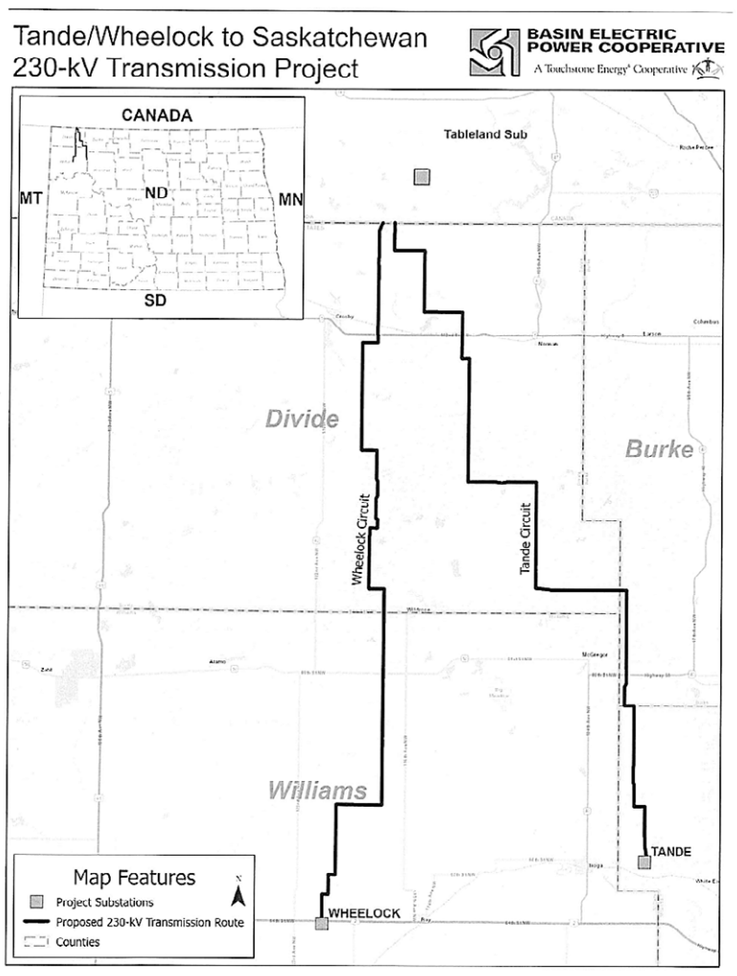
PSC Schedules Public Hearing For Proposed Transmission Line Projects



The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold two public hearings regarding a proposal to construct two transmission lines that will run from Northwest North Dakota to the Canadian border.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is requesting siting permits for the construction of two separate 230-kV transmission lines. The first line would be approximately 53 miles long and would be located in Divide and Williams Counties. It would originate at the Wheelock substation near Ray and end at the Canadian border near Crosby. Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SaskPower) will continue the construction of the transmission line from the international border to a substation near Estevan, Saskatchewan. The estimated cost of the project is $81 million.

The second proposed line would be approximately 58 miles long and would be located in Burke, Divide and Mountrail Counties. It would start at the Tande Substation near Tioga and would end at the Canadian border near Crosby. SaskPower will continue the construction of the transmission line from the international border to a substation near Estevan, Saskatchewan. The estimated cost of the project is $97 million.

These projects were identified by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) to address deficiencies in the transmission capability between the United States and Canada based on the request for additional transmission service from SaskPower.

Note: These cases have been consolidated so both transmission lines will be addressed at both hearings.

Details for the public hearings are as follows:

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 - 10 a.m. Central, Divide County Courthouse, 200 North Main, Crosby, ND 58730

Friday, March 20, 2026 - 10 a.m. Central, Ray Auditorium, 215 Main Street, Ray, ND 58849

The hearings provide an opportunity for members of the public to contribute to the PSC's official record. Any comments from members of the public must be received at a hearing to be part of the record. People with concerns, questions or support/opposition for the project are encouraged to attend a hearing and present their information. Information received after the hearings will not be part of the official record and cannot be used as a basis for the Commission's decision unless certain additional procedures are followed.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

Flag Sojourn 250 To Visit Bismarck As Part Of America 250 Celebration

As part of the nationwide America250 commemoration of the United States' 250th anniversary, Flag Sojourn 250 will arrive in Bismarck on March 18, 2026, bringing a powerful symbol of unity, service, and shared American history. The community is invited to gather for a special flag-raising ceremony at the Burleigh County Courthouse, 514 E. Thayer Ave., in Bismarck on March 19 at 10 a.m.

