

COMMUNITY

Hankinson voters approve new Emergency Services Center

BY CAMERON SUTPHIN
Reporter

Hankinson will get a new emergency services center after both special election ballot questions passed on Tuesday, March 25 with over 90% majority.

Firefighter Jared Falk is grateful to the community for their support.

"I think I can speak for both fire and ambulance in saying that we, as departments, are both extremely grateful for the support of the district community and the resounding approval of our plans to secure emergency services effectiveness going well into the future," Falk said.

In addition to the funding coming from a property tax increase, the Coppin



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Family Endowment will donate a dollar-for-dollar grant up to \$100,000 in matching funds.

The fire department will start soliciting donations from local individuals and businesses with the goal of reducing the property tax load on Hankinson residents through a mill reduction or an

early loan payoff. They also plan to sell the old building to help pay down the principal of the loan.

"As soon as we are fully moved into the new building, the current building will be sold, and proceeds will go to paying down the principal of the loan," Falk said.

Hankinson Emer-



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Hankinson will get a new Emergency Services Center after both ballot questions passed with over 90% majority. In this file photo from the Hankinson Fire Department Facebook page, volunteers complete training in the soon-to-be old building.

gency Services has already started working on constructing the new building.

"Site surveys are beginning today, and we have a kickoff meeting with the engineers to-

morrow. Look for further progress reports as we move forward," Falk said.

"This is only the beginning in the work we need to do to ensure a long-lasting

and cost-responsible Emergency Services Center; however, we have a great team and many supporting community members, and I trust we will be very successful."

Dealing with 'Tariff Wars' that impact North Dakota

BY CAMERON SUTPHIN
Reporter

The Trump administration has already imposed tariffs on our allies, and more are on the way.

North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring spoke in Richland County recently and opened up the floor for questions, the first one was about the trade war.

"How are we going to weather the tariffs? How are we going to ride it out?" State Representative Alisa Mitskog, D-Wahpeton, said.

Goehring said it will be challenging and China has retaliated. He has met with members of the Trump administration and discussed the upcoming tariff's.

"It's going to be a little challenging. Before, when we were going through this, it was a little different because

we had some issues with China, and we were able to leverage that and actually get a trade deal. Now we're talking about integrated economies, and it's challenging," Goehring said. "China did retaliate with some tariffs. Interestingly enough, the last retaliatory tariff did not include soybeans. It's like everything China's ever done. They will slap a tariff on it or do a non-tariff trade barrier if it's something they don't need."

Goehring mentioned that he had representatives from Canada in his office worried about how the tariffs will affect the United States and Canada's integrated economies.

"I've had Saskatchewan and Manitoba in my office in the last month, and they have said, 'We get it; we could have been better neighbors,'" Goeh-

ring said. "When you look at it, we hardly pay anything for defense; we could do a lot more there. We could do a better job with immigration. But we have such integrated economies."

Goehring felt using tariffs was not the right way to deal with the issues at the border.

"When you have a trade agreement in place and it's supposed to be renegotiated in 2026, at least I feel it's a little unfair that we take fentanyl and immigration and make them part of the issue," he said.

Goehring said farmers and producers may see expenses rise as high as 15% and he hoped the trade war would be resolved by summer.

"Let's hope we get this resolved by summertime so we get markets back, and maybe we will; nothing is forever,



CAMERON SUTPHIN

North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring speaks at the WCDC's annual meeting, about how the rising tariffs will impact North Dakota.

it seems like. It will be challenging, and I don't have an easy answer. This is kind of fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants ... We need to be strategic; we need to continue

to have conversations with those in Washington," Goehring said. "One thing I will tell you I've said over and over again, just remember, countries don't pay

tariffs; consumers pay tariffs."

Goehring's speech was at the Wahpeton Community Development Corporation's (WCDC) annual meeting.

GRANTS

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federal funding.

"Our focus now is on ensuring that services continue by identifying alternative funding and working with providers to minimize disruptions," Sagness said in a statement. "It's important for North Dakotans to know that support remains in place. Anyone struggling should continue to reach out for help, including through (calling) 988 or their local behavioral health provider."

