

## Dakota Gardener: Take Another Look At Ficus Trees

**By 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 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.

## Helping ND Teens Recover From Human Trafficking, Other Trauma

**By Mike Moen, Prairie News Service**

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and North Dakota youth organizations said for teen survivors, an open ear is just as important as meeting their basic needs.

Whether it is a podcast, Instagram story or a news headline, leaders from a coalition of regional service providers said the steady flow of information is hard to ignore for teens who have been exploited. And if there is a mention of human trafficking or sexual assault, the trauma of past events can come roaring back.

Mark Heinert, executive director of Youthworks of North Dakota, said as part of this outreach, they remind homeless and runaway youth about their many services. He added making them feel safe is a big part of it.

"When youth are in those formative years, those teen years, we often find that they're saying that people aren't listening," Heinert observed. "We see it as our mission to provide that place where they've got their basic needs met, but they've got a caring person to be there with them."

Another statewide group, the 31:8 Project, pointed to its mentorship program for cases involving human trafficking, in which the survivor receives guidance in resuming their education or gaining job skills. Case managers can also accompany survivors to places like the grocery store or a doctor's appointment if they need an added level of comfort.

Heinert stressed such work is not just about helping a young per-

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.

son after a traumatic event. He cited intervention efforts when there are signs a young person is thinking about running away from home.

"We have an opportunity to be able to do more than just react to challenges that exist," Heinert added.

Experts said excessive truancy or a teen hiding food, money and clothing are signs they are at risk of running away.

The latest messaging follows an announcement earlier this month, when six youth agencies shared details about the new ND HOPE Project. Partners are leading a campaign to highlight resources and bolster community awareness of sexual and domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking.

**ND PUBLIC NOTICES**  
just got more

**PUBLIC!**

Now available

- Any notice
- Any time
- On any device

In a new, easy to search, easy to read format.

To find public notices from newspapers across North Dakota, just browse to [ndpublicnotices.newzgroup.com](http://ndpublicnotices.newzgroup.com)

Brought to you by North Dakota's newspapers and

**NDNA**  
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSWIRE ASSOCIATION  
[www.ndna.com](http://www.ndna.com) - 701-223-4897

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
"BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW"

Probate No. 31-99-P-05156  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF MOUNTRAIL COUNTY,  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
EVELYN ARNESON, DECEASED  
**NOTICE OF HEARING  
ON PETITION TO FORMALLY  
REAPPOINT A PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE TO  
DISCOVERED PROPERTY**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Jonathan Frantsvold, of 932 1st Avenue West, Dickinson, North Dakota, 58601, has filed in the above Court and cause a Petition to Formally Reappoint a Personal Representative to Distribute After Discovered Property for the Estate of EVELYN ARNESON. For further information, the Petition, as filed, may be examined in the office of the clerk of the above Court.

Hearing upon said Petition will be held in said Court at the Courtroom of the Mountrail County Courthouse, Stanley, North Dakota, on the 26th day of February, 2026, at the hour of 10:30 a.m., at which time all interested persons may appear and object.

Dated this January 14, 2026.  
KARELL KIMMET BEDDOW PLLP  
By: /s/ Patrick G.N. Beddow  
Patrick G.N. Beddow, #07456  
175 North 27th Street, Suite 1303  
Billings, MT 59101  
406-294-8485  
pbeddow@kklblawmt.com  
Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
N.D. INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
OIL AND GAS DIVISION**  
The North Dakota Industrial Commission will hold a public hearing at 9:00 AM CST Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at N.D. Oil & Gas Division 1000 East Calgary Avenue Bismarck, North Dakota. At the hearing the Commission will receive testimony and exhibits. Persons with any interest in the cases listed below, take notice.

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:** If at the hearing you need special facilities or assistance, contact the Oil and Gas Division at 701-328-8038 by Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA TO:**  
Case No. **32568:** On a motion of the Commission to review the pilot injection project for enhanced oil recovery authorized under Order No. 30288 authorizing Hess Bakken Investments II, LLC, to continue the pilot injection project in the Big Butte-Bakken Pool utilizing the EN-Ortloff #156-94-2635H-4 (File No. 27297) well, the EN-Ortloff #156-94-2635H-5 (File No. 27296) well, the EN-Ortloff #156-94-2635H-6 (File No. 27295) well, and the EN-Ortloff #156-94-2635H-7 (File No. 27294) well located in a spacing unit comprised of Sections 26 and 35, T.156N., R.94W., Mountrail County, ND.

