

Wish You Were Here

towns- which was one of the main reasons the annual Wish You Were Here bike rally began five years ago. During this short journey, Maples and other motorcyclists travel from North Dakota across all of North America, stopping in rural areas as much as possible.

“Before we even started the ride,” said Maples, “my friends and I would have people coming up to us at gas stations and asking about our usual trips. The lightbulb came on, and that’s when we decided to stick to avoiding the major highways as much as possible. As we pull into towns, we attract attention in these smaller communities. It allows us to engage with people who might not otherwise have the chance, tell our stories, and listen to theirs. A lot of people don’t know about the resources available to them, and we always carry wallet cards with resources they can use.”

Outside of their yearly trip, the group also holds events designed to raise awareness throughout the year. On Saturday, February 28th, they hosted a tournament at Send-It 24-7 Cornhole, where attendees could compete in both organized play and a silent auction while learning from local outreach programs. Rather than focus strictly on benefiting their annual ride, this event was made to support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), an organization

that promotes suicide prevention across the United States.

“The AFSP’s North Dakota branch has worked with us quite a bit,” said Maples. “With the tournament, we’re hoping to make a large donation to them to return the favor. It’s North Dakotans helping North Dakotans, so the money stays in-state.”

More important than the donation itself is the idea that ‘tossing the stigma’ (and likewise, the entire organization) puts forward: that people struggling with suicidal ideation are afraid to share their concerns for many reasons. For many years, Maples states, churches used to refer to suicide as the ultimate sin- and while the world has moved on since then, the general unease around suicide makes it difficult to discuss it for fear of being judged.

“People say there are always warning signs,” said Maples, “but there wasn’t one with my son. He was keeping it all inside, and that’s what a lot of people who struggle do. Veterans, for example, might hide their worries to avoid seeming weak, but that doesn’t help anything. The point we hope to make is that anyone who suffers from suicidal ideation shouldn’t be afraid to speak out, because that’s usually the first step to recovery.”

With this in mind, those who have thoughts of their own are not the only ones who can take the lesson to heart. Many of the friends

and families of victims often find it difficult to open up about the past, mostly due to the idea that suicide is not a ‘natural’ death. This makes it difficult for families to properly remember their loved ones. By encouraging families to speak out, Wish You Were Here aims to make sure the victims are remembered, and even does so by taking their stories on the road.

“On our website, we encourage people to share photos of people who have died by suicide,” said Maples. “We post them up, and every year, we print out playing cards with everyone’s pictures and names on them. They come with us on the ride, so nobody is left behind. When it’s done, if the family wants, I send them the card. It shows that we don’t forget, and they shouldn’t either.”

While their message is simple, it is also a crucial one, and can often mean the world to someone who feels forced to keep their feelings inside. Even the knowledge that they are not fighting their battle alone can be a rare light in the darkness- something that can be the first step to overcoming their feelings. At the very least, knowing that there are people out there who understand their struggles can be an important part of the healing process.

“It’s okay to say it’s not okay,” said Maples. “I haven’t met anyone on these rides whose life hasn’t been touched by suicide, either directly

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or indirectly. Everybody has a story... they’ve known somebody, or had those thoughts themselves. It’s just a matter of letting people know. Nobody should ever have to fight that battle alone.”

The 2026 Wish You Were Ride is expected to take place in June, when Maples and his group will journey to Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. More information on suicide prevention in North Dakota can be found by contacting the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the AFSP’s ND chapter.

Braves Swim and Dive

The Braves Swim and Dive team headed to West Fargo this past weekend to take part in the state tournament. The Braves took 11th place in the tournament with a team score of 95. Senior Vincent Keller was named to the All-State Team.

State Tournament

West Fargo 341; Century 322; Fargo South 300; Jamestown 180; Fargo Davies 172; Minot 169; Legacy 144; Dickinson 125; Fargo North 115; West Fargo Sheyenne 109; Mandan 95; Williston 89; Minot North 71; West Fargo Horace 46; Bismarck 35; Grand

Forks 12
200 Yard Medley Relay: sixth place- Kye Knodel, Jared Lindsey, Vincent Keller, Bennett Graff- 1:42.58
200 Yard Freestyle: 15th place- Jared Lindsey- 1:51.55
50 Yard Freestyle: fourth place- Vincent Keller- 21.71
One Meter Diving: 14th place- Gavin Fry with a score of 321.90
100 Yard Freestyle: third place- Vincent Keller- 47.48
200 Yard Freestyle Relay: 12th place- Trevor Leingang, Michael Gerhardt, Ian Lahtinen, Bennett Graff- 1:35.23
100 Yard Backstroke: ninth place- Kye Knodel- 56.79; 15th place- Trevor Leingang- 59.77
400 Yard Freestyle Relay: 11th place- Jared Lindsey, Ian Lahtinen, Kye Knodel, Vincent Keller- 3:26.86

