

Souris Basin Planning Council Introduces The Momentum Fund To Support Local Entrepreneurs

Souris Basin Planning Council (SBPC) has introduced the Momentum Fund, a new business financing program designed to help local entrepreneurs access fast and flexible capital. The program was created in response to the challenges small businesses often face when seeking funding, including long decision timelines and financing options that do not match the pace of business needs.

The Momentum Fund provides micro-loans for start-ups and expanding businesses that require support for working capital, inventory, or equipment. The program is open to individuals, businesses, and organizations operating with fewer than ten full-time equivalent em-

ployees and located within the seven counties of North Dakota Region 2: Burke, Bottineau, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, and Ward.

"The Momentum Fund will help entrepreneurs take that first big leap into financing an idea. For some, it will serve as an entry point into developing and launching a concept, and for others, as the next step to expanding a service or product that is already being offered," said Erin Charley, Organizational Development and Program Manager at SBPC.

For more information, visit www.sourisbasin.org/businessfinance or contact Souris Basin at 701-255-1982 or info@sourisbasin.org.

NDDOT To Begin Mowing Near State Highways Mid-June

The North Dakota Department of Transportation will begin mowing a seven-to-ten-foot clearance along shoulders of state highways starting in mid-June to July 1 depending on grass height.

Additional mowing could take place sooner at highway intersections and in urban areas.

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; and Williston District, 701-774-2700.

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

Attorney General Wrigley Warns About Transient Asphalt Paving Scams

North Dakota Attorney General Drew Wrigley issued a statement warning residents to avoid asphalt-paving scams targeting homeowners.

How the scam works: Fraudulent contractors may approach homeowners unannounced, claiming they are working "in the area" and have "excess material" available at a discount. They often pressure consumers to make a same-day decision on whether to accept and proceed with the work. Once a price is agreed upon, the contractor may demand a large upfront payment or begin work immediately and insist on payment as soon as the job appears complete. Some will use intimidation or threats to force quick payment before the consumer can inspect the work.

If paid upfront, scammers may simply leave town without completing the project. And if the scammers do the work, it's often low quality because they cut corners - skipping proper prep work, using too little material or the wrong kind, or working with unskilled labor and poor-quality equipment.

Once payment is made, the contractor becomes difficult or impossible to contact, leaving consumers to face repeated delays, excuses, or complete non-responsiveness.

How to protect yourself: You can protect yourself by being cautious of anyone offering unsolicited paving work, especially if they claim to have leftover material. "Scammers

show up uninvited and try to rush consumers into quick decisions," Wrigley stated and adds that "reputable contractors don't operate that way." Remember to slow down, verify, and protect yourself.

Research any contractor before hiring. Ask where the business is located, request local references, ask whether the contractor is licensed with the Secretary of State, and search online for complaints or negative reviews. It is also important to get all estimates and terms in writing. Do not allow work to begin without a written contract that includes start and completion dates, a description of the work, material details, payment terms, and warranty information.

Avoid making full payment upfront. Instead, stagger payments so work can be inspected at each stage. Whenever possible, pay by credit card. Your credit card company may offer recourse if the transaction turns out to be fraudulent. If paying by check, make it out to a company - not an individual. Avoid using cash and mobile payment apps, which cannot be reversed if problems arise.

"Pay attention if your intuition tells you that an offer appears too good to be true, because it likely is," Wrigley said.

Consumers with questions or who suspect they may have been targeted by an asphalt-paving scam should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 701-328-3404.

NDSU Extension Sets Dates For Summer Youth Crop Scout School

Youth interested in agriculture will have three hands-on opportunities this summer to explore the world of agronomy through the Junior Crop Scout School.

The one-day schools, organized by North Dakota State University Extension, are open to youth ages 12-18. The events will be held at three North Dakota locations: June 25 at NDSU's Carrington Research Extension Center in Carrington, July 2 at Norsmen Hall in Portland and August 3 at the Hampden Cafe in Hampden.

