

# 'Tis the season for scammers: AARP warns of common holiday scams

The holiday season usually means fun with friends and family, goodwill and giving. Unfortunately, it's also a prime time for cybercriminals to perpetrate fraud. Here are some common holiday scams to look out for this holiday season:

- Onlineshoppingscams.

Criminals create professional-looking websites and ads promoting popular items at steep discounts, but what you receive may be different than advertised – if you receive anything. Be cautious of unusually low prices and avoid clicking on ads in emails, texts or social media. For safer shopping, go directly to a trusted retailer's website or app and pay with a credit card for stronger protections.

- Delivery scams. As holiday packages crisscross the country, scammers send out phishing emails and texts that appear to be from UPS, FedEx or the U.S. Postal Service, notifying recipients about incoming or missed deliveries. Links lead to fake sign-in pages that request personal information, or to sites that may be infected with malware.

- Gift card scams. Criminals steal gift cards in bulk from store racks, collect

the information from the card and return them to the rack for unsuspecting buyers. When the gift card is bought, criminals immediately drain the money. It is safer to buy cards that are kept behind the counter, or directly from the retailer's site.

### Preventing holiday package theft

With holiday shopping – and shipping – comes the risk of package theft. Thieves – often called “Porch Pirates” – steal millions of packages from American doorsteps each year, totaling billions of dollars in merchandise. You can help protect your deliveries with a few simple steps.

1. Opt into delivery alerts, allowing you to track your package and know exactly when items arrive. If you won't be home, ask a trusted person to pick it up, or instruct the delivery person to place it out of sight.

2. Consider requesting a signature upon delivery to ensure your package is handed to someone directly. You can also use alternative pickup options, such as ship-to-store or secure locations offered by major retailers and delivery



services. Locally, the New Rockford Transcript offers UPS shipping services, and customers can have their package shipped directly to our office at 817 Central Ave. for secure pick up during business hours.

3. If you're going out of town, ask USPS, FedEx or UPS to hold your mail and packages until you return. USPS can hold mail for up to 30 days, and FedEx and UPS offer similar vacation hold options.

4. Stay informed and work with your neighbors. Agree to watch out for each other's deliveries and offer to take in mail when needed. Community resources like Nextdoor.com, Crime Stoppers and social media updates from local law enforcement can also alert you to porch piracy in your area.

### Airline call center scams: what to know

With the holiday travel

season fast approaching, scammers are poised to capitalize on travelers needing help with last-minute flight changes and cancellations. Don't let fake customer service derail your trip – or drain your wallet. Here's a few things you should know to stay ahead of airline call center scams.

Just because an airline customer service helpline number appears at the top of internet search results doesn't mean it's legitimate. Fraudulent numbers often surface in search results, and scammers constantly find new ways to make their numbers appear first. To avoid this risk, download your airline's official app. In addition to providing the airline's verified 800 number, the app delivers real-time flight notifications and other important updates.

Be on the lookout for

red flags, such as aggressive tactics pushing you to buy a ticket immediately because “the price will go up.” And if your flight is canceled, you usually do not need to pay to be rebooked. Any “agent” requesting a credit card to do so is likely after your money, not your flight.

### Spot fake charity donation scams

As the year winds down and the season of giving sets in, many people look to support causes they care about – but telling a legitimate charity from a fake one can be tough. While reputable organizations make their year-end push for donations, criminals also take advantage of this opportunity to line their own pockets.

Common signs of a charity scam include requests for payment via gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency, as well as high-pressure demands to donate immediately. Legitimate charities may also encourage timely giving, but they will welcome your support at any time.

To help ensure your donation reaches those who truly need it, do your research. Check organi-

zations on sites such as give.org, CharityNavigator.org or CharityWatch.org to confirm legitimacy and find out how much of the funds are used to serve its stated mission versus overhead and fundraising.

Pay close attention to the charity's name and web address, as criminals often mimic the names of familiar, trusted organizations to deceive donors. Also, be cautious of links in unsolicited emails, texts or social media messages, which can lead to fake donation websites and expose your device to malware.

