



Adler

By David Adler

Hours after ICE agents gunned down—in execution style-- a peaceful Minnesota resident, 37-year old Alex Pretti, in a graphic scene, witnessed, through the recording capacity of smart phones, by tens of millions of people across the world and one carved forever into human consciousness, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi sent a letter to Governor Tim Walz, in which she wrote that “the rule of law can be restored,” if you do the following things. In the letter, Bondi refers to the Trump Administration’s aggressive deployment of immigration agents to Minneapolis—“Operation Metro Surge” -- and asks Walz to surrender detailed information about the state’s voters, including their dates of birth, driver’s license numbers and partial Social Security numbers.

The staid, conservative editorial board of the Wall Street Journal declared that Bondi’s letter “conditions” the rule of law. Minnesota officials agree: Bondi is trying to leverage immigration enforcement to obtain the state’s voter lists. But they have rightly rejected the bullying tactics to coerce surrender of sensitive voter data that the Department of Justice is not entitled to have. While Congress has statutorily vested the federal government with sweeping authority to enforce immigration laws, it has retained for itself, in conjunction with Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution, primary authority over voting laws and policies. The GOP-controlled Congress, which has acquiesced in President Trump’s

~~ We the People ~~

“Pam Bondi Attaches Strings to Restoration of Rule of Law In Minnesota”

aggrandizement of legislative powers, has yet to cede control over the fundamental right to vote, thus reaffirming the wisdom of the framers of the Constitution, who wisely fenced off the executive because of its self-interest in the outcome of elections.

U.S. District Judge Katherine Menedez is alive to this coercive connection. In a hearing involving Minnesota’s lawsuit against the Trump Administration that centers on the surge and violent tactics of ICE agents, Judge Menendez asked a justice department attorney whether Bondi, in her letter, was trying to “achieve a goal through force, which it can’t achieve through the courts.” The government’s attorney denied the connection, but the judge’s question seems rhetorical.

The nature of the surge has raised a host of issues surrounding the First, Second, Fourth and Tenth Amendments. Minnesota contends that the enforcement activities of immigration agents have trampled its 10th Amendment rights and state sovereignty, including its police power authority.

Meanwhile, private litigation is underway against ICE for violating protestors’ First Amendment rights of free speech, freedom of assembly and the right to observe and record the practice of ICE. Fourth Amendment litigation is spot on, as well, as ICE agents have barged into the homes of Minneapolis residents in violation of the protection against illegal search and seizure. ICE officials have entered homes without a judicial warrant.

The Second Amendment has been brought center stage because Mr. Pretti was carrying a firearm in his waistband, in conjunction with Minnesota law and Supreme

Court rulings. Department of Homeland Secretary Kristi Noem, minutes after the shooting death of Mr. Pretti, falsely accused him of being a “domestic terrorist” and “brandishing” a firearm that put the lives of ICE agents in jeopardy. Numerous videos confirm that it was an ICE agent who removed the gun from Mr. Pretti’s waistband. ICE agents were never threatened. A dozen republican members of Congress have called for a “fair and impartial investigation” of the shooting, predicated on the fact that Mr. Pretti was lawfully exercising his Second Amendment right.

The threat to voting rights, reflected in the Trump Administration’s months-long demand for the state’s voting rolls, and Bondi’s letter, is that once these lists are obtained, it will be relatively simply for those in possession of them to intimidate voters. The DOJ has sued about two dozen states for their voter rolls, but judges have yet to rule to in most of these cases. However, a federal judge threw out a lawsuit against California, declaring that the DOJ is not entitled to that information.

Under the Constitution, states are responsible for running elections, although Congress is given supervisory authority. Congress, U.S. District Judge David O. Carter, ruled, has not given the administration the authority “to centralize the private information of all Americans within the Executive Branch.” Judge Carter recognized that possession of the list in the hands of the DOJ “would inevitably lead to decreasing voter turnout as voters fear that their information is being used for some inappropriate or unlawful purpose.”

