



2026 Eddy County Spelling Bee contestants. Back row (from left to right): Josh Lukach, Coy Enget, David Azure, JJ Lawrence, Judi Gudmunson; middle row: Livi Skogen, Ashtyn Lies, Casey Ystaas, Kensley Engels, Ziarah Reisenauer, Kalleigh Engels, Austin Rasmussen; front row: Easton Wallace, Parker Theis, Colt Estenson, Jaxson Buck. Courtesy photo.

Buck, Wallace named top spellers

The annual Eddy County Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, Jan. 29 at the Eddy County Courthouse. Twelve super spellers from NR-S participated. After written and oral rounds of spelling competition, fifth grader Easton Wallace and sixth grader Jaxson Buck were determined the overall winners. Grade winners were Josh Lukach (eighth), JJ Lawrence (seventh), Judi Gudmunson (sixth) and Easton Wallace (fifth). Wallace and Buck will advance to the State Spelling Bee on Monday, March 23 at the Bismarck Event Center.



The 2026 overall winners of the Eddy County Spelling Bee were Jaxson Buck (left) and Easton Wallace (right). Courtesy photo.

Sheyenne

by Patti Clifton

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The Brandon Kolstad Memorial Coyote Hunt is coming up. This year the time frame is extended to a 24-hour hunt on March 6-7. Registration is 5-6 p.m. at Wild Things Taxidermy, Main Street, Sheyenne, on March 6. A meal and cash prizes will be awarded Saturday evening, March 7 at 6 p.m. Call Matt 701-740-1052 or Taylor 701-302-0223 for information.

Sheyenne Stampede kick-off event offers discount Stampeded 2026 tickets at the New Rockford Eagles Club on February 21. Chili and fry bread with a silent auction and gun raffle, followed by live music at 8 p.m. A great event to get together and support the rodeo club.

Cheryl Logan spaghetti benefit is Sunday, Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Ostby Hall. Free-will offering will help with medical/travel costs as she battles lung cancer and is doctoring in Fargo. Thrivent support helps with expenses. To volunteer to help, contact Dianne at 701-996-4721.

Laurie Westby, Patti Larson and Josslyn Hager attended the Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre production by the Ft. Totten Little Theatre titled "Murder at the HOA" at the KC Hall in Devils Lake last Thursday. Several other Sheyenne residents also enjoyed the performance, which included four actors with Sheyenne connections: Kim, Ramsey and Gavin Brown, as well as Cambree Blegen.

First Lutheran held their annual meeting February 1. After worship, the council hosted a lunch of BBQs, potato chips, pickles and desserts for everyone to enjoy. After dishes were done, council president Matt Ystaas called the meeting to order. Irene Cudworth, secretary, read the minutes of the 2025 annual meeting. The council slate of officers will remain the same for the coming year: Matt Ystaas, president; Diane Karlsbraaten, vice president; Irene Cudworth, secretary; Dianne Hanson, financial secretary; and Bob Hanson and David Karlsbraaten, council members. Old and new business were discussed. Deep gratitude and appreciation goes to Mary Ellen Rue for 30 years of sharing her gift of music

with our congregation. Going forward, Bonnie Deegan and Randy Keller will play for church services at First.

Jan Loe recently visited with LouAnn Nyhusmoen and David Donaldson at LHGS in New Rockford.

Grace Lutheran annual meeting was held on Sunday, Feb. 8.

NDSU Extension is offering a couple of learning opportunities for area gardeners. Field to Fork webinars start February 11 from 2-3 p.m., running every Wednesday through April 15. Register to watch at home or join the watch party at the Eddy County Extension office in New Rockford. Topics vary each week from planting to food preservation. Watch for more on gardening information in the other series called Spring Fever Garden Forums. Call Eddy County Extension office for more information, 701-947-2454.

Sheyenne GRIT met last Wednesday evening at the senior center. Goals to work on for the upcoming year were discussed, as well as current grant opportunities. The next meeting was set for February 11.

Jan Loe and Steph met Jim and Marjean Woodrow, and Brian and Pam Hill for noon lunch and a visit at Olive Garden in Grand Forks on Saturday.

The big news for Sheyenne was the topic of the special meeting of the city council on February 1. Clint Haman and Mark Lange, two of the partners of Sheyenne Bar, LLC, along with James Rindy, current owner of Rindy's Sheyenne Bar, attended the meeting to receive approval for the transfer of permit upon successful transfer of ownership. Last week, the State Historical Society of North Dakota announced that the Sheyenne Bar was one of two North Dakota sites listed this year in the National Register of Historic Places. A school in Harvey was the other place designated to have historic significance.

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Giving Hearts Day

GIVING HEARTS DAY EVENT

Join us on Thursday, February 12 for a soup and breadstick luncheon at the CASNR Building – 818 1st Ave. N from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Free will offering

Fun door prizes to sign up for

To-go orders are available

Proceeds will go to the

New Rockford Ambulance for "Giving Hearts Day"

We HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Brandon Kolstad

MEMORIAL COYOTE HUNT

24 HOUR HUNT

MARCH 6-7TH 2026

ENTRY FEE: \$80/team

\$20/Big Dog - \$20/Little Dog

REGISTRATION 5:00-6:00 p.m. on March 6th at Wild Things Taxidermy in Sheyenne

CHECK IN-TIME no later than 6:00 p.m. on March 7th

Meal provided and cash prizes will be awarded that evening.

