



Brandon Kolstad Memorial Coyote Hunt winners (pictured from left to right): Kori Gjovik, Mickey Schmaltz, Mike Schmaltz, Hamilton Enger, Jace Ingebretson, Damon Finley, Brady Schmaltz, Alex Erickson. Not pictured: Keegan Gjovik. Courtesy photo.

## Coyote hunt winners announced

The annual Brandon Kolstad Memorial Coyote Hunt expanded to the 24-hour time period this year, held Friday-Saturday, March 6-7. Twenty-four teams brought in 88 coyotes. Awards were presented at the Wild Things Taxidermy supper on Satur-

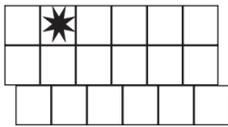
day night. Damon Finley took first place with 22 coyotes, Jace Ingebretson and Hamilton Enger placed second with 12 coyotes and Mike and Mickey Schmaltz brought home third place with 11 coyotes. Kori and Keegan Gjovik won

the little dog award with a 16-pound coyote and Brady Schmaltz and Alex Erickson won the big dog award with a 39.2-pound coyote. This annual event was organized by Matt Ystaas and Taylor Koepplin. This year's sponsors were Andy and

Amy Bachmeier, Gordon and Colleen Benson, Greg and Cindy Hegland, Lynn and Charlotte Erickson, Greg, Darlene and Brittany Kolstad and the New Rockford Eagles Club.

## Sheyenne

by Patti Clifton



Joanna Larson attended the Evolution Ag Summit hosted by the North Dakota Farmers Union in Jamestown on February 17. The conference brought experts from across North America to discuss topics related to the theme "Linking Soil to Supper." Insights were presented on opportunities in the modern food chain for farmers to capture more value from their products. Much attention was paid to what consumers are paying more for at the grocery store these days, as well as what trends are dominating the food markets. Policy changes connected to the "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) movement were discussed in-depth as they relate to rural food systems, school lunches, SNAP, care facilities, rural grocery stores, etc. The audience was engaged and many great questions were addressed by the guest speakers and panelists. Sponsors and vendors were on hand to visit with attendees. In its fourth year now, the summit's goal has been to do a deeper, day-long dive on a focused theme, which according to event organizers is in contrast to typical agriculture conferences that often cover many topics superficially.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, Jon, Michelle, Ian and Cameron Gilley and Joanna Larson attended a banquet celebrating the 100th anniversary of Scout Troop 213 in West Fargo. Ian and Cameron are Eagle Scouts from that troop and enjoyed visiting with their former scout masters and other Troop 213 friends. The mayor of West Fargo, Bernie Dardis, gave a keynote address at the banquet. Mayor Dardis remarked at how Troop 213 Scouts have had an outsized impact on the broader region through community service and skills that follow scouts into their careers. Joanna unexpectedly ran into a former teacher of hers from NDSU agricultural and biosystems engineering, Brad Schmidt. Turns out he was a former Troop 213 scout master.

On February 24, Joanna Larson participated in a farm-to-school information sharing webinar hosted by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives and the Rural Development Center. The main presenter was Samuel Jonckowski, the Operations Supervisor for West Fargo Public Schools. He spoke

about how he procures food from dozens of local growers and makers. Sam has several years of experience handling logistics, buying and collaborating on crop plans to serve all the schools in his district. His district has invested in equipment to be able to process and freeze more local products for use throughout the year. Amanda Olson, Farm to Child Nutrition Specialist with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, and Troy Heald, farmer at Country Blossom Farm also presented in the webinar. Amanda emphasized the need for more legislative and foundation support to build up farm-to-school infrastructure across the state. Troy shared a producer's perspective on what it takes to scale and grow into making farm-to-school markets work. According to the USDA, farm-to-school procurement represents only 16% of the total school food spending in the nation.

