# NEWS

## From vaping to cyberbullying, Richland County Sheriff's Office has a 'counter' attack

#### **BY SHOBA DASARI** Reporter

**DAILY NEWS** 

Jean Carlos Hernandez Nieves is only in fifthgrade at Hankinson Public School, but he's been racing home to work with his parents on a graduation assignment.

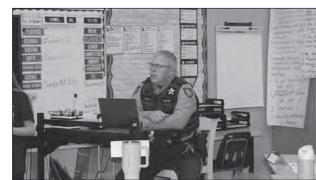
The subjects are not reading, writing or math. Rather, they are explaining things that look harmless that can cause a lot of damage, physically and mentally.

Thanks to the Richland County Sheriff's Office deputies who go into different schools in the county for a six-week program, children are learning what a vape is, the danger of e-cigarettes and that social media can be a dangerous place.

A phone or a tablet seems fun to a fifth-grade student, but they learn through the program how their actions and the online interactions of others could cause cyberbullying within the school.

After the students and parents complete the program, they hold a graduation ceremony. For many of the kids, they know answers to questions or peer pressure situations before they get to middle school or high school.

"When we started, we



SHOBA DASAR

Richland County Sheriff's Office Deputy Justin O'Hara starts as an instructor, but turns into a teacher, listening to students so they graduate from the CounterAct Program.

mostly talked about cigarettes. Now, it's e-cigarettes, vaping, and the role of social media," said Richland County Sheriff's Office Deputy Justin O'Hara. "Technology has changed so much, so now we also talk about cyberbullying and online interactions. I believe that if kids understand the effects of drugs, they'll be less likely to even try them."

O'Hara's belief is already working.

Jean Carlos Hernandez Nieves said the lessons are already making a difference, as he proudly shared, "I learned about asking questions — like who, what, and why — before I commit to anything."

Parents are also seeing the value.

According to Hankinson Elementary School 5th-grade teacher Joline O'Hara, the impact extends far beyond the classroom.

"The response has been really good," she said. "Parents are talking more with their kids about the topics covered and discussing alternative activities that help them make better choices."

She added the program also fosters a positive relationship between the students and law enforcement.

"It's important for kids to interact with law enforcement in a supportive, educational setting. They see officers not just as authority figures, but as people who care," she said.

Perhaps the most pow-

erful is Deputy O'Hara's quiet hope for the future.

"I always say, if even one student takes this to heart and uses it later in life to make the right choice, then it's all worth it," he added.

Teachers said the fifthgrade classrooms in Richland County are buzzing with the same excitement for a field trip or a holiday celebration with the arrival of a deputy and the CounterAct Program to the classroom.

For about the past 15 years, Richland County Sheriff's Office has brought the program to five schools including Lidgerwood, Hankinson, Fairmount, Wyndmere and Colfax working directly with students to educate them on dangers of drugs, alcohol and violence.

More than just a presentation, the CounterAct Program is a thoughtful, engaging curriculum that gives students real tools to navigate the complex social pressure they face.

"CounterAct is about getting kids to recognize the things that they are being faced with which gets them to think ahead instead of hearing about them here and now" explained Deputy O'Hara. "It gives them the option to be able to pick an alternative rather than go with whatever they are being faced with-it leaves them an 'out.'"

O'Hara said fifth and sixth grade are pivotal years.

"It's a transitional point before they enter middle and high school. So kids are at that point where they are developing a lot with their mind, and so we try to use that as a way to try and target them, he said.

Through open conversations, life skills activities, and real-world examples, deputies connect with students on a level they understand. The topics covered go beyond just drugs and alcohol-students explore peer pressure, consequences, decision-making, and even the evolving role of technology in their lives.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Advertisement for Bids SECTION 00100

NORDGAARD TUCKPOINTING NORTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE WAHPETON, NORTH DAKOTA NDSCS BID NO: 25-001

Sealed bids will be received by the North Dakota State College of Science , at the office of the NDSCS Patterson Mtce Center, 800 6 th Street N., Stop 1245, Wahpeton, ND 58076 Attn: Kari Hasbargen, Assistant Director, Facilities Management until **3pm May 6**, 2025 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for the furnishing of materials, labor, equipment and skill required for the Nordgaard Hall Tuckpointing project and incidental items in and for said NDSCS , as is more fully described and set forth in the plans and specifications therefore, which are now on file in the office of RLE Architecture.

Bids shall be upon cash payment on the following estimated quantities and types of work:

Tuckpointing in accordance with engineering specifications

The contract documents are on file and may be examined at the following:

RLE Architecture 901 13th Ave. East, Suite B West Fargo, ND 58078

Complete digital project bidding documents are available by contacting Donovon Larson at RLE donovanl@ rleco.com or www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$22.00 by inputing Quest project #9633336 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn. com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

All bids are to be submitted on the basis of cash payment for the work and materials, and each bid shall be accompanied by a separate envelope containing the contractor's license and bid security. The bid security must be in a sum equal to five per cent (5%) of the full amount of the bid and must be in the form of a bidder's bond. A bidder's bond must be executed by the bidder as principal

contract in accordance with the terms of his bid and the bid bond as required by the laws of the State of North Dakota and the regulations and determinations of the governing body. If a successful bidder does not execute a contract within ten (10) days allowed, the bidder's bond must be forfeited to the governing body and the project awarded to the next lowest responsible bidder.

