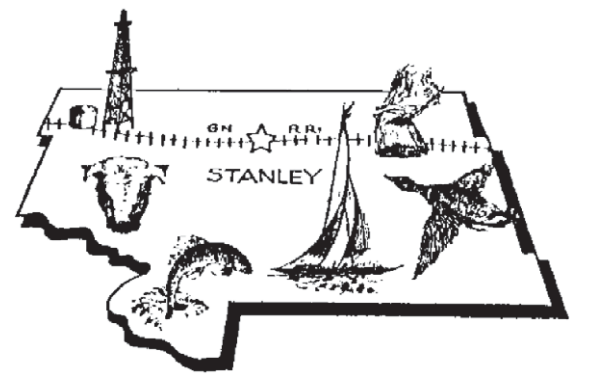


# Mountrail County



OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STANLEY  
AND MOUNTRAIL COUNTY

# PROMOTER

119TH YEAR, NUMBER 43

SINGLE COPY \$1.00

STANLEY, ND 58784

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

## Candidates File For Election

The filing deadline for city, county and state elections was Monday, Apr. 6 at 4:00 p.m. For county and statewide elections, candidates will advance to the June Primary Election. City elections will be final in the election on Tuesday, June 9.

Voters in Mountrail County will see races for the following statewide positions.

Filing for Representative in Congress are Republicans Alex Balazs and Julie Fedorchak, and Democrat Trygve Hammer. Only one of the two Republican candidates will advance to the November general election.

Michael Howe (R) and Ryan Braunberger (D) are seeking the Secretary of State position.

Running for Attorney General are Drew Wrigley (R) and Tim Lamb (D).

Doug Goehring (R) and Vern Thompson (D) are running for Agriculture Commissioner.

Republicans Deven Styczynski and Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, and Democrat John Pederson are running for Public Service Commissioner, 6 year-term. Again, only the top vote-getter of the Republican Party candidates will advance to the November general election.

Running for the unexpired two year term on the Public Service Commission are Chris Olson (R), Jill Kringstad (R), and Scott Kelsh (D). Only the top-vote getter between Olson and Kringstad will advance to November.

Running for Tax Commissioner are Brian Kroshus (R) and Mark Nelson (D).

There are three candidates seeking the unexpired two-year term of the Superintendent of Public Instruction: Charles Tuttle, Levi Bachmeier and Tracy Layne Foss. The top two in the primary election will advance to November.

Seeking election for the Justice of the Supreme Court, ten-year term, are Ariston E Johnson and Jerod Tuffe.

Seeking election for an unexpired eight-year term as Justice of the Supreme Court is Douglas A Bahr.

Three candidates are seeking election to the Mountrail County



Commissioner District 2 position: Beau Vachal, Gary Friesen and Gary Schell. The top two vote-getters will advance to the November election.

In the Commissioner District 3 race, there are also three candidates: Jake Estvold, Troy Walters and Trudy Ruland. Only the top two will advance to November.

One more race will be contested, this time for County Sheriff as Corey Bristol and Joel Shaffett are both on the ballot.

John DeGroot is running unopposed for the County Commissioner District 4. Other unopposed races are Stephanie A Pappa for County Auditor, Amber J Fiesel for County State's Attorney, Melissa Vachal for County Recorder, Jessica Niemitalo for County Treasurer, and the Mountrail County Promoter for County Official Newspaper.

New Town will elect a mayor, with Jay Standish running. They will elect two council members, Frank Sillitti and Jesse Baker on the ballot. Taylor Olson is running for the position of Municipal Judge. They will elect three park board members with Kenneth Hough and Marty Danks on the ballot. The third position will be determined by write-in votes.

The City of Palermo will elect two council members with Kenny Meckle, Kevin Marmon and Robert Hamers on the ballot.

Parshall will be electing a mayor with Kyle Christianson on the ballot.

Two council members will be elected with Barry Martens, Jeff McDougald, Robert Morenski and Roberta Whitman on the ballot. They will also elect two park board members with Chris Kolk and Jacobi Taft on the ballot.

