

NDCF marks 50 years --

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communities from across the state, including Thomas Clifford (president of UND), Judge Ralph Erickstad of Bismarck, Richard McKnight of Fargo, T. A. Roney of Carrington, Claude Zweber of Rugby and M. Rosalie Lier of Fargo. T. A. Solheim of Minot served as the first board chair. NDCF continues to be governed by a volunteer board composed of men and women from a variety of occupations and geographically dispersed across the state.

"We received significant support from a number of other organizations in our early years, including the ND Bremer Banks, the Otto Bremer Foundation, The Northwest Bancorporation (now Wells Fargo) and others," noted C. J. Hager of Jamestown, the current NDCF board chair. "That early support was crucial, since the idea of a community foundation was relatively new for North Dakota and fundraising in the 1980s economy was difficult."

Former ND Governor William Guy served as the first executive director for the fledgling organization and initially worked out of his home office in Casselton. He began an organized pilgrimage across the state, meeting with bankers, lawyers, trust officers and community leaders to promote the concept of the foundation and raise funds.

When Guy took a job at another organization in 1979, the NDCF board of directors hired Dr. Richard Timmins, former president of Huron College in Huron, SD. The decision was made at that time to move the organization's headquarters to Bismarck to be more centrally located.

Kevin Dvorak was hired as a program officer in 1989 and was named president and CEO in 1995, serving in that capacity for the next 30 years as the organization grew substantially. Lipp took over the leadership role on Jan. 1, 2026.

Statewide and local

NDCF's signature program is local community endowment funds -- permanent funds that support a specific community, county or area. The first community endowment funds were established in 1981 in Bremer Bank communities. The program has expanded over the years and now includes 72 community funds. Last year, NDCF's community endowment funds awarded more than \$3 million in grants to projects and programs in their specific area.

Advisory committees, made up of five to nine local residents, lead fundraising efforts for their community fund and recommend grant awards every year. This "bottom up" approach to philanthropy is a cornerstone of NDCF operations -- the belief that local residents know the needs of their area better than anyone else and should be fundamentally involved in the raising and distributing of their grant dollars.

"The North Dakota Community Foundation means longevity and support to Carrington," Linda Schuster, longtime advisory committee member to the Carrington Community Endowment Fund, said in 2016. "We've got professionals who look out for the funds that we've entrusted to them. People make a donation to the fund and it multiplies over and over again. That money goes back into the community. It helps provide more services that we need."

Many ways to serve
NDCF currently manages more than 1,000 charitable funds, including donor-advised funds, scholarships, organizational endowment funds and disaster response funds.

"One of the times that was very traumatic but where we were most useful to the citizens of North Dakota was the flood of 1997," said Dvorak. "The governor's office called and asked us to manage the private charitable donations to support those affected by the flood. We raised over \$23 million in just a few months. At that time we had a staff of two, but we had literally hundreds of volunteers that helped us in that effort."

NDCF continues to open disaster response funds when requested and continues to waive its fees to ensure that 100% of donated dollars go to those impacted by the event.

The organization also manages more than 200 scholarship funds across the state and awarded \$817,000 in 400 scholarships in 2025.

Serving the nonprofit sector

A leader in the North Dakota nonprofit sector, NDCF has offered technical assistance and training to nonprofit organizations for decades. The ND Association of Nonprofit Organizations (NDANO) was originally established under NDCF's umbrella in 1997 to give a voice to the many nonprofit entities in the state and continues to help educate, advocate and connect nonprofits. NDCF has maintained continuous membership in NDANO and has been a major sponsor of its annual conference for many years.

NDCF leadership was also instrumental in drafting, vetting and presenting legislation regarding the 40% state tax credit for gifts to qualified North Dakota endowment funds. The legislation was passed unanimously by both houses and signed into law by then-Governor John Hoeven. A later amendment in 2011 also passed unanimously in both houses.

"Charitable dollars were leaving the state," explained Dvorak, who served on NDA-NO's public policy committee at that time. "It was important to give residents an incentive to keep those dollars in North Dakota, where they could improve the lives of fellow citizens."

Growth and continued service

What started as a simple idea to encourage and enable philanthropy in the state has grown. The organization that began operations in William Guy's home now has offices in Bismarck, Dickinson, Larimore, and Wahpeton. The staff has grown from two to 11 employees. Accounting that used to be done on a paper ledger now uses a sophisticated software system.

