

# Surge of crime in Selfridge

By Riley Dahl

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A surge in crime has put the Selfridge community on edge, with Mayor Andy Deason and residents growing increasingly frustrated over the past few years.

“This has been years long, some of it is much more recent, but the issues have been somewhat extensive,” says Deason.

In September of 2024, the Selfridge Post Office was burned down after an intoxicated individual made threats to burn down the town. She was arrested by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and released later that night and was seen throwing bricks and envelopes lit on fire through the windows.

“That’s a systematic problem that really there’s nothing I can think of that can be addressed other than policies for dealing with criminals on a reservation,” Deason says.

“This person was publicly intoxicated and was threatening people and if she had been detained until she was sober, we would likely still have a post office,” he continued.

In addition to systematic flaws, Sioux County has struggled with consistent break-ins, including theft.

Nearly every business in Selfridge has been a victim of these break-ins and residents have come together in an effort to bring these crimes to an end, offering a \$2,000 award for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person/persons re-

sponsible for the crimes.

A camera system was placed in the Senior Center after its fourth break-in. However, the system was also stolen and recovered later.

The camera system was handed over to law enforcement once recovered but no legal action has been taken.

“Multiple times the Farmers Union Oil

Reservation land is overseen by tribal law enforcement or BIA.

The county sheriff has limited jurisdiction when it comes to addressing crimes of enrolled tribal members.

“He [the sheriff] can investigate, and in my opinion should investigate, but the prosecution of all evidence uncovered would rest with the

BIA unless federal authorities get involved,” explains Deason.

During COVID, policies coming down from politicians in Washington D.C. called

for limited detention of non-violent offenders, which has shaped how all law enforcement handles crime.

“There are problems we can’t fix, we can’t fix the issues with the jurisdiction authority, local sheriff and the BIA. Those are political issues that will likely not be fixed. But right now, there’s zero deterrence other than the fear of being caught by an owner,” he says.

Solen experienced a similar issue with break-ins until the thief broke into an occupied home and was shot and suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Deason is determined to get to the bottom of the exasperating crime and will not rest until those responsible are held legally liable.

“Since last year I have been at every commissioner meeting, and even special meetings in person and remotely, even when we were at my son’s wedding,” he expresses.

Deason will be reaching out to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to request assistance to investigate these crimes, with the hope there will be a positive outcome.

He is encouraging all residents to lock their doors, secure any items left out, and to call 911 with every incident to keep proper documentation.

“

*There are a lot of problems we can’t fix, we can’t fix the issues with the jurisdiction authority, local sheriff and the BIA.*

~SELFRIDGE MAYOR ANDREW DEASON

has been broken into or had things stolen, The Selfridge Fire District had thousands of dollars and equipment stolen out of the hall and from the trucks, the NRCS office has had holes drilled in the gas tanks to steal fuel as well as tools stolen from the Tree Shed,” explains Deason.

The Selfridge School was the most recent victim, suffering a loss of approximately \$15,000 in computers and other goods.

Deason is facing further struggles to receive a reassuring response from local law enforcement and County commissioners, adding extra barriers.

“The commissioners have decided that the sheriff does not get all the emergency calls from our county, but only the calls that relate to the non-Indian towns,” Deason says. “I think that’s a little bit inappropriate, and I voiced that to the commissioners yesterday. I think the sheriff should get all of the calls that relate to criminal activity in our county,” he continued.


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LEMMON LIVESTOCK

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WED JUNE 25	REGULAR SALE
WED JULY 2	NO SALE Due to 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Holiday
WED JULY 9	REGULAR SALE

ROWDY BENSON 605-569-1493

BRADY HAM 605-569-1493

## GRANT COUNTY Commission Proceedings

Regular Proceedings	90.00
May 21, 2025	
Chairman Zenker called the May 21, 2025 meeting of the Grant County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. All present honored our nation by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Public present:	
Commissioner Meyer moved to approve agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hochhalter. All present voting aye; agenda approved.	
Moved by Commissioner Meyer and seconded by Commissioner Hochhalter to approve May 7, 2025 Regular Board of Commissioner meeting minutes. All present voting aye. Minutes approved.	
Treasurer's report was reviewed.	
Old business:	
New business:	
Meyer moved to approve bills totaling \$52,315.15. Seconded by Hochhalter. Roll call vote - Meyer-aye, Hochhalter - aye, Zenker - aye. Bills approved.	
A&S Country Market ....	106.39
Burleigh-Morton Detention Center .....	800.00
Department of Transportation .....	1,161.83
Gas & Gears LLC .....	1,253.62
Grant County Fair Association .....	100.00
Grant County News .....	90.00
Jacobson Memorial Hospital	
Julie Fischer .....	134.70
Tessa Osterbauer .....	69.81
Otis Elevator Company .....	125.00
Sauber Engineering Inc .....	2,543.44
Statewide Services Inc .....	43,938.00
Terracon Consultants Inc .....	1,304.00
Wells Fargo Vendor Financial .....	598.36
Commissioner Meyer commented that he has been in contact with Raymond Christensen about valuation questions, but they have not been able to meet in person yet.	
Jared Fischer presented a scaled burn restriction effective May 21, 2025. Motion made by Meyer and seconded by Hochhalter to rescind prior burn restriction. Roll call vote - Meyer - aye, Hochhalter - aye, Zenker - aye. Motion carried. Motion made by Meyer to enact scaled burn restriction effective May 21, 2025 to November 1, 2025. Roll call vote - Meyer - aye, Hochhalter - aye, Zenker - aye. Motion carried.	
Jason Albert met with the Board about Central Specialties applied for a conditional use permit for the Hiway 49 project. Commissioner Meyer asked that a representative meet with the Board and also a Road Use Agreement should be provided.	

## PASTOR’S NOTES Pastor Paul Ferrie,

Grace Reformed Church of the Lord Jesus

We continue today with the passage we have been considering together, Colossians 3:5: “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” Last time we looked at the first three sins the believer is commanded to put off: fornication, uncleanness, and passion. We resume now with “evil desire.” Let us realize that God has designed us with certain desires. But since the fall, sin has infiltrated those desires and turned them into what Paul is speaking of here: evil desires. In light of the preceding three sins in this list, Paul is no doubt speaking here of concupiscence, which is a lustful sexual desire. Jesus said in Matthew 5:28, “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” This means that Christians have an ongoing obligation to put guards and checks on our sinful nature, which will rise up in various kinds of lust. And the only way we can do that is by the means Paul gives to us in Galatians 5:16: “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Putting away sins is not something that can be done by gritting our teeth in self-determination. Our sinful natures are too powerful to be defeated by unaided flesh. We need to ask God for the enabling strength of the Holy Spirit to put away sin and walk in a way that pleases Him.

The last member to be put to death is covetousness. The word translated “covetousness” literally means “the desire to have more” and refers to greed and insatiable desire. This sin is different from the previous four, which were all related to sexual lusts. This has more to do with a lust for material things. And Paul adds the important comment that covetousness is idolatry. How is that? It is not hard to see. When people put the desire for money or things above God, the object of their desires has replaced God in their affections. Let us remember Jesus’ words of warning in Luke 12:15: “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’” A similar warning is found in Paul’s words in 1 Timothy 6:10: “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for

Eric Urness, Brosz Engineering discussed the progress of the preliminary engineering of the Cannonball River bridge replacement 2 miles south and 1 mile east of New Leipzig. A thirty foot wide structure is being considered. Permanent and temporary easements will need to be compensated.

Jackie Steinmetz provided other information in preparation for the County Board of Equalization.

Motion made by Meyer and seconded by Hochhalter to offer the City of Elgin the purchase of parcel 61038000, and parcel 61040800 for the cost of \$5.00 each and the waiver of special assessments and any other charges that have accrued. Roll call vote - Meyer - aye, Hochhalter - aye, Zenker - aye. Motion carried.

Members of the Board attended via online, ILG course, Budgeting for Counties. Course covered changes in 2025 legislation affecting political subdivision assessment and levying authority.

Being no further business, Zenker adjourned meeting at 2:18 p.m. FYI: next scheduled meetings will be June 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. County Board of Equalization will meet at 1:00 pm on June 4, 2025 in the Courtroom of the Grant County Courthouse.

/s/Alton Zenker  
Alton Zenker, Chairman  
/s/Sara Meier  
Sara Meier, Auditor  
Published June 19, 2025

which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

God calls His people to a high standard of holiness, and we need a word of caution here. It is possible for unbelievers to live in a way that is outwardly moral so that they might appear to others to be Christians. But external righteousness is not enough. God wants the holy behavior of His people to come from hearts that love and desire to please Him. And that is something that can be produced only in believers through the work of the Holy Spirit. Friends, if you have not placed your trust in Jesus Christ alone to make you right with God, please ask Him to save you on the basis of Christ’s payment for sins. Not until then can you know that you will spend eternity in heaven. And not until then is it possible to begin living in a manner that is pleasing to God.

## PUBLIC Notice

### Notice to Creditors

In the matter of the Estate of Maudell Eisenbarth, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above named estate. All persons have claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must be mailed to: Nancy Eisenbarth  
Personal Representative  
PO Box 21  
Carson, ND 58529

/s/Nancy Eisenbarth  
Nancy Eisenbarth,  
Personal Representative

Published  
June 12, 19, 26, 2025

## 2025 MOTORCOACH TOURS

Mystery Tour	July 14-17
Medora 60th Anniversary	July 22-23
Folklorama	August 8-11
Mackinac Island & Duluth	September 1-6
Washington, D.C. & Gettysburg	September 12-20
Nashville/Grand Ole Opry 100th Anniversary	October 1-10
Branson Holiday #1	Oct. 31 - Nov. 6
Branson Holiday #2	November 7-13
Branson Holiday #3	November 13-19

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