

## Benson County Calendar of Events

**Saturdays:** Coffee, Esmond Museum, 7:30 - 10 a.m.  
**Second Tuesdays:** Golden Age Club Meeting, Esmond FH, 2 p.m.  
**Third Wednesdays:** Maddock Renaissance/125th Planning Committee Mtgs., Mdk. CC, 5:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 25:** Christmas Dinner, Ostby Hall, Sheyenne, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Jan. 14:** Barb Solberg Presentation, Maddock Community Library, 10:30 a.m.  
**Feb. 22:** 4-H Pancake Feed, BCEC, Maddock  
**April 12:** 4-H Communication Arts Event, BCEC, Maddock  
**July 7-9:** 4-H Achievement Days, BCEC, Maddock  
**Weekend of Aug. 1:** Maddock Renaissance Festival/125th Celebration



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Keith Streyle, Rick Darling &  
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## Landowners asked to keep rights-of-way clear of snow

The ND Department of Transportation reminds landowners not to push snow into the right-of-way or ditches on state highways. This includes the roadway, ditch bottom and backslope of the roadway. State law prohibits a person from obstructing any public highway or right-of-way. Keeping the ditches and right-of-way clear reduces the risk of snow drifting on state highways, creating better visibility for motorists and providing room for future snowfall. For more information on transportation, visit [dot.nd.gov](http://dot.nd.gov).

## ND Farmers Union holds annual convention

The election of a new state president capped off ND Farmers Union's 99th annual state convention December 12-13 in Bismarck. Matt Perdue, a farmer from Ray, was elected to lead the state's largest general farm organization. He is just the 10th person to hold that leadership position, and the youngest at age 33. Perdue previously worked at NDFU and National Farmers Union, where he advocated for family farmers and ranchers. Former NDFU President Mark Watne did not seek reelection to the post. Over the two-day event, more than 600 members enjoyed speakers, breakout sessions,

a tailgate party, youth activities and more. Speakers included National Farmers Union President Rob Larew, Gov. Kelly Armstrong, Rep. Julie Fedorchak, Sen. John Hoeven, geopolitical analyst Jacob Shapiro, constitutional expert Jon Bouker, and Miss North Dakota 2025 Kennedy DeLap. The Agraria Mutual Group (dba Farmers Union Insurance Company) also held its 82nd annual meeting in conjunction with the NDFU state convention. Jon Iverson of Langdon was reelected District 1 director for Benson, Cavalier, Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Towner and Walsh counties.

## Spearfishing registration

Individuals required to possess a valid fishing license (age 16 and older) to darkhouse spearfish must first register online at <https://apps.nd.gov/gnf/onlineservices/lic/public/myGNF.htm>. Darkhouse spearing is allowed for all anglers with a valid fishing license and for youth under age 16. Northern pike and nongame fish are the only legal species statewide, while walleye can be speared at Stump Lake and the Devils Lake complex south of US Highway 2 and the Missouri River System (including lakes Oahe and Sakakawea and the Missouri River) up to the first tributary bridge.

### Weather report

MADDOCK				
Reports from the NDSU ND Agricultural Weather Network station at Maddock for the 24-hour period each day.				
Date	High	Low	Precip.	
Dec. 8	27	3		
Dec. 9	27	15	.24	
Dec. 10	27	7	.01	
Dec. 11	18	9	.04	
Dec. 12	9	-10	.01	
Dec. 13	-3	-14		
Dec. 14	20	-13		

### Weather report

BAKER				
Reports from the NDSU ND Agricultural Weather Network station at Baker for the 24-hour period each day.				
Date	High	Low	Precip.	
Dec. 8	25	2		
Dec. 9	30	14	.24	
Dec. 10	14	5	.01	
Dec. 11	16	5	.05	
Dec. 12	5	-12		
Dec. 13	-5	-17		
Dec. 14	19	-16		

## SUDOKU

3	5		1		9	2	6	
					5			8
1	9			8		5		3
				2		6		
2	1	5			4			
6		3	5			8		1
4		2			8		9	
	6	1				4		
	8							2

Level: Beginner

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## Bohl earns Torchbearer Award

ND Farmers Union bestowed its highest youth achievement honor -- the Torchbearer Award -- on Bryant Bohl of Knox at the organization's 99th state convention, held December 12-13 in Bismarck. The award recognizes students for their involvement in Farmers Union's youth education program and requires five years of senior class work (grades 7-12) to enhance communication, leadership and teamwork skills, as well as business knowledge of cooperatives.

Twelve young people earned the award. As Torchbearers, youth pledge with a courageous heart to practice tolerance and brotherhood for all, and to help "light the way to a peaceful world." Farmers Union operates one of the largest grassroots youth programs in the nation. Close to 1,200 students, both rural and urban, annually participate in NDFU summer camps and educational classes. For more information, go to [ndfu.org](http://ndfu.org).

## Apply for NP Electric scholarship by January 31

Sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) is offering two \$1,250 scholarships to dependents of NPEC members for the 2026-27 school year. Basin Electric is a consumer-owned and -controlled regional cooperative responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to nine Midwestern states. Each of the 141 rural electric cooperatives that make up Basin Electric, including NPEC, receives \$2,500 from Basin Electric to award scholarships to qualifying dependents of NPEC members who will be enrolled as a college freshman or college sophomore for the upcoming school year. The scholarship program, which is in its 35th year, recognizes and encourages the academic achievements of students in the region. It also serves as

an investment in the economic future of rural areas. Applicants for the scholarship must be a high school senior or college freshman enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2026. Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, an outside appraisal and a written essay. Scholarship applications must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2026. For more information and a scholarship application form, visit <https://nplains.com/scholarship> or call 1-800-882-2500.

