

## Local Lions Club serves National Guard soldiers

On Saturday, May 30, the New Rockford Lions club prepared a meal of shredded beef, barbecue chicken, potato salad, fruit and cookies. The Lions then delivered and served 155 soldiers during their annual training. No one went away hungry and everyone had a good time.



## Community Calendar

**NEW ROCKFORD SUMMER REC PROGRAM** begins on June 9 and runs every Tuesday and Thursday until August 6 at the tennis courts by the pool. Children in grades pre-K-2nd will meet from 9-10:30 a.m., and grades 3-5 will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$20/child.

**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.

**NEW ROCKFORD SUMMER STREET MARKET** on Thursday, June 25 from 4-8 p.m. in Centennial Park in downtown New Rockford. Want to be a vendor? Call 701-947-2205.

**EDDY COUNTY MUSEUM** is open now until 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.

## County valuation up slightly in 2026

by Amy Wobbema

Although ag land in Eddy County decreased in value by 2.63%, the county's overall valuation was up slightly for 2026.

According to Tax Equalization Director Kristy O'Connor, the decrease in ag value was offset by increases in commercial and residential property, up 5.68% and 5.93% respectively.

O'Connor presented her annual Equalization Report to county commissioners at their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 2.

The county's total valuation sits at \$17,207,600, an increase of \$76,000 compared to last year.

Six new structures were built in the rural townships last year, three homes and three garages/shops.

Meanwhile, tax exemptions expired on several commercial structures in the county, including the North American Bison, LLC expansion, CenDak Cooperative fertilizer plant, Transcript

newspaper office and the Rock Inn.

The average sales price of an acre of land in the county was \$1,870 in 2025, up from 2024 but lower than the \$1,882 reported in 2022.

### Lies addresses resident behavior in courthouse

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Eddy County State's Attorney Ashley Lies reported that decorum has become a problem in the courthouse.

Citizens have entered election rooms. Papers are being moved during meetings and trash is being left in rooms after meetings.

Someone spilled coffee in the court room during a hearing and left it there, leaving a mess to clean up and a stain on the wood floor.

A citizen even attempted to gain access to Lies' office while she was in a confidential meeting, reportedly to retrieve a personal item left there after a recent meeting.

Lies said that from now on, any property left in the

commissioners' room, which is also her office, will be immediately removed and placed in the sheriff's office.

### Road projects progress

Road Superintendent Todd Weber shared an estimate for returning the Brantford Road to gravel. The estimate for the "mill and blend" was \$750,000. This process involves grinding up the pavement and blending the asphalt millings with gravel, rock and other materials to form a firm, stable road surface.

The county is soliciting bids for the project, with the bid opening scheduled for 9 a.m. on Friday, June 26.

Weber said he is still addressing issues with the Klumph Bridge replacement; utility easements are progressing, but the project has not yet cleared the State Historical Society's review.

### Zoning matters

According to State's Attorney Lies, there were 60

total grievances filed regarding the zoning ordinance amendments passed in March, and five people appeared to testify at three separate hearings.

Among them, only one petitioner addressed actual issues with the ordinance amendments.

With that information, the commission vote 2-0 to reaffirm the amendments passed on March 10, with Glenda Collier again recusing herself from voting.

The requests from Colvin and Cherry Lake townships to assume control of their zoning rights was approved. Both townships must now go through the process of adopting a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. The county will have control over their zoning until the process is complete. Lies said there are numerous resources from the state to assist them with the process.

The next regular meeting is set for 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7.

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## SKJERVA-

has entered pleas of not guilty to a Class AA felony for continuous sexual abuse of a child, another Class AA felony for gross sexual imposition and a Class B felony for corruption of a minor.

Meanwhile, several other counties in North Dakota where the sexual abuse allegedly continued have filed felonies of their own.

Cass and Foster counties filed charges on April 29, and now Stutsman and McIntosh counties have become the latest to accuse Skjerva of sexually abusing the teenage girl.

McIntosh County has charged Skjerva with four Class C felonies for corruption of a minor, while Stutsman has charged him with one Class C felony for corruption or solicitation - bringing Skjerva's total felony count to nine.

The latest court documents out of McIntosh County allege the abuse took place in 2021 and 2022 at or near the Lake Hoskins Park Campground, at an abandoned home near Ashley, N.D. and at the girl's residence in the county.

The court documents out of Stutsman County accuse Skjerva of corruption or solicitation of a minor on May 14, 2022, but do not specify a location.