When you do donate, use a credit card. It's easier to track your contribution, and if your card is misused, you have protection against loss. To avoid feeling pressured by unexpected solicitations, consider having a set list of charities you support. That way, you can give confidently and on your own terms.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at (877) 908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

## Public Notice

### NEW ROCKFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING WIND ENERGY FACILITY SITING PERMIT APPLICATION FLICKERTAIL WIND, LLC

The New Rockford Township Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Friday, December 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Todd Haley's Shop 6853 18th Drive, New Rockford to consider the Wind Energy Facility Siting Permit application submitted by Flickertail Wind, LLC, on November 12, 2025.

The application proposes the construction and operation of up to five (5) wind turbines within New Rockford Township as part of the larger Flickertail Wind project.

The application and all supporting documents are available for public inspection during regular business hours of the New Rockford Township Clerk at (701) 302-0251.

All interested persons may appear and be heard. Written comments will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on December 26, 2025, and should be addressed to:

New Rockford Township Clerk  
602 River Drive  
New Rockford ND 58356  
Published December 8, 2025

### GRANDFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING WIND ENERGY FACILITY SITING PERMIT APPLICATION FLICKERTAIL WIND, LLC

The Grandfield Township Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at Grandfield Lutheran Church, Sheyenne to consider the Wind Energy Facility Siting Permit application submitted by Flickertail Wind, LLC, on November 12, 2025.

The application and all supporting documents are available for public inspection during regular business hours by calling (701) 302-0436.

All interested persons may appear and be heard.  
Published December 8, 2025

### REQUEST FOR BUILDERS To construct a post or steel frame storage building North Dakota State University Carrington Research Extension Center

North Dakota State University requests building contractors for construction services of a post or steel frame storage building in Carrington, ND.

Interested firms may receive bid submittal instructions by contacting the NDSU Carrington REC Director by the following methods:

Telephone: 701-652-2951  
Email: mike.ostlie@ndsu.edu  
Questions regarding the building plans are to be directed to the CREC Director, Mike Ostlie.  
Submittal of bid deadline is 1:00pm local time December 15th 2025, at the NDSU CREC, 663 Hwy 281 N, Carrington, ND 58421.  
Published November 24, December 1 & 8, 2025

### MINUTES OF EDDY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS EDDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE November 4, 2025, 8:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by James F. Allmaras, Chairperson. Commissioners Dave Gehrtz, Glenda Collier, and State's Attorney Ash-

ley Lies present. Amy Wobbema representing the New Rockford Transcript was also present.

Chairperson James F. Allmaras began the meeting by leading the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the agenda with additions – adding VSO update, Fair Board, LEC Report and update on the NDACO Convention. Dave Gehrtz seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes, with amendment to motion regarding the closing of the budget hearing, to include the approval of the 2026 Eddy County budget as presented. Dave Gehrtz seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

The financials, expenditure and revenue budgets of October will be approved at the December meeting.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the following bills, it was seconded by Dave Gehrtz. Roll call vote: Glenda Collier, James Allmaras, and Dave Gehrtz voted aye. The motion carried.

