

USDA Advances Effort To Rescind Roadless Rule

Senator John Hoeven, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee and a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, issued the following statement after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) opened a public commend period as part of the process to rescind the 2001 Roadless Rule, which impacts the Little Missouri National Grassland. In June, USDA announced it would repeal the rule. Hoeven has been working with USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins and other USDA officials to ensure North Dakotans, including ranchers and energy producers, have better access to lands managed by USDA. Earlier this month, Hoeven hosted the U.S. Forest Service Chief in North Dakota to hear firsthand from the area's ranchers and other stakeholders about the importance of access in the grasslands.

"This is an important step by USDA to roll back the restrictive roadless rule, and we encourage North Dakotans to weigh in on the importance of ensuring access to

the grasslands for grazing, energy production and other uses during the public comment period. Rescinding the roadless rule will help put decision-making back into the hands of locals who know best how to manage these lands, and we appreciate Secretary Rollins and USDA's work to prioritize local control over our federal lands," said Hoeven. "At the same time, we continue working to ensure section line rights-of-way are respected in the Little Missouri National Grasslands, as well."

Hoeven continues working with USDA on grassland management issues, including:

- Working to resolve the dispute between North Dakota and the USFS regarding section lines in the Little Missouri National Grasslands.
- o Hoeven has made clear to USDA officials that section line rights-of-way are critical for enabling ranchers to access cattle grazing on USFS lands.
- Coordinating with local ranchers and rural fire departments on wildfire management.

ND DOCR Announces Notice Of Funding Opportunity

The North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (ND DOCR) recently announced a funding opportunity for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

The Correctional Facility Grant Program is a groundbreaking initiative designed to enhance programming and reentry services provided at regional, county and tribal correctional facilities. This funding opportunity is made possible through an appropriation authorized by the 69th North Dakota Legislative Assembly with House Bill 1549.

The program focuses on intervention and service delivery within jails, recognizing that support during incarceration and reentry is vital to reducing recidivism and strengthening public safety. "By enhancing reentry planning and offering services such as behavioral health support, housing coordination, and case management prior to release, the program helps individuals transition more successfully back into their communities, address barriers to successful reentry, and build a foundation for long-term stability," said Jonathan Holth, Commissioner of Recovery and Reentry and Chair of the Correctional Facilities Grant Committee.

The ND DOCR is seeking proposals from correctional facilities that have evidence-based and innovative ideas for enhancing service delivery and reentry planning. The subrecipient shall use the Correctional Facility Grant Program funding to provide authorized direct services to incarcerated individuals and shall manage funding as directed in the Correctional Facility Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity and Subrecipient Agreement.

The grant is a competitive process based upon agency and general eligibility requirements including submission of a complete application, contract and required certifications, and a goal-orientated project or plan showing progress, enrichment, or expansion of reentry programming and services. A detailed proposal will need to be submitted along with the application.

A total of \$1,500,000 will be awarded through the Correctional Facility Grant Program and the number of award recipients will depend on the quality and quantity of submissions received. Solicitation begins September 1, 2025 and ends at 11:59 p.m. on October 15, 2025. More information can be found at docr.nd.gov/grant-information.

Turtle Mountain Superintendent Dr. Shane Martin Appointed To NDHSAA Board Of Directors

The North Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors approved the appointment of Turtle Mountain Community School Superintendent/Athletic Director Dr. Shane Martin to serve on the Board for the 2025-26 school year during a special virtual meeting held on Thursday, August 28.

Martin, who served on NDHSAA Board of Directors from 2011-2014, will serve as the Native American At-Large representative on the Board during the 2025-26 school year replacing Wayne Fox, who resigned from his position as Superintendent of White Shield School earlier this month.

Martin is a graduate of Jamestown High School. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and Political Science from Jamestown College. He worked at the Dakota Boys Ranch in Minot, ND for five years as an Administrator and Wellness Director. While in Minot, he added a coaching and physical education minor through Minot State University. He later took a job as an Athletic Director for the Dunseith Public School System. While there, he started work towards his master's degree through the University of Mary. He completed his Master's Degree in 2001 through the University of Mary. Martin earned his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of North Dakota in 2015.

