



Opening Day of the 2026 North Dakota State Fair is Just Four Days Away

MINOT, N.D. – The countdown is officially on. In just 4 days, the gates will open to the 2026 North Dakota State Fair, welcoming thousands of visitors from across North Dakota, the country, and beyond for nine unforgettable days of agriculture, entertainment, family fun, and North Dakota tradition.

From July 17-25, the Fairgrounds in Minot will come alive as guests gather to Celebrate the BIG 250 - The Fair Way! with exciting entertainment, interactive experiences, agriculture, delicious food, shopping, and hundreds of events taking place throughout the celebration.

"This is one of our favorite times of the year because you can feel the excitement building across the state," said Craig Rudland, general manager of the North Dakota State Fair. "Whether you're a first-time visitor or someone who's been coming for generations, there's something new to discover and plenty of traditions to enjoy. We can't wait to welcome everyone back to Minot."

Nine Days of Something for Everyone

The 2026 North Dakota State Fair offers something for every age and interest. Guests can enjoy nationally recognized entertainment, interactive America 250 ex-

periences, livestock competitions, horse shows, agricultural exhibits, family-friendly attractions, shopping, contests, and fair food favorites throughout the week.

Agriculture continues to be at the heart of the Fair, with 4-H and FFA exhibits, livestock shows, youth competitions, and educational experiences showcased across the grounds.

New this year, **Agriculture Acre** transforms the Magic Place inside the State Fair Center into an interactive celebration of North Dakota agriculture. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Agriculture Acre features hands-on exhibits, cooking demonstrations, commodity education, family-friendly activities, and opportunities to learn more about the industries that help feed and fuel our state. Guests are encouraged to download the North Dakota State Fair app for a complete schedule of daily Agriculture Acre programming.

The Fair will also feature exciting new attractions and food vendors, live entertainment, and interactive exhibits celebrating America's 250th Anniversary, giving visitors even more reasons to spend a full day—or several days—exploring the Fairgrounds.

Behind the Scenes:

The Countdown is On

While opening day is still four

days away, the Fairgrounds are already hard at work preparing for the thousands of guests who will arrive on July 17.

Vendor move-in has begun as exhibitors from across the region start transforming buildings into bustling marketplaces. Carnival crews are assembling rides, attractions are taking shape, and livestock barns are receiving their final touches before welcoming hundreds of animals for this year's competitions and shows.

"This is one of the busiest weeks of the year for our staff, vendors, exhibitors, and partners," Rudland said. "Months of planning all come together during these final days, and it's exciting to watch the Fair come to life."

As preparations continue, Fair officials ask the public to refrain from driving through the Fairgrounds during setup. With delivery trucks, heavy equipment, and crews working throughout the grounds, limiting vehicle traffic helps everyone safely prepare for opening day.

"The anticipation is part of the experience," Rudland added. "We promise the wait will be worth it when the gates open on July 17."

Plan Before You Arrive

With hundreds of activities happening each day, planning ahead is the best way to make the most of your Fair experience.



The free North Dakota State Fair App makes it easy to navigate the grounds and includes:

- Daily schedules
- Interactive fairgrounds map
- Entertainment listings
- Livestock and event schedules
- Food vendor locations
- Special events
- Ticket information
- Real-time updates and notifications

Guests are encouraged to download the app before arriving, purchase tickets in advance, and begin planning the experiences they don't want to miss.

Opening day begins **Friday, July 17**, launching nine days of entertainment, agriculture, education, food, and family fun that continue through Saturday, July 25.

The countdown is on. Download the North Dakota State Fair App, purchase your tickets, and start planning your visit today.

Follow North Dakota State Fair on Social Media

- Facebook: facebook.com/ndstatefair
- X (Twitter): @ndstatefair
- Instagram: @ndstatefair
- TikTok: @ndstatefair

SUMMER cont. from page 1A

Dancer Event Center, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

- Demo Derby at Sky Dancer Casino, 4 p.m.
- Vendor Show at Jollies Parking Lot, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Cornhole Tournament at Sky Dancer Event Center, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 12:

- Natural Resources Canoe/Kayak Races at Gordon Lake, 10 a.m.
- Cancer Awareness Walk at BDYWC Dome, 10 a.m.
- Family Movie Evening at Sky Dancer Event Center, 7 p.m.

Monday, July 13:

- Elders Day at Sky Dancer Event Center, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14:

- Veterans Day
- First Responders Day at Sky Dancer West Parking Lot, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- Teen Dance at Sky Dancer Event Center, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15:

- TM Kids Day at TM Practice Football Field, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Chippewa Chow Down at TM Practice Field, 1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 16:

- Culture Day at Derrick Dixon Event Center, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Live Music at Jollies Parking Lot, 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Special Olympics at TM Football Field, 11 AM - 2:20 p.m.
- Kids Rodeo at Sky Dancer Event Center, 12 p.m.
- Outdoor Movie Night at Football Practice Field, 8 p.m. & 10 p.m.



