

## Affordable summer entertainment options that may be a short drive from home

Summer is synonymous with school breaks and time off from work, and it makes sense that people will look to entertainment options to fill their time. But not everyone has the budget for lavish two-week vacations or big-ticket excursions. Fortunately, having fun doesn't have to involve going broke. The following are some low-cost options for active daily or overnight adventures when the mercury rises.

### Local sports game

While the draw of a Major League Baseball stadium certainly has its merits, unless inexpensive tickets can be secured, more local options may be a more budget-friendly fit. Minor league games can provide the thrill of watching sports without the high price tag. Plus, they draw smaller crowds and are closer to home for most fans.

### Fairs and carnivals

The average cost of a day at an amusement park can be eye-opening. BestLifeOnline.com says major park tickets for a family of four now range from \$370 to more than \$1,100, depending on the park's luxury level. Smaller regional parks may have lower-priced tickets, but even then, costs can add up when considering food and drink, too. Church carnivals and local county fairs tend to be much more affordable and offer similar thrills and games.

### Day at the beach

Few things can be more relaxing and fun than spending time by the water. Families and friends can spice things up by picking different beach locales and packing the car to check them out. Create a list of possible beaches to visit on weekdays or weekends. Purchasing beach tags well before the start of the season can reduce the costs of beaches, as some charge around \$10 to \$12 per person for daily rates. But there also may be plenty of free or low-cost options.

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### DEVILS LAKE'S SURFACE ELEVATION June 15, 2026

# 1450.18

#### Feet above mean sea level

One week ago: 1450.24  
Two weeks ago: 1450.17  
One year ago: 1449.37  
2012 high: 1453.66 on May 10  
2013 high: 1453.96 on June 27  
2014 high: 1453.45 on June 29  
2015 high: 1451.96 on June 9  
2016 high: 1450.33 on Sept. 25  
2017 high: 1451.68 on May 3-5, 9  
2018 high: 1449.99 on July 4  
2019 high: 1449.13 on June 24  
2020 high: 1449.94 on July 8  
2021 high: 1448.23 on June 11  
2022 high: 1450.62 on July 24  
2023 high: 1450.75 on May 31  
Statistics obtained from <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/>.

## Did You Know?

According to the National Weather Service, the summer solstice, which marks the official beginning of summer, occurs at the moment the earth's tilt toward the sun is at a maximum. As a result, on the day of the summer solstice, which in 2026 occurs on Sunday, June 21, the sun appears at its highest elevation with a noontime position. The precise moment the solstice occurs is when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer. This year the sun will reach that point at 4:24 a.m. EDT. Though it's not always sunny on the summer solstice, when the sun is out throughout the solstice people in the Northern Hemisphere can expect more hours of sunlight than any other day of the year. That provides yet another reason to welcome the official arrival of summer.

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## Life on the Prairie: Building Community in a New Frontier

BY STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ND, ND250 COMMISSION

Throughout 2026, the ND250 Commission, administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, is leading the state's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Through meaningful, inclusive and inspiring projects and events, the commission celebrates North Dakota's rich history, diverse people and bright future while honoring the state's heritage, individual values and spirit of community.

When people think about the settlement of North Dakota, they often picture homesteads, breaking sod and building farms across an open prairie. Yet successful communities required much more than land and crops. They required communities and institutions that connected people to one another and gave them a shared sense of purpose and place.

Long before North Dakota became a state in 1889, civic life was already taking shape.

Indigenous people were thriving within their own sophisticated governing and community cultures dating back more than 10,000 years. Europeans interacted with Indigenous tribes as early as 1738 when La Verendrye navigated the Missouri River.

The first permanent non-Indigenous settlement in what is now North Dakota was established at present-day Pembina in 1797 by a North West Company fur trader named Charles Baptiste Chaboillez. He built the outpost named Fort Panbian, near the confluence of the Pembina and Red rivers in northeastern North Dakota. This was constructed near already-established Native communities that had already established trade systems for

the state of North Dakota.

Over time, economic industry shifted from fur trading to a more agrarian society. During the Great Dakota Boom of the late 19th century, thousands of newcomers arrived to establish farms and businesses. Railroads connected communities and new towns appeared across the prairie. Nearly every settlement aspired to have its own church, school, newspaper, post office and town government that were initiated by local citizens. These institutions became the foundation of civic life and connected communities.

North Dakota's civic story also reflects the diversity of the people who called the prairie home. Over time, communities established institutions representing many faiths, languages and cultures. These organizations helped newcomers maintain traditions while contributing to the larger American story.

The importance of civic institutions extended beyond community life. They helped residents practice principles of self-government. Through local newspapers, school boards, church committees, township meetings and city councils, citizens participated in public life and worked together to solve shared challenges.

Today, North Dakota looks very different than it did during the immigrant settlement era. Population centers have shifted, transportation has evolved and many small communities have changed. Yet the institutions that helped build the state remain important. Newspapers continue informing citizens. Radio, TV and social media now play a role. Schools prepare future leaders. Places of worship create connection. Local governments provide services and all require public participation.

As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, these institutions remind us that democracy is not sustained only through national events and elections. It is strengthened every day in communities where people gather, share ideas, volunteer, serve and invest in their neighbors.

North Dakota's civic life was built one community at a time. Those communities continue to shape the state today.