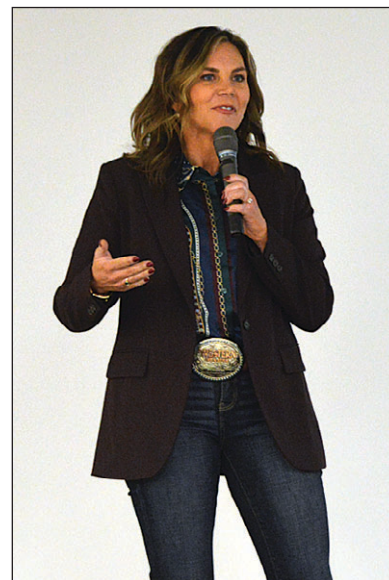
Plaza is slated to elect two council members with just Darrell Salter on the ballot, meaning the second position will be determined by write-in. They also need to fill one park board position with no names on the ballot. That seat will also be determined by write-in vote.

Ross will elect a mayor with Julie Woodbury on the ballot. They will also elect two council members, which will be elected by write-in as no candidates are on the ballot.

In the City of Stanley, Marlin Ranum is running for mayor. With three council seats up for election, Darren LeRohl, Jesse Weyrauch and Kris Halvorson are running. There are also three park board members to be elected with Christopher Schneider, David Brown and Matthew Meiers running. With no candidates on the ballot for municipal judge, that seat will be determined by write-in.

White Earth will be electing two council members for four-year terms with Gary Fladeland and Jerald Ogdan on the ballot. They will also elect one council member to fill an unexpired two-year term with Brenda Rohde and Rebecca Fladeland on the ballot.

## Women In Ag Banquet Held



The thirteenth annual Mountrail County Women in Agriculture banquet was held on Wednesday, Apr. 8 at the Mountrail County South Complex in Stanley. The evening started with a social and time to shop at the various boutiques, followed by dinner and guest speaker Amanda Radke. Music was provided by Ty Taylor and Jerilyn Wiseman this year during the social hour, dinner and after the speaker.

Pam Germundson welcomed everyone to this annual event that celebrates the vital role women play in agriculture and building stronger communities. She said this is a good night to step away from daily life to celebrate the women that are all tied to agriculture in one way or another.

This year's game featured Ladies' Feud, led by Tess Jarmin. This playful take on Family Feud saw two teams of five women trying to find the top answers to questions like someone you might call if you needed advice, something women have now that may not have been common 50 years ago, women from the Bible, things women are better at than men, and something women buy too many of.

This year's guest speaker was Amanda Radke, a fifth-generation rancher from Mitchell, SD, who has been recognized for her extraordinary commitment to advancing agriculture, rural communities, and food security. Radke, alongside her husband, Tyler, and their four children operate Radke Land & Cattle, an Angus seedstock operation. She is the host of "The Heart of Rural America" podcast and radio show, a syndicated columnist, and a children's book author focused on fostering agricultural understanding among youth. As a cattle industry consultant with CK6 and co-founder of the auction platform Bid On Beef, Radke exemplifies innovation in agriculture. She also serves on the National Agriculture Campaign Advisory Council, offering insights to the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee.

She started by talking about the similarities between women in ag as they find their place, purpose and next steps through all of the seasons of their lives. They find laughter in tough seasons. They also find that the lessons learned and the journey along the way write that beautiful



story with meaning and purpose.

Eighty percent of farm families rely on off-farm jobs. That means having a career for many women, along with being up all night calving or running for parts. It comes down to a shared passion for farming and ranching. Nights like this are a celebration of the heart of rural America with farmers and ranchers doing something in service of others.

She tells her story of 2021, which was a season of hardships coming off of the pandemic. In March of 2020 she was slated to go to Louisiana for a conference. At the same time, her husband was looking at his dream tractor in an online auction. She thought they should pause, but he said, "don't worry, you have all these speeches coming up." She flew to Louisiana, but in the middle of her speech, she said she looked at the faces of the women in the room and wondered what she did wrong. As she wrapped up, she found out they were getting texts that schools were closing. What she saw was panic and the terror of it all.

As she got on the plane to head home, she saw the uncertainty and then found out that schools were shutting down at home as well. A year's worth of work was cancelled, but the payments were still there. Everything was falling apart.