Belcourt School District #7 Bid Advertisement

Open Date: July 6, 2026

The Belcourt School District is calling for sealed bids for the following:

The SALE and REMOVAL of ...

- **2010 7x14 ft Haulmark Food/Concession Trailer in AS IS condition.**

The trailer can be viewed at the Belcourt School Event Center between the hours of 9a.m. to 3p.m. Monday thru Friday. The contact person for trailer viewing is Monte LaVallie and can be reached at 701-550-6781 (cell).

Sealed bids must be submitted to Duane Poitra, Business Manager at the school Business Office by the closing date of July 16, 2026 at 1:00 pm. The mailing address is Belcourt School District #7, Attn: Duane Poitra, PO Box 440, Belcourt, ND 58316. The Belcourt School District #7 Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any part of the bid or to waive any formalities in the bidding. For further information regarding the bidding process, contact:

Duane Poitra
Business Manager
P.O. Box 440
Belcourt, ND 58316
(701) 477-6471 ext. 3213

REQUEST FOR SERVICE PROPOSAL
EAGLE HEART BUILDING
LOG HOUSE, DUNSEITH, ND 58329

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, is requesting sealed bids for a service Proposal for the following:

Replace Existing Doors (4) Four Pairs:

- Demo of existing doors and frames
- Install new entrances to fit existing door openings
- White painted doors and frames
- Clear insulated High-Performance glass
- One (1) @ East Entrance to be a single door with equal side lights each side. To include Panic Devices with Exterior ADA Pull Handles
- Two (2) @ West Entrance to be single doors with equal side lights each side. To include Panic Devices with Exterior ADA Pull Handles
- One (1) @ North Entrance to be a pair of doors. To include Vertical Rod Panic Device with ADA Pull Handles and Hold Open Closers
- All required trim, materials and hardware must be included

Bidder is required to include 3% TERO fee to bid of \$10,000.00 or more
Must specify 3% TERO fee
Must specify 1% EPA fee

All sealed bids must be addressed and mailed to:
Allan Malatterre, TM Property Director
TMBCI
PO Box 900
4180 Highway 281
Belcourt, ND 58316-0900
Contact No: 701-477-2635

Faxed bids will not be accepted.

All Tribal and TERO Regulations will be applicable, and must be concurred with.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Closing Date: All bids must be received on or before the close of business at 4:30p.m., July 17, 2026

DATEBOOK from pg 2A

back to the 1930s, when tough times called for cheap or free entertainment.

The game still exists today. In fact, the Buckeye Donkey Ball Company in Ohio has been running since 1934, training and leasing Donkeys in sixteen states for this peculiar sport, usually to be used as a fundraiser. There is also still in existence a nine-minute documentary of the game, simply titled Donkey Baseball, released in 1935 by MGM studio. And then there are clips of recent game attempts on the Internet.

On this date in 1937, the craze was documented in North Dakota as the Hazelton Independent reported that a Donkey Ball game had recently been organized at the local baseball diamond. The largest crowd in many years gathered around to watch—in fact, more than five hundred people were present. As the Independent reported, "...It reminded one of old times when Linton fans used to charter a special train and come up here with their team, a brass band and plenty of money to bet with the Hazelton sports. Only this time there was absolutely no rivalry in evidence."

The fans came to see businessmen and farmers alike, riding atop donkeys, while attempting to play baseball. Teams were picked at random from the crowd. The Independent reported, "It didn't seem to matter how good a rider a man was; no one ever rode from home to first without being unceremoniously dumped into the dirt before he reached his base. Those donkeys just didn't have any place to hang onto..."

The game was played by time instead of the usual innings, and the teams were both unnamed and almost indistinctive, but one scored two runs, the other scored four, and it provided great entertainment for everyone who attended.

After the Donkey Game, Hazelton and Moffit played a traditional baseball game, with Hazelton winning 9 to 3, a game the Independent characterized as "not overly spectacular, especially after witnessing the show just before."

Leonard Day

By Sarah Walker

July 16, 2026 – On this date in 1923, a man by the name of Leonard Day was in Medora, waiting for the rain to end so he could continue on a hike — one that he began two years before!

Day was a lecturer and a writer from California, and he was traveling under a pseudonym. He had written a manuscript titled "The Unsolicited Generosity of the American People," which his publishers rejected. They told him he didn't know his subject.

So, on November 21, 1921, Day took up his new name, one of the

characters' names, and set out on a hiking tour around the edge of the United States to prove he did indeed know his subject. He would travel more than 10,000 miles on foot, and was able to ask only for water and matches. He relied on people around the country to support him with unsolicited food, clothes, room and board. If he was successful with his journey, and proved his boast about the American people to his publishers, he hoped he could sell his manuscript, and earn \$6,500.

