



July 13, 2026
Belcourt, N.D.

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Turtle Mountain Times

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Peace & Pride

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa celebrates first-ever International Indigenous Peace Powwow at all-new Chief Little Shell arbor in Dunseith

By Dave DeCoteau Jr.
TM Times News

DUNSEITH – A new event helped open the new Chief Little Shell Powwow arbor in Dunseith this past week, honoring the legacy of the Indigenous people while strengthening relationships across the U.S. and Canada borders.

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa sponsored the first-ever International Indigenous Peace Powwow last Monday on the fresh, new grounds of the Chief Little Shell Powwow arbor in Dunseith, where a large contingent of singers, drummers, and dancers of all ages from both sides of the border celebrated peace and harmony amongst one another at this one-of-a-kind event.

Les Thomas, President of the

North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance and TMBCI Tribal Tourism Consultant, was the lead organizer of the International Indigenous Peace Powwow alongside a planning team from the Turtle Mountain Heritage Center board of directors and TMBCI Tribal Planning. Thomas said last Monday's event was an epic and historic event for the Turtle Mountain Tribe and Indigenous people on both sides of the border.

"It was an epic and historic moment for our tribe to host the first-ever International Indigenous Peace Powwow," Thomas said. "The America 250 is being celebrated right now and we want the rest of the U.S. to know we were here before the 250 years of the

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Business - Old & New: Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Council Holds Monthly Open Public Meeting

T.M. Times News

BELCOURT - It was time for business both old and new this past Thursday at the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribal Headquarters. The TMBC Tribal Council held its monthly Open Public Meeting, which was broadcast to the public this past Thursday on KEYA Public Radio and on a livestream video posted on the Turtle Mountain Tribe Facebook page.

As with each Open Public Meeting, things begin with a call to order, roll call, an opening prayer and honor song prior to the Council adopting the month's agenda.

With the agenda adopted, things move onto Old Business, including the Tribal Chairman and

Tribal Council Reports, a review and approval of the Financial Report provided by the Chief Financial Officer, a review and approval of minutes from the previous OPM, and regularly scheduled meetings throughout the last month.

Like months past, this month's TMBC OPM also included Tribal Program Director Reports with this month's being listed as Louis 'Buster' Frederick (LIHEAP Program), Felicia Nadeau (VISTA Program), Anita Blue (Tribal Planning Dept.) and Kandace Parisien (Motor Vehicle Dept.).

New Business for the month was provided by Tribal Attorney Alysia LaCounte, who presented a trio of proposed revisions to the Tribal Code, all of which can be

seen as follows.

As always the Turtle Mountain Tribe's monthly Open Public Meetings can be seen in their entirety on their Facebook page. TMBCI Tribal Council Agenda Regular Open Public Meeting Thursday, July 9th, 2026 Tribal Headquarters, 10 a.m.

Call to Order -Roll Call- Opening Prayer- Adopt Agenda

Old Business:
1. Tribal Chairman & Tribal Council reports

2. Chief Financial Officer - Review and Approve Financial Reports

3. Review and approve minutes

from Regular Open Public Meeting May 28th, 2026 and Regularly Scheduled Meetings May 13th, 19th, 26th, June 2nd, 16th, 18th, 23rd & 24th, 2026.

4. Tribal Program Director Reports - Louis 'Buster' Frederick - LIHEAP Program; Felicia Nadeau - VISTA Program; Anita Blue - Tribal Planning Dep.; Kandace Parisien - Motor Vehicle Dept.

New Business:
1. Alysia LaCounte, Tribal Attorney - Approval/consideration of comment period issues -

a. Proposed revisions to Title 38 Traffic Code - to provide clear citable locations of fire lanes for

law enforcement and fire officials to provide notice and clarify and create a clear citation and forfeiture amount for parking in a fire lane (Reps. Lunday, Gourneau and Counts).

b. Proposed revisions to Title 1 of the Tribal Code regarding appointments, qualification and disqualification of Trial and/or Special judges (Reps. Keplin, E. Davis and Lunday)

c. Proposed revisions to Title 13 of the Tribal Code regarding qualifications of Chief Clerk of Court, Associate Judge and Chief Judge (Reps. Keplin, E. Davis and Lunday)

Date of Next Open Public Meeting - July 23rd, 2026 Adjournment

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Note: COMMENT PERIOD ISSUES: A member of the public who wishes to speak on an agenda item shall be required to register his or her name and address, list the item to speak on, and provide whether they are for or against the item.

Written comments can be made in the comment section at <https://tmchippewa.com/tribal-records/>. All electronic comments must be submitted by 4 p.m. the day before the Open Public Meeting.

A full copy of the adopted procedures for comment period issues are available on the Tribal Records Facebook page.

Let the Summer of Fun Commence

Turtle Mountain Days 2026 Kicks-Off with Many Great Activities for All Ages

T.M. Times News

BELCOURT - A summer of fun has officially commenced as Turtle Mountain Days 2026 has gotten underway.

Turtle Mountain Days kicked-off with a bang this past weekend with the first three days of fun and excitement for all ages.

Things officially kicked-off this past Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the Turtle Mountain Community.

Among the opening-day events was the first of two days of Demolition Derby at 'Dakota Destruction', which was hosted by 'Just for Fun Motorsports' at the Sky Dancer Casino just west of Belcourt.

Also on the opening day there

was a Reach for the Sky Round-Up - held at the Turtle Mountain Diabetes Program Parking Lot.

The fun continued on Saturday with the always-packed Turtle Mountain Days Parade that winds through the streets of Belcourt, which were full of parade-goers of all ages.

The TM Days Parade was joined/followed by a Vendor Show, Community Picnic, Cornhole Tournament as well as Day 2 of 'Dakota Destruction' at Sky Dancer.

On the final day of the opening weekend at Turtle Mountain Days the events included Canoe/Kayak Races hosted by the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Natural Resources crew, a Cancer Awareness Walk in town and a Family Movie Evening at the Sky Dancer Casino & Resort Events Center.

As the opening weekend concluded, many great events and activities remain this week with four more days of fun for all ages.

Said the Turtle Mountain Tribe of this year's Turtle Mountain Days, "get ready for Turtle Mountain Days 2026! Join us for a week packed with fun, com-

munity, and celebration from July 10th to July 16th. Come on out and join the festivities!

A full schedule of events for Turtle Mountain Days 2026 can be seen as follows with more events possible to be added as the Turtle Mountain Tribe noted on their Facebook page, "just a quick disclaimer to let everyone know that there will be more events added throughout the week for Turtle Mountain Days. Keep an eye out for updates so you don't miss any of the fun activities planned. We're excited to celebrate with you all!"

Turtle Mountain Days 2026 Friday, July 10:
• Demo Derby at Sky Dancer Casino, 6 p.m.
• Reach for the Sky Round-Up at TM Diabetes Program Parking Lot, 5 p.m.

Saturday, July 11:
• Parade at 10 A.M.
• Community Picnic at Sky

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