Hosted by local NDSU Extension agents, Junior Crop Scout School is designed to build foundational skills in crop science, agronomy and agriculture-related careers. Participants will engage with real-world topics including crop growth stages, weed identification, crop stand evaluation, soil basics, insects, agronomic careers and more.

"This is an exciting chance for young people to get out in the field, literally, and experience what goes into growing crops and managing healthy fields," says Traci Trostad, NDSU Extension agent in Nelson

County and event co-coordinator.

Each school will begin with registration at 8:45 a.m. and run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There is a cost per participant to attend and includes lunch and a crop scouting kit.

Registration is required. Youth and families are encouraged to register for the location that works best for them.

For the Carrington event, register at ndsu.ag/jrcrop26. For more information, contact Alicia Harstad at 701-845-8528 or alicia.harstad@ndsu.edu.

For the Portland event, register at ndsu.ag/jrcrop26port. For more information, contact Trostad at 701-247-2521 or traci.trostad@ndsu.edu.

For the Hampden event, register at ndsu.ag/jrcrop26ham. For more information, contact Lindsay Overmyer at 701-662-7027 or lindsay.overmyer@ndsu.edu.

Requests for accommodations related to disability should be made at least two weeks before the event.

The crop scout school is made possible with support from local NDSU Extension offices, sponsors and agricultural organizations.

ND Launches \$40 Million Grant Opportunity To Help Rural Hospitals Expand Lifesaving Care

North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) is launching a new \$40 million funding opportunity designed to help rural hospitals upgrade clinical equipment, strengthen emergency and specialty care services, and keep more healthcare close to home for North Dakotans.

For many rural communities, limited and aging equipment can mean patients must travel hours for emergency care, advanced imaging, cancer treatment, obstetric care or specialized procedures. State leaders say the funding is designed to help hospitals provide faster diagnoses, improve outcomes and strengthen the long-term future of rural health care in North Dakota.

"This investment is about helping rural hospitals continue delivering high-quality care in the communities people call home," said HHS Commissioner Patrick Traynor. "When hospitals have the tools they need locally, patients and families spend less time traveling for care and communities are better positioned to remain healthy and strong."

The Rural Hospital Clinical Equipment funding opportunity will support eligible rural hospitals in purchasing equipment ranging from advanced imaging and emergency stabilization tools to surgical, obstetric and oncology technology. The funding opportunity is part of North Dakota's broader Rural Health Transformation Program, a statewide effort focused on improving access to care, strengthening the rural health workforce and helping communities build sustainable health care systems.

Approximately twenty awards of about \$2 million each are expected to be distributed to eligible rural hospitals across North Dakota. Funding may support clinical equipment purchases, installation costs and minor renovations directly tied to patient care improvements. Eligible projects may include:

- MRI, CT and ultrasound equipment
- Emergency and trauma stabilization tools
- Surgical and minimally invasive procedure technology
- Labor and delivery and neonatal equipment
- Cardiology and respiratory care systems
- Rehabilitation and post-acute care equipment
- Oncology treatment technology
- Infection prevention and patient safety systems

A full list of eligible projects can be found in the funding opportunity guidance at www.hhs.nd.gov/rural-health-transformation/funding.

Applicants must be critical access hospitals, rural emergency hospitals or ambulatory care units located in rural North Dakota, including non-federally operated Indian Health Service hospitals. Applications are due June 30, 2026, at 5 p.m. CT. A technical assistance call for interested applicants will be held June 8, from noon to 12:45 p.m. CT.

More information about the funding opportunity, including application materials and technical assistance resources, is available at North Dakota Rural Health Transformation Program webpage.

The Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$198,936,969.55, with 100 percent funded by CMS. The contents are those of North Dakota Health and Human Services and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or the U.S. government.

Where to Apply: www.hhs.nd.gov/rural-health-transformation/funding.