Case No. **32588:** Application of Phoenix Operating LLC for an order amending the applicable orders for the Thompson Lake and Kittleson Slough-Bakken Pools to establish an overlapping 5120-acre spacing unit comprising Sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35, T.159N., R.91W. and Sections 2 and 3, T.158N., R.91W., Burke and Mountrail Counties, ND, authorizing one (1) horizontal well to be drilled in said unit, and/or such other relief as may be appropriate.

Case No. **32597:** Application of Oasis Petroleum North America LLC for an order amending the applicable orders for the Enget Lake-Bakken Pool to authorize up to three wells to be drilled on a laydown 2560-acre spacing unit described as Sections 25 and 26, T.158N., R.93W. and Sections 29 and 30, T.158N., R.92W., Mountrail County, ND, or granting such other relief as may be appropriate.

Signed by,  
Kelly Armstrong, Governor  
Chairman, NDIC  
Feb. 4, 2026

## Dakota Datebook: Unusual Marriage

**By Sarah Walker**

At the end of January in 1929, a rather unusual marriage for two residents of Tappen took place in Steele. The reports circulated around the state: Gertrude Murdoch, the 27-year-old principal and music teacher of the local high school, married Gordon Bell, a 17-year-old sophomore in her school and a student in one of her classes.

At age seventeen, Gordon was considered a minor by four years. Had their roles been reversed, and he was 27, marrying a 17-year-old girl, she would have been a minor by one year. In any case, because he was a minor, Gordon's parents had to grant permission for him to marry. They stood by his side as he married his principal. Gertrude had her brother Alex as a witness.

The marriage took place in Steele, and after a short honeymoon, they returned to classes on February 6 as the Tappen school board had "given Mrs. Bell permission to keep her husband in her classes" and to "retain her as principal."

According to the Bismarck Tribune, Dr. J.S. Whitson, a doctor in Tappen, was a friend of the couple, and said that "young Bell will finish high school and then go to college." Other reports flying across the state said the young couple was staying at the Whitson home, but the doctor disputed the claim, noting that his family was out of town and he was simply staying at the same hotel as Mrs. Bell and the other teachers of Tappen school, a situation that "was probably responsible for the error."

It was perhaps something of a scandal, but it might have been topped by a similar story that appeared in the Tribune the same day: two Renville County farm couples divorced, then traveled to Manitoba where they swapped spouses and were married in a double ceremony!

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
"BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW"

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
MOUNTRAIL COUNTY  
STANLEY, NORTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY ROUTE 2 HMA  
SURFACING**

**General Notice**  
**MOUNTRAIL COUNTY** (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:  
**COUNTY ROUTE 2 HMA  
SURFACING  
PROJECT NO. 02(64)25**

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the **Mountrail County South Complex** located at **8103 61<sup>st</sup> Street NW, Stanley, ND, until Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 2:00 pm** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

Sliver widening, aggregate base/reshaping existing aggregate base, and hot mix asphalt on 6.7 miles of County Route 2 beginning at County Route 3 (74<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW) and ending at County Route 11. The project will include the following approximate quantities: Borrow-Excavation - 60,000 CY; Aggregate Base Course CL 5 - 25,000 Tons; Superpave FAA 42 - 30,000 Tons; PG58H-34 Asphalt Cement - 1,700 Tons; Pipe Conduit 24IN-Approach - 600 LF; Pipe Conduit Jacked or Bored (multiple sizes) - 200 LF; Cured-In-Place Pipe (multiple sizes) - 2,000 LF.

The project has a date for substantial completion of **October 3, 2026**.

**Obtaining the Bidding Documents**  
Bidding Documents may be viewed and ordered online at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com) utilizing Quest project #10028809. QuestCDN can be contacted at (952)233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in free membership, downloading and working with the digital project information. The cost to download the bidding documents will be \$50.00.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

Sauber Engineering Inc.  
2401 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Suite 110  
Mandan, ND

Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the website listed in this advertisement.