But despite the changes, the core of their work remains the same. "We continue to connect donors with projects and programs in our communities and state that need funding," noted Lipp. "No matter how someone wants to give or what or where, we can help them accomplish their charitable-giving wishes. We encourage everyone to give where they live and leave a legacy for the future of North Dakota."

For more information about establishing or contributing to a fund at NDCF, call 701-222-8349.

Bite back against Lyme disease



Among the tall grasses and wildflowers that sprout each spring and summer lies a stealth predator just waiting for its chance at an easy meal. Ticks may be small in stature, but their impact on bite victims is potentially significant. Preventing Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses comes down to following some key steps.

Learn how common Lyme disease is. Lyme disease affects an estimated 476,000 people each year in the United States alone, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases. Lyme disease is most common in New England, the mid-Atlantic states and the upper Midwest. Between 2009 and 2022, the Government of Canada reported 17,080 human cases of Lyme disease across Canada. However, instances of Lyme disease are likely under-reported due to undiagnosed cases.

Know which ticks carry Lyme disease. The black-legged deer tick and the West-

ern black-legged tick carry the Lyme disease spirochete. The black-legged tick is native to the northeastern, mid-Atlantic and north-central U.S., while the western black-legged tick is found on the Pacific coast.

Wear light-colored clothing outdoors. When traveling in areas where ticks reside, it is important to wear light-colored clothing. Long pants and tall socks, long-sleeved shirts, and hats also should be worn. It is easier to spot ticks on light-colored clothing, and covering up prevents ticks from gaining easy access to skin.

Know where to expect ticks. John's Hopkins Medi-

cine says black-legged ticks live in moist and humid environments, particularly in and near wooded or grassy areas. Walking through leaves and bushes or through tall grasses can disturb ticks and enable them to jump onto people or pets. To avoid ticks, walk in the center of trails and avoid tall vegetation.

Be mindful of pets. Even if you do not venture outdoors into tick-laden environments, your dog may. He or she can carry ticks into the house where they may end up on you or other family members. Prescription tick repellent products are available from veterinarians, and there are topical solutions and collars that can keep ticks away.

Remove ticks quickly and correctly. The CDC says if a tick is removed in less than

24 hours from when it first attached, the chances of getting Lyme disease is very small. Remove a tick with fine-tipped tweezers as soon as it is noticed, being cautious to remove all mouth parts. Try not to squeeze the tick, as it can regurgitate saliva and other fluids when squeezed.

Repel ticks when possible. Create less favorable conditions for ticks. Use a product containing DEET or permethrin on clothing to repel ticks. Some people use chemical-control agents on their properties to reduce the number of ticks in the yard. Discourage deer from the property, as they can carry many ticks, by erecting fences and removing vegetation that deer eat.

-metrocreativeconnection

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MADDOCK CITY COUNCIL April 14, 2026

A regular meeting of the Maddock City Council was held April 14, 2026. Mayor Sarah Dove called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. at city hall. Present for roll call were council members Bradley Hermanson, DeeDee Olson, Dusty Pierson, and Teresa Dosch (via phone). Also in attendance were Jamie Green, Mya Ertelt and Randy Thompson.

A motion was made by Hermanson, seconded by Pierson, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 regular meeting. All voted yes; the motion carried.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Pierson, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2026 special meeting. All voted yes; the motion carried.

A motion was made by Pierson, seconded by Hermanson, to approve the following bills. All voted yes; the motion carried.

Wages	\$9,372.07
Wiegand's Victory Enterprises, Inc.	2,500.00
BC Farmers Press	198.12
BC Sheriff's Office	600.00
BC Tax Equalization	1,300.00
CenDak	836.73
Double M Sanitation	6,000.00
GF Utility	26.00
Howatt's Excavating	4,000.00
Johnson Ag Resources ..	120.25
Junior Library Guild	721.40
Maddock Opera House ..	200.00
MRES	200.00
NAPA	874.62
Northern Plains Elec.	4,354.00
Vestis	162.44
Visa	589.03
Maddock Opera House ..	600.00
Maddock Active Women	250.00
NDPERS	2,473.54
ND Telephone Co.	417.47
Northern Plains Elec.	43,503.34
Western Area Power Admin.	8,269.40

Pam Lee's Report --
• Presented quarterly reports
• Discussed garbage totes for the RRF/125th Celebration
• Discussed the landfill road

There was discussion regarding the LED street light installation project and the installation of additional lighting in the gray shop. The council decided that no additional lighting would be installed in the gray shop. The city council designated June 1-5, 2026 as City Clean-Up Week. Pam Lee was asked to send notices to all city residents informing them of the schedule, dates and details.