Turtle Mountain Community High School 2nd Quarter honor roll

‘A’ HONOR ROLL

• **12th Grade** — Akealys Azure, Dallyn Belgarde, Harley Bercier, Miriah Bercier, Houston Boyer, Trenton Bruce, Kaitlyn Brunelle, Ronald Carpenter, Elias Charbonneau, Tiana Davis, Tyler Davis, Scheyer DeCoteau, Tori DeCoteau, Jayda Hajicek, Kiira Hamley, Aubree Jeanotte, Norman LaFontaine, Ashlin LaRocque, Kaden LaVallie, Aisha Nadeau, Harris Reid, Joseph Renault, Jaclyn Schroeder, Elizabeth Talbot, Kennadie Tetrault, Asher Trottier, Evan Trottier, Hallie Trottier, Aubree Vondal

• **11th Grade** — Emily Azure, Makayla Azure, Ayden Bailey, Rowdy Bercier, Ranger Blue, Allie Crissler, Addison Falcon, Malaki Feather, Sophie Frederick, Jennifer Gourneau, Kaylub Gourneau, Austin Grant, Laila Hajicek, Patrick Hall, Caylee Keplin, Rosin Keplin, Ava LaRocque, Alexis LaVallie, Vatel Malaterre, Emberlee Morin, Claire Peltier, Easton Peltier, Kamara Poitra, Karli Poitra, Daisy Rishling-Peltier, Darian Rishling-Peltier, Cheryl Scott-Walking Elk, Lilliawna St. Claire, Naiyah St. Germaine, Ayona Thomas, Keyrah Vandal, Elizabeth Wanna

• **10th Grade** — Carter Azure, Elijah Azure, Samuel Baker, Kyhanna Beston, Molly Blue, Beau Davis, Carter Davis, Gaige DeCoteau, Madison DeCoteau, Tayleigh DeCoteau, Ashtyn Desjarlais, Brody Desjarlais, Zayden Desjarlais, Mhadisyn Enno, Bailyn Frederick, Aryonna Gourneau, Gianna Gourneau, Gracie Harviell, Delane Herald, Kaleb Johnson, Jenner Laducer, Treytin Laducer, Kesli LaFoun-

taine, Jacey LaRocque, Keanlyn LaRocque, Madisyn LaVallie, Lane LeDoux, Dayton Lenoir, Jeremiah Longie, Sage Malaterre, Kruze Martell, Arianna Martin, Briar Martin, Nazhii Martin, Larissa Mathiason, Chloe Miller, Kaesyn Morin, Cherish Parra, Chase Peltier, Dane Poitra, Trevor Poitra, Lincoln Reid, Geriann wanna

• **9th Grade** — Soryn Allery, Katelynn Azure, Kaymbree Azure, Honesty Bercier, Kaylee Bercier, Macy Bercier, Mystie Bruce, Rayleigh Chase, Parker Cottonwood, Jeff Dauphinais, Brayden Davis, Sydnee Davis, Briella DeCoteau, Kaizyn DeCoteau, Noah DeLaGarza, Edward Delonais, Kiana Delonais, Terrina Delong, Zayden Gooden, Hayden Gourneau, Noah Gourneau, Allie Grant, NyAleigh Grant, Garryn Hamley, Sage Johnson, Coyle Keplin, Jayah Keplin, Davin Kuntz, Hunter Laducer, Blake LaFrane, Kaisyn Malaterre, Atayiz Marcellais, Embry Marcellais, Ayasha Morin, Letty Morin, Bentley Olson, Hope Olson, Jaelee Patton, Jaiyer Poitra, Tracen Poitra, Jasmine Schroeder, Kolt Spears, Camri Tillia, Andie Trottier, Autumn Trottier, Saphina Trottier, Piper Vandal, Aiden Vondal, Zhailee Wanna, Liam Zaste

