

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 Mtg., Mdk. CC, 5:30 p.m.
May 4-9: Maddock Community Library Flower Sales, City Garage, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily
May 7: National Day of Prayer Observance, Maddock Memorial Home, 8:30 a.m.
May 7: Harlow Cemetery Cleanup, 1 p.m.
May 9: Scherr 65th Wedding Anniv. Celebration, Minnewaukan Senior Center, 2 - 4 p.m.
May 10: Leeds Park Dist. Mother's Day Brunch, Leeds Community Center, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
May 14: Maddock Arbor Day Celebration, Maddock City Park, 1 p.m.
May 17: Syttende Mai Dinner, Maddock Community Center, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
June 1-4: Vacation Bible School, BC Events Center, Maddock, 9 a.m. - 12 noon (June 4: picnic 5 p.m.)
June 26-28: Churchs Ferry Alumni Ferry Days
July 7-9: 4-H Achievement Days, BCEC, Maddock
July 9: Sip and Putt Wine Walk, Esmond
July 9-12: Esmond's Summer Celebration (The Big One! Esmond 125th B'day, All-School Reunion, EAAA 25th B'day, St. Boniface 75th Anniv.)
Weekend of Aug. 1: Maddock Renaissance Festival/125th Celebration
Aug. 1: Pilots for Christ Fly-in Breakfast, Maddock Airport, 8 - 10 a.m.



UCB Insurance Agency

Leeds, ND • 701-466-2000

Keith Streyle, Rick Darling & Patrick Streyle, Agents

Ballot measure guide being sent to ND voters

The ND Office of the Secretary of State will be mailing out a pamphlet with information regarding statewide Measure #1, which will appear on the June 9, 2026 primary election ballot. The ballot measure guide will be mailed to the households of 450,000 active North Dakota voters. An active voter is a person who has voted in a North Dakota election in the last four years.

The ballot measure guide will also be posted at all voting loca-

tions and on the ND Secretary of State website. It can be viewed or downloaded at www.sos.nd.gov/sites/default/files/documents/elections/2026-primary-measure-guide.pdf.

The new ballot measure guide was mandated by the ND Legislature in 2025 as a result of the passage of Senate Bill 2230, which instructs the Office of the Secretary of State to create and mail out information regarding statewide ballot questions 45 days prior to a statewide election. This guide includes:

- An objective summary of the measure
 - The anticipated fiscal impact of the measure
 - Whether the measure was approved by the Legislature or originated as an initiated or referred petition
 - An objective analysis of a vote in favor and a vote opposed
- "The next election is always the most important election. Our office is a resource for voters seeking a sample ballot, polling location information, and information about the security, accuracy and timeliness of North Dakota's election process," ND Secretary of State Michael Howe said. "The new ballot measure guide provides a way for voters to learn more about what will be on their ballot during this June's primary election."

The ND Office of the Secretary of State will also provide a ballot measure guide before the November 3, 2026 general election.

For more election information, Secretary Howe encourages all North Dakotans to visit vote.nd.gov ahead of each election.



Fort Totten area experiences wildfires April 22-23

Burn restriction in place on Spirit Lake

The Spirit Lake Fire Department and Wildland Fire crews responded to multiple wildfire incidents in the Fort Totten area between the evening of April 22 and the early morning hours of April 23.

A fire reported shortly after 5 p.m. on April 22 -- estimated at approximately 200 acres -- prompted a community alert due to potential risk to nearby homes. That fire was successfully contained and no structures were lost or damaged.

In the early morning hours of April 23, crews responded to additional fire activity, including the largest fire of the incidents, estimated at approximately 900 acres. That fire also posed a risk to nearby structures; however, no homes were damaged. Despite the scale of these incidents, the fires were contained and no residential structures were lost.

Fire Chief Joe Jetty emphasized that current environmental conditions are contributing to an elevated wildfire risk across the region.

"With the current dry conditions, high winds and lack of precipitation, our area is at a heightened risk for wildfire. We are asking the public to stay clear of active scenes and report any fires immediately by calling 911 so we can respond as quickly and safely as possible," said Jetty.