Flag Sojourn 250 is a historic initiative carrying a single American flag to every U.S. state, every U.S. territory, and every U.S. military cemetery overseas. The effort is designed to honor the generations of Americans who have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation while celebrating 250 years of freedom and opportunity. The journey will culminate as the flag travels through the thirteen original colonies before concluding in Washington, D.C.

Flag Sojourn 250 is an approved America250 program reflecting the spirit of unity and patriotism that defines this historic milestone. Key national programming partners include the National Flag Foundation, the American Battle Monuments Commission, and the National Sheriffs' Association.

North Dakota's participation in Flag Sojourn 250 highlights the state's enduring contributions to our nation's story, from military service and agricultural leadership to energy development and civic engagement.

Community members, veterans, local leaders, and schools are encouraged to attend the ceremony and take part in this once-in-a-generation moment of national significance and patriotism.

Golden Age Club News

Wednesday, March 11th: Supper of salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, vegetables, fruit, and dessert served at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 13th: Dinner of corn beef and cabbage, boiled potatoes, salad, fruit and dessert served at 12:00 p.m.

Monday, March 16th: Dinner of rueben bake, salad, vegetables, fruit and dessert served at 12:00 p.m.

2026 ND State Spelling Bee Competition

The 2026 North Dakota State Spelling Bee will take place on Monday, March 23, 2026, at the Bismarck Event Center, located at 315 S. 5th Street in Bismarck.

This year's event is primarily sponsored by the North Dakota Newspaper Association Education Foundation. Additional sponsors include: Magic City Lions Club (Minot), Minot Junior Golf Association, Thundering Saints (Valley City), Bison Booster Club (Milnor), American Legion Post #29 (Watford City), Finley Improvement Association, Aggie Foundation, Fraternal Order of Eagles (Watford City), Schwandt Goodman Post 9050 (Enderlin), Center Community Club, and Upham American Legion Earl Nermoe Post #269.

The program administrator and host of the event is the North Dakota Association of County Superintendents (NDACS), the official regional partner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Ninety-nine students from across North Dakota, representing fifty-one of the state's fifty-three counties, will compete in this one-day event. Including spellers, family members, volunteers, teachers, school administrators, and spectators, more than 250 people are expected to attend.

The competition will begin in the morning at 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with a written test consisting of fifty spelling words and twenty vocabulary questions. Once the tests are scored, the top 25 spellers, along with any additional students tied for 25th place, will advance to the afternoon's oral spelldown beginning at 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The oral competition will continue until a state champion is crowned.

The North Dakota State Spelling Bee champion will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in "Bee Week" and compete in the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee during the week of Memorial Day. The grand prize includes airfare, hotel accommodations, and travel expenses for the champion and a chaperone.

Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, third, and fourth place finishers. In addition to the trip to Washington, D.C., the Scripps National Spelling Bee provides the champion with a one-year subscription to Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online, News-O-Matic, and Brittanica Online Premium.

According to ND Spelling Bee State Director, Miranda Streifel, "We are thrilled to welcome ninety-nine of North Dakota's top spellers to the State Spelling Bee. This year's competitors range from fourth through eighth grade, with twenty-six spellers returning for at least their second appearance at the State Bee. All of these spellers have demonstrated incredible dedication, hard work, and perseverance to reach this level of competition. We are proud to provide this opportunity for students across the state and look forward to an exciting competition."

Area students that will be competing in the State Spelling Bee are: Kinley Brown, grade 8, Powers Lake School (also competed in 2025); Rylan Martens, grade 7, Bowbells Public School; Kiel Ernest Domingo, grade 5, Edwin Loe Elementary School, New Town; Harlow Schow, grade 8, Stanley Junior/Senior High School (also competed in 2024); Amber Wilhelmy, grade 8, Tioga Junior/Senior High School; and Noah Billings, grade 6, Williston Middle School Central Campus.

For additional information, please contact: Miranda Streifel, North Dakota Spelling Bee State Director, North Dakota Association of County Superintendents (NDACS), Phone/Text: 701-955-4900, Email: ndspelling@gmail.com.