Meanwhile, additional court documents out of Cass County - where Skjerva was charged with a Class C felony for corruption of a minor - include descriptions of messages and videos sent by Skjerva.

In one instance, the documents also quote the caption of a Snapchat photo sent by Skjerva to the girl.

The quote reads, in part, "When we first met I thought you were super cute but completely off limits bc of your age and who your gma was. ... You were the only person I had ever met that wouldn't let me close instantly and that made me want to get closer. Especially when you wouldn't let me hug you the very first time I tried."

With the addition of McIntosh and Stutsman,

there are now five counties charging Skjerva with at least one felony for the alleged abuse.

Skjerva's next court appearance is an initial appearance for the charges out of McIntosh County, scheduled for August 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Skjerva is considered innocent unless proven guilty.

## CITY-

Project in 2022 and 2023, the gravel road was one of a few in town that were not paved. Instead the gravel road was given a new aggregate blended with asphalt millings that were gathered when road crews milled the city's paved streets.

Richter said there was resident opposition to paving the road when they were planning the street improvement project, including from Craig Voigt.

"Craig called me up and asked if there's any way we can pave it, and I laughed," said Richter. "Because he was strongly against it in the project ... and now he's in favor of it."

Nevertheless, Richter said he's always wanted to see the road paved and still does.

"But someone's got to pay for it," he added.

Commissioners went on to discuss options, such as paving the road and establishing a third special assessment district in the city, or somehow removing the asphalt millings and returning it to gravel.

In their letter to the city, the Voigts say the dust control chemical is not effective on a road with asphalt millings, which they argue should never be put on a busy road without being sealed or paved.

"It was never sealed after asphalt millings were put down and it has created a dusty health hazard, not just for us but the whole area," the Voigts write in the letter, "especially with the amount of increasing traffic on the road."

The commissioners all seemed to acknowledge the

dust problem and agreed to get in touch with the city's engineer, Interstate Engineering, Inc., to determine next steps.

"I don't disagree with them, it is dusty," said Richter.

The city's next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 6 at 9 a.m. in the New Rockford City Hall.

## ELECTIONS-

tion, so the two winners after Tuesday's election will be the next council members on the Sheyenne City Council.

Meanwhile, there is also a contested election for two seats on the Sheyenne Park Board.

Tara Hanson, Amy Bachmeier and Ian Gilley are competing for the two seats. Hanson is currently on the park board and is running for reelection, while Diane Hanson has chosen not to run for reelection.

Like with the city council position, the race will be decided on Tuesday and only the top two vote getters after the primary will get a seat on the park board.

At the county level, there are four candidates running for two Eddy County commission seats. Jamie Allmaras and Dave Gehrtz

are running for re-election, while Todd Haley and Preston Meier are the two challengers.

All four will appear under the same ballot question, and the top four vote getters will advance to the general election in November.

Unless a write-in candidate gets more votes than one of the declared candidates, all four are likely to advance to the general election.

No one has announced a write-in campaign for the county commission, but there has been one announced for the position of Eddy County Sheriff.

New Rockford resident Dalton Walls is asking voters to write his name on the primary ballot this Tuesday, as he looks to unseat the county's current sheriff, Paul Lies.

If Walls gets at least 17 voters to write him in, his name will appear on the general election ballot in November alongside Lies.

Eddy County's only polling location on Tuesday will be at the Brown Memorial in New Rockford at 3 7th Street South. The polling place will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.

The polling place for Sheyenne's city election is Ostby Hall, open from 9 a.m.

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## SEAMLESS GUTTERS

### GUTTER GUARD ELITE

**CALL 701-990-1407**

**AND SO THE ADVENTURE BEGINS! THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN MY FUTURE!**

**VINNIE RUPPELL**

New hours at

## Buck-It's Bar

starting Monday, June 1

<p><b>Bar Hours:</b></p> <p><b>Monday-Friday</b> 4pm-close</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> 2pm-close</p> <p><b>Sunday</b> 11am-close</p>	<p><b>Kitchen Hours:</b></p> <p><b>Monday-Tuesday</b> Special/Fryer food only</p> <p><b>Wednesday-Saturday</b> 5pm-9pm</p> <p><b>Sunday</b> Brunch 11am-2pm</p>
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**Order online!**  
Scan the QR code to view our menu and place your order

**Buck-It's Bar**  
828 Central Ave, New Rockford