Wildfire season in the Fort

Totten area occurs year-round, with peak activity typically from March through June. In 2025, the Fort Totten Fire Department responded to approximately 200 fire incidents, underscoring the elevated risk during peak months.

Due to ongoing conditions -- including dry conditions, high winds and limited precipitation -- fire danger remains high across the region. Emergency responders have also experienced challenges with individuals approaching or entering active fire scenes, creating additional safety risks.

The Spirit Lake Tribal Council, alongside the Spirit Lake Fire Department, has implemented a burn restriction across the Spirit Lake Reservation.

Under this restriction:

- **Open burning is prohibited** unless authorized by the Spirit Lake Fire Department.
- **A burn permit form must be completed** in person at the Spirit Lake Fire Department, located at 118 2nd Ave. N, Monday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **No burning is allowed at night** under any circumstances, with the exception of recognized ceremonial or traditional practices, which do not require a permit.
- Community members are reminded that **immediate reporting is critical**. If you see a fire, call 911 immediately to ensure a full emergency response.

Food pantry open Wednesdays in Maddock

The Maddock Community Food Pantry will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Wednesday (closed during the noon hour) until further notice. Anyone who would like to make an appointment to come at a different time should call Joann, pantry coordinator, at 438-2738.

Breakfast at Esmond Museum

Breakfast will be served at the Esmond Museum on days when the Esmond Café is closed. For more information, contact Loren Preuss.

York Cemetery seeks funds

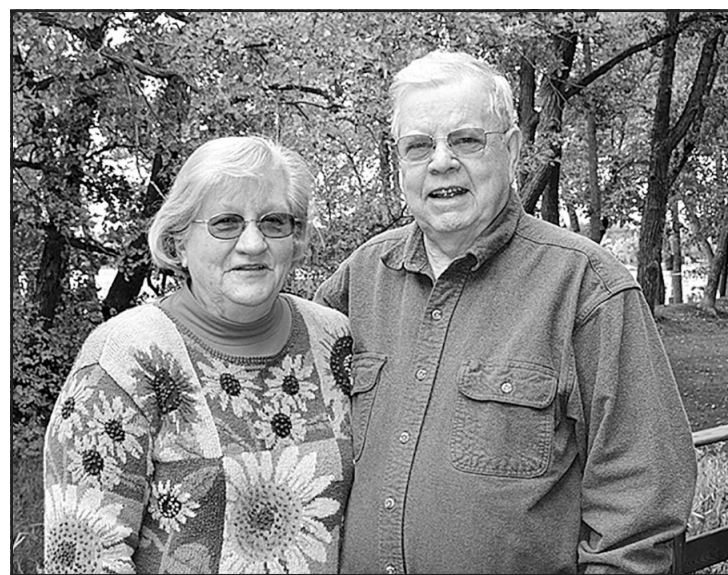
The York Cemetery is seeking donations or memorials to cover upkeep expenses. Jackie Knutson is the treasurer and can be reached at 701-466-2041, or donations may be mailed to York Cemetery, c/o Jackie Knutson, PO Box 145, Leeds, ND 58346.

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Answer key on page 8!

Dakota Attitude by James Puppe



Editor's note: Author James Puppe collected profiles of North Dakotans between 2004 and 2018, covering 617 subjects and 113,000 miles. He has given permission for his book to be serialized in North Dakota newspapers at no charge. To find out how you can read the entire collection of Dakota Attitude profiles, go to dakotaattitude.com.

Gordon and Adele (Rice) Spidah

Interview: Oct. 3, 2017

County: Ramsey

City: Doyon

Visiting My Relatives

Adele was born in May 1941 and grew up in Doyon. "When I was young," she says, "I used to ride along on [my dad's] mail route. He had a little red jeep then. Some of my cousins would go along an' have a grand ol' day. My aunt had the post office an' they get little baby chickens in an' he'd have to deliver them if the people didn't come an' pick 'em up. So that was kind of a noisy ride and kinda stinky."