North Dakota Weekly Gas Price Update

Average gasoline prices in North Dakota have risen 43.5 cent per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.01/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 493 stations in North Dakota. Prices in North Dakota are 49.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand unchanged compared to a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 85.9 cents compared to a week ago and stands at $4.599 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the least expensive station in North Dakota was priced at $2.74/g on Sunday while the most expensive was $3.79/g, a difference of $1.05/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 51.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.45/g on Monday. The national average is up 54.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 41.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than eleven million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in North Dakota and the national average going back five years:

March 9, 2025: $3.01/g (U.S. Average: $3.03/g)

March 9, 2024: $3.24/g (U.S. Average: $3.40/g)

March 9, 2023: $3.20/g (U.S. Average: $3.45/g)

March 9, 2022: $3.88/g (U.S. Average: $4.32/g)

March 9, 2021: $2.75/g (U.S. Average: $2.81/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices: Sioux Falls- $2.96/g, up 44.9 cents from last week's $2.51/g, Fargo- $2.93/g, up 44.5 cents from last week's $2.49/g, South Dakota- $3.00/g, up 38.0 cents per gallon from last week's $2.62/g.

"In just a week, consumers have seen gasoline prices surge at one of the fastest rates in years after oil prices spiked following U.S. strikes on Iran and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "With additional attacks across the Middle East over the weekend pushing oil above $100 per barrel for the first time in years, fuel markets are now rapidly recalibrating to the risk of prolonged disruption to global supply flows. As a result, gasoline prices in many states could climb another twenty to fifty cents per gallon this week, with price-cycling markets potentially seeing increases as early as today. Diesel may rise even more sharply, with increases of thirty-five to seventy-five cents per gallon possible as global distillate markets react. While the situation remains highly fluid, consumers are already beginning to feel the impact as energy markets adjust to this sudden escalation."

GasBuddy®, a PDI Technologies company, is North America's trusted fuel savings platform, helping consumers fuel up for less for over twenty-five years. With over 100 million app downloads, GasBuddy delivers real-time prices at 150,000+ stations and tangible savings through Pay with GasBuddy+™. It is the most authoritative source of station-level fuel pricing data, updating averages 288 times daily from the broadest mix of inputs - spotter reports, direct station integrations, and transactional data. GasBuddy data is accessible at http://prices.GasBuddy.com.

Story Time At The Stanley Library

Join us at the Stanley Public Library for a St. Patrick's Day and Easter story time on Tuesday, March 17 at 2:30 p.m.

Dedication Held

(Continued from Page 1)

is now a campus with the nursing home, hospital, clinic and assisted living, he commends those that followed after them for following through. He, too, looks forward to seeing the chapel as a front focal point for the facility. He ended by saying that he is proud of all they have done, building for the future and adapting to the changes.

Former board president George Olson remembered the time in the 1950s when the homes in rural communities were filled with older, retired people. They were faced with the challenge of what to do to help them. It was these people who formed the committee and created MBH and he is thankful for that. He said this new facility is a place where people can come and be blessed again. He expressed his gratitude to the community, the generations before us, and those to come.

Pastor Erin Tormanen reflected on the official groundbreaking on July 17, 2024, with the goal of MBH to create an environment that works to satisfy the physical, emotional and spiritual needs for the residents and their families.

While the physical facility is now here, it is more than a building. It takes love, personal and intimate care for those residents. The command to love and take care of our neighbors is woven through God's creation and scripture. He offered praise to God for all of the efforts to bring forth this facility, making it a glorious reality to serve those precious and beautiful souls that will come in and fill the rooms. He ended with a prayer of dedication for this new facility.

Following the official ceremonies, those attending were treated to an amazing charcuterie spread that filled the nurses' station. Those attending were also allowed to tour the facility, checking out all of the amazing new spaces and rooms.

Groundbreaking on the new nursing home was held on July 17, 2024. This first phase of construction is the new 36 bed nursing home, including ten basic care rooms. This is the same number of beds as the former nursing home.

With that work now complete, construction will move to the hospital renovations. Those will start with the removal of the old nursing home wings to create a new entrance and parking area. The public is invited to join the facility again as they host a farewell to the original Mountrail Bethel Home on Wednesday, Mar. 11 at 12:00 noon. This will be a time for families to return, remember and give thanks. It will be one last visit to the original nursing home before it is taken down, including a prayer of blessing and opportunity to visit loved ones' rooms.

There will be a gift shop and a new waiting room. Construction down the current south wing of the nursing home will include adding an out-patient infusion suite, pharmacy suite and an MRI suite.

Purchasing will be moving from the basement to the upper level. The downstairs area will be renovated to accommodate a new specialty clinic that will allow the facility to bring in more specialists. It will also include a minor procedure room.

The final phase of construction will be adding seven new apartments to Rosen Place. The assisted living facility currently always has an extensive waiting list, showing the need for the new apartments. These will all be single apartments based on the footprint space available.

