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sometimes, when they leave, they don't always return.

"This reality led to a simple but powerful question:

"Why not create that opportunity right here at home?"

"Why not build something for our own people, by our own people something that reflects our teachings, our values, and our vision for the future?"

"That is exactly what the Ogimaawiw Leadership Conference represents," Poitra stated. "Throughout the two days, participants engaged in breakout sessions, listened to speakers, and took part in conversations that challenged thinking and encouraged growth. These sessions were more than presentations — they were tools offering ideas, perspectives, and inspiration that attendees can carry forward into their own journeys.

"At its core, the conference emphasized that leadership is more than a title. It is about responsibility. It is about how we

show up for one another and for our communities. As Anishinaabe people, leadership is grounded in humility, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, and love. These are not just our seven teachings we speak about... They are expectations we are called to live out every day."

The conference also highlighted the importance of creating spaces where our youth feel supported, empowered, and seen. By investing in local opportunities like this, Turtle Mountain is taking meaningful steps toward building leaders who are not only educated, but also culturally grounded and community-driven, Poitra says.

"As the conference came to a close, one thing was clear: this gathering was not an ending, but a beginning. The conversations started here, the connections made, and the ideas sparked will continue to grow beyond these two days," Poitra expressed. "Ogimaawiw leadership lives on in the people who were here, and in the work that lies ahead."

One of highlights of the conference took place at the start of

the two-day event when keynote speaker, Sam McCracken took the stage.

McCracken is a member of the Fort Peck Sioux and Assiniboine Tribes and a lifelong advocate for Native youth leadership, wellness, and opportunity. He is the founder of the Sam McCracken Youth Project and the creator of Nike N7, an initiative he developed during nearly 30 years at Nike to expand access to sport and opportunity for Native and Indigenous youth across North America.

As the longtime leader of Nike N7, Sam helped establish one of the most impactful Native-focused programs in global sport. Under his leadership, the N7 Fund has provided over \$13 million in grants to Tribal and Native-serving organizations, supporting programs that have reached more than 500,000 youth.

He also led the development of the Nike Air Native N7 shoe and the broader N7 product line, using sport, storytelling, and partnerships to elevate Native communities. His work has earned



ND Representative Jayme Davis was one of the speaker at the TMC Leadership Conference held last week.

national and international recognition for its impact and innovation.

Today, Sam continues his commitment to Native youth through the Sam McCracken Youth

Project, focused on advancing physical, mental, and cultural wellness for the next generation. Sam McCracken was one of many leaders, who graced the audience at TMC on Wednesday

and Thursday at TMC for the 2026 Ogimaawiw Leadership Conference, two days of inspiring the next generation of leaders from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

## DATEBOOK cont. from page 2A

spected.

With locations, names and signatures completed, Thomas Cooper forwarded the petition to Washington and within a short time received approval. On this date in 1879, the Park River and Sweden Post Offices were established, followed by Grafton a month later. By July of 1879, regular mail service from Kelly's Point to Sweden via Grafton commenced. For local residents it provided an important, but short-lived link to the outside world. Once the Great Northern Railroad arrived in Grafton a few years later, both Park River and Sweden post offices closed.

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## Mrs. Weber Gets Mad By Lise Erdrich

April 29, 2026 — On this date in 1892, Wahpeton papers reported that Gertrude Weber had traveled to St. Joseph, Missouri, in search of her husband. With

help from local police, she found him working at a shoe factory. To avoid arrest, Mr. Weber pretended to be overjoyed to see his wife and agreed to return with her to Wahpeton. He asked for a few hours to settle his affairs and gather his belongings. He took Mrs. Weber to a hotel but then escaped by train with the notorious Madam Dollie Anderson. Mrs. Weber soon realized she had been doubly duped.

Earlier, Mr. Weber, using a false name, had written to a Wahpeton lawyer inquiring about his wife. The lawyer showed the letter to Mrs. Weber, who recognized her husband's handwriting. Upon learning his location, she resolved to track him down.

Back in Wahpeton, she discovered that Mr. Weber had also been corresponding with Judge Folsom Dow, requesting a divorce. Dow responded with a letter containing harsh and derogatory comments about Mrs. Weber. Mr. Weber took that letter to a Missouri newspaper, hoping to have its defamatory content published.

Instead, the newspaper turned

on Judge Dow. The editor advised Dow that "if he was a lawyer, to go to night school and learn to spell and to study the subject of sending filthy matter through the U.S. mail." The paper also reprinted what Wahpeton papers had said in support of Mrs. Weber, noting the public's sympathy for her efforts to earn a living and support her family. She had been left to run a hotel on the rougher end of town after her husband fled, and had been harshly judged by Dow for liquor law and bawdy house violations on the property.

