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ries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

HB 1418 says a law enforcement officer may arrest a person without a warrant for harassing a public safety agency or making a false report to the agency.

Under HB 1528, an individual is guilty of arson if they start or maintain a fire or cause an explosion with the intent to destroy part of a building. They are also guilty if they intend to damage their personal property for the purpose of collecting insurance or to financially harm someone else with a legal interest in the property.

Senate Bill 2057 increases multiple fees for filing court cases.

SB 2352 allows babies up to 18 months of age to reside with their incarcerated mothers at the Heart



River Correctional Center in Mandan. The mother would need to apply for permission to have her child live with her in the center. According to the state's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, 12 other states have similar programs and see a lower number of mothers returning to prison.

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1422 imposes a \$150 fine for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

A county commission can determine a local road that is under the jurisdiction of a township may be added to the county road system under HB 1444. The commission must notify the township of its intention to add the road to the county

system.

HB 1503 increases the maximum penalty for causing an injury while driving under the influence from five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine (Class C felony) to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine (Class B felony).

SB 2183 raises the minimum fine for speeding in a construction zone from \$80 to \$150.

MILITARY

SB 2398 establishes military impact zones, which are geographic zones extending from the perimeter of each military base in the state. Military impact zones will combine land, airspace and electromagnetic spectrum use around military bases to ensure that civilian actions do not interfere with base testing, training and overall military readiness.

Harris places in top three at region speech meet



On Saturday, April 12, at the Region 5 Speech Contest, Finley-Sharon eighth-grader Cove Harris placed third in the speech category of humorous. The contest was held at Dakota Prairie Elementary School, McVie, N.D. (photo/F-S School)

THE EXTENSION CONNECTION

Great Zinnias for the Dakotas



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Spring is here and the weather forecast is looking optimistic. If you are still deciding what to plant in your landscape this summer, keep reading for zinnia recommendations. This week, I'm sharing an article by Tom Kalb, NDSU Extension Horticulturist.

Zinnias are one of the most popular flowers grown in the Dakotas. They are easy to grow, do not need

much water and bloom all summer. Every year I work with over 300 gardeners to test promising varieties. Our team loves to grow zinnias, and we have discovered a new group of varieties that are both amazing and very affordable. These are the Dessert Menu zinnias. These varieties consist of beautiful mixes of colors and cost only 5% compared to premium varieties. Dessert Menu zinnias are exceptional in many ways.

First, each variety is a specially designed blend of colors. My personal favorite is Fruity Beauty, which comes in bright shades of orange, yellow and coral. These vi-

brant colors seem to glow in the garden. Many gardeners love red flowers. To them, I recommend Berry Tart. It is a radiant blend of scarlet, cherry, burgundy and coral blooms. Strawberry Parfait flowers are a blend of rose, pink and white. Blueberry Cheesecake is a mix of deep purple, lavender and white blooms. Lemon Meringue has yellow, white and lime green flowers. I think a blend of colors provides for a more natural look in a garden, especially when planted in a large bed. For example, the blend of deep purple, lavender and white flowers in Blueberry Cheesecake

zinnias is more appealing to me than a row of all purple flowers.

Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds love Dessert Menu zinnias. These zinnias have an open flower habit that provides easy access to nectar and pollen. Dessert Menu zinnias bloom earlier than most other zinnias. You can sow them in your garden and they will bloom in only 70 days. These varieties have received some of the highest scores of all vegetables and cut flowers grown in our trials. Many gardeners rave at how easy the plants are to grow and how beautiful the flowers are.

The plants grow tall, about 3 to 4 feet high, but can withstand our prairie winds. They have sturdy stems that make them great for cut flower arrangements. They rarely suffer from diseases. Remarkable varieties similar to the Dessert Menu series have also performed well in recent testing. These include South of the Border and Lava Lamp, which have bold red, orange and yellow flowers. Blushing Bride has soft pink and white flowers.

For the record, we have discovered other great zinnias over the past 15 years. In addition to the Benary's Giants, State Fair has huge blooms. The Oklahoma se-

ries has smaller, 2-inch flowers that work well in flower arrangements. Attractive zinnias that grow on compact plants include the Zahara series and Old Mexico. I often get asked where you can buy these varieties. Do a Google search of the variety, and many seed companies will pop up.

NDSU will be testing zinnia varieties again in 2025. You are welcome to join the team. Go to ndsu.ag/homegardentrials to download the North Dakota Home Garden Variety Trials seed book. You will find the zinnia trials on page 10 along with many other garden variety trials.



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Mental Health Services Happen Here

NDHC now provides mental health services, including psychiatric care, medication management and psychotherapy, so you can get professional therapy and support without all the travel. Appointments with an experienced therapist will take place via telehealth at our Northwood clinic. Call to schedule your appointment.



Northwood
701-587-6900 • www.ndhc.net

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Request for Qualifications Architectural Services Steele County Courthouse

The Steele County Commission requests statements of qualifications for architectural services for conceptual design of improvements to the exterior of the Courthouse. Successful consultants may be considered for continuation of the work including design development, contract documents, and contract administration.

To receive the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) submittal instructions, visit our website at www.steelecountynd.gov/bids and click on the "Request for Architectural Services" link. If you cannot access the link, please contact the Emergency Manager, Ben Gates, by either of the following methods:

Mail:
Ben Gates, Steele County Emergency Manager
201 Washington Ave W, PO Box 275, Finley, ND 58230
Telephone: (701) 270-1738
Email: bgates@nd.gov

Questions regarding the content of the Request for Qualifications submittal instructions can be directed to Emergency Manager Ben Gates (701) 270-1738 or Sheriff Wayne Beckman (701) 524-2742.

Seven (7) copies of the completed response must be received no later than 12:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2025, at the office of the Steele County Emergency Manager PO Box 275, Finley, ND 58230.

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