Columbia Township.....	303.70
Pleasant Prairie Twp.....	303.70
Superior Township.....	487.15
Rosefield Township.....	358.09
Colvin Township.....	335.43
Lake Washington Twp.....	344.49
Tiffany Township.....	258.37
Sheldon Township.....	250.41
NR Township.....	628.19
Munster Township.....	570.96
Freeborn Township.....	362.10
Eddy Township.....	219.30
Hillsdale Township.....	208.51
Bush Township.....	294.63
Gates Township.....	362.62
Grandfield Township.....	317.29
Paradise Township.....	360.42
Tolna Fire Prot Dist.....	67.38
Warwick Fire District.....	46.63
NR Rural Fire District.....	105.56
Dak. Prairie School Dist.....	76.23
NR-S School Dist.....	10,380.81
Midkota School Dist.....	485.06
Warwick School Dist.....	97.79
City of NR.....	19,424.17
City of Sheyenne.....	1,915.10
NR City Park Dist.....	2,760.30
Garrison Diversion.....	344.11
ECSCD.....	590.31
State Treasurer.....	117.47
Historical Society.....	54.54
Eddy Co Water Res.....	208.27
CASN.....	1,100.59
McHenry Ambulance.....	122.29
LRDHU.....	19,715.25
Bank Forward.....	27.6
Leaf.....	256.04
Burnn Boiler & Mech.....	72.00
City of Sheyenne.....	110.10
Gilbertson's.....	4,740.00
Info. Tech. Dept.....	1,373.75
Insure Forward.....	35,056.00
Gates River Ag.....	12,828.00
Linde Gas & Equipment.....	293.60
NCZ Express.....	13,720.00
ND Dept. of Trust Lands.....	250.00
ND State Radio Comm.....	120.00
NDTC.....	919.06
Northern Plains Electric.....	228.00
Office of Attorney Gen.....	300.00
Otter Tail Power Co.....	157.46
Transcript Publishing.....	1,371.29
Aflac.....	483.36
Burnn Boiler & Mech.....	3,721.95
Butler Machinery Co.....	2,581.18
CenDak Coop.....	11,008.80
CenEx Fleetcard.....	268.02
Central Bus. Sys.....	369.78
Central City H2O+.....	390.00
Computer Projects of Il.....	300.00
Dakota Dust Tex.....	167.00
Dauenhauer Diesel.....	1,276.23
Do It Best.....	77.38
LRLEC.....	3,690.00
Linderman Const.....	2,100.00
Meehan Machine.....	269.82
MDU.....	244.51

NR Utility Services.....	377.41
Nodak Electric Coop.....	69.52
Otter Tail Power Co.....	54.90
Quill.....	46.83
Rockin Fitness.....	600.00
Steins.....	473.57
US Records Midwest.....	1,542.63
Westad Auction & App.....	708.75
Midkota School Dist.....	1,566.10
Eddy Co. Council on Aging.....	234.94
Adam Fleming.....	40.00
AT&T Mobility.....	574.88
Becki Schumacher.....	110.69
Bill Smith.....	40.00
Brady, Martz & Assoc.....	17,587.50
Cenex Fleetcard.....	546.72
Central Plains Water.....	355.84
Close Const. Co.....	7,847.50
Corey Longnecker.....	40.00
David Allmaras.....	65.20
Dell Marketing.....	726.57
Donna Young.....	69.50
Elite Spraying.....	1,971.25
Gates Township.....	500.00
J&J Striping.....	2,000.00
Jerry Schuster.....	40.00
Kathy Anderson.....	975.00
Leon Hoyt.....	2,150.00
Levi Rue.....	60.30
Lucas Walter.....	76.40
Mike Schaefer.....	40.00
Miller's Fresh Foods.....	106.37
MDU.....	475.92
NDSU Extension.....	10,077.09
Northwest Iron Fireman.....	410.00
Off. of State Tax Comm.....	535.23
One Call Concepts.....	4.50
Otter Tail Power Co.....	904.95
RDO Equipment.....	984.04
Robert Hanson.....	54.00
Shauna Laber.....	47.00
Stuart Richter.....	40.00
Thomas Anderson.....	2,250.00
Ameritas.....	248.85
Colonial Life.....	461.25
Elan Financial Services.....	2,047.32
CNDST.....	1,144.16
EFTPS.....	23,753.65
NDPERS.....	32,017.76
NDPERS.....	15,334.46
NDPERS.....	914.00
Payroll.....	73,441.89

Larry Danduran was on the agenda to speak; however, a letter was submitted informing the commission that he would be absent for the November meeting.

Paul White and Wells McGriffert were present to give an update on the Flickertail Wind Project. PRC is continuing to do outreach, have hosted two open houses, and continue to use feedback in the engineering and design work. Permitting is moving forward with getting the permits to townships first that have their own Zoning. Road use agreements are underway, working on consistent 87 plan. Field studies continue, along with field work.

