware of Flickertail's application for amendments at their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 3, where Eddy County State's Attorney Ashley Lies provided a brief

explanation.

In an email response to the Transcript, Development Director at PRC Wind, Munce Trongard, said their intention is to clarify the county's existing ordinances.

"The county has already done the hard work of establishing its wind energy rules through a thoughtful public process," said Trongard.

"This requested amendment is simply housekeeping - it makes sure those existing rules are clear, consistent and aligned with North Dakota Century Code so they can be applied as intended."

Eddy County's zoning ordinance stipulates that any person or firm with a contractual interest in a parcel of land can propose zoning amendments, and Flickertail Wind is proposing more than two dozen individual amendments.

Most notably, they're requesting an amendment to Article 10 that would expressly allow the construction of wind energy facilities within the "agricultural zoning district" of the county - addressing the concern that first prompted the withdrawal of two township permits.

Amending the ordinance in this way would allow the project to move forward without the necessity of a conditional use permit.

An earlier motion made by zoning commissioner Levi Rue to list wind energy facilities under the conditionally allowed uses on agricultural land would address the same issue, but would also require Flickertail Wind to submit an additional permit.

And just to make it abundantly clear, Flickertail Wind

**Zoning**  
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## Eagles Club hosts Stampede kickoff, dueling pianos next weekend

by Nathan Price

The New Rockford Eagles Club is hosting two big community events next weekend featuring live entertainment and opportunities to support two local organizations, the Sheyenne Rodeo Club and the New Rockford Community Foundation.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the Sheyenne Rodeo Club is holding their kickoff event to highlight the NDRA Rodeo and Sheyenne Stampede at Hendrickson Park planned for this summer.

This year's kickoff event will begin with a supper at 6 p.m. featuring a chili feed and fry bread. There will also be a silent auction and gun raffle, followed by a special live performance from the Ryan Keplin Band.

Keplin is a native of Belcourt, N.D. who's earned a reputation for his distinctive left-handed fiddle playing and entertaining. He was inducted into the international Fiddlers Hall of Fame in 2011.

Featuring a mixture of fiddle music and vocals, Keplin's shows have entertained crowds across the United States and Canada. According to his website, he's even shared the stage with performers such as Kevin Costner, Julia Roberts and the Bellamy Brothers.

Also at the event, tickets to this year's Sheyenne Stampede will be offered at

a discount.

Meanwhile, the kickoff event isn't the only exciting event coming to the local Eagles Club next weekend.

A day earlier, on Friday, Feb. 20, the New Rockford Community Foundation will hold its annual fundraiser.

This year's entertainment is Dually Noted, who will be making their return to New Rockford after their musical talent was a hit with the audience last year.

Dually Noted is a sassy, interactive dueling pianos act performed by Cassandra Lea and Jacy Smith. The dueling female musicians have a charismatic connection on stage and have been best friends off-stage for over 15 years.

Together they engage audiences of all demographics while performing their favorite hits from the '60s to today.

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A crew from Hammers Construction was in New Rockford on Monday, Feb. 2 to remove unstable portions of the remaining Rockford Theatre walls - namely the top portion where they once connected to the collapsed roof. The work is being done in preparation for construction, which could begin this year. Photo by Nathan Price.

## City commission hires architect for new city hall

by Nathan Price

At the regular City Commission meeting on Monday, Feb. 2, commissioners continued to take steps toward building a new city hall.

The commission unanimously carried a motion to hire Meland Architects of Grand Forks, N.D. to be the architect for the city hall project.

It's a necessary move if a new structure is to be built, as the cost of construction would exceed \$250,000 - thereby requiring an architect in accordance with

state law.

Commissioners have been considering a new building as their existing structure suffers from roof leaks, mold and poor air quality, limited storage space and more.

They also considered remodeling the current city hall, but a request for bids yielded no responses - and the commission has been moving toward new construction ever since.

New Rockford was recently approved for \$1.39 million in loan funds from the Bank of North Dakota

for the construction of a new city hall. Commissioners have also reviewed preliminary floor plans drawn up by Cash and Carry Lumber.

Commission President Stu Richter said Meland Architects would likely just

have to review floor plans for the structure to ensure compliance with state and federal building standards and regulations.

However, Richter also said the commission hasn't made a final decision about

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## Sheriff reports on calls for service

by Nathan Price

Eddy County Sheriff Paul Lies provided a full breakdown of his department's dispatch calls in 2025 to the Eddy County Commission and New Rockford City Commission last week.

The report details calls for service from computer-aided dispatch (CAD), which is only operable outside of business hours.

The total number of CAD calls for service in 2025 was 1,697.

Of those, 770 were in the city of New Rockford, 121 were in the city of

Sheyenne and 201 were in rural areas such as Tolna, Warwick and Hamar.

Additionally, there were 342 traffic stops in rural Eddy County and 34 traffic stops within the city of Sheyenne.

The report breaks down the calls even further, ranging from burglaries and assaults, to animal abuse and domestic violence.

The report shows that nine calls were for burglary alarms at businesses - all in New Rockford - as well

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