

307 PITFIRED -Q- | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he says. “So, my derby hobby funded this.”

“I just wanted to share my food with people,” he says.

But he still needed a permanent kitchen, so a school bus caught his eye.

The 23-foot-long bus came from Faith, S.D., about a year ago after Schmidt saw it advertised on Facebook. He attached a hitch to pull his smoker, which is equivalent to a 250-gallon propane tank.

Using startup funds from M.O.T.T., he and his father then converted the bus to a rolling kitchen, adding sinks, a hot water heater, tables, a refrigerator and a food warmer, and obtaining a mobile food license.

“The reason I did this is the catering brought me this far

and to have my own space to be able do it, more than anything,” he says.

He also plans to set up as a food truck from time to time, tending the smoker nearby.

To barbecue beef, pork or chicken, Schmidt builds a bed of charcoal, then starts adding wood, using locally sourced apple wood and imported oak.

It’s back-to-the-basics cooking, tending the smoker anywhere from 5 to 12 hours for the perfect barbecue.

“Quality is very important,” he says.

“To sit there and hold that at 250 degrees pretty constantly for eight hours is a lot, it’s a chore,” he says. “Your flame moves, your charcoal bed falls through the grates or something and that temp swings just right

now and you have to know what to do to get that back fast. Otherwise, you’re going to have a not great product.”

Schmidt has developed five of his own seasoning blends and four sauces. The sauces include a basic barbecue sauce, a blackberry base that’s slightly sweeter and thicker, a Carolina Gold that uses a mustard base and an Alabama White with a mayonnaise base. Those all started with a base recipe he modified into his own versions.

“I’m always looking to try more,” he says. “I always want to do better. It’s always striving to do better.”

For catering, Schmidt can be contacted at 701-690-8530.



Travis Schmidt found a school bus advertised for sale on Facebook, then converted it into a food truck and catering kitchen for his 307 Pitfired -Q- business. Schmidt officially launched his business in 2023 and soon became the go-to barbecue pitmaster in the area. | PHOTO BY LUANN DART

Wildfire launches season in tourney

The Mott-Regent Wildfire volleyball team started the season by bringing home fourth place from the Killdeer Mountain Volleyball Tournament Aug. 30.

During a full day of volleyball action, the Wildfire defeated Central-McLean, Beach and Bowman County before falling to Divide County and South Heart.

The team continues play Tuesday, Sept. 9, with a home game against Mandaree, then plays another home game against Beach Thursday, Sept. 11.

Killdeer tournament game results include:

Mott-Regent	21	21
Central-McLean	19	17
<i>Ruby Nasset: 1 assist, 2 digs</i>		
<i>Jaycia Thomas: 75% serving, 1 kill, 2 digs</i>		
<i>Emily Manolovits: 75% serving, 2 kills, 9 assists</i>		

<i>Hailey Steiner: 100% serving, 3 digs</i>
<i>Jada Ottmar: 75% serving, 5 kills, 8 digs</i>
<i>Natalie Wiesinger: 100% serving, 3 kills, 6 digs</i>
<i>Allison Grist: 66% serving, 3 kills, 8 digs</i>

Mott-Regent	21	23
Beach	12	21
<i>Ruby Nasset: 2 digs</i>		
<i>Jaycia Thomas: 78% serving, 1 kill, 2 assists, 3 digs</i>		
<i>Hailey Steiner: 100% serving, 5 kills, 2 digs</i>		
<i>Jada Ottmar: 100% serving, 3 kills, 6 digs, 2 blocks</i>		
<i>Natalie Wiesinger: 3 kills, 5 digs, 1 block</i>		
<i>Allison Grist: 67% serving, 11 assists, 5 digs</i>		

Mott-Regent	21	21
Bowman County	15	18
<i>Ruby Nasset: 7 digs</i>		
<i>Jaycia Thomas: 89% serving, 1 dig, 1 block</i>		
<i>Emily Manolovits: 100%</i>		