In 2002, Martin started working for Turtle Mountain Community College as an instructor of Physical Education and the Head of the USDA Anishinabe Learning and Cultural Wellness Center. In 2002, Martin also received his Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist Distinction through the National Strength and Conditioning Association. In 2007, Martin accepted a position directing the activities and athletic programs at Turtle Mountain Community Schools. In

2023, Martin accepted the position as Superintendent and maintained his position as Athletic/Activities Director for Turtle Mountain Community Schools. Martin has six children Dillan (24 yrs), Dawson (22 yrs), Devan (18 yrs), Arianna (15 yrs), Isabella (11 yrs), and Avery-Ann (9 yrs).

Martin has been an advocate for coaching education. He has taught the Fundamentals of Coaching Class to coaches within the Turtle Mountain Community School System and community members interested in coaching through the Turtle Mountain Community College. He taught through the University of Mary college from 2017 to current and now works with NDSU on graduate coursework for local leaders. He continues to teach strength and conditioning courses during the summer as well as administer a National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) for less fortunate youth. Martin started the NYSP/BYAP program in 2004 for Turtle Mountain Community Youth through a grant from the National Youth Sports Corporation. Each summer the NYSP camp has over 160 kids for four weeks during the month of June. The camp teaches sportsmanship, citizenship, drug and alcohol prevention, tobacco prevention, basic fundamentals of sports, swimming and diabetes education/prevention. Martin also works with the All Indigenous Recruiting Organization (AIRO) and serves as the Board President.

A new four-year term for the Native American At-Large representative on the NDHSAA Board of Directors will begin on July 1, 2026, with nominees being selected at the NDHSAA General Assembly Meeting in Fargo this coming April. Voting by the NDHSAA membership will take place following the General Assembly Meeting with the lead vote getting nominee being formally appointed at the June meeting of the NDHSAA Board of Directors.

NDDOT To Begin Mowing Near State Highways

The North Dakota Department of Transportation will begin fall mowing operations along state highways in early to mid-September.

Fall mowing is preparation for the upcoming winter season to help minimize drifting of snow onto the roadway. Adjacent landowners who plan to mow non-interstate ditches

for hay should do so before the state mows these areas. Private mowing is not allowed in medians of four-lane highways.

North Dakota state law requires hay bales to be stored on the outer edge of the right of way. Large round bales should not be placed on inslopes or within 60 feet of the roadway. North Dakota state law requires all hay stored on the right of way to be removed by November 1.

For more information, contact the respective NDDOT district office in your area.

- Bismarck District 701-328-6950
- Devils Lake District 701-665-5100
- Dickinson District 701-227-6500
- Fargo District 701-239-8900
- Grand Forks District 701-787-6500
- Minot District 701-857-6925
- Valley City District 701-845-8800
- Williston District 701-774-2700

Additional information and a district map can be found at www.dot.nd.gov/about-nddot/nddot-districts.



Obituaries

Ronald Jones

May 18, 1943-Aug. 24, 2025

Ronald Lee Jones, 82, Parshall, passed away surrounded by his family on Sunday, August 24, 2025, at a Bismarck hospital.

Ronald Lee Jones was born on May 18, 1943, in Parshall, North Dakota, to H. Merle and Elnora (Clyde) Jones. He was raised in Parshall and attended Parshall High School. In May 1965, Ronnie was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was stationed at Fort Richardson near Anchorage, AK and received his honorable discharge in June of 1967.

From a young age, Ronnie demonstrated a strong work ethic. He spent over sixty years working in various businesses on Parshall's main street. He began working at the age of fourteen for the local dry cleaners and then the grocery store. While on leave from the Army, he would help out at the Standard Station. After returning home from the service, he began working for Haider Construction. Ronnie later worked at the Ford Garage and then spent several years at Walsh's Bar and Steakhouse. He eventually found his career at Reservation Telephone Company, where he retired after twenty-six years of dedicated service.

On June 21, 1968, Ronnie married Judy Erickson. They made their home in Parshall and raised their family there. He was a member of the Arthur Solie American Legion Post 121 and the First Lutheran Church. He served his community

on the Airport Board and the Parshall Cemetery Board. He was known for being a great listener; he was always willing to help wherever he could.

Ronnie was a devoted family man. He supported Judy as her pit crew while she raced for eight years. He also enjoyed watching dirt track races and was an avid basketball fan. He found immense joy in spending time with his grandchildren and attending their many activities.