**Instructions to Bidders**  
Bid will be submitted on the basis of cash payment for the work and materials. The owner intends to award a single (1) Contract on the basis of the low bid submitted by a responsible and responsive bidder for the aggregate sum of all bid items for the project.

Each bid must be accompanied by a separate envelope containing the contractor's license and bid security. The bid security must be a sum equal to five (5) percent of the full amount of the bid and must be in the form of a bidder's bond. The bond must be executed by the bidder as principal and a surety, conditioned that if the principal's bid is accepted and the contract awarded to the principal, the principal, within 10 days after the notice of award, shall execute a contract in accordance with the terms of the bid and the bid bond and any condition of Mountrail County.

The bidder must be licensed for the full amount of the bid as required by sections 43-07-07 and 43-07-12 of the North Dakota Century Code.

No bid will be read or considered that does not fully comply with requirements pertaining to bid security and contractor's license.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance and payment bond in the full amount of the contract.

Mountrail County reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in any bid, rebid the project until a satisfactory bid is received and accept the bid most favorable to the County.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

**This Advertisement is issued by:**  
Owner: **Mountrail County**  
By: **Trudy Ruland**  
Title: **Chairman, Board of County Commissioners**  
Date: **January 20, 2026**  
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 2026

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
"BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW"

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**00030**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City of Parshall, North Dakota, will receive sealed Bids at the Office of the City Auditor until **February 19, 2026** at the hour of **11:00 AM CDT**, for the purpose of furnishing all materials, labor, equipment and skill required for the construction of the 2026 **PARSHALL STREET IMPROVEMENTS** and incidental items, for said City, as is more fully described and set forth in the Plans and Specifications which are now on file in the office of the City Planner. Bids will be opened at Parshall City Hall at **11:00 AM CDT** and read aloud.

The Work for each contract is generally described as follows:

**BASE BID General Construction - Seal Coat and Street Reconstruction:** Work consists of bonding, mobilization, erosion control, and seal coating on multiple streets within the City of Parshall, consisting of approximately 184,664 square yards; preparation of street surfaces for work being performed; protection of concrete pavement, curb & gutter, valley gutters, and water and sewer utilities from seal coat operations; 1,493 square yards of asphalt pavement; 1,493 square yards of aggregate base; 1,493 square yards of geotextile fabric; 130 square feet of concrete valley gutter; 8,488 linear feet of pavement markings; traffic control and other miscellaneous and incidental items identified in the construction documents are also included.

**General Construction, Alternate 1 - Asphalt Patching:** Work consists of bonding, mobilization, and construction of three asphalt patches within the City of Parshall, consisting of approximately 500 square yards of asphalt pavement; 500 square yards of aggregate base; 500 square yards of geotextile fabric; 34 square feet of concrete sidewalk; 27 linear feet of concrete curb and gutter; 1 detectable warning panel; traffic control and other miscellaneous and incidental items identified in the construction documents are also included.

**General Construction, Alternate 2 - Asphalt Patching:** Work consists of bonding, mobilization, and construction of two additional asphalt patches within the City of Parshall, consisting of approximately 456 square yards of asphalt pavement; 456 square yards of aggregate base; 456 square yards of geotextile fabric; traffic control and other miscellaneous and incidental items identified in the construction documents are also included.

Complete digital project bidding documents, pursuant to which all labor, materials, or services must be furnished, are available at [www.AE2S.com](http://www.AE2S.com) or [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com). You may download the digital plan documents for Twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) by inputting Quest project #10026706 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. Copies of the Bidding Documents may be examined at the office of Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, LLC (AE2S), 601 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Suite 102, Minot, ND 58701 (701 852-4048). The Bidding Documents are available in the form of printed plans and specifications by request from AE2S, 3101 Frontage Road South, Moorhead, MN for a **NON-REFUNDABLE** charge of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for each set of Plans and Specifications requested. Bidding Documents may also be examined at the following locations: Builders Exchanges in Bismarck, ND; Mandan, ND; Minot, ND; Fargo, ND; Grand Forks, ND; Rapid City, SD; Minneapolis, MN. All Work shall be done according to the Bidding Documents.