## DOCR announces grants for correctional facilities

The ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (ND DOCR) has announced the nine subrecipients of the Breaking the Cycle Grant (formerly known as Correctional Facility Grant Program), a groundbreaking initiative designed to enhance programming and reentry services provided at regional, county and tribal correctional facilities. This funding opportunity is made possible through an appropriation autho-

rized by the 69th ND Legislative Assembly with House Bill 1549. In this area, grant recipients were the Lake Region Correctional Facility in Devils Lake and the Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center in Rugby. The program focuses on intervention and service delivery within jails, recognizing that support during incarceration and reentry is vital to reducing recidivism and strengthening public safety.

The grant is a competitive process based upon agency and general eligibility requirements, including submission of a complete application, contract and required certifications, and a goal-oriented project or plan showing progress, enrichment or expansion of reentry programming and services. More information on the grant can be found at [www.docr.nd.gov/grantsfunding](http://www.docr.nd.gov/grantsfunding).

## Proposals sought for Lohnes Township art

Arts Across the Prairie (AAP) is a first-of-its-kind, statewide creative placemaking program developed by ND Council of the Arts (NDCA). Eight large-scale art installations will be created that reflect the unique history, landscape and cultural heritage as defined by stakeholder groups in each of these regions. All eight artworks will be placed in decidedly rural locations. The art installations will reference and represent the natural setting, as well as the cultural and economic history of each region. Each of the eight installations will be selected through a request for proposals (RFP) process which includes two phases with separate application deadlines. The first phase is a request for qualifications (RFQ) from artists and/or creative teams. During the second phase, the top three candidates will be asked to submit proposals. The RFP process has been completed in Regions 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 with artists selected and installation plans in development. Region 3 begins with this request for qualifications announcement.

**Region 3: Heart of the Land, Spirit of Unity** There are eight distinct regions in North Dakota. Region 3 is comprised of Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ransom, Rolette and Towner counties. Regional and local leaders from business, arts, education and communities were recruited as stakeholders to guide the development of one artwork and site to be the artistic, historical and cultural representation for the eight counties. Since early 2024, the stakeholders have met to plan the sixth statewide Arts Across the Prairie project. They selected as their project's subtheme the phrase "Heart of the Land, Spirit of Unity." Stakeholders visited many sites, looking for one that could

capture it all -- the water, the farming and diverse landscape, both tribal nations. Ultimately, they selected a site in central Lohnes Township (47°56'55.2"N 98°42'53.8"W). It looks onto immediate surroundings of small watering holes, pastureland and cropland. Looking west, the land slowly drops, offering a stunning vista with Devil's Heart Butte in the distance. **Vision: Heart of the Land, Spirit of Unity** The vision is for a permanent large-scale art installation, and the finalist's proposals should reflect their affection for and attention to place. Rural communities/residents will be living with the artwork for a long time, perhaps generations. The selection process for this project will also require the finalist's ability to teach and share with others as future North Dakota artists are trained in the outdoor installation process. **Who's eligible, timeline** Artists must live in North Dakota, or tribal reservations in South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, southern Manitoba and/or southern Saskatchewan. Those with long-standing commitment to or history with these lands and communities may also be considered.

An artist or creative team may apply, although the total fee for the project will not change. Ideally, one would be an established artist with experience in large-scale outdoor installations and public art and familiarity with placemaking, community work and teaching. The initial submission of materials deadline is Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026. From the submitted applications, only three finalists will be selected to submit project proposals. The selection committee will announce the artist/creative team for the Region 3: Heart of the Land, Spirit of Unity, art project at the end of May 2026.

## Farm succession planning workshop is Feb. 27 in DL

Establishing a long-range plan for the ownership of a family's farm or ranch is the focus of a one-day workshop on succession planning being held Friday, Feb. 27 at Lake Region State College's Hofstad Ag Center in Devils Lake. The free educational workshop is being hosted by ND Farmers Union in partnership with NDSU Extension. Participants in "Design Your Succession Plan" workshops will learn how to start and sustain discussions with family mem-

bers about future ownership and start the process of developing a succession plan. They also will learn how to choose and prepare to work with legal and financial professionals to implement a viable plan. The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch provided. Space is limited. To participate, register at [ndfu.org](http://ndfu.org) or through the NDFU app. For more information, call 800-366-6338 or email [amcclean@ndfu.org](mailto:amcclean@ndfu.org).

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- Train alternative
- Tease
- Former frosh
- Wyoming's — Range
- Valerie Harper sitcom
- Eventually
- Play dough?
- Observe
- Concepts
- Sailor
- Peevish fit
- Hardy lass
- Winner's gesture
- Seaboard
- Sneaky laughs
- Mediocre
- Actress Gasteyer
- Flinch, say
- Gratuity
- Work week start, for many
- Some Algonquians
- Smidgens
- Where the action is
- Family
- Chang's brother

		1	2	3		4	5	6		
		7				8				9
10						11				12
13					14					15
16				17					18	
			19					20		
	21	22				23	24			
25					26					
27				28	29				30	31
33			34					35		
	36							37		
		38						39		
			40					41		

- Solo in space
- City on the Loire
- Apt. divisions
- Breadmaking need
- Norse god
- Decade parts (Abbr.)
- Serena, to Venus
- Eastern "way"
- Snake poison
- "The Woman in Me" singer
- Couturier Chanel
- African bird
- Scene stealer
- "The Meta-morphosis" protagonist
- Asian noodles
- Gawking at
- Giant
- uproar
- Film ratings
- Challenge
- The Big Easy acronym

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(Crossword puzzle answers on Page 8)