Lisa Thompson, Emergency Manager and Michelle Gilley, Extension Agent were present to discuss a farm mapping system, RFDASH. Rural Firefighters Delivering Agricultural Safety and Health is a program related to training first responders, designed to reduce agriculture injuries and property loss and to promote health and safety within the agriculture sector. Part of the program includes a mapping system, that will need information inputted into it. Emergency Managers and the Extension Agent are going to be tasked with mappings, mailings, and farm visits to obtain the information (with permission from landowners), that will be inputted into the program.

Dave Gehrtz made a motion to move forward with this program for Eddy County. Glenda Collier seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Lisa Thompson discussed SNAP benefits and the possibility of needing an Emergency Dec-

laration due to the government shutdown. Great Plains Food Bank is will be dropping approximately 175 boxes of nonperishable food items in Fessenden, for a distribution on November 10th. If the shutdown continues there may be a need for an Emergency Declaration. Thompson reported that the BIA had requested that a reverse 911 call to all residents be sent out, asking for everyone to keep an eye out for a missing individual. The process was not successfully distributed to those in our area. Thompson will continue to work on improving the list and the process in efforts to make a more successful distribution rate.

Michelle Gilley, Extension Agent discussed the Fair Board. Gilley reported that with the government shut down, the process is at a standstill. Gilley is working on asking for members to join the Fair Board. Gilley will be writing an article for newspaper advising the public that board members are being sought for the new fair board. It was discussed that a 5-member board would be ideal.

Julie Shrock, VSO director advised the commission that all records for VSO office are now digital. Shrock will be advertising for transportation needs to help facilitate veteran travel for appointments. Shrock then requested she be able to work remotely in her position as VSO director. The proposal is being driven by personal and medical needs. It was decided that Shrock would try the remote option for 30 days and give an update back to the County Commission. A program was also discussed to have installed on Julie's computer that logs her time, place of remote work.

### OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business on the agenda.

### NEW BUSINESS:

A date was discussed and set for the Annual Christmas party. It will be held on December 10th at the Eddy County Shop.

There was discussion on the end of year employee appreciation item. It was decided that the end of year employee appreciation item will be Chamber Bucks this year.

The leaking roof at the Social Services/VSO Building was discussed. Glenda Collier contacted Dean Wallace to go to Social Services to find leak and address.

Glenda made a motion to close the Eddy County Courthouse the day after Thanksgiving. Dave Gehrtz seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

LEC update - Dave Gehrtz gave update on potential cost of jail project, a vote of the people in Ramsey County may potentially be on the ballot in June.

Update was given by Glenda Collier on the NDACO convention, 12 resolutions were voted on to move forward. The CAP was discussed, elections were held. Overall very good convention.

Announcements: none.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned 10:05 A.M.

The next regular meeting will be December 2, 2025 at 8:30 A.M.

James Allmaras,  
Chairperson  
Becki Schumacher,  
Auditor

Published December 8, 2025



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**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS.**  
Dr. Nicolai will be out of the office Monday, Dec. 22 through Friday, Dec. 26. There will also be limited staff in office that week.

**Notice of Eddy County Zoning Public Hearing**

The Eddy County Zoning Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 in the County Courtroom of the Eddy County Courthouse in New Rockford, North Dakota to hold a public hearing on an Application for Wind Energy Facility Siting Permit from Flickertail Wind, LLC in Eddy County.

Sign-ups for speaking will open at 8:15 a.m. Each speaker will be given a three-minute time slot to present their testimony. All comments must be pertinent to the Application; must be directed to the Commission as a whole; must not be defamatory, abusive, harassing or unlawful; must not include information that is exempt or confidential; and must not interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting. Individuals will only be able to sign themselves up for speaking and cannot yield their allotted time to any other person. At the end of one hour, testimony will close and the Commission will decide on its recommendation of approving or denying the application to the Eddy County Commission.

Residents that aren't able to attend or don't wish to present in person may present written statements to the Zoning Commission by mail to the Eddy County Auditor at 524 Central Avenue, New Rockford, ND 58356 by postmark no later than December 15, 2025. Comments will not be read at the public hearing, but may be taken into consideration by the Commission.

A copy of the Application is available on the County website and is available for inspection with the Eddy County Auditor in the County Courthouse during normal business hours.