The department received notice the grants were being terminated the day the funding was rescinded, Sagness said.

Holly Scott, a spokesperson for Fargo Cass Public Health, said its state partners confirmed that its funding for social detox center operations will run out after

September.

"Our leadership team is currently working to determine the impacts of these changes, while also reviewing alternate sources of funding to assure long-term sustainability," Scott said in an email.

Other organizations impacted by the loss of block grant funding:

- Connect Us Therapy, Williston - \$50,000 for crisis response and law enforcement mental health support
- Corner Post Counseling, Mandan - \$30,000 for crisis response and law enforcement mental health support
- Public Health & Tribes, 23 contracts - \$200,000 for substance-use prevention
- Flint Communications, Fargo - \$824,951 for Parents Lead, opioid messaging initiatives and marketing statewide
- BeMoreColorful,

Fargo - \$160,000 for behavioral health workforce tools

"All of the planning and all of the work that has gone into it and now, here we are," Moch said.

She said they don't want to abandon the project, but the organization is going to have to come up with alternate funding sources.

"We will be losing months," Moch said. She's also hopeful a new grant or funding source can be identified before the city and county begin their budget discussions over the summer.

Separate federal funding through the Health Equity Immunization Grant was also rescinded for Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health, she said.

That funding impacted the organization's ability to provide free COVID-19 tests and a portion of the salary for a vaccine specialist.

"It's all related to the same decision," Moch said. She added that arguments about the pandemic being over and the funding not being needed don't hold water because they are still working through the impacts of COVID-19. That funding was supposed to continue until 2026, Moch said.

"The abrupt impacts on us at the local level is what is just so unexpected and so we're just really trying to scramble now because there was no notice," she said.

In an interview with

the North Dakota Monitor, Gov. Kelly Armstrong said the COVID-19 pandemic has been over for three years, but he has been in contact with HHS to get a handle on the impacts to state health providers.

"I'm glad it happened during the legislative session so we can figure out how we readjust our budget and figure out how to finish off the session,"

Armstrong said.

In a news release, the Department of Health and Human Services said it was evaluating funding options for the loss in federal block grants and will collaborate with other state agencies, organizations and private partners to address priority areas. The department said it will provide updates as more information becomes available.

FAIRMOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT FAIRMOUNT, NORTH DAKOTA 58030 REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by Fairmount School District Fairmount, North Dakota, until 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at the main office for the following:

- (1) NEW - 14 passenger gas powered school bus.

Said bids shall be in accordance with specifications approved by the Fairmount School District.

Bids will be publicly opened at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in the office at Fairmount School. Bids received after 10:00 a.m. will be returned unopened. All prices are F.O.B. Fairmount, North Dakota. All items bid must meet state and federal requirements.

Envelopes containing the bids must be sealed and marked on the lower lefthand corner "BUS BID", the name and address of the bidder, the date and hour of the opening and addressed to Amy Gebro, Business Manager, Fairmount Public School, PO Box 228, Fairmount, North Dakota, 58030.

Copies of the specifications are on file in the office. You may call 701-474-5469 for a copy of the specifications.

Fairmount Public School District of Richland County, North Dakota, reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in bidding.

Amy Gebro, Business Manager
Fairmount Public School District
of Richland County
Fairmount, North Dakota 58030

**ANTIQUÉ, COLLECTIBLE, &
GUN AUCTION**
Saturday, April 5, 2025
Location: Ostby Auctioneering Building - New Effington, SD
Sale Time: 10:00 a.m. • Lunch Available
**This sale offers: Rosemead, Guns, Coins
Toys, Crocks, Watt-Ware, Antiques,
Collectible Items, & Much More!!**
Local Collectors, Owner
OSTBY
AUCTIONEERING
New Effington, SD
Auctioneers Note: We will be offering a very nice selection of antiques, collectibles, & guns on this auction from a couple different sellers. These are the same sellers that used to hold auctions in the Mooreton Community Center! You will not want to miss this Saturday auction. For questions feel free to call Derek at (605) 949-2170.
www.midwestauctions.com/ostby

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