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minnesota Power
Case No. PU-25-304
202.5 MW Longspur Wind Project - Morton Cty
Siting Application

Minnesota Power
Case No. PU-25-305
Longspur Wind 230kV Trans Ln - Morton & Mercer Cty
Siting Application

NOTICE OF FILINGS AND NOTICE OF CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC HEARING

A Consolidated Public Hearing on the applications in Case Nos. PU-25-304 and PU-25-305 is scheduled for May 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time at the Glen Ullin City Auditorium, 119 Main Street North, Glen Ullin, ND 58631.

On December 30, 2025, in Case No. PU-25-304, Minnesota Power filed an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility to construct an up-to 202.5 MW Longspur Wind Project consisting of up to 45 wind turbine generators and associated facilities in Morton County, North Dakota, as shown on the attached map.

Also on December 30, 2025, in Case No. PU-25-305, Minnesota Power filed a combined application for a corridor certificate and route permit to construct an approximately 2.5 mile-long 230 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities in Morton and Mercer Counties, North Dakota, extending from the proposed Longspur Wind Project to Minnesota Power’s Tri-County Substation in Mercer County, North Dakota, as shown on the attached map.

Believing that there will be no prejudice to the rights of the parties or the public interest, and finding the cases involve similar questions of law and fact, the Commission is consolidating these cases for hearing under North Dakota Admin. Code section 69-02-04-04.

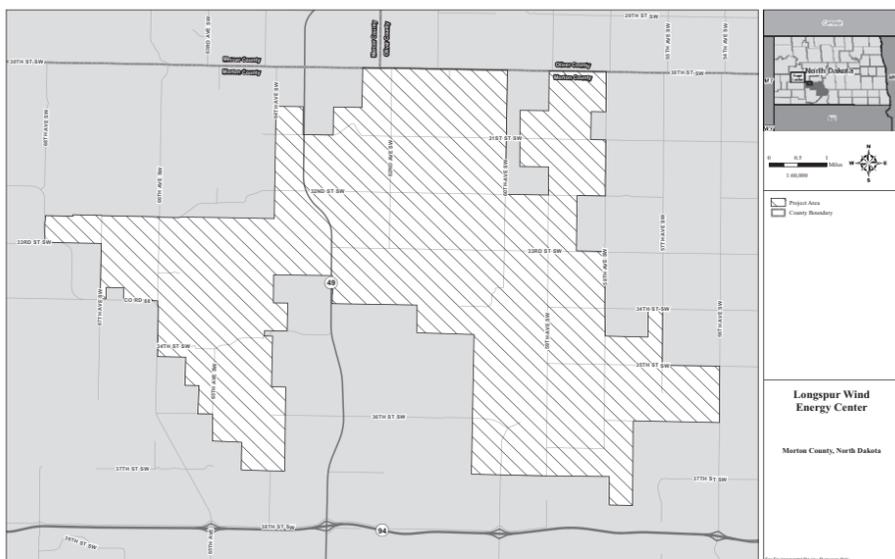
The issues to be considered in this proceeding are:

1. Will the location and operation of the proposed facilities produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Are the proposed facilities compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will the proposed facilities’ locations minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota, 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission at least 24 hours in advance.

Issued: March 5, 2026

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Commissioner
Randy Christmann, Chair
Jill Kringstad, Commissioner



Tell them you saw it in the Morton County News Journal!



Notice of 81st
ANNUAL MEETING
of the Members of

CENTRAL DAKOTA FRONTIER COOPERATIVE

Napoleon • North Dakota 58561

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Annual Meeting** of the members of Central Dakota Frontier Cooperative of Napoleon with locations in Napoleon, Wishek, Hazelton, New Salem, Steele, South Heart, Hettinger, Regent, Turtle Lake, Kensal, Flasher, Beulah & Halliday will be held

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

12:00 p.m. Lunch • Meeting to follow

at the **LEGION HALL** in Napoleon

Presentation of FYE January 2026 cooperative results

During the Annual Meeting

Election of Directors

Informational Meetings:

- New Salem – Thursday 3/26 • 10 am CT
- Turtle Lake – Thursday 3/26 • 2 pm CT
- Regent – Friday 3/27 • 10 am MT
- South Heart – Friday 3/27 • 2 pm MT

Dated: February 24, 2026 SIGNED: Ben Kleppe, Secretary