‘B’ HONOR ROLL

• **12th Grade** — Jaxsyn Allery, Airin Azure, Stacy Azure, William Breland, Easton Carrington, Gracie Davis, Calvin Delorme, Autumn Eller, Quinton Giron, Michael Gourneau, Kenley Hamley, Emma LaFloe, Keura LaForge, Kruze LaFountain, Abby LaFrombois, Faith Morin, Ma-

kara Parisien, Mekirah Robinson, Vayla St. Claire, Benjamin Trottier, Raphael Trottier, Ashlyn Vivier, Royce Wilkie

• **11th Grade** — Terrance Aiken, SharVon Allard, Cassidy Azure, Bradley Bruce, Quinle Bruce, Jarrell Champagne, Drako Charette, Danica Dauphinais, LaBraun Davis, Tyler Davis, Tayven DeCoteau, Raeya Desjarlais, Keison Enno, Leila Falcon, Miia Hamley, Nathan Keplin, Khloe Laducer, Hennessy LaVallie, Michael McCloud, Keaton Nadeau, Thailyn Poitra, Adam White, David Wilkie, Irelei Zerr

• **10th Grade** — Gabriel Azure, Jaythan Bercier, Maddilyn Bercier, Summer Crissler, Winter Day, Daryl DeCoteau, Kalleigh DeCoteau, Kiniw DeCoteau, Landin DeCoteau, Zayden DeCoteau, Magestic DuBois, Cohen Grant, Durand Hamley, Ziah Henry, Andre Herman, Kaylee Keplin, Rylen Keplin, Quil LaClair, Honey LaVallie, Karter Poitra, Jack Scott, TyLynn Scott, Emerald Vivier, Israel White

• **9th Grade** — Kendra Azure, Sherry Belgarde, Ethan Boyer, Joseph Champagne, Laveena Charbonneau, Caden DeCoteau, Terryn DeCoteau, Melvin Delong, Kaisyn Gladue, Sara Gourneau, Alex Green, Bryant Keplin, Avery LaFrombois, Laetyn LaFromboise, Darrian Lattergrass, Edward LaVallie, Lexavier Lunday, Daniel Malaterre, Kael Martin, Trayton Nadeau, Texasrose Patnaude, Kye Peltier, Aubrey Poitra, Raymon Pritchett, Tristan Rodriguez, Tatum Rogers, Kobe Short, Alex

Dakota Gardener

Take another look at ficus trees

Varigated rubber trees feature multicolored leaves



McGinnis

Esther E. McGinnis,
Horticulturist
NDSU Extension

The National Garden Bureau designated 2026 as the “Year of the Ficus.” Your first thought might be the weeping fig (Ficus benjamina), the most commonly grown indoor ficus tree. Truth be told, the weeping fig can be persnickety, turning yellow and dropping its leaves. However, the Ficus genus encompasses many lesser-known species and cultivars that are easier to grow.

The rubber tree (Ficus elastica), with its shiny, oval-shaped leaves, is enjoying a resurgence. I am old enough to remember rubber trees being the trendy 1970s plant in the era of avocado-green appliances. New generations are rediscovering this beautiful tropical plant. Recent cultivars feature multicolored leaves with creamy margins, multiple shades of green on the interior, and red new growth.

To keep a rubber tree healthy, place it in bright, indirect light away from vents. In northern states, we can grow it in direct light in an east window. If you notice sunscald on the leaves, either move the plant towards the room’s interior or behind a sheer curtain in a south- or west-facing window. Water the plant thoroughly until water trickles out the



To care for your ficus in the winter, add a room humidifier, keep your ficus away from drafts and don’t over-water. (NDSU photo)

pot’s bottom. Empty any water sitting in the saucer to prevent root rot. Allow the top inch or two of soil to dry between waterings. To keep the plant looking sensational and healthy, wipe the dust off the glossy leaves.

In indoor environments, rubber tree has a tendency to grow vertically without branching. Encourage branching by pruning above a node in spring or summer.

Fiddle leaf fig (Ficus lyrata) is another popular ficus. With its violin-shaped leaves, it is like the fashion model of the houseplant world and graces the pages of many interior design magazines. From personal experience, this ficus requires an experienced plant parent. It is tough to grow in low-light environments and is finicky about watering. If you have struggled with fiddle leaf fig, give Ficus Audrey a try.

