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A peak inside the new station



Above: Gavin Brown and Joanna Larson with the new vintage fuel pumps recently installed outside the Sinclair Station in Sheyenne. The green pump was donated by Denny and Rick Kurtz, and the other was purchased by Brown. Both are Bennett 546 models, a highly collectible model of fuel pump dating back to the 1940s. Photos by Nathan Price.

Right: This shelf inside Farmers Grocery holds some of the store's locally produced products, including pasta from Dakota Growers and Guardian Grains.

REVIVAL—

sweet peas and Salers beef to classic items like frozen pizza and Folgers coffee.

Residents of Sheyenne haven't had such a wide selection of groceries available locally since Sheyenne Grocery shuttered in the early 2000s.

Larson said the community interest has been overwhelming ever since news broke that a new grocery store was coming to town. She recalled being unable to step outside without someone asking when it will open.

"Until now there's been this reality in Sheyenne that we had to drive a long way for fresh food," said Larson. "And those that can't always drive out of town for fresh produce every week sometimes just went without it. So it's truly motivating to be able to provide that access."

Larson said opening her own grocery store is the realization of a dream that began when she was a child.

"I've dreamt of having a little farm store ever since I started at the farmers market when I was in fifth grade," she said. "So when Gavin agreed to collaborate with me on this it was really a dream come true."

The opening of Farmers Grocery is also the culmination of a process that began in 2024, when Gavin Brown of Devils Lake acquired the old Sinclair Station.

When it was purchased, the long-abandoned building had become a blight in the middle of town, but Brown had a vision to return the century-old gas station to its former glory.

The station has undergone a dramatic transformation over the past year - from an abandoned eyesore to a shining jewel on Main Street, complete with a classic Sinclair sign, a fresh coat of paint and vintage fuel pumps dating back to the 1940s.

The inside is also a blast from the past. In addition to new flooring, cabinets and a ceiling, there are also vintage signs, a classic Coca-Cola machine and other historic items among the grocery shelves.

Like Larson, Brown said it's been surreal to see a childhood dream finally realized.

"I've always been a dreamer, and to live a dream with an entire community of peo-

ple has been really fun," said Brown. "It's really quite surreal, and it's so much more than I ever thought it would be."

Brown said he never intended to renovate the station's interior until Larson reached out to him.

"I would have never fixed up the inside of this building had it not been for Joanna," said Brown. "I always liked the nostalgia of the building, but I don't think this project would have gotten as much interest if it wasn't becoming a store."

Larson flipped the praise onto Brown, crediting his artistic vision and hard work for the project's success.

"This would not be getting the attention it's getting without Gavin's attention to detail and design," she said. "It's really a work of art, and I always tell people that Gavin is half artist and half magician."

"And half crazy!" added Brown with a laugh.

Both said it's been especially rewarding to see the community's response to the project, as well as the eagerness of residents and local businesses to volunteer their time or become sponsors.

For communities like Sheyenne, Larson said it's not often that something new comes to town - and residents are understandably excited.

"It's hard to put into words how small communities feel, but it's depressing when you see people leave and businesses close," said Larson. "So when you see something turned around like this in such a dramatic way, it's really uplifting for me and I think for a lot of people."

Like her seasonal farmstand, Larson said her new store will operate largely on the honor system.

Residents are able to become a member of Farmers Grocery for \$60 a year per family, allowing them to download an app on their phone that unlocks a back door whenever the grocery store is not staffed.

Inside the store are security cameras and an automated checkout system that accepts credit and debit cards, Apple Pay and Google Wallet. Larson said she's also working on various perks for her members, such as early notice when fresh produce is stocked.

Planned staffed hours are

Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. However, Larson said staffed hours will be extended for the foreseeable future to facilitate membership signups and to help people with the self checkout system.

Larson encouraged anyone interested to follow the Farmers Grocery Facebook page for updates on staffed hours.

Community members are also invited to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony and ice cream social scheduled for Sunday, July 5.

With Farmers Grocery finally open for business, both Larson and Brown said the community of Sheyenne is trending in the right direction.

"It makes our community more attractive to people who might want to move here, and it shows people that this town has something going on - that we care about this community," said Larson.

