

# NDTC Welcomes New Employee

NDTC announces and welcomes the addition of new employee, Ryan Gibbons. Ryan began his employment on March 16, 2026, as a Telephone Service Technician.

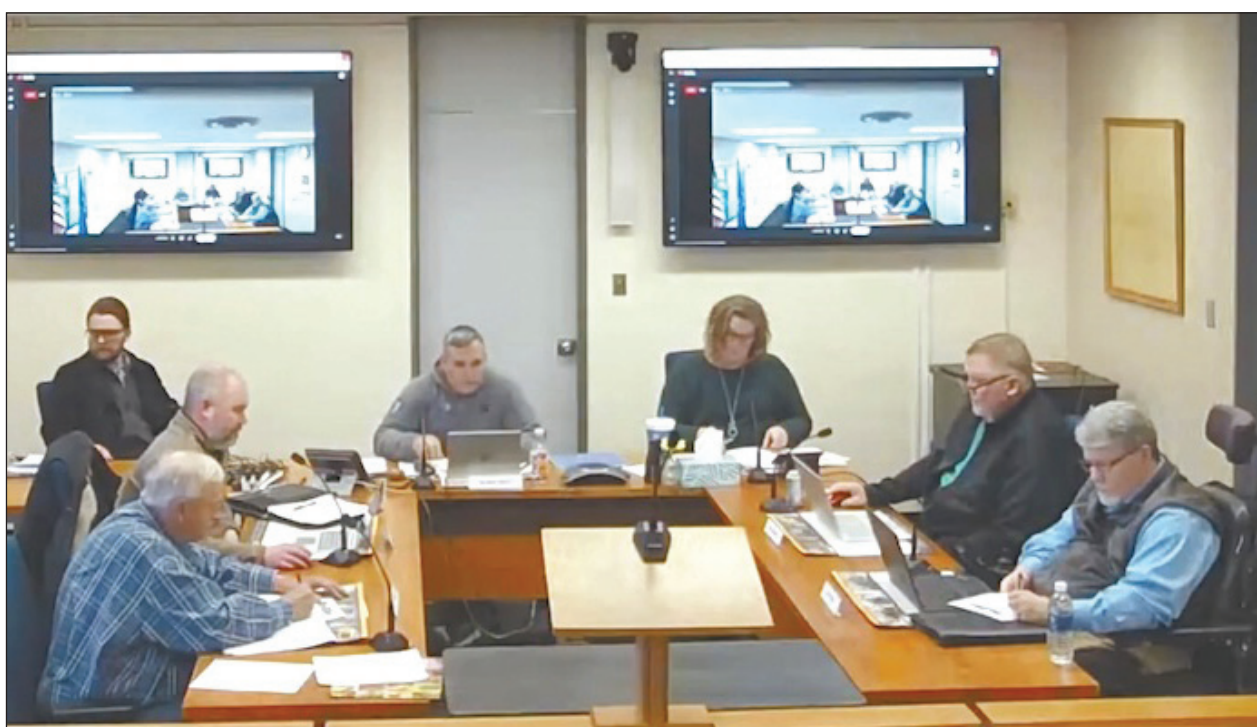


**Ryan Gibbons, Telephone Service Technician**

Prior to joining NDTC, Ryan worked at various jobs in the Devils Lake area such as an Installation Technician with Midcontinent Cable and a Motor Grader Operator for Ramsey County.

Ryan is originally from White Bear Lake, MN, and is now residing in Devils Lake. In his free time, he enjoys

hunting, fishing, information technology, hobby farming and spending time with his two daughters.



The Ramsey County Commission met in regular session at the County Courthouse on March 17. Photo provided by Ramsey County Commission YouTube Channel

# Latest Ramsey County Commission Meeting Recap

by Louise Oleson, DLJ Editor Emeritus

The Ramsey County Commission met in regular session on March 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Following the Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance the commission approved both the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda for this meeting

Then Jason Kraft, County Highway Superintendent stepped up to the podium for his report to the commission. First he informed the commissioners that he had asked the ND Highway Patrol to help with compliance for the load restrictions placed on ND roads for spring. He said signs indicating the load restrictions would be going up shortly and would not be up past March 30.

Blade contracts went out with a rate increase from \$75 to \$85 an hour and contracts for the townships were sent out March 4.

A request from Otter Tail to build an approach on the first section of Ramsey County #10 was approved. Commissioner Jeff Frith asked if there would be a culvert included in this construction for moving water as spring thaw happens. Kraft said he believed so and that Otter Tail would pay for the work and whatever materials were needed.

Specifications for the new building floor are in place and let out for bids. With the new specs they had to let out for new bidding. Bid openings for gravel projects will be April 3 and chip seal bids will be coming in, as well.

Kraft reported that the new tar kettle would arrive on the 19th and once they make sure it is what they wanted, they voted to pay for it, if it is okay. The price tag was \$57,345.50.

Paul came forward to speak to a number of projects in Ramsey County, including culvert sites, the Cove Road and

FEMA's pending decision on fixing that, and the bike path, bids will be let next year for that.

A big concern this spring continues to be water issues as the snow melts. Kraft reported they did have some sand bags available that were filled, if residents needed them, and as the sand thaws, they do have more they could provide if they are needed. If anyone needs them, stop by the county shop, they should have what they need.