This summer, celebrate ND250 with a trip to the newly opened Pembina Gorge State Park in Walhalla. Learn more about the fur trade era at Pembina State Museum in Pembina or at the ND Heritage Museum in Bismarck, including the ND250 exhibit. And visit the 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse in Jamestown and experience their engaging civics exhibit covering how we became a state.

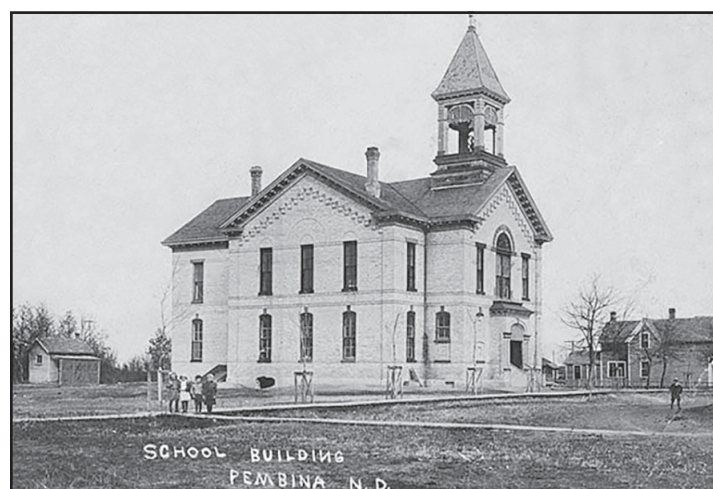
To learn more about North Dakota's role in the 250th anniversary and events happening across the state, visit ND250.com.



ND's first post office, Pembina, ca. 1863. Source: SHSND, 00362-00001



ND's first schoolhouse, Pembina, ca. 1876. Source: SHSND, C1321-00001



Pembina School, ca. 1900. Source: SHSND, 10737-00108

goods and crops spanning hundreds of miles across the future United States.

Situated along important trade routes near the Red River, Fort Panbian became more than a trading post -- it became a gathering place where commerce, communication and community developed hand in hand. By 1801, Alexander Henry the Younger established a permanent North West Company post at modern-day Pembina, laying the groundwork for North Dakota's first organized church, school and post office.

This was just the beginning. Additional settlements followed up and down the river and moving east and west as newcomers quickly recognized that industries required thriving communities that supported the economic engine. They needed places to learn, worship, exchange ideas and govern themselves.

As towns emerged across Dakota Territory, some of the first community institutions included schools, churches, newspapers

and local governments. The 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse in Jamestown, now a state historic site open to the public, was the primary location for key gatherings and civic conversations about transitioning from Dakota Territory to becoming

### 37907 ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

of the	
Allstate Vehicle And Property Insurance Company	In the state of IL
Total Assets	96,417,147
Total Liabilities	46,561,301
Aggregate write-ins	
for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	4,375,000
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in & Contributed Surplus	45,742,676
Unassigned funds (surplus)	-261,830
Total Capital & Surplus	49,855,846
Total Liabilities, Capital & Surplus	96,417,147

### NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025

Total Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Direct Losses Incurred	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Premiums Earned	0
Total Accident & Health Direct Losses Incurred	0

### STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

I, Jon Godfread, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Abstract of Statement, as officially filed by the Company in this office.

I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of this office at Bismarck, the first day of March, A.D. 2026 (SEAL).

**JON GODFREAD**  
Commissioner of Insurance  
**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE**  
**COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the above corporation duly organized under the laws of its state or country of domicile, has filed in this office a sworn statement exhibiting its condition and business for the year ending December 31, 2025 conformable to the requirements of the laws of this State regarding the business of insurance and

**WHEREAS**, the said company has filed in this office a duly certified copy of its charter with certificate of organization in compliance with the requirements of insurance law aforesaid,

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JON GODFREAD**, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named company is fully empowered through its authorized agents and representatives, to transact its appropriated business of authorized insurance in the state according to the laws thereof, until the 30th day of April, A.D. 2027.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Bismarck this first day of March, A.D., 2026 (SEAL)

**JON GODFREAD**  
Commissioner of Insurance  
(Publish June 18 & 25 & July 2, 2026)

## Lebanon donations

Lebanon cemetery donations may be sent in care of Steve Stevenson, 2312 13th Ave. SW, Devils Lake, ND 58301.



## Your Auto & Truck Repair Center

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701-438-2566

Consolidated Newspapers Incorporated is seeking an individual with an IT, Web Design & Social Media background for our computers and software.

Should be familiar with Windows operating system; familiarity with Adobe Software a plus but not mandatory.

For more information contact

**BENSON COUNTY FARMERS PRESS** Lakota American  
PO Box 98 • Minnewaukan, ND 58351  
701-473-5436 • email: farmerspress@gondtc.com

The Sheyenne Rodeo Club presents...

# 2026 SHEYENNE NDRA Fourth of July RODEO

CONTRACTED BY WILDMAN RODEO

TOP SADDLE BRONC-RIDER WILL BE AWARDED A HENRY GOLDEN BOY 30-30 BY THE WETZEL FAMILY

ADMISSION \$20 ADULTS - AT GATE \$15 ADULTS - ONLINE 14 & UNDER FREE

SCAN ME

PRCA FEATURING CLOWN

ROB MATTESON

SLACK STARTS @8:30AM

SATURDAY JULY 4, 2026 TIME 4PM HENDRICKSON PARK SHEYENNE, ND