Bingo returned on March 7 at Ostby Hall. Dianne Hanson called, Denise Labrensz and Randy Keller sold cards and Sharon Whitmer and Tara Hanson served lunch, all for Sheyenne GRIT. On March 14, Sheyenne Fire Department hosts with a \$175 blackout in 57 numbers.

Sheyenne Oberon Area Ministries Lenten worship was held at First Lutheran on March 4 and Calvary on March 11. March 18 will be at Grace and March 25 at Calvary.

North Dakota Game and Fish will be holding 2026 Hunter Education at the Eagles Club in New Rockford beginning Thursday, March 19. Call volunteer instructor Adnan Aldayal at 701-947-2091 if you have questions. To register online, go to N.D. Game and Fish Hunter Education <http://gf.nd.gov>

The Eddy County Zoning Board held their rescheduled meeting to approve the county ordinance with regard to wind energy development at the courthouse last Thursday morning. Peter Larson, Kent Myhre, Gary Hegland and Amanda Hegland were among those who spoke in support of the ordinance.

Arts Across the Prairie is a statewide project undertaken by the North Dakota Council on the Arts to bring a large outdoor art installation to each region of the state. North Dakota has 52 counties clustered into eight regions. Region

3 is Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette and Town-er counties. It was approved in 2022 by the legislature to fund this endeavor. The arts council at that time solicited volunteers from each county to participate in monthly zoom meetings to move the project forward. Patti Larson has participated by hearing from local historians and elders to research the cultural and geographical significance of Region 3. This group of stakeholders has identified a project theme, selected a location and has requested proposals from artists. Region 3 chose a beautiful spot north of Warwick for the themed project: Heart of the Land, Spirit of Unity. Stakeholders are looking forward to seeing the artists' proposals. Go to [artsacross-theprairie.nd.gov](http://artsacross-theprairie.nd.gov) to follow progress and see what other regions are doing.

Sheyenne Bar hosted a pool tournament Saturday with eight teams participating. The new owners have moved things around to make more room for darts and pool.

Liz Swenson is already planning for the July 4, 2026, community band float. She has selected an armed forces medley: The Liberty Bell and Armed Forces on Parade to commemorate our country's 250th anniversary. Contact Liz at 701-351-9127 if you wish to join in. New band members are welcome.

Eddy County VFW and Auxiliary Post 3696 served a delicious fundraiser torsk dinner along with fresh homemade lefse and desserts on March 8. The clubhouse received a facelift

last summer when the steel siding and trim completed the exterior upgrades of new windows and front door. To support the project, the Sheyenne Rodeo Club accepted free-will donations to the VFW for the chili/fry bread supper at the Stampede Kickoff event.

The Minnewaukan Festival enjoyed a beautiful Saturday and about 650 people fishing. Many Sheyenne area residents took in the day of outdoor fun.

So we sprung ahead in setting the clocks Sunday morning. Spring arrived. Water puddles everywhere and you didn't need a coat to be outside as temperature reached 60 degrees.

Peter and Patti Larson were delegates to the state Dem-NPL convention held in Bismarck last Saturday. Their job was to elect candidates to run in the 2026 midterm election. Over 500 people from across the state heard from people eager to represent North Dakota as Public Service Commissioner, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction and in the U.S. Congress.

Monday, Jan Loe and Steph traveled to Jamestown to enjoy lunch and do some shopping.

Filing deadline for a candidate's name to be placed on the ballot for the Sheyenne City Election is April 6 at 4 p.m. Up for election: mayor (4-year term); two council members (4-year term) and two park board members (4-year term).

The city council requests that garbage totes be moved off the streets after Thursday pick up.

Continued from page 1

## COUNTY-

can be used countywide.

HyperReach, or choose another service. In either case, much work will need to be done to get residents signed up to receive emergency notifications from the county.

State Radio also does not offer siren activation, which is currently done by the LEC. This involves activating the sirens in both New Rockford and Sheyenne when the National Weather Service issues a weather-related warning. Eddy County resident and veteran first responder Todd Allmaras is helping the county work through this issue.