PRIZES:

1st Place - \$1,000	• 2 man teams
2nd Place - \$750	• big dog/little dog contest
3rd Place - \$500	• rules will be handed out at registration
100% payback for Big Dog Little Dog	

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PRE-REGISTER CONTACT:

Taylor Koepplin - 701-302-0223

Matt Ystaas - 701-740-1052

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Rundown

by Leasa A. Lura

The counties and cities within the state of North Dakota hold many interesting news stories.

Here are just a few of the feature stories that others are reading in communities around the state.

Family Dollar & Dollar Tree Combo shuts down

The second "Dollar" store to set up shop in Kenmare, the Family Dollar & Dollar Tree Combo store, closed its doors permanently recently, after selling off the last of its inventory. The store's closing comes almost exactly two years since it opened on January 18, 2024, just a block west of the competing Dollar General store adjacent to U.S. Highway 52, which opened in October 2019.

Early in November 2025, several corporate officials were at the combo dollar store for a couple days. A "Closing" banner sign was strung across the front of the building on November 10.

All of the "Combo" stores in the U.S., which included the Family Dollar & Dollar Tree Combo store in Kenmare, had been scheduled to close by early 2026.

Dollar Tree and Family Dollar were separate companies until their merger in 2015. In March 2025, Dollar Tree announced it was selling Family Dollar for \$1 billion to private investors, to end the "disastrous merger."

While up to 1,000 new dollar stores opened last year across the U.S., the closing of dollar stores is also a very common practice.

Dollar Tree closed 695 stores in 2024. Following its separation from Dollar Tree, Family Dollar announced it will close about 1,000 stores.

However, Dollar Tree was also on track to open about 650 new stores in 2025.

As of October 2025, there were 8,989 Dollar Tree stores and 7,449 Family Dollar stores in the U.S.

(Story by Terry Froseth, the Kenmare News)

Brad and Robin Suda volunteer at Rose Bowl Parade

To ring in the 2026 new year, Brad and Robin Suda decided to make the trip out to Pasadena, Calif. to take part in the annual Rose Bowl Parade, an event that features flower-covered floats, marching bands and equestrian units followed by the Rose Bowl college football game.

Robin Suda talked about how taking this trip has been something the couple has strived to do for a long time.

"It had been on our dream list for quite a long time. We went and stayed with Denise Demers Sande and Joan Houdek, who were both bridesmaids in our wedding."

Staying with friends who have been a part of the Suda's story since the beginning brought another layer of happiness to an already memorable trip.

While in California, the Sudas volunteered to help put the floats together in preparation for the Rose Bowl Parade, and Suda goes on to explain what those days were like.

"You apply to be a petal pusher, but you have to know somebody involved in the Rose Bowl event. You don't always get selected, but my friend Denise had been a part of it in the past."

The term "Petal Pusher" is given to Rose Bowl volunteers who work on the floats and typically there are over 4,000 volunteers who fly in from all over the country to help bring this long-standing seasonal event to life.

(Story by Steph Cronje, The Walsh County Record)

Max water mix up

Recently, Max City Auditor Anita Porter had to send out a notification about the level of chlorine/chloramine in the Max drinking water, even though it was really a non-issue.

"The issue was human error," Max Mayor Sam Adams said. "It has been taken care of."

It was nothing but a big misunderstanding.

"The guys read the meters and those numbers get sent to the health department every month," Porter said. "They don't get flagged, so everything is fine."

Usually.

But this month, the readings did flag.

"There's a little button on the side of the meter that you can't really see. One of the maintenance guys bumped the button which automatically calibrates a machine to read higher," Porter said.

Even though it was just an error from hitting the button and not actually a chemical issue, the EPA had to contact Porter and explain what happened.

Porter followed the EPA's instructions to check the testing chemicals and ensure they were not expired, and retest.

The water in Max was retested and came back within the limit.

"We went through and did everything the EPA suggested. They still said I had to still send out the drinking water alert report," Porter said.

(Story by Tyson Matthews, the McLean County Independent)

Arrest following abrupt shutdown of Royals MedSpa

On Sunday, Jan. 25, Royals MedSpa owner Kendra Cain was arrested and is now facing a multitude of charges: One Class B misdemeanor for practicing as a nurse without proper certification and two Class C felonies for unauthorized use of personal identifying information and reckless endangerment-extreme indifference.

Cain is currently being detained at the McKenzie County Correctional Facility and is scheduled to appear in court.

Sources told the Farmer that Cain has been operating her business without a nursing license.

She has promoted Royals MedSpa as a "luxury medical spa that combines precision medical aesthetics with proactive wellness, offering advanced laser tattoo and hair removal, skin resurfacing, massage therapy, IV therapy, facials, peptides, neurotoxin, filler, paramedical tattooing and personalized wellness guidance," according to www.beautyhairnailsalons.com.

Officers conducted a multi-day investigation which determined that Cain had been identifying herself to the public and to patients as a registered nurse. It was confirmed by investigators that Cain does not hold any nursing or medical licenses.

During the investigation, officers located a patient treatment area containing a used IV bag, tubing, syringe, needle and a bandage. Officers also observed what appeared to be fresh blood on the floor beneath the IV infusion area.

On January 23, officers spoke with a patient who was a registered nurse who said that she had to coach Cain through the IV administration process. The victim further stated that the tourniquet used was left on longer than appropriate, causing her hand to turn blue and purple. The victim also reported observing approximately three to four inches of air traveling through the IV tubing into her vein, which she stated could potentially result in an air embolism, a condition that can cause serious injury or death.

(Story by Patrice Bumstead, the McKenzie County Farmer)