Ficus Audrey (Ficus benghalensis) is more forgiving than fiddle leaf and less likely to drop its leaves. Audrey’s leaves look like

a cross between those of rubber tree and fiddle leaf fig. The green oval leaves are shaped more like rubber trees’, and the white leaf veins are reminiscent of fiddle leaf fig. While Audrey is more tolerant of watering mistakes, it is best to adhere to the watering advice mentioned for rubber tree.

Finally, a word of advice for those struggling with weeping fig trees mentioned at the beginning of this article. Treat this common houseplant like a drama queen. Understanding that the tree doesn’t like change is the not-so-secret formula for being a successful ficus parent. If your tree is happy in its current location, don’t move it. Otherwise, it will throw a tantrum and drop its leaves. Try and maintain a consistently warm temperature. In the winter, add a room humidifier to boost humidity, keep your ficus away from drafts and don’t over-water.

All kidding aside, you can find a ficus tree to meet your needs and gardening level.

SECTION 000200

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that

**ROLETTE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
ROLLA, NORTH DAKOTA**

will accept bids for

**LOW INCOME HOUSING REHABILITATION
ROLETTE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
ROLETTE & DUNSEITH, ND**

According to Drawings and Specifications prepared by Michael J. Burns Architects, Ltd., Moorhead, Minnesota, 56560.

Electrical Prime Bids will be received for Electrical Work only.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Architect until **2:00 PM, local time, Monday, February 23, 2026**. Bids must be delivered before the time and date indicated above to Michael J. Burns Architects, Ltd. located at 824 Center Avenue, Moorhead, MN, 56560 where bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Architect will also send out a Teams Meeting invite prior to the bid opening to Contractors listed on the Planholders List that would like to attend the Bid Opening virtually.

Documents may be examined at:

Michael J. Burns Architects, Ltd., Moorhead, Minnesota
FM Builders Exchange, 1010 Page Drive, Fargo, ND
Grand Forks Builders and Traders Exchange, Grand Forks, ND
Bismarck Builders Exchange, Bismarck, ND
Minot Builders Exchange, Minot, ND
Plains Builders Exchange, Sioux Falls, SD
Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX)

All Bidders that would like to be placed on the Plan Holder’s List or secure electronic copies of the proposed Bid Documents shall e-mail: luke@mjbald.com

Envelopes containing bids must show on the front face the Contractor's name, address and be endorsed: “Low Income Housing Rehabilitation, Rolette County Housing Authority, Rolette & Dunseith, ND.”

Each Bid shall be accompanied by two separate envelopes. The first envelope shall contain a Bidder’s Bond in a sum equal to (5%) five percent of the full amount of the Bid, executed by the Bidder as principal and by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned that if the principal’s Bid be accepted and the contract awarded, within ten days after notice of award, will execute and effect a contract in accordance with the terms of the Bid and a contractor’s bond as required by law and the regulations and determinations of the governing board. Per NDCC 48-01.2-05(4) the envelope with the bidder’s security should contain the North Dakota Contractor’s license or certification of renewal issued by the secretary of State. The Contractor must be licensed for the highest amount of his bid combination including alternates. Such license must have been in effect at least 10 days prior to the date of the bid opening.

The second envelope marked “Bid Proposal”, shall contain the two copies of the Bid Form supplied with the Bidding documents or through addenda. The envelope containing Bid Proposal shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda both on the envelope and the Bid Proposal form.

No bids will be read or considered which do not fully comply with the North Dakota bond and license requirements. Any deficient bid submitted shall be resealed and returned to the bidder.

Bid security shall be made payable to Rolette County Housing Authority, Rolla North Dakota. Bid security of the two lowest Bidders will be retained until Contract has been awarded and executed, but no longer than 30 days.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive informalities therein.

There will not be a pre-bid walkthrough.

Published for Rolette County Housing Authority, Rolla, North Dakota by their authority.
Dated this 2nd day of February 2026.
By: Terry Hanson, Executive Director

END OF SECTION 00 0200