"When younger, our main thing was riding bike up an' down the middle o' the street. I think our parents never knew where we were half the time. But everybody in town kinda knew where we were an' kept track of us. We knew that the whole town was watching us, so we never got into much trouble, really."

"My friend, Dianne, lived across the street. We'd get on our bikes. Well, this was more in the summer. We'd ride out to the cemetery. I'd introduce her to all my relatives out there. I had grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents [there]. I think she had a few

relatives out there, an' there was a big cement bench that we'd sit on out there. Sometimes we'd take our lunch.

"I knew stories from my parents about all these people, and I probably was made to attend a lot of funerals for the aunts and uncles that were out there. It was outdoors with the sun shining, lot of nice trees, lilacs. It was beautiful out there on the hill."

"I graduated from high school in 1959 -- the last class." Adele married Gordon Spidah shortly after graduating.

Looking back, Adele has positive memories of Doyon. "You are able to see people as they are and not for what they have. Not their job title, not their monetary wealth. We were all kinda in the same boat, you might say, in Doyon, so that didn't impress us."

"I think a lot o' people think of small towns and farms as Hicksville, you know, but I always thought it was fortunate to grow up on the prairies of North Dakota. Doyon will always hold my favorite memories."

DEVILS LAKE'S SURFACE ELEVATION April 27, 2026

1449.92

Feet above mean sea level

One week ago: 1449.79

Two weeks ago: 1448.88

One year ago: 1449.60

2012 high: 1453.66 on May 10

2013 high: 1453.96 on June 27

2014 high: 1453.45 on June 29

2015 high: 1451.96 on June 9

2016 high: 1450.33 on Sept. 25

2017 high: 1451.68 on May 3-5, 9

2018 high: 1449.99 on July 4

2019 high: 1449.13 on June 24

2020 high: 1449.94 on July 8

2021 high: 1448.23 on June 11

2022 high: 1450.62 on July 24

2023 high: 1450.75 on May 31

Statistics obtained from <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/>.

Donate to Fairview

Fairview Cemetery is seeking donations for maintenance and upkeep. Send donations to Carla Newman, 2244 51st St. NE, Fessenden, ND 58438.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- Lopsided win
- Have bills
- Wan
- Golden Fleece ship
- Fix illegally
- Final Four gp.
- Speed
- Teri of "Tootsie"
- Actor Estevez
- Looked closely (at)
- Pitcher Maglie
- Bath powder
- Speed (up)
- Poetic contraction
- Period of rule
- El-Masry of "Star Wars"
- Bro, maybe
- Stair part
- Deeply touched
- Its cap. is Brussels
- "— outta here!"
- "Dream on!"
- Actor Holbrook
- Locust
- Talisman
- Seethe
- Maximum contents
- Diminutive suffix

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			32	33		34	35				
36				37	38		39	40			
			41		42		43	44			
45	46					47			48	49	50
51					52	53					
54					55			56			
57					58			59			

- Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
- Pharaoh's land
- Secondhand deals
- One-named supermodel
- The "A" of UCLA
- "Cheer up!"
- Sun beams
- Shortage
- Carried out
- Verbalize
- Fast runner
- Tibetan monk
- Church section
- Lawn party site
- Confronts
- "— di Lammermoor"
- Pisa farewell
- Driver with a handle
- Jug handle
- Zodiac animal
- Tiny bit
- Utah city
- Comic Philips
- Walk unevenly
- Wrinkled fruit
- Livelihood
- LAX guesses
- Workshop array
- Tease
- Broadway actress Daly
- "My word!"
- "Science Friday" network
- Baltimore baseballers
- Docs' org.
- Humorist

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(Crossword puzzle answers on Page 8)

SUDOKU

		7	3	5	1		9	
5					9	4		
	2		4	7		3		
2	1							
8			6				4	3
3				9			7	
	4	8		3		6		
			8			9	3	
	9				4		8	

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!