As she looked at the challenges, she was asked to speak to a banker's conference. She did not know what message to deliver, but she remembered her and her husband's start in ag. A dream farm came up for sale. She remembers being a scared 22-year-old kid, looking for the funds. She thought she needed to share that story of the farm and ranch families, carrying the legacy and traditions of generations on their shoulders as well as that of the generations to come. They are rooted and connected to the land and feeding the world.

Life slowed down and she contemplated what would be next. She started writing more children's books. She started her website to market them, all from home, and it exploded.

In May of 2020 she was asked to be part of an international conference. She was asked to speak on the optimism in agriculture. At that time, it was mass chaos. She realized that in rural America, though, farmers and ranchers were doing positive

things. They were finding a way to create opportunities.

She also received a call from a man from New York City that she met during her travels. He had questions for her. The first related to stories about zoo animals contracting COVID. He was worried about his daughters and their pet cat. He wanted to make sure they were protected and was thinking about getting rid of the cat. She encouraged him to keep his cat.

His next question was about bare shelves in grocery stores. He wanted to buy ground beef to make burgers, but there was none to be found. He wondered if she shipped beef.

It hit her like a ton of bricks. She said she didn't, but she had friends that did. He found a family from Nebraska and made that connection. It was an "ah ha" moment, when she realized that farmers and ranchers continued to do the work. Solutions were going to come from everyday people. Those people kept that pride, heritage, tradition, grit, hard work and faith, delivering what people need to thrive.

Bid on Beef came from that moment. They had their first auction in Texas, with bidders so excited that bids averaged \$68 per pound. She couldn't believe it, but the program has grown to selling to all 50 states. It is connecting rural America with their story and values to others. It opens the door and invites people into a culture they cannot find anywhere else.

All of these changed their lives, but as a family they were about to change more. Her husband, one day, said he thought they should do foster care. She said no, but then watching the movie "Instant Family" changed her mind. They jumped in and got licensed. Their first call came almost immediately in the middle of the pandemic. They have had over a dozen kids in their home, loving them and teaching them the values and things they hold dear. One of their foster children was adopted and is now part of their family.

As she tells her story, she says that during the hardest times, the way we reach outside of ourselves to others is how we find our purpose.

The annual event is sponsored by the Mountrail County Ag Improvement Association, Mountrail County Ag Agency, and the Mountrail Soil Conservation District.

## Military Gallery Caravan To Visit Mountrail County



The State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation will launch the Military Gallery Caravan, a statewide outreach tour visiting forty-eight communities across North Dakota in April. Foundation Director Dale Lennon will share the vision and progress of the new Military Gallery addition at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum, Bismarck.

The Military Gallery under construction on the State Capitol grounds will honor the service and sacrifice of North Dakotans who serve and have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Lennon will give a short presentation followed by community discussion. Participants will learn how they can share their family's military stories, photographs, and artifacts with the State Historical Society of North Dakota, as well as how to make a financial contribution.

The Military Gallery Caravan will engage veterans, active-duty service members, educators, civic organizations, historical societies, and the public to ensure rural communities have an opportunity to help shape North Dakota's military history.



Locations are based on North Dakota's legislative districts to help ensure broad statewide representation and accessibility. The 69th Legislative Assembly approved a fiscal package supporting construction of the Military Gallery, making this outreach effort an important step in connecting statewide citizens to the project.

"The story of North Dakota's military service belongs to every community in our state. This tour is about listening, learning, and linking every community to a shared

legacy of courage, commitment, and character." - Dale Lennon, State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation Executive Director.

Military Gallery tour dates in Mountrail County are set for Tuesday, Apr. 21 at noon at the Memorial Building in Stanley and Wednesday, Apr. 22 at noon at the Veterans Affairs Building in New Town.

For more information about the Military Gallery Caravan or the Military Gallery project, visit [www.statehistoricalfoundation.org](http://www.statehistoricalfoundation.org) or contact Dale Lennon at 701-471-4014 or [dale@statehistoricalfoundation.org](mailto:dale@statehistoricalfoundation.org).

