



# Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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## Blade Operator training held in Kidder County

The 'Graderman' visited KC to train class on how to pull shoulders on gravel roads.

Kidder County hosted a training for blade operators across ND in Steele last Wednesday. Attending were operators from the counties of Sheridan, Kidder, Burleigh, Adams, and Stutsman... this also included operators from the City of Jamestown street department.

Providing the training was NDSU-Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute/ND Local Technical Assistance Program. NDTAP provides training and technical assistance for the counties/cities on topics such as roadway and employee safety, bridge maintenance, roadway foundation basics/gravel quality, culvert installation, winter maintenance, and more. For more information about what training NDLTAP provides, visit the website at [www.ndltap.org](http://www.ndltap.org).

The training focused on gravel road shoulder pulling techniques which included videos, handouts, and hands-on operations on the gravel road west of town and the high point

was a training and discussion with SD's 'Graderman' 140M, Mark Krumvieda. Mark has been making YouTube videos for about 10 years on proper road grading procedures and has become quite famous for his passion on gravel roads maintenance. Mark stated safety for the traveling public is his biggest concern, followed by proper techniques for operating a motor-grader. Anyone can

watch these 200+ videos on YouTube, there are currently over 65,000 views. The tag is graderman140M.

Krumvieda was asked about KC's gravel road conditions as he drove our gravel roads prior to the training. He stated that he has seen much worse over the years and would give our roads a favorable score, but he knows after the training, the shoulder

pulling will improve the roadway quite substantially. He also shared other tips and tricks with the operators on the road. If the operators have any questions, they have Mark's contact information, and he is more than happy to answer their questions.

The operators gained great knowledge from the NDLTAP Gravel Shoulder Pulling training which is an

opportunity for a blade operator's continuing education. The KC commissioners were proud to be able to host the class. Two County Commissioners attended the training, they gained knowledge on the importance of roadway maintenance and the importance of safety for the traveling public.

(more photos on page 14)



Special Thanks to RDO for furnishing the meal.

## Correction

In last week's edition we had that the Kidder County Primary is June 2nd. We had this incorrect, the Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 9th. You can request a mail in ballot with the County Auditors Office.

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

## Two KC races prepare for the primary June 9th

Questions submitted directly to the candidates by 'We the People of Kidder County' (you may have seen their content on Facebook)

In the upcoming primary election, Kidder County will be voting to elect a sheriff and two county commissioners. Since there are multiple candidates running for these offices, 'We the

People of Kidder County' thought it would be beneficial to ask the candidates a few questions. The intention is to simply give the voters some insight into the candidates so they may make a more informed decision when voting. All the candidates for Sheriff and County Commissioner were asked to answer the same three questions. The three incumbents; Barry Vannatta (Sheriff), Darrel Guthmiller (Commissioner) and Tim Dronen (Commissioner) and all three challengers; Roberto Cantu (Sheriff), Eric Fischer (Commissioner) and Dan Mittleider (Commissioner) accepted the invitation. The order of the candidates' names were based on the order the questions were returned.

Note: Nick Friez, who is on the primary ballot for

Sheriff, is no longer running, but wasn't able to get his name off the primary ballot in time. This is his statement: I would like to announce that I am discontinuing my campaign for Sheriff. After receiving numerous calls and messages encouraging me to

remain in my current role as Commissioner, I have taken significant time for consideration and reflection on this decision. There are several reasons behind my decision, but ultimately, I believe it is my responsibility to the voters who elected me



to be County Commissioner to continue serving in this position and to fulfill my duties over the next 2½ years. Additionally, if I were to take on the role of Sheriff, I would not have the ability to continue serving the county through Kidder County Ambulance, the Steele Volunteer Fire Department, or my role in coaching the football team. There simply would not be enough time to commit to all of these responsibilities at the level they deserve. Although my name will remain on the ballot for the primary election and cannot be removed, I want to make it clear that if I were to receive the nomination, I would respectfully decline. I am deeply grateful for the support I have received throughout this process and want to ensure that everyone has accurate information moving forward in the election. Thank

(See "County Races" on Page 9)

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