Don't Overlook The June 9 Primary Election

By Secretary of State Michael Howe

Thomas Jefferson said "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." On June 9th, North Dakota will conduct its statewide Primary election. If the past is any indication, "the majority who participate" as Jefferson mentions, may only be eleven percent of eligible North Dakota voters.

Since 2000 North Dakota has averaged a disappointingly sparse twenty-two percent turnout for the June Primary Election. Said a different way, nearly 80 percent of eligible North Dakotans have stayed home and remained silent when it comes to electing their mayors, their city councils or commissions, and deciding who shall serve on their park board. Not all school board elections are on the Primary ballot, but many are. An overwhelming majority are yielding their vote for local representation in their school districts to a fraction of the population.

Yes, there are partisan races on the June Primary ballot. Nominations for statewide and legislative candidates will make up the front page of your ballot. But on the other side of your ballot, you will find races that determine key local leaders; 728 city council and commission seats are up for grabs; 502 spots on park boards across North Dakota are up for a vote; city ma-

jors and commission presidents, the leading voices of our cities, 205 of them to be exact, will be decided on June 9th. In all, 1,500 races and measures will be on Primary ballots in our state.

North Dakota offers several options to make participating in our elections convenient for the voter. Eligible North Dakotans can choose to utilize absentee, early voting, or Election Day to cast their ballot. Early voting begins June 1st in Sioux, Stutsman, and Ward Counties. Cass and Grand Forks Counties will offer early voting beginning June 2nd. Burleigh County starts early voting on June 3rd. Morton and Stark Counties will launch early voting on June 4th.

If you are voting absentee be sure to get your ballot in the mail as soon as possible or drop it off at your county office before the polls close on June 9th. Ballots will not be accepted if they arrive after Election Day.

The June Primary isn't a warmup for November. The election results in June will have an impact on your everyday activities and quality of life.

The next election is always the most important election. Don't sit this one out.

To find a sample ballot, polling locations, early voting locations and hours go to vote.nd.gov.

MHA Nation Joins Together For School Meals Effort

Together for School Meals announced recently that MHA Nation has officially joined the growing statewide effort to ensure every North Dakota student has access to one breakfast and one lunch each school day at no cost to students, parents, or guardians.

MHA Nation, the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, also known as the Three Affiliated Tribes, is located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in central North Dakota, spanning parts of McLean, Mountrail, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, and Ward counties. As of April 9, 2026, MHA Nation has 17,788 enrolled members, including 5,073 enrolled members ages 0-17.

MHA Nation joins more than 70 North Dakota organizations that have signed on in support of Together for School Meals, including educators, labor organizations, health advocates, faith leaders, community groups, and family-focused organizations from across the state.

"Every child in North Dakota should have the nutrition they need to thrive in the classroom," said MHA Nation Chairman Mark N. Fox. "The success of our youth is a priority for all MHA Nation families, and ensuring everyone has access to healthy school meals is one of the most important things we can do to help students do their best learning. We're proud to be a part of the Together for School Meals initiative."

The Together for School Meals measure will appear before North Dakota voters on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. If approved, the measure would ensure every enrolled K-12 student in North Dakota has access to one breakfast and one lunch each school day at no cost to students, parents, or guardians.

"School meals are often the healthiest meals children receive," said Jared Eagle, MHA Nation Health Administrator. "Together for School Meals helps eliminate nutrition inequity for all children. Access to regular meals helps children learn better, reduces absenteeism, and improves their overall health."

Supporters say the measure is a practical step North Dakota can take to support student success, improve health, reduce stigma, and ease pressure on family budgets. The measure also requires schools to maximize available federal reimbursement and participate in applicable federal school breakfast and lunch programs.