He will be remembered as a kind and caring man and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Ron is survived by his wife, Judy Jones of Parshall; daughters, Kerri Hall (Bryce) Gettysburg, SD and Tanya Rother of Bridgewater, SD; sons, Justin Jones (Carrie) of Two Harbors, MN, Patrick Jones (Catherine) of Bismarck, and Scott Vorwerk of Parshall; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers, Larry Jones, Miles Jones (Vicki), and Mike Jones (Kim); sisters, Pat Julson, Connie Harr (Kermit), and Barb Werlinger (Willy); sister-in-law, Brenda Jones; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Merle and Elnora Jones; brother, Warren Jones; brother-in-law, Willy Julson; granddaughter, Carrera Hall; and parents-in-law, Leonard and Marie Erickson.

A memorial service for Ronald was held on Friday, August 29, 2025, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Parshall.

Interment was held at Parshall Cemetery, Parshall.

Memorials preferred to Parshall Cemetery (PO Box 86, Parshall, ND 58770) or First Lutheran Church (PO Box 487, Parshall, ND 58770).

In Clean Energy Mad Dash, Union-Scale Jobs Look For Their Place

By Mike Moen, Public News Service

Job seekers might be surprised to learn clean energy is among the fastest growing careers right now. Labor leaders say developers are getting better at hiring union workers to build wind and solar farms, but they see room for improvement in North Dakota.

Industry analysts said the clean energy workforce has a union coverage rate just above ten percent, compared with seven percent in the private sector.

Kevin Pranis, Minnesota and North Dakota marketing manager for the Laborers' International Union of North America, said momentum has developed over the past decade.

"We've seen a really positive shift with good union jobs that pay the same rates that members would make on a conventional energy project," Pranis explained.

In neighboring Minnesota, he noted they have seen a substantial increase in developers hiring local union members for projects, as opposed to out-of-state teams. And while there's progress in North Dakota, he pointed out on some projects, the percentage is still low.

He acknowledged changing the mindset is hard in a fossil fuel-heavy state but adds developers can

help by conveying the wage growth in renewables.

Under the Trump administration, federal incentives for such projects are being scaled back. Pranis predicted a rush of construction jobs for renewable sites over the next two years before key credits expire. Even if demand eventually softens, he argued the sector will still be a force because of plans laid out by utilities and the training members receive pays off in other ways.

"We really train people to be construction professionals, over a set of skills that laborers focus on," Pranis emphasized. "Those skills are applicable, whether it's a solar project, a wind project, a highway, a school."

Pat Hook, business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 683 in Ohio, said another complicating factor is local opposition to wind and solar projects. His union often shows up at public hearings to state the facts and dispel misinformation, so members get a chance to be hired. He sees positive movement in this area.

"The sentiment in the local area is starting to change, hopefully away from opposition because the projects were actually completed and all the kind of fears of potential things that could happen didn't," Hook observed.

North Dakota newspapers are here to stay . . .

Realities and myths about North Dakota newspapers

As a trade association for the 90 North Dakota daily and weekly newspapers, we want to address in simple language the truth about newspapers in North Dakota.

- **Your local newspaper is here for the long run.** Some pundits and so-called experts are already writing the obituary for the newspaper industry. We say: Not so fast. Newspapers march on not only as news leaders and innovators, but as stalwart businesses in communities they serve, contributing to the well-being of Main Street and North Dakota.
- **Newspapers remain a dominant media source in North Dakota.** Newspapers in this state have an estimated readership of more than 500,000, plus a growing on-line audience. 9 out of 10 North Dakotans read their local newspaper. Nationwide, more than 104 million adults read a newspaper every day, except on Sunday when readership grows to 115 million. That's more people than watch the Super Bowl (94 million), American Idol (23 million), or the evening news (65 million).
- **The biggest reason newspapers are read is because you rely on your newspaper to know what's happening in your community.** Obituaries, weddings, high school sports, city hall, babies, arrests, yard sales, church meetings, little league baseball, community events, engagements, town business, government public notices, even the ads . . . the list goes on and on. Your newspaper connects you with your community. No other medium provides what newspapers provide. (Ever see obituaries on TV?)
- **It's a myth that the Internet and other sources will provide news if North Dakota newspapers aren't here to do the job.** The reality is that newspapers make a larger investment in newsgathering than any other medium. In fact, most of the news you get from other media originated with reporting done by newspapers. Sometimes broadcasters read the news directly from the newspaper!

This is a time when newspapers are transforming. The industry is adapting and moving forward. We look forward to the future! We look forward to providing news, information and advertising that help connect and build the communities we serve.



74%

of North Dakota newspaper readers believe that they have a responsibility to help shape the future of their communities.



North Dakota Newspapers

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For more information, contact your local newspaper representative.

**2024 North Dakota State Study, Conducted by Coda Ventures*