Mrs. Weber later confronted Judge Dow with a horse whip on Wahpeton's main street. The Wahpeton Times described the "fracas" as quite an extended one, reporting that Mrs. Weber "used her whip very dexterously, striking a dozen or more times." The streets quickly filled with spectators, and the scene became a major source of amusement for the crowd.

The paper added that the universal verdict was clear: Judge Dow was wrong to write to Mr. Weber as he had, and no one seemed to blame Mrs. Weber for fighting back.

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## Wax King's Shining Display By Merry Helm

April 30, 2026 — Bismarck businessman Harold Schafer is probably best remembered as the founder of the Gold Seal Company and for his restoration efforts in the town of Medora. But in the business world, he was famous for his stupendous marketing strategies.

For example, in 1945, a salesman pitched Schafer an emulsion that military pilots used in WWII to clean their windshields. Schafer was reluctant, saying his business was floor wax. But that night, he couldn't sleep, so he tried out a sample in his hotel room. By morning, he had given it a name: Glass Wax. He placed an order, insisted it be colored pink and be packaged in pink cans to appeal to the modern housewife. Three years later, sales for Glass Wax hit \$8.5 million dollars.

Companies eager to learn from Schafer did almost anything to get his attention. In April 1949, the Bismarck Tribune carried a photo of Schafer talking on the telephone. In front of him, on his desk, was a full-grown porcupine, sent to him by the South Dakota Junior Chamber of Commerce. The lively gift was intended to "needle" Schafer into giving a speech at their upcoming state convention. The fate of the porcupine is unknown.

On this date in 1955, Schafer outdid himself at a Super Market convention in Cleveland, OH. He put on display the largest number of silver dollars ever shown in public. He had previously used more than 400,000 coins — or what he called "cartwheels" — in a similar manner in a Chicago ballroom, but the weight of the money started to buckle the floor.

Schafer evidently chose a more sturdy setting for his Cleveland display, because this time he had to support 36 tons of

cartwheels. It took three semi-trailers trucks to transport the coins from the U.S. Treasury, a delivery made in total secrecy and guarded by armored cars.

Securing the money had been no easy task, and Schafer had to secure special permission through Senator William Langer to borrow the coins. Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis acted as the receiver, and Schafer, in essence, "rented" the money from the bank.

The cartwheels were transported in large canvas bags — \$1,000 per bag — and were dumped into a huge glittering pile surrounded by armed guards throughout the convention. Schafer's point was to dramatize the profits made by retailers from his third product, Snowy Bleach, the previous year.

The number of coins? 1,200,000. As one newspaper story explained, "...if piled up in one stack, it would reach 1,368 feet into the air, or about as high as New York's Empire State Building."

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## Robinson's History Book Republished By Steve Stark

May 1, 2026 — For many years there has been a key "go-to" print source for information about North Dakota's past. North Dakotans, with either a casual or intense curiosity about the heritage and historical perspective of their state, have benefited from Dr. Elwyn B. Robinson's "The History of North Dakota" since its publication in 1966.

Robinson chaired the UND history department and served for a time as director of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. His work on the book took many years, and it became the standard historical text for the 39th state, which was carved from Dakota Territory.

In his preface Robinson wrote: "I have sought to view North Dakota's history in broad perspective, relating it to major events in the history of the Western world, and to demonstrate how the conditions of existence shaped the character of the men and women who settled the state. For it is my conviction that an adequate knowledge of North Dakota's past provides the best foundation for making public decisions which will determine its future."

The book fell out of print, but was re-published on this date in 1988, making it easily available to new readers. With its easy-to-read writing style, the book starts with the history of the land before human life and takes the reader well into the 20th century.

The reprint's postscript was written by Dr. David Danbom, well-known and recently retired NDSU history professor. Danbom, a long time teacher, writer and researcher, captures an optimistic and thoughtful observation about the land and its people. This is part of what he writes:

"North Dakotans continue to be part of the 'commonwealth' political tradition. They take their responsibilities as citizens seriously and they vote in large numbers (65 percent or better in

most presidential contests). They are civil to one another and distrust the negative, sound-biting campaigning that plays such an important role in contemporary politics in the United States.

North Dakotans continue to expect their elected officials will be honest, forthcoming and accessible. North Dakota leads the nation in elected officials per capita ... it can be interpreted as showing the willingness of some North Dakotans to serve their communities and the desire of

others to have accessible and responsible government."