He was on his return lap when he passed through North Dakota with his only long-term companion, Radio King, his dog. He passed through Bismarck, and even spoke at the Bismarck Auditorium. He also banqueted with the fire department in New Salem.

When he set out from Belfield, he started off with a walking partner, a man representing the Yeast Foam corporation, who wanted to show off his "ability as a pedestrian." However, the man began to lag, and Day soon had to flag down a car to take his partner the rest of the way to Medora.

When Day arrived in Medora, he was "dusty, his clothing soaked with perspiration (owing to the extreme heat), tired but happy." He had walked approximately 8262 miles by the time he reached Medora.

The Billings County Pioneer reported that Day was "greatly impressed with the scenic beauties of the badlands." He said he wanted to return in the future so that he could "roam at will," but as soon as the rain let him, he kept to his schedule, and set off—hoping to arrive at Sentinel Butte that night.

It would take a few more months, but on Christmas Eve, he strode into Berkley, set to arrive at his destination of San Francisco on Christmas Day. He bore a cane "bedecked with fire department badges" given to him from all parts of the country, as well as a written account of what he had received, along with the signature of the donor, to show that everything had been unsolicited... and a success.

Phil Harris

By Sarah Walker

July 17, 2026 – Phil Harris was a popular actor for many years on radio, television, and the silver screen. He served as a sidekick to Jack Benny, starred in several movies, and even became the voice of animated characters, such as Baloo in Disney's "Jungle Book," and Thomas O'Malley (the alley cat) in "The Aristocats."

He and his wife Alice Faye co-hosted "The Fitch Bandwagon," a comedy-variety radio program that followed the Jack Benny show on Sunday nights from 1946 to 1954. He was also known for his music, and was even an orchestra leader.

For residents of Harvey, North Dakota, it was Harris's job as orchestra leader that gave them a link to the celebrity — one of their own

was in Phil Harris's orchestra.

On this date in 1941, the Harvey Herald reported that Roy Wager, the son of Lydia and John Wager, had been a member of Harris's orchestra for almost eight years. It seemed that he enjoyed the job, and with good reason — Harris had earned a lot of respect, with Wager reporting that Harris was held in high regard by all the band members.

Roy Wager was born in December of 1905. He was raised in Harvey, where his father operated a meat market. When Wager was young, he showed his musical talent, playing any number of musical instruments. As the Harvey Herald reported, "It was noticed that when

other boys of his age were playing games, he preferred to practice on some band instrument."

After graduating from the Harvey high school, Roy Wager became even more immersed in music, eventually joining a traveling orchestra and earning accolades and honors — a musical road that led from Harvey to Hollywood, and his job with Phil Harris's orchestra.

"Dakota Datebook" is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from The Study ND. See all the Dakota Datebooks at prairiepublic.org, subscribe to the "Dakota Datebook" podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shoppairiepublic.org.



TURTLE MOUNTAIN HOUSING AUTHORITY T.D.H.E.
A TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY
P.O. BOX 620 • 1/4 mile S. on Hwy. #5 • Belcourt, ND 58316-0620

Job Announcement

Opening: July 13, 2026 **Closing:** When Filled

POSITION: Security
POSITION: Maintenance - Janitorial

All applications can be picked up at the Turtle Mountain Housing Authority, Main Office.
All applications must be fully completed. If not complete, application will be rejected. Completed applications can be submitted at the Turtle Mountain Main Office, or mailed to TMHA, attention: Rebecca Olander, PO Box 620, Belcourt, ND 58316

For more information, please contact Turtle Mountain Housing Authority at (701) 477-5673.

"TURTLE MOUNTAIN HOUSING AUTHORITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"
TMHA reserves the right to reject any or all applications, to re-advertise, and to do in-house transfers. "DRUG/ALCOHOL TEST AND BACKGROUND CHECKS WILL BE REQUIRED UPON HIRING"

ST. JOHN SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

NOTICE TO VEHICLE AND HEATING FUEL VENDORS

In accordance with North Dakota Century Code 15.1-09-34.1, the St. John School District #3 is requesting that all vendors interested in supplying vehicle fuel and/or heating fuel (including propane) for the upcoming school year register with the district.

All vendors wishing to be considered for fuel purchases must submit their registration information to the district office. Registration must include the vendor's business name, contact person, address, phone number, and email address.

Only vendors who have registered with the district for the current school year will be contacted and allowed to submit written quotes for vehicle and heating fuel purchases, as required by law.

Vendor registrations will be accepted through June 30, 2026, and may be submitted to:

St. John School District #3
Box 200
St. John, North Dakota
Phone: 701-477-5651
Email: keith.lavallie@k12.nd.us

The St. John School District #3 reserves the right to reject any quotes and to waive any informalities in the interest of the district.

Dated this 1st day of July 2026.

By Order of the School Board
St. John School District #3