All Bids are to be submitted on the basis of cash payment for the Work and materials, and each Bid shall be accompanied by a separate envelope containing a Bidder's Bond, payable to the City of Parshall, in a sum equal to five percent (5%) of the full amount of the Bid, executed by the Bidder as principal and by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota, conditioned that if the principals' Bid be accepted and the contract awarded to him, he, within fifteen (15) days after Notice of Award, will execute and effect a Contract in accordance with the terms of his Bid and a Contractor's Bond as required by the laws of the State of North Dakota and the regulations and determinations of the City Commission of the City of Parshall, North Dakota.

All Bidders must be licensed for the highest amount of their Bids, as provided by Section 43-07-05 of the North Dakota Century Code. Cost of preparation of Bids by Bidder.

Contracts shall be awarded on the basis of the low Bid submitted by a responsible and responsive Bidder deemed most favorable to the City's interest.

All Bids shall be contained in a sealed envelope plainly marked showing that such envelope contains a Bid for the Project. In addition, the Bidder shall place upon the exterior of such envelope the following information:

1. The Work covered by the Bidder (General Construction).
  2. The name of the Bidder.
  3. Separate envelope containing Bid Bond and a copy of Contractor's License or Renewal Certificate.
  4. Acknowledgement of all Addenda.
- Bids shall be delivered or mailed to:  
Attn: City Auditor  
City of Parshall  
PO Box 159  
23 N Main St  
Parshall, ND 58770

The City of Parshall reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive any informality in any Bid, to hold all Bids for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of opening Bids, and to accept the Bid deemed most favorable to the interest of the City. After the Bid opening the Owner will return Bid Security of all except the three lowest responsible Bidders. When a Contract is awarded, the remaining unsuccessful Bidder's Bonds will be returned.

The Work on the improvements shall be completed and ready for Final Payment no later than September 30, 2026, with a substantial completion date of September 15, 2026. Should the Contractor fail to complete the Work within the time required, as set forth in the Agreement, or within such extra time as may have been granted by formal extensions approved by the City and Engineer, there shall be deducted from any amount due him the sum of \$1,000.00 per day as compensation to the City for each day and every day that the completion of the Work is delayed. The Contractor and his surety shall be liable for any excess. Such payment shall be as and for liquidated damages and not as a penalty.

All Bidders are invited to be present at the public opening of the Bids.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2026.

By: /s/ Kelly Woessner, City Auditor  
Parshall, North Dakota  
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 2026

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
"BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW"

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative Case No. PU-25-283**  
**Wheelock to Saskatchewan 230kV Transmission Line**  
**Siting Application**

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative Case No. PU-25-284**  
**Tande to Saskatchewan 230kV Transmission Line**  
**Siting Application**

**NOTICE OF CONSOLIDATED HEARINGS**  
On November 4, 2025, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) filed an application with the Public Service Commission for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit for a 53-mile 230-kV electrical transmission located in Divide and Williams Counties, North Dakota. The project will originate at the Wheelock substation near Ray, ND and terminate at the Canadian border near Crosby, ND.

Also on November 4, 2025, Basin filed an application with the Public Service Commission for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit for a 58-mile 230-kV electrical transmission located in Burke, Divide and Mountrail Counties, North Dakota. The project will originate at the Tande substation near Tioga, ND and terminate at the Canadian border near Crosby, ND. These projects will be consolidated for the purpose of hearings only. Both routes are shown on the attached map.

On November 11, 2025, Basin filed amended applications containing minor corrections to both cases.

**Consolidated Public Hearings on the applications in Case Nos. PU-25-283 and PU-25-284 are scheduled for March 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time at the Divide County Courthouse, 200 North Main, Crosby, ND 58730 and March 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time at the Ray Auditorium, 215 Main Street, Ray, ND 58849.**

The issues to be considered in the application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and a route permit are:

1. Will construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility at the proposed location produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Is the proposed facility compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility at the proposed location minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota, 1-800-366-6888TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission at least 24 hours in advance.

**Issued: January 28, 2026**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**Brian Johnson, Executive Secretary**

**Tande/Wheelock to Saskatchewan  
230-kV Transmission Project**

**BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

**Map Features**  
Project Substations  
Proposed 230-kV Transmission Route  
Counties

Cases No. PU-25-283 & PU-25-284  
Notice of Consolidated Public Hearing