<i>serving, 7 assists, 7 digs</i>
<i>Hailey Steiner: 86% serving, 1 kill, 6 digs</i>
<i>Jada Ottmar: 80% serving, 2 kills, 4 digs</i>
<i>Natalie Wiesinger: 100% serving, 5 kills, 6 digs</i>
<i>Allison Grist: 100% serving, 2 kills, 5 digs</i>

Mott-Regent	25	14	8
Divide County	21	25	15
<i>Ruby Nasset: 5 digs</i>			
<i>Jaycia Thomas: 83% serving, 3 kills, 4 digs</i>			
<i>Emily Manolovits: 83% serving, 2 kills, 12 assists, 11 digs</i>			
<i>Hailey Steiner: 89% serving, 4 kills, 4 digs</i>			
<i>Jada Ottmar: 83% serving, 5 kills, 14 digs</i>			
<i>Natalie Wiesinger: 100% serving, 2 kills, 12 digs</i>			
<i>Allison Grist: 83% serving, 2 kills, 9 digs</i>			

Mott-Regent	20	12
South Heart	25	25
<i>Ruby Nasset: 3 digs</i>		
<i>Jaycia Thomas: 100% serving, 2 kills, 2 digs</i>		

Cross-country teams compete

The cross-country teams tackled the course for their second meet of the season at the Bowman County Invite Aug. 29.

In the 5,000-meter varsity race, Mott-Regent’s lone runner, junior Kara Roll, placed 27th with a time of 23:09.80.

From the New England team, freshman Hannah Dinius placed 33rd with

a time of 24:31, while sophomore Breanna Erickson placed 46th in a time of 27:07.10.

In the 3,000-meter junior varsity race, eighth-grader Abby Binstock placed 12th with a 14:04. Seventh-grader Patti Kathrein placed 34th with a time of 15:35.50 for the New England team.

Among the New England boys in the 5,000-meter varsity

race, Beau Keith placed 41st with a time of 21:09.80 and Mark Schmidt placed 56th with a time of 27:33.

The teams will travel to the Beulah Hazen Invite Meet Friday, Sept. 5. Next on the schedule will be the Anderson Stavn Meet Saturday, Sept. 13, in Bismarck, then the Becky Wells Invite Meet Thursday, Sept. 18, in Dickinson.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HAVELOCK TOWNSHIP

will have a special meeting to discuss and vote on an amendment to the 2026 Havelock Township budget. The proposed amendment will exceed the legislated yearly 3% property tax increase levy cap.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 24 at the Daren Rafferty residence, 6268 110 Ave. SW, New England, ND

PRIME DOWNTOWN NEW ENGLAND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Roosevelt Custer Regional Council is accepting proposals for the purchase and development of a commercial building in downtown New England. This property was recently deeded to the Council and offers an excellent opportunity for a new business startup, expansion or relocation.

Property description:

- Address: 731 Main Street, New England, ND
- Square Footage: 2,163
- Lot Size: 0.16 Acres (7,144 sq. ft.)
- Layout: Spacious open floor plan with a front office, two bathrooms and a functional utility room. Designed for flexibility, this layout is ideal for a variety of business uses.
- Zoning: Commercial
- Features: Modern commercial building constructed in 2013, featuring large front display windows, steel roof and updated waterheater installed within the past year. Includes rear apartment, alley access and additional parking in the back, along with prime front street parking.
- Condition: Sold “as-is”

Our goal:

While the purchase price will be a factor, priority will be given to proposals that:

- Create jobs
- Enhance the downtown district
- Increase community vibrancy and economic activity

Proposal Requirements:

- Intended business use and community benefit
- Plans for building improvements
- Proposed purchase price
- Evidence of financial capacity

Showings: Available by appointment. Call 701-483-1241 to schedule.

Deadline: Email proposal to Jessica@swnd.org no later than 5 p.m. MST Sept. 15.

Full RFP & Details: Contact Jessica Buer, Roosevelt Custer Regional Council at 701-483-1241 | jessica@swnd.org www.rooseveltcuster.org/commun