All bidders must be licensed for the full amount of the bid as required by Section 43-07-07 and 43-07-12 of the North Dakota Century Code.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish Contract Performance and Payment Bonds in the full amount of the contract.

Contracts shall be awarded on the basis of the low bid submitted by a responsible and responsive bidder for the aggregate sum of all bid items. A single contract will be awarded for the work.

All bids will be contained in a sealed envelope, as above provided; plainly marked showing that such envelope contains a bid for the above project. In addition, the bidder shall place upon the exterior of such envelope the following information:

1. The work covered by the bidder 2. The name of the bidder 3. Separate envelope containing bid bond and a copy of North Dakota Contractor's License or certificate of renewal. 4. Acknowledgement of the Addenda.

No Bid will be read or considered which does not fully comply with the above provisions as to Bond and licenses and any deficient Bid submitted will be resealed and returned to the Bidder immediately.

The work on the improvement will be completed and ready for final payment by August 8, 2025.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in any bid, to hold all bids for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of opening bids, and to accept the bid deemed most favorable to the interest of the Owner.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2025. North Dakota State College of

Signature of the second second



#### AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR SALE BY SEALED BID Estate of Paul M. Holland

The subject property is primarily located in Roberts County, South Dakota, with a small parcel in Richland County, North Dakota. The real estate is described as follows:

- 1. Lots Five (5) and Six (6) of Section Thirty (30); (75 acres); (72.23 acres CRP); 197.10 per acre (37.02 acres), 168.14 (35.21 acres)
- 2. West Half of Northeast Quarter (W1/2NE1/4) of Section Thirty-one (31); (79.49 acres, 79.40 acres CRP, \$174.09 per acre)
- 3. Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of section Thirty (30), except for homestead consisting of approximately 11.06 acres; (146.83 acres, 146.83 acres CRP, \$200.97 per acre) All in Township One Hundred Twenty-nine North (129N), Range Fifty-two (52) West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M. Roberts County, South Dakota
- Lots One (1) and Two (2) Section Thirty (30), Township One Hundred Twenty-nine North (129N), Range Fifty-two (52), West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Lake Traverse Lands, Richland County, North Dakota (5.51 acres all in CRP, \$190.30 per acre);
- 5. 11. 06 homestead/ bldg. Site. See Photo 3500 square feet residence, central air and heat, 4 stall heated garage, shop, new construction heated 18'x25' two doors with living quarters 14'x12' other outbuildings; 303. 97 acres are enrolled in CRP until 9/30/26. CRP will be prorated from October, 2024. A South Dakota Game Fish and Parks walk-in contract also exists through June 30, 2026. If either contracted is terminated, all liquidated damages to be paid by Buyers.

#### **SALE PROCEDURE**

- 1. Written oilers/bid will be accepted by Law Office of Danny R, Smeins by mail or hand delivered. Bids shall include name, address, phone number, parcel upon which bid is placed, combination of parcels or all of parcels.
- 2. Seller reserves the right to then schedule a meeting with any number of top bidders with the opportunity to raise bids may be offered. If invited to bid, the bidder will deliver a check for 10% of bid to be held in trust.
- 3. Upon acceptance of a bid, a purchase agreement will be executed and 10% earnest money becomes nonrefundable.
- 4. Seller will deliver a title insurance policy with the cost to be split between the Seller and Buyer.
- 5. 2024 real estate taxes payable in 2025 are the responsibility of Seller. The 2025 real estate will be prorated based upon the receipt of the income from property in 2025.
- 6. Potential bidders my contact the Law Office of Danny R. Smeins PC to obtain a bid packet. Inspection of Parcel 5 is by appointment only.

Seller reserves the right to reject any bids. BIDS ARE DUE AT 5:00 P.M., APRIL 30, 2025. DIRECT INQUIRIES AND SUBMIT BID TO: Law office of Danny R. Smeins PC 755 7Lh Street, Suite 106 P.O. Box A Britton, South Dakota 57430 Office - 605-448-5964 Office Fax - 605-448-5251 drslawb@venturecomm.net and by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned that if the principal's bid be accepted and the contract awarded to the principal, the principal, within ten (10) days after notice of award, will execute and effect a

s/David Cooper Project Manager Date: April 12, 19, 26, 2025

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#### Statewides

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



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Wahpeton Literary Club RUMMAGE & Bake Sale Fri, April 25 8-5 Sat,April 26 8-12

Wahpeton Community Center 304 S 5th Street Something for Everyone!