"I think this has become a destination in itself," added Brown. "People will be coming from miles away to Sheyenne to see this place and get fresh produce, not the other way around."



Above: This shelf behind the automated checkout counter features some historic items from the station's past, such as the "Mobile 'E'" sign which was found buried in the ground near the old oil-change pit, along with a "Pennzoil" sign that now hangs from the ceiling. Brown suggests the signs likely date back to the 1920s.

The shelf also features an award the station received decades ago for its 55th year in business, which was preserved by the family of Joan Cudworth, née Ostby.



Brown said this Coca-Cola Machine was brought in because of how many residents still have memories of getting their pop from the old Sinclair Station decades ago. Now, Brown said they're working to get this machine operational so folks can once again buy a bottle of Coca-Cola from the Sinclair Station.

Community Calendar

EDDY COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY will meet on Monday, June 1 at noon on the museum grounds.

WOMEN'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MEETING on Monday, June 1 at 3 p.m. at the Allmaras residence, 218 6th St. N, New Rockford. Everyone welcome.

FISHING DERBY on Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the New Rockford City Park. Lunch served by New Rockford Lions Club.

EDDY COUNTY ROD & GUN CLUB MEETING will be held on Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m. at Carter Richter's shop. Anyone interested in joining should call Adnan at 701-947-2091.

EDDY COUNTY MUSEUM opens for the season on Sundays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend from 1-4 p.m. Please contact Merita at 701-947-2091 or Michelle at 701-302-0325 with any questions.

EDDY COUNTY ROD & GUN CLUB RANGE will be open to the public the first and third Saturday of each month from June to November. The range will be open from 1-4 p.m. on the following days: June 6 and 20, July 18 (Closed July 4). Contact Adnan at 701-947-2091 with any questions.

JUNE ITEM OF THE MONTH at the Eddy County Hunger Free Food Pantry is jelly/jam. Donations can be dropped off at First Lutheran Church, 436 1st Ave. N., New Rockford.

BINGO at Ostby Hall in Sheyenne every Saturday at 7 p.m.

EDDY CO. VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER Same day appointments available. Please call 701-302-8087.

RELAX & RETREAT MASSAGE offers massage therapy through VA Community Care Program. For more information, call 701-302-0325.

TOPS 370 is a weight loss support group. Meetings are on Mondays at 5 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in New Rockford. For more information call 701-947-2138.

COMMUNITY AMBULANCE SERVICE BOARD meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Ambulance Hall, New Rockford.

LAKE REGION SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE support group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of North Star Community Credit Union, Devils Lake. For info call Theresa at 701-662-4790.

FOOT CARE CLINIC every third Wednesday of the month at Eddy County Public Health. Call 701-947-5311 for appointments. Cost is \$30.

EDDY-NEW ROCKFORD LIBRARY BOARD meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.

NEW ROCKFORD POST OFFICE has a new phone number, 701-505-8842. The office is open 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SHEYENNE POST OFFICE also has a new phone number, 701-404-1149. Open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Please contact the Transcript at nrtranscript@gmail.com or (701) 947-2417 to have your event notices listed.

THE One-Stop
WINDOW SHOP.
MARVIN
WINDOWS

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LUMBER
New Rockford, North Dakota
YOUR COMPLETE BUILDING CENTER
(701) 947-5364
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OFFICIAL BALLOT CITY OF SHEYENNE JUNE 9, 2026

MAYOR-4 year term
Vote for ONE (1) only

BOB HANSON _____

COUNCIL MEMBER-4 year term
Vote for TWO (2) only

JEFF LABRENSZ _____

ELVIS THUMB _____

KIM BROWN _____

PARK BOARD MEMBER-4 year term
Vote for TWO (2) only

AMY BACHMEIER _____

TARA HANSON _____

IAN GILLEY _____

PUBLICATION OF CITY GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

According to state law, once every four years, each city must place on its ballot the question of whether or not the minutes of the governing body be published in its official city newspaper. If approved the minutes will be published until disapproved by the voters at a succeeding election.

A "yes" vote means you want the City of Sheyenne to publish its city minutes.

A "no" vote means you do not want the City of Sheyenne to publish its official minutes.

YES _____

NO _____