The entire project cost is estimated at $47 million, with $29 million of that for the new nursing home. The Mountrail County Commissioners committed $25 million over two years for the nursing home portion of the project. Other donors and fundraising efforts have left the entire project with $5 million left to raise. The Foundation continues to accept donations from the public including the ability to donate on their website: www.mountrailcountyhealthfoundation.org/how-you-canhelp.

Memorials Received By Mountrail County Health Foundation

In memory of Roger Evans, Eunice Wunderlich, Marshall Goodman, Rosemary Martens, and Dale Larsen from Steve and Cathy Springan.

In memory of Roger Evans from Colleen Evenson.

In memory of Jerome Clark and Orville Harstad from Gordon and Sharon Aas.

Donations received by the Partnering for the Future Capital Campaign from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Carl and Michelle Kannianen, Stanley Optometry Clinic, and Lions Club.

Memorials and donations are always appreciated and may be dropped off at the health center or mailed to Mountrail County Health Foundation, PO Box 522, Stanley, ND 58784.

Memorials Received By Mountrail Bethel Home

In memory of Roger Evans from James and Kathy Ellingson.

In memory of Roger Evans, Danny Lindberg, Rand Olson, Carol Craft, John Vachal, and Charlie Juma from George and Susan Olson.

Donations received from Bethel Home Auxiliary, First English Free Lutheran Church, American Lutheran Church, Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Powers Lake, and Mountrail Williams Electric Cooperative. Also, from Harlan and Vickie Germundson, and City of Palermo gaming fund for Rosen Place activities.

Memorials and donations are always appreciated and may be mailed to Mountrail Bethel Home at P.O. Box 700, Stanley, ND 58784.

10 Reasons Why Classical Christian Education Is Needed in Today's World

#6: Because Parents and Teachers Should Work Together

Many parents feel disconnected from what happens in their child's classroom. They are unsure what is being taught or why certain choices are made. This can create frustration and concern.

Christian Crossroads Academy approaches education as a partnership. Parents and teachers work together with shared values and a shared purpose. Clear communication and mutual trust are essential.

Families are supported, not replaced. Teachers respect the role parents play as primary guides in their children's lives. When home and school reinforce the same truths, children benefit greatly.

This partnership creates consistency and peace. Children feel secure when the adults in their lives are aligned. Parents gain confidence knowing their values are honored. Education works best when families and teachers pull in the same direction, helping children grow with clarity, encouragement, and purpose.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Powers Lake Rural Ambulance District will be held on Tuesday, Mar. 24, at 8:00 a.m. at the Powers Lake Ambulance Hall.

Notice Of Annual Meeting

Powers Lake Rural Fire Protection District Annual Meeting will be held Monday, Mar. 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Powers Lake Fire Hall.

Howie Township Meeting Notice

The Howie Township Board of Supervisors will hold a special meeting on March 19, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the New Town City Hall for the purpose of the 34th St. reconstruction project bid opening.

Shelly Ventsch, Clerk/Treasurer

Notice Of Annual Meeting

The Plaza Rural Fire Protection Board will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Plaza Fire Hall.

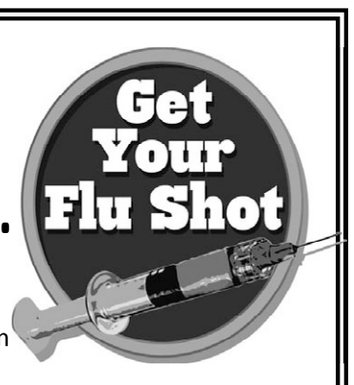
Notice Of Filing Deadline

Notice is hereby given that the deadline for filing to have a candidate's name printed on the ballot for the City of Plaza is April 6, 2026 by 4:00 P.M. The following city offices are up for election:

City Council Member, 4 year term
City Council Member, 4 year term

A candidate for a city office must turn in a completed SFN 2704 Petition/Certificate of Nomination and completed SFN 10172 Statement of Interests to the City Auditor by the above deadline date and time. All forms are available from either the City Auditor or can be obtained online at http://www.nd.gov/sos/electvote/elections/forms.html

Mountrail County Medical Center Clinic is starting to give the annual flu vaccine.



Everyone ages 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine. A flu vaccine is especially important if you have a chronic health condition such as heart disease or diabetes

Please call today to get your annual flu vaccine - 701-628-2505.

The regular flu vaccine will be $35 and High Dose will be $90 at time of visit or billed to your insurance at the same rate.

We have the higher-dose flu vaccine specifically designed for ages 65 and older.

Mountrail County Health Center
Many Avenues - One Goal…Your Health

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