

**ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT, AMEND, AND REPEAL ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RELATING TO THE NORTH DAKOTA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION**

TAKE NOTICE that the North Dakota Real Estate Commission will hold a public hearing to address proposed changes to the N.D. Admin. Code at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 1120 College Dr. #204, Bismarck, ND 58501. A copy of the proposed rules may be obtained by writing the North Dakota Real Estate Commission, 1120 College Dr. #204, Bismarck, ND 58501 or calling 701-328-9749. Also, written comments may be submitted to the North Dakota Real Estate Commission, 1120 College Dr. #204, Bismarck, ND 58501 until July 20, 2026. If you plan to attend the public hearing and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the North Dakota Real Estate Commission at the above telephone number or address at least three days prior to the public hearing.

Dated this 4th day of June, 2026.  
Jeanne Prom, Executive Director

# LEGACY AND TOURISM CONNECT: Collaborative effort to honor 'world's fastest man'

BY DANIEL ARENS

While Hazen residents have many things they can be proud of, no legacy from the community is more impactful and meaningful than that of Major General Eldon 'Al' Joersz.

On July 28, 1976, Joersz, along with Lieutenant Colonel George T. Morgan Jr., set the world air speed record while in the United State Air Force. They flew at a speed of 2,193.167 miles per hour, and that record has not been broken since.

Joersz, a Hazen native and graduate, set the record while flying a SR-71A Blackbird 61-7958 at Beale Air Force Base. Since that day, Joersz himself and the SR-71 Blackbird have become significant icons of Hazen and the community's connection to both achievement and service in the United State Armed Forces.

Despite this, the Hazen Convention and Visitors Bureau thought that Joersz, his story and the SR-71 do not receive enough attention either from visitors traveling past Hazen or residents who call



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ANTOINETTE HEIER  
A mockup here shows the view of the future SR-71 Blackbird Replica and green space from the north looking southward, essentially the view one will see when traveling on North Dakota Highway 200. The aircraft replica is seen on the right (west), with the flags and seating area around it. The Hazen Commerce Center building is seen behind.

Hazen home. And thus was born the decision to bring a replica of the world's fastest plane to the hometown of the man who flew it.

"We are proud to be honoring one of Hazen's graduates from the class of 1962," CVB Executive Director Antoinette Heier said. "The goal of the SR-71 committee is to have a replica of the SR-71 built and placed on the 'green space' adjacent to Hazen Community Development's building in west Hazen (the Hazen Commerce Center)."

Heier said that Sheet Metal Specialists out of Bis-

marck is constructing the SR-71 model itself, working closely with Hazen Welding and Josh Meisner. In addition, Chad Oster is working with the project, making sure that the scale of the measurements are correct for the model (which will not be life-sized to the actual plane).

"It is a collaboration of many different people," Heier said.

Heier said the plan is for the model to be brought to Hazen (in three distinct pieces) in mid-August. There will be a Dedication and Unveiling Ceremony

on Sept. 18. Heier said the public is welcome to come out to this free event.

The ceremony will be special as Major General Joersz himself will be present to speak at the dedication. Heier said other dignitaries have been invited to attend, although she is not sure who all will come; among those invited are Governor Kelly Armstrong and representatives from Lockheed Martin Skunk Works, the branch of Lockheed Martin that developed the SR-71 aircraft.

See **PLANE** on page 12

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Mercer County is looking to fill a Planning & Zoning Board vacant seat for a 4-year term that will be expiring July 1, 2030. If you are interested in being appointed to this board, please contact the Mercer County Auditor's Office, at (701) 745-3292 or careed@nd.gov for an Application of Interest or find the application at www.mercercountynd.com. An appointment will be made at the July 1, 2026 Commission Meeting. Deadline for the application is June 30, 2026. The following are the boards that have seats expiring:  
Planning & Zoning Board—4-year term—1 Vacant position  
Carmen Reed, Auditor

(06-11-2026) (06-18-2026)

# HAZEN STAR

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# Summer Asphalt Repair



PHOTO CREDIT OF DANIEL ARENS  
Keller Paving out of Minot does asphalt patching and repair work around town, including at the Hazen Senior Center on June 15. Several problem spots for asphalt were identified by the Hazen City Commission to be included in a summer project this year.

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