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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Multiple County Facilities Upgrades Complete in Early 2026
Madison County, NC – December 31, 2025

In addition to Helene recovery and other large-scale infrastructure projects such as communication tower enhancements, and water and sewer line resiliency projects, the Maison County fairgrounds and animal shelter facilities will see facelift completions in the Spring of 2026.

Upgrades to the County's fairgrounds facility include a covered arena project that is scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2026. The 175 ft x 300 ft covered arena facility will seat approximately 1,500 patrons and will feature a press box, new restrooms, and a 125 ft x 240 ft rodeo arena. The Madison Parks and Recreation Director, Chris Maney, along with the Madison County Fair Grounds Committee, have collaborated through the design and construction of the facility. "We look forward to hosting multiple events and expanding the venue to new clients," according to Maney. County Manager, Rod Honeycutt, stated, "The County Commissioners secured funds from the North Carolina General Assembly and the Local Tourism Development Authority to cover the cost of the upgrade. The goal is to open the facility to potential farmers markets, car shows, and concerts – a true multipurpose facility and huge asset for our County."

According to Honeycutt, the Madison County Board of Commissioners directed the Madison County Animal Shelter Director, Pia Cash, and the County Manager to explore partnering with a non-profit agency to expand animal care facility improvements and create community volunteer opportunities. The County, along with the non-profit, Beyond Animal Sheltering, has teamed up to increase facility and volunteer opportunities. Beyond Animal Sheltering donated a modular office space, and the County provided utility hookups for the unit. According to Cash, "Combining the existing facility with the new modular office space allows us to expand our adoption, volunteer, and foster programs. It's basically the adoption center, which is now separate from the shelter building." Honeycutt stated he, "hopes the County and Beyond Animal Sheltering can partner to improve animal care while seeking to reduce cost for the County."

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