"Dakota Datebook" is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from the North Dakota Humanities Council. See all the Dakota Datebooks at [prairiepublic.org](http://prairiepublic.org), subscribe to the "Dakota Datebook" podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at [shop-prairiepublic.org](http://shop-prairiepublic.org).

## Real Estate For Sale



614 Harris Court — Rolla

Full Master Suite, two additional bedrooms, and a huge private yard.

Full details may be found on our web page listed below, along with additional real estate listings that are available.

GRACE REALTY LLC



Web address: [gracerealtyllc.com](http://gracerealtyllc.com)  
Phone # 477-2204  
201 1st Ave SE  
Rolla, ND 58367



Turtle Mountain  
Band of Chippewa Indians  
P. O. Box 900 - Belcourt, ND 58316

## Request for Proposals (RFP) For Professional Services Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Project Management and Environmental Brownfields Tribal Response Programs are hereby soliciting Qualifications, Experience and Bids from qualified consultant ("Consultant") firms to provide remediation and disposal services in relation to the Azure's Store Underground Storage Tank Removal. The project is being funded under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) grants and all Tribal and Federal laws, standards and requirements must be met. Must include 3% TERO Fee to bid of \$10,000.00 or more, also include 1% EPA Fee. Selection criteria will include appropriate certification and experience, cost estimates, timeline commitments and anything that is beneficial to the Tribe. Preference will be given to qualified Indian Owned Firms. Sealed written proposal(s) and bids in response to this RFP must be received or postmarked by **May 30th, 2026**. Proposals received after this date will not be considered. Proposals can be hand delivered, courier service, or by mail. No email or faxed bids will be accepted. Please deliver two [2] copies of this proposal to:

Allan Malatterre  
Director, Turtle Mountain Property and Supply  
P.O. Box 900  
4180 Highway 281  
Belcourt, ND 58316  
701 477-2635  
[allan.malatterre@tmhci.org](mailto:allan.malatterre@tmhci.org)

Project Contact: Questions about the project and requests for copies of the RFP, maps and relevant documents; or to schedule a site tour should be directed to the Project Contact:

Philip Lenoir  
Brownfields Tribal Response Program Coordinator,  
TMBCI-EPA  
PO Box 900  
1308 Ogema Road (Transportation building)  
Belcourt, ND 58316  
(701 477-8339 work  
[xavierp72@outlook.com](mailto:xavierp72@outlook.com)

A pre-bid submittal meeting is scheduled **May 20th, 2026 at 10:00 am** at the Tribal Transportation Building, 1308 Ogema Road, Belcourt, ND. Site visits will follow the meeting. Further information on this meeting and site visits may be obtained by contacting Mr. Philip Lenoir, whose contact information is listed above.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians reserves the right to reject any or all proposals/bids and to waive irregularities and informalities.



Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians  
P. O. Box 900 - Belcourt, ND 58316

## REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribal Transit Department is requesting sealed bids for the following:

**Asphalt Hot Box, Infrared Asphalt Recycler, and a Ditch Reclaimer**

### Hot Box

- New
- Able to manage up to four (4) tons (8,000 lbs.) of plant asphalt road mix
- Permanently mounted to trailer
- Able to manage both hot mix asphalt or cold patch materials at workable temperatures
- Heating unit is an efficient use of fuel and controlled by an electronically controlled thermostat
- Asphalt storage unit will be heated by a diesel fueled burner
- Gravity feed of material toward shovel ports
- Cantilevered handles for easy lid opening and closing
- Shovel ports located at the rear of the unit for unloading material
- Minimum 1 year (12 month) Warranty

### Infrared Asphalt Recycler

- Unit must be able to soften asphalt as large as 22 square feet in area for in-place and recycled bituminous pavement surfaces.
- Unit must have at least two independent zones that allow for multiple heating configurations
- Heating system will be a mixture of air and liquefied petroleum gas
- Emergency shut off switch
- Heating system will be controlled by an automatic timed on/off heating cycle

### Ditch Reclaimer

- Able to mount to motor grader
- Minimum of 10, 24 inch discs
- 2-4 bolt pillow block
- Disc angle must be 25 degrees from direction of travel
- Parallel front mount lift system

Must specify 3% TERO fee.

For any questions, please contact Ronald Trotter, TMBCI Transportation Department (701) 477-8345

All sealed bids should be addressed and mailed or delivered to:

Allan Malatterre  
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians  
PO Box 900  
4180 Highway 281  
Belcourt, ND 58316  
Contact No: 701-477-2635

Closing Date: All bids must be received on or before 3:30pm, **Monday, May 11, 2026.**