Thompson said more information will be shared prior to the March 24 meeting.

Also at the Tuesday, March 10 meeting, the commission learned that NDDOT has overpaid Eddy County for spraying noxious weeds.

According to Eddy County Auditor Becki Schumacher, invoices were submitted for the labor cost of spraying all county and state road ditches, but Highways 15 and 281 should have been separated out for payment by the NDDOT.

Instead, the NDDOT paid the entire bill, which amounted to \$30,000 in overpayment over the past three years.

The county has apparently not billed the NDDOT for the chemical, however, so the state has simply agreed to subtract the chemical reimbursement to offset the overpayment, Schumacher said. The difference will still need to be repaid, which she estimates is approximately \$10,000.

Schumacher said this error will affect the amount of money the county has available to help townships pay for spraying and chemicals this year and in the future. The county levies just 2.5 mills for weed control, and with less reimbursement coming from the state, there are limited funds to cover chemicals and labor for all the townships.

The commissioners and Eddy County State's Attorney Ashley Lies weren't clear on the program offered to townships for spraying, and questioned the uneven distribution of funds to townships - particularly those that have used their own funds to spray their ditches for noxious weeds annually and/or are using other spray services besides Sunshine Spray, LLC, which is owned by Eddy County Weed Officer Donna Young.

The commissioners requested Eddy County Weed Board representatives Corey Longnecker and Donna Young to attend the April meeting so they can discuss how best to use the limited funds available to implement a weed control program that

**Auditor position open**  
No one applied for the open treasurer position, which was advertised last month.

Former treasurer Kathy Anderson's term was unexpired through December 31, 2026, so a new treasurer will need to be elected this year.

Auditor Becki Schumacher said she has officially filed her petition to run for county treasurer, so she will be on the ballot in June. She has been helping fill the role of treasurer since the departure of Shannon Anderson in January, and she would like to move into the treasurer position full-time and train a new auditor.

Upon hearing this news, the county commission agreed to advertise for a new auditor - a position which is now appointed and not elected. Anyone interested in serving as the county auditor should apply.

### Burn declaration signed

The Eddy County Commission issued a new burn restrictions declaration for 2026 upon the request of Emergency Manager Lisa Thompson, who said the state recommends review and renewal of the declaration on an annual basis.

The document did not change from the previous year, Thompson noted. The declaration is published on page 2.

### Website accessibility proposal approved

State's Attorney Lies presented a proposal from TAO Interactive, inc. to address website accessibility to comply with new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements recently handed down by the federal government.

The \$1,680 proposal includes addressing the accessibility of the website itself; however it does not make any documents posted on the website accessible to individuals with disabilities, including zoning proposals, minutes and agendas posted in .pdf or .doc.

Lies recommended approval because it is a required update. The funds will come from the county's software budget. The county has until April 2027 to fully comply with the ADA requirements.

A special meeting has been set for 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24 in the basement of the courthouse. On the agenda will be discussion and a decision on 9-1-1 dispatch for 2026, as well as appointments to the zoning board and water board.

Residents should note that Eddy County Commission meetings will begin at 8 a.m. from April through October. The next regular meeting is set for 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7.

## Senior Meals

March 16 - 20

**Monday:** Taco salad with salsa, lettuce, tomato, black olives and tortilla chips and fruit sauce.

**Tuesday:** Beef and cabbage, roasted red potatoes, glazed carrots, bread and seafood salad.

**Wednesday:** Pulled BBQ chicken, baked potato, green

beans, bread and fruit crisp with topping.

**Thursday:** Meatloaf and gravy, onion mashed potatoes, vegetable blend, bread and applesauce.

**Friday:** Turkey burger on a bun, tater tots, corn cobbette, a ketchup packet and fruit or sauce.

## Rocket Baseball Hotdish & Dessert Supper



Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Eagles Club  
Serving 5-7pm, or until gone!  
Free-Will Offering

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