Next on the agenda was the Home Rule Charter resolution with the changes in ballot language made from the discussion at the previous commission meeting. States Attorney Daniel Howell discussed this with the commissioners and a role call vote was taken with commissioners Hodous, Frith, Brown and Wilhelmi voting "Aye" and Volk voting "Nay", the resolution carried.

The Charter with the new language will be published in the Devils Lake Journal prior to the election June 9.

Some discussion centered around whether or not the Home Rule Charter committee should dissolve or not now that their work was done. It was decided to dissolve the committee when they find out what happens with the vote.

The meeting ended with the Auditor explaining information they'd received by e-mail regarding each township that levies 18 mills and over and the level of their bank balance at the end of 2025. Senate bill 2012 addressed new rules for townships and Kandy helped clarify what this information and the changes meant to the townships and road funding.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ramsey County Commission is at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

# Today in History

By The Associated Press

(AP) - Today is Thursday, March 26, the 85th day of 2026. There are 280 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On March 26, 2024, Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed after being struck by a container ship, killing six maintenance workers on the bridge. (Maryland officials have announced plans to replace the bridge by late 2030.)

Also on this date:

In 1812, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing as many as 30,000 deaths. (The U.S. Congress later approved \$50,000 in food aid to be sent to Venezuela — the first example of American disaster assistance abroad.)

In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. ice hockey team to win the Stanley Cup, defeating the Montreal Canadiens 9-1 to win the championship series, three games to one.

In 1945, U.S. forces declared victory in the Battle of Iwo Jima against the Japanese Imperial Army. (U.S. Marines and Navy personnel suffered roughly 27,000 casualties and Japanese forces more than 18,000 in the 36-day battle.)

In 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

In 1992, a judge in Indianapolis sentenced former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson to six years in prison for a rape conviction. (Tyson was released in 1995.)

In 1997, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate religious cult who had taken their own lives were found inside a rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

In 2013, Italy's top criminal court overturned the acquittal of American Amanda Knox in the 2007 killing of British roommate Meredith Kercher and ordered Knox to stand trial again. (Convicted in absentia, Knox was exonerated by the Italian Supreme Court in 2015.)

In 2018, a toxicology report obtained by The Associated Press revealed that the late pop superstar Prince had "extremely high" levels of fentanyl in his body at the time of his death in April 2016.

# Iran

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And then there is the time it takes for shipments from the Middle East to reach the U.S. — typically 30 to 45 days to reach the Port of New Orleans.

Some fertilizer is already stored in the U.S. and can meet demand amid the shortage of Middle East imports, but at some point those supplies will run low.

"We don't quite know how it's going to shake out," said Nancy Martinez, director of public policy, trade and biotechnology for the National Corn Growers Association.

Nitrogen- and phosphate-based fertilizers are largely produced domestically, which helps a little

bit, said Anne Villamil, a professor of economics at the University of Iowa.

"But again, energy prices are an input, and so even if you're producing it in the U.S., if the cost of your inputs goes up, then it's going to be an increase in price to the farmers who want to buy it," Villamil said.

Soaring oil prices could result in higher food prices, given the increased cost of diesel needed to transport products to grocery stores and petroleum products used in plastic packaging, said Chad Hart, an economics professor at Iowa State University.

However, the increased fertilizer prices shouldn't significantly lead to grocery store increases even as they put a crimp in farmers' profits. That's because on-farm costs are only a small part of what

consumers pay at the supermarket.

**Efforts to curb the hit on farmers from costly fertilizer**

The Trump administration said it has taken steps to ease the cost of fertilizer, including moving to increase fertilizer imports from Venezuela, which U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins called "a huge step that puts farm security and farmers first."

The Department of Agriculture also notes it previously announced \$12 billion in one-time payments to help farmers offset losses primarily due to tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. In a statement, the USDA also said it has provided more than \$30 billion in additional aid to farmers since January 2025, and the agency noted its support for a more competitive fertilizer marketplace that would ultimately lower prices.

Fatka, of CoBank, said the \$12 billion doesn't go far for farmers with a

payment of \$44 per corn acre when the USDA estimates about \$900 per acre for cost of production for the average U.S. farmer.

Still, farm bankruptcies remain rare, with only 315 last year — a tiny percentage of the nearly 1.9 million farms nationally. And prices for the nation's two largest crops — corn and soybeans — have been climbing recently.

Tom Waters, who farms about 5,000 acres (2,023 hectares) of corn, soybeans and wheat east of Kansas City, said the increase of fertilizer prices along with other costs makes it tough to make a profit when crop prices are so low.

"The margins get smaller and smaller so we just have to really work hard to trim our costs and be as frugal as we can be but still provide the soil and crop what it needs to grow and produce," Waters said.

**Minnewaukan Township**  
**Tax Equalization Meeting**  
 Tuesday, April 14  
 5pm-6pm  
 Armory Room in the Memorial Building

**Check out our Classifieds!**  
**So many bargains!**

**Holy Week Schedule For ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2**  
 MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: 7:00PM

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3**  
 CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: 3:00PM  
 CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: 7:00PM

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4**  
 EASTER VIGIL: 8:30PM

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5**  
 MASSES ARE AT:  
 7:30AM, 9:00AM & 11:00AM

**SPRING CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW**

March 28<sup>th</sup> • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Holiday Mall • Hwy 2 & 20 • Devils Lake, ND

Don't miss this "ONE DAY ONLY" event!

For more information, please call:  
 Beckie 701-662-8165

**Nodak Electric Cooperative**  
 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
 Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
 Meal 5pm | Meeting 6pm  
 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks