

Mountrail County

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STANLEY
AND MOUNTRAIL COUNTY

PROMOTER

110TH YEAR, NUMBER 45

SINGLE COPY 75¢

STANLEY, ND 58784

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017

Automatic Burn Bans In Effect

The Board of County Commissioners of Mountrail County adopted an updated Automatic Burn Ban policy at the May 2nd commission meeting.

Previously, Mountrail County had a Burn Ban with no opening burning in place. As many people use burning as a method of spring cleanup, Mountrail County has moved to the automatic burn ban policy.

A burn ban will be in place with no open burning permitted whenever National Weather Service Fire danger index is at high, very high or extreme and/or a Red Flag warning – wind warning has been issued. It is the public's responsibility to check weather conditions before burning. Weather information can be obtained at www.weather.gov/bis/fire or www.nddes.gov/des. You can also find this information on Mountrail County Disaster Emergency Services Facebook page, which is updated daily.

Since Mountrail County experienced a mostly open winter, our focus for public safety turns to the fire danger. Dry conditions coupled with plentiful fuel and windy conditions are a recipe for fire dangers which can quickly burn acres of grassland and anything in the fire's path.

If you plan to conduct a con-

trolled burn for spring cleanup in the county, you must contact the Mountrail County Sheriff's office at 628-2975, Mountrail County Disaster Emergency Services at 628-2909 and the local fire department with information on whom, where and when. The required contact with these authorities is so our volunteer fire fighters aren't called to a controlled burn.

Mountrail County asks you to use common sense when planning to burn and check weather before burning. If the Index is high, very high or extreme and/or a red flag warning has been issued the ban is in effect. If the index is moderate or low you must contact the Mountrail County Sheriff's Office and the Local Fire Department prior to any burning. Burning during a burn ban or failing to carry out the necessary notifications carries a



Class B Misdemeanor, up to 30 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine for violation of a burn ban.

If you have questions you can contact the Mountrail County Disaster Emergency Services at 628-2909 for more information.

Home And Garden Show A Success

If the number of people attending and the number of vendors participating is any indication, the first annual Home and Garden Show at the Mountrail County South Complex and Mountrail County Fair Building on Saturday, May 6 could only be deemed a success. The joint effort between the Mountrail County Garden Club, Mountrail County Ag Agency and NDSU Extension Service offered something for everyone in the day-long event.

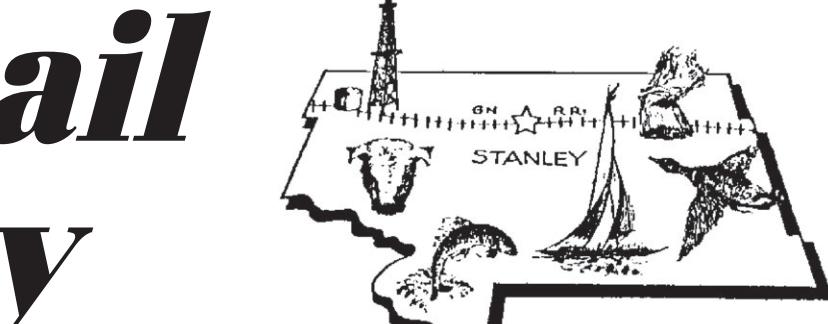
Things kicked off with the doors opening at 10 a.m. and the first of the educational sessions kicking off at the same time. Experts in the field of gardening, lawn and trees held sessions in both the conference room and just off the main room at the South Complex as well as outside. Those attending had the opportunity to learn about fruit trees, new and current tree varieties and tree diseases. Presenters also covered topics like planting a great vegetable garden, ornamental grasses, flower arranging, seed starting, hydroponic systems, raised flower beds, hops, hypertufa pot making, entomology and specialty bread making.

The kids were not left out in this day either as they had a chance to learn about fairy gardens, planter boxes, seed planting and making birdhouses. Stanley's cheerleaders were on hand to offer some face painting. Because of high winds, the bouncy houses had to be cancelled.

A number of organizations were among those with booths in the two buildings. Many of them were selling food, snacks, drinks and baked goods as fundraisers.

The two buildings featured over 75 vendors signed up. They had something for everyone as well. They featured homebased businesses, crafters and woodworkers and area businesses. There were lawn and garden equipment displays. Home improvement tips were available from several vendors. Several home-based businesses also had the opportunity to sell their items.

This first ever event was deemed a success by those organizing it and they look forward to making this an annual event. This was the first real project this year for the newly formed Mountrail County Garden Club, but they plan more events in the months to come. You can follow them on Facebook to keep up with what they have planned and also for more information on how to get involved.



Hunter Firearms Opens In Stanley



What was once Outback Sports now has new owners and has opened as Hunter Firearms in Stanley. Owned by Conrad and Melissa Petersen, the business was purchased last July through a broker. Outback Sports was owned by Travis Rodenizer. The process to get to opening seems to have taken a long time for Petersens, but they had a vision of what they wanted it to look like. They did as much of the work themselves as possible and hired others to do the rest. Modern Woodworks from Kenmare helped with the slat wall and metalwork, Tim Bryant of Prairie Painting did cleaning and painting, Shane Williams of Minot took care of the flooring, and Craft Electric of Stanley did the electrical work.

The new look started with some interior work on the walls, followed by the installation of the new black and gray walls, new carpets and specialty metals. Conrad says the colors are some of his vision and they go well with the "man cave" feel and the guns that are on display in the store. Things have changed some to make the store more functional, including eliminating the archery range to create more space for inventory storage. Petersens say that they found the remodeling to be a contrast between expectation and reality, especially when it came to costs, but the end result looks great and is incredibly functional.

The name Hunter Firearms came as Conrad knew what he wanted it to be, having gotten his federal firearms license in 2008 with that name. When they opened the business they just needed to come up with logo and signage. The logo started when Conrad laid two rifles on the floor in the basement and snapped a picture. They had a company help tweak the image and add the colors to come up with the logo that hangs on the building now.

First opening for the store came on April 26 in a what was more of a soft opening as they made sure their employees were comfortable with all the procedures and as they waited for merchandise to arrive. The first



sales, however, came in the final days as they were getting the store ready to open. Conrad says with the doors unlocked while they were putting on the finishing touches, the first customers came in to check it out and they were happy to help them with their new purchases.

In their first days, they were also working on making sure their employees had a good grasp on the detailed nature of being a firearms store. There are a number of forms required in the purchase of firearms, including those required by ATF. There are background checks and more that are required.

Besides Conrad and Melissa, they have three employees on staff. Walter Webb, a fifteen-year Marine, has been hired as general manager and brings his years of experience to the table. Sharon Blackaby and Carson Farhart are also on staff and bring their own unique knowledge and experience to the table.

The store will carry several lines of guns, including new and used shotguns, rifles and pistols. Conrad says the range of firearms will go from a 17 rimfire to a 50 caliber Browning and everywhere in between. They are carrying Vortex scopes and optics, ammo, reloading, clay pigeons, tanninates and more. The store offerings will continue to change as they find out more about what their client base wants. They also say if there is



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something the customer wants, they will be able to get for them if it is not in the store. They will be offering to buy, sell or trade on firearms and will also be offering a layaway program for customers.

When asked why take on the store in Stanley, they smile as they say "location, location, location". Two years ago, Conrad saw the building and talked to Travis Rodenizer about buying the business, but at that time he wasn't interested in selling. Then one day after telling his family about his interest, his son informed him the building was listed on BisMan. Within a week, the deal was closed for something that Melissa says was always on Conrad's bucket list.

The couple hopes the store will bring a good thing to the community. They say the look on people's faces as they come through the door and the comments about this is what the community needs and wants in their hometown seems to be proving them right. They have had good sales in the first days and quite a few people just stopping in to look around and check out the store.

Hunter Firearms is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The address is 6163 Highway 8 South, located at the intersection of Highways 2 and 8 by Meiers Oil. The store's phone number is 628-4570.

Petersens still actively farm in Kenmare. Conrad also works as a consultant for Petroleum Experience in Williston. Melissa was a medical transcriptionist for 15 years. They have three sons: Dallas, age 22; Dalton, 19; and Dakota, 17. They helped in the process of getting Hunter Firearms ready to open and are also happy to see it open finally.

Petersens are grateful to the community for the warm welcome so far. They look forward to being a locally owned business where the money stays in the area one way or another. They also look forward to getting more involved in the community, including with Rolling Plains Sportsman's Club and their various leagues. A grand opening will be held later this summer.

