



# Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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## Inside...

Savvy Senior .....	P. 2
Reminiscing .....	P. 3
Tappen News .....	P. 4
Coming Events .....	P. 5
Baseball .....	P. 11&12
Legals .....	P. 15,16,17
Classifieds .....	P. 18
Manor Musings .....	P. 19

## KC Angels still at work to benefit KC residents in need

By Richard Paolinelli

The Kidder County Angels and First Community Credit Union will be presenting the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden & Taxidermy Tour on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at David DeVore's property just south of Dawson.

The eight-hour event begins at 10 a.m. and allows visitors to tour the large gardens covering the property as well as view over 60 animals on display inside. It is free to attend but donations will be accepted toward helping the Kidder Angels mission.

That mission is to raise funds and distribute them to Kidder County residents in the form of vouchers to cover the cost of gas, or a bus fare, for anyone needing to travel for medical issues. The vouchers are good for up to \$75 for each single use and all of the gas stations in the county participate in the program.

The Angels were formed over 13 years ago after a Relay for Life event was held in Kidder County. The six-member board is comprised of one person from each of the county's towns. Barbara Heaton represents Steele, Robin Rewald represents

Pettibone, Peggy Erickson is from Tappen, Donna Morrison is from Robinson, Judy Landenberger is from Tuttle, and Dawson is represented by Barbara Harpole.

Having a member from each town is a huge bonus.

"With one of us in each city," Heaton said, "we usually hear about someone who could use a voucher. But we don't hear about everyone." Most applications for vouchers are received from someone on another person's behalf, although a person needing a voucher can apply for themselves.

"The application process is simple," Erickson said. The only qualification needed to apply is that there is an on-going medical issue requiring travel for treatment. An applicant's financial situation is not factored into approving an application.

"It's not based on finances," Rewald said. "We don't want to know anything about (an applicant's) finances." When the Angels first began, they were unsure exactly how much they could raise and distribute. "We really didn't know," Rewald said. "We were hoping to be able

to give someone two vouchers a year." Up until this year, the Angels had been approving up to eight vouchers per person. This year, they raised that up to a maximum of 12 vouchers per person. "It's beyond my wildest

dreams," Rewald said. "Every year it seems like there's more need for this and we've been able to meet it."

From 2020 through 2025, the Angels issued 2,050 vouchers, with 2024's 394 vouchers being

the high for that time frame. Already in 2026, they've issued 270. Erickson estimated around \$20,000 in vouchers were issued in 2025.

They have been able to do so through donations like those received via events like the

(See "Angels" on page 10)



Taxidermy on display at the David DeVore farm. DeVore graciously opens his home and yard to the KC Angels to help with fundraising. It is a must see.

## School Board holds final meeting of school year

By Richard Paolinelli

The Kidder County School Board wrapped up the 2025-26 school year on Monday night with its final meeting of the school year.

It was the final meeting for

Jeff Schmidt, whose term ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Schmidt did not run for re-election earlier this month. The board canvassed the ballots from the June 9<sup>th</sup> election after reviewing and approving the agenda, bills, and financial reports.

Schmidt will be replaced by Joe Sutherland, who won by 107 votes. Justin Olson, who replaced the late Jason Schmidt last fall, won his bid for election by 104 votes. Both men will serve three-year terms.

Sutherland's term will begin with the July meeting, slated for July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. He was in attendance as a spectator for Monday's meeting.

(See "School Board" on page 3)

## BNSF Honors America's 250th with Three Commemorative Locomotives



President Donald Trump is visiting North Dakota on Wednesday, July 1, to dedicate the new Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora. However, he is flying into the state on the new Air Force One aircraft rather than taking a train.

While the President is flying, a specialized BNSF "O Train"—featuring uniquely painted heritage locomotives (BNSF 250, 1776, and 2026)—is traveling across the state to commemorate the library's dedication. The train's route brings it through major North Dakota locations, including Fargo, Jamestown, Steele, Mandan, and Dickinson, before it reaches the Medora area. The train went through Steele last week.

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