"The Fort Berthold Diabetes Program provides health promotion and disease prevention education for all schools on MHA Nation, from Head Start through 12th grade," said Justin Hart, Community Dietitian with the Fort Berthold Diabetes Program. "Our education sessions focus on developing healthy habits through nutrition and physical activity. Providing all students with a nutritious breakfast and lunch provides the nourishment they require to succeed in school and grow to be healthy and disease free. The Together for School Meals initiative aligns with the Diabetes Program's goal of preventing chronic disease for students in MHA Nation."

Together for School Meals submitted 57,229 signatures to the North Dakota Secretary of State earlier this year, far exceeding the 31,164 signatures required to qualify for the ballot. The measure has now been approved by the Secretary of State and will appear on the Novem-

ber 3, 2026 ballot. The campaign is now focused on building statewide support and talking directly with voters ahead of the November election.

"We are proud to welcome MHA Nation to the Together for School Meals coalition," said Robin Nelson, Chair of Together for School Meals. "Their support reflects the growing momentum across North Dakota behind a simple idea: when kids are fed, they are better able to learn, grow, and thrive."

Together for School Meals is continuing to invite organizations, associations, local leaders, faith communities, school advocates, and community groups to join the coalition and help make sure every North Dakota child has the nutrition they need to learn and thrive.

Organizations interested in joining the coalition can learn more at www.togetherforschoolmeals.org.

July 4th Parade

All businesses, vehicles and organizations are encouraged to get a parade entry ready to roll. The parade is July 4th at 11:00 a.m. There will be three staging areas for the parade. They are:

1. Floats - on the frontage road in front of K squared electric
2. Classic Cars - starting on 3rd Ave NW and continuing on 1st St NW
3. All large equipment and saddle clubs - Railroad Ave

A kiddie parade will precede the main parade gathering at the Bravera parking lot. For any information or questions, please contact Matt Evans (701) 629-0373, Kyle Hanson (701) 621-6042, or Steve Springan (701) 629-1352.

100th Palermo School Reunion To Be Held

Saturday, June 27, 2026, will be our final official Palermo Bobcat School Reunion. This will celebrate 100 years of this organization. Special events besides the lunch and meeting will be happening. Everyone is invited that attended (or knew someone that attended), taught or worked at PHS. We would love to hear stories and memories and help us celebrate this BIG occasion. It will start at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at the Old Yellow School Building (which is now brown and is the Palermo City Building).

If you know you can attend, we would appreciate a call or text to Helen Grant, 701-340-8083, to get a head count. This is not required, just appreciated. So, come if you can.

On Friday night, June 26, 2026, the City of Palermo is serving a meal and having a Dance in the Palermo Park with live music to celebrate the opening of a Time Capsule buried 25 years ago. Everyone is welcome to this also.

Come and enjoy a weekend in Palermo, we have heard from many out-of-town friends that are planning to come. Come and celebrate these events and share memories.

KENMARE CITY WIDE Rummage SALE • Lots of Sales

Sat., June 6

Starts 8 am

- Lists of sales available at Kenmare stores
- Free rummage on the curbs after 4 pm

Sponsored by the Kenmare Association of Commerce

Card of Thanks

Thank you to Milo Mell for your prayers, Wrigley Hysjulien for singing the National Anthem, Ron Nicholls for his message and Lisa Lapica for setting up the Missing Man Table for our Memorial Day Program.
American Legion Post #134

Manitou Township Special Meeting

The Manitou Township Board will hold a special meeting on June 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ross Community Building. Topic to be discussed is Railroad Crossing/Closing and road options.
Donna Ruden, Township Clerk

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Parshall Ambulance Service Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ambulance Bldg., 26 Main St. S, Parshall, ND
Agenda available on request by calling 862-4165, please leave a message



The Mountrail County Promoter, Inc. is seeking re-election as Mountrail County's Official County Newspaper.

We would appreciate your vote and support in the Primary Election on Tuesday, June 9. Thank you!

Political advertisement inserted and paid for by Mountrail County Promoter, Inc., Mary Kilien publisher

RE-ELECT COREY BRISTOL Mountrail County Sheriff

- Honesty**
- Integrity