



Matt Henson / WDAY News
Walsh County's 50-year-old jail is considered beyond repair and could be forced to close within a year.

Walsh County explores use of sales tax for jail project

County may still use \$11M in sales tax revenue despite failure of property tax measure

BY MATT HENSON
WDAY

GRAFTON, N.D. — Walsh County officials are exploring how to proceed after voters approved a sales tax increase, but rejected a property tax hike, in last week's special election to fund a new \$42 million jail in Grafton.

Both tax measures needed to pass for the project to move forward, but with only the sales tax approved, there was uncertainty over whether the funds could still be used.

Sheriff Ron Jurgens told the County Commission on Tuesday, May 20,

that the Walsh County state's attorney believes the sales tax revenue can legally be used for jail construction or improvements to the sheriff's office.

"We are fairly confident we can utilize the sales tax revenue as long as it is for the state purpose of constructing the jail and/or sheriff's office," Jurgens said.

The half-cent sales tax is expected to generate about \$11 million. One option being considered is the construction of a holding cell, especially as the state is expected to soon shut down the current aging facility.

"We will discuss what, if any, options we have with the funds that we do have available to us," Jurgens added.

County commission members declined further comment until election results are finalized next week.

Reach WDAY reporter Matt Henson at mhenson@wday.com.



Mike McGurran / WDAY News
Humane Society of Otter Tail County is starting its \$2M expansion as they temporarily move to West Lincoln Avenue, hoping to reopen next week.

Humane Society in Otter Tail Co. starts \$2M expansion

BY MICHAEL MCGURRAN
WDAY

FERGUS FALLS, Minn. — The Humane Society of Otter Tail County is temporarily closed this week as it begins a nearly \$2 million expansion of its current facility.

Staff are relocating to a temporary site on West Lincoln Avenue while construction begins. The project will add new features to improve operations, including a designated meet-and-greet space and additional medical facilities.

"It's tough when you don't have a dedicated meet-and-greet space," said Chris Cannon, executive director of the Humane Society. "You want to show those animals in the best light

possible. And it's kind of tough when you're out in the lobby, and it's also a retail space or intake area, phones are ringing. It causes lots of distractions and chaos."

Cannon said they hope to be operating from the temporary location by next week.

"The plan is really just to kind of focus on those animals," Cannon said. "I mean, we're not adding more kennels. We're trying to increase, like I said, our efficiencies to get animals out and make this space better for animals that we have."

The expansion is expected to take 10 to 12 months to complete.

Reach WDAY reporter Michael McGurran at mmcgurran@wday.com.



Anna Paige / The Forum
RedHawks shortstop Michael Hallquist (left) and closing pitcher Alex DuBord visit with kindergartners on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at Eagles Elementary School in south Fargo. DuBord, a South High School graduate, and Hallquist, a North High School graduate, read a couple children's books about baseball, answered questions about the sport and signed autographs for the students. "The biggest thing is if you like what you're doing, and you do your best," said Hallquist. "You do your best at school, and we do our best at baseball. Even though we make mistakes sometimes, it's okay."

Moorhead THC shop owner fears closure as tribal dispensary opens

BY MATT HENSON
WDAY

MOORHEAD — A White Earth Nation cannabis dispensary is set to open this weekend in Moorhead, marking the first marijuana retailer to operate off tribal land in Minnesota.

The dispensary will be located at the former JL Beers site on U.S. Highway 10. It's one of up to eight dispensaries the tribe has been authorized to open outside reservation boundaries.

Tribal leaders say the off-reservation model helps increase access and expands economic opportunities. But not everyone is on board.

Steve Rosenfeldt, who owns Ediblez OTC, a non-tribal THC retail shop just a half-mile down on Highway 10, said he was blindsided by the announcement.

"I'm very nervous for my business," Rosenfeldt said. "Right now, they have an unbelievable advantage against everyone else."

Under current Minnesota law, Rosenfeldt can only sell low-potency THC products such as



Matt Henson / WDAY News
The owner of Ediblez OTC on U.S. Highway 10 in Moorhead fears his THC shop may not survive after learning White Earth will open a dispensary nearby selling smokable cannabis.

gummies, beverages and seeds. In contrast, Minnesota's 11 tribes, including White Earth, can legally sell smokable cannabis. The tribe has been operating a dispensary in Mahnommen since 2023.

"There's a much larger market when you have the smokable stuff," Rosenfeldt said.

Eric Taubel, interim director of the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management, acknowledged disparities in the roll out of cannabis retail but said the state is

working to establish equity through tribal partnerships.

"The reality is everyone is moving toward the start of the market at the same exact time," Taubel said. "Retailers will be able to partner with tribal nations to purchase products from them that may be grown or manufactured on reservation, and that's going to help ensure those early movers actually have the supply they need."

Taubel said 300 applicants could receive pre-approval to open shops

in the coming weeks. The agency has received 3,500 retail applications in total. A market study estimates about 500 cannabis stores will be needed statewide to meet demand.

Rosenfeldt has submitted an application but is concerned about how long he can stay afloat.

"Hopefully, I can just hang on long enough and not bleed completely out before I ever have the opportunity," he said.

Reach WDAY reporter Matt Henson at mhenson@wday.com.

DISPENSARY

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Sunday grand opening," Wilson said.

In addition to Moorhead, the tribe said Tuesday it would be opening a dispensary in St. Cloud as well.

The cannabis shop in Moorhead will be in the former JL Beers bar and grill building at 2902 U.S. Highway 10 on the east edge of Moorhead, which Wilson said has been remodeled into a

dispensary.

The compact Walz signed Tuesday was the first tribal-state compact authorized under Minnesota's 2023 cannabis law.

The agreement outlines how the state and tribe will promote a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship to regulate cannabis and promote public health and safety.

Items the dispensary is expected to sell include cannabis flower — the smokable buds plucked

from a flowering marijuana plant — and pre-rolled cannabis cigarettes.

In setting up the dispensary, the tribe installed extraction equipment that will take cannabis biomass and turn it into CBD oils, tinctures and other desired cannabis compounds.

Some of those compounds can be used to make cannabis gummies, cannabis distillates for vaping cartridges and live resins.

Wilson has said everything that will be for sale at the Moorhead store is grown in Minnesota and grown on the reservation.

The only thing that will be sold at the dispensary that is not made on the reservation is a beverage brand called Minobii, which is Ojibwe for "drink and be merry," Wilson told The Forum in February.

Readers can reach reporter David Olson at 701-241-5555.

The Forum

OF FARGO-MOORHEAD

A division of Forum Communications Company
ISSN 0895-1292 (print) and 2641-967X (digital)
USPS 206-660 | Vol. 146 No. 111
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www.inforum.com
701-235-7311 | 800-747-7311

The Forum is published twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays by The Forum, 101 5th St. N., Fargo ND 58102. Periodicals postage paid at Fargo, N.D., and additional mailing offices.

CONTACT US

Administration

William C. Marcil
Chairman

Bill Marcil Jr., Publisher
publisher@forumcomm.com

Advertising

Classified advertising	701-241-5504
Farmers' Forum ads	701-241-5504
Employment	701-241-5500
All other advertising	701-241-5431

Newsroom Staff

Matthew Von Pinnon, Editor
mvonpinnon@forumcomm.com

Kaity Young, News Editor
kyoung@forumcomm.com

Thomas Evanelle, News Editor
tevanella@forumcomm.com

Angie Wieck, Business, Features Editor
awieck@forumcomm.com

Tom Larson, Sports Editor
talanson@forumcomm.com

State law requires certain public notices to be published in a legal newspaper. The Forum meets the requirements publishing legal notices in North Dakota and designation as a legal newspaper in Minnesota.

NEWS TIPS

news@forumcomm.com,
701-451-5734 or
701-241-5579.

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POSTMASTER

Send address changes to The Forum, 101 5th Street N. Fargo, ND 58102.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Wednesday & Saturday Mail Delivery
+ Digital All Access:
\$377.89 per year / \$34.99 per month

Digital All Access:

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