Jamie Green and Keith Winson are to obtain quotes for the water tower project and street repair project and submit them at the next city council meeting.

Mya Ertelt was present to discuss a future Memorial Home building permit setback variance. The proposed project includes a six-plex that will be located five feet closer to the curb along 4th Street than the ordinance allows. A motion was made by Dosch, seconded by Olson, to approve the five-foot setback variance. All voted yes; the motion carried.

The council directed Jamie Green to coordinate with Keith Winson to inspect all city curb stops and

identify any faulty ones. This is to be completed by May 15, 2026 with repairs to be completed by July 1, 2026. They are to bring a list of inspected curb stops to the May 12, 2026 city council meeting. They are also to provide a list of contractors contacted for this project.

Pam Lee informed the council that the city was awarded \$750 from the Community Foundation grant for the campsite project. The council decided to use the funds for a sewer dump station manhole cover at the campsite.

A motion was made by Dosch, seconded by Pierson, to hire McKenzie Melaas for summer office help, along with assisting with projects in preparation for the RRF/125th Celebration. She may work 25-30 hours per week, not to exceed 35 hours per week. All voted yes; the motion carried.

A motion was made by Hermanson, seconded by Olson, to approve four 10-hour workweeks for all city employees during the summer, from June 1 through August 31. All voted yes; the motion carried.

The council members each gave a portfolio report. Benson County Assessor Randy Thompson was present to conduct the annual tax equalization meeting. A motion was made by Pierson, seconded by Hermanson, to approve the proposed changes. All voted yes; the motion carried.

The council reviewed the entries for the slogan and logo contest. Kaitlyn Palacios was selected as the slogan winner and Jayla Smith was selected as the logo contest winner. Each will receive \$125 in Maddock Bucks.

Mayor Dove recapped the RRF/125th Celebration logistics meeting held on April 8, 2026 at 4 p.m. at city hall. Those in attendance were Mayor Dove, Jamie Green, Keith Winson, Pam Lee, Rachel Markestad, Cathy Faleide and Michele Herrington.

The council discussed the city's relationship with CPWD regarding the water treatment plant.

A motion was made by Pierson, seconded by Dosch, to approve the city paying the ongoing electricity usage costs for the new pocket park located between First United Bank and Thrifty White Drug Store. All voted yes; the motion carried.

Philip and Carol Backstrom applied for a building permit for shingles and a roof addition, as well as a small deck with steps requiring a setback variance. The deck encroaches 9.5 feet beyond what the ordinance allows. A motion was made by Hermanson, seconded by Olson, to approve the setback variance. All voted yes; the motion carried.

A motion was made by Olson, seconded by Hermanson, to approve a gaming site authorization permit for the Maddock Rural Fire Protection District and a gaming permit for the Special Needles Quilters. All voted yes; the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next regular council meeting will be May 12, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Pamela Lee
City Auditor

Sarah Dove
Mayor

Benson County Commission --

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burse the full cost, Holen said the township doesn't have that kind of money in the meantime. Todahl said the Bank of North Dakota was a possible source for a loan. Holen said that it would take a month to six weeks for reimbursement to come in. He stated that a contract was ready but Wold needed permission from the county to keep going. Davidson asked if the county was responsible if the Bank of North Dakota rejected a loan request. Holen said the county had the option of turning the project down. The commissioners voted to have the chair sign the contract, and it would be submitted to the state as soon as possible.

Sheriff's office

Wanzek said she was working with NRG to get two more patrol laptops for her department, as two of the Benson County Sheriff's Office's current laptops are with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation as evidence and may not be returned until next year, by which time they will be in the rotation for replacement. Wanzek provided an estimated cost of \$11,000 for two laptops and docking stations, which would streamline computer use in the sheriff's office. Her plan was to get two computers this year and two or three next year. The board approved a motion for the sheriff to get the laptops and accessories.

Wanzek noted that with warmer weather, more suspicious activity was taking place. She asked for farmers and the rest of the public to be on the lookout for unusual activity and to report it. She also urged anglers to obey "no parking" signs.

Wanzek reported that a couple of candidates had been interviewed for deputy positions.

Benson County Transportation audit

The board reviewed an audit of Benson County Transportation conducted by Brady Martz and voted to have the chair sign a representation letter. The

board questioned a large wage increase between 2024 and 2025 and Wang recommended that the commissioners contact the ND Department of Transportation about it. In particular, Wang questioned what the "dispatcher salary" was for. Horner stated that the dispatcher role at BCT had been described to the commissioners as a work-study position, with the employee only there a short time. Horner also questioned whether this wage increase had been formally approved. Stadium suggested having Becky Hanson of NDDOT join a future meeting.

Horner reported that the new BCT director, Laura Winson, has been able to find part-time drivers.

Other business

The board reviewed special events permits filed by Ye Olde Tavern and voted to approve them.

The commissioners reviewed a letter from Rescom regarding construction of a tower in the Leeds area; the company is soliciting public input.

The approved reviewed TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office) documents for the chip-sealing and voted to have the chair sign them.

The board addressed an approaching vacancy in the Northeast Judicial District with the resignation of Judge Barbara L. Whelan, who is chambered in Grafton, effective April 30. Wang recommended the commissioners provide a letter of recommendation to the ND Supreme Court to keep the Grafton chambers open. Benson and Walsh counties are in the same judicial district and a vacancy in Grafton could affect the availability/workload of judges here. The board concluded to send a letter of support.

Wang said three draft ordinances addressing wind energy, solar energy and data centers would be up for review at the next Benson County Zoning Board meeting.

Summer lawn care and grass mowing bid for Leeds Park Board 2026

Names and addresses for areas to be mowed and lawn care:

----- Must be 16 years of age or older -----

1. Leeds City Park 1st Ave SW, Leeds ND 58346
2. Leeds Swimming Pool 201 3rd Ave SE 58346
3. Baseball field 4th St NE, Leeds ND 58346
4. Baseball parking lot 4th St NE, Leeds ND 58346

Leeds City Park: mow, trim and lawn care such as picking up branches as needed to maintain the grounds to be presentable. This includes taking out garbage as needed and placing it in the city dumpster. Bags will be provided.

Leeds Swimming Pool: mow, trim and provide additional lawn care such as picking up branches as needed to maintain the grounds to be presentable.

Baseball field: mow and trim around fence and building before each game or as needed to maintain the grounds to be presentable. Mowing away from sand to avoid any trimmings in field.

Baseball field parking lot: mow and trim before each game or as needed to maintain the ground to be presentable.

Sealed bids must be submitted by **12:00 p.m. FRIDAY, MAY 1ST, 2026**. Bids may be dropped off at Leeds City Hall or mailed to: Leeds Park Board, PO Box 55, Leeds ND 58346. The Leeds Park Board has a right to reject any and all bids.

Detailed bid information and proposal is available at Leeds City Hall.

TATE TOPA TRIBAL SCHOOL

ANNOUNCES

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Applications Available For the 2026-2027 School Year

Applications are being accepted for the **KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM:**

1. Age criteria - five years old by July 31, 2026
2. Application - must complete all the paperwork before accepted for enrollment

Enrollment Number for Kindergarten

- First come basis
- 18 per classroom

If you want your child to attend Tate Topa Tribal School this fall please complete the enrollment application as soon as possible.

Applications are available in the elementary office. Applications can be mailed if you call and provide an address.

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027.

If you want more information

PLEASE CALL: 701-766-1400 ext. 1414

FOR SALE

The Benson County Commissioners offer for sale

- Craftsman 26" Snowblower with 2 stage electric start and EZ steer
- 21" push lawn mower with Briggs & Stratton 148cc engine
- Heavy Hauler Fimlo dump cart with a 10 cubic ft. steel bed (L42"xW31"x H13") for a lawn tractor

Additional information regarding the sale items may be obtained from:

Bonnie Erickson
Benson County Auditor
PO Box 206
Minnewaukan, ND 58351
(Telephone: 701-473-5340)

Sale of the items will be at **8:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 5, 2026**

Commissioners Room
Benson County Courthouse, Minnewaukan, ND

Written sealed bids will be received until time of sale and must be submitted to:

County Auditor's Office, PO Box 206 Minnewaukan, ND 58351.

Upon the opening of all bids, any party submitting a written bid will be entitled to orally raise his/her bid but must be present to do so. Oral bids will continue to be received until the best bid has been submitted.

The successful purchaser shall pay the full purchase price at time of sale.

The Benson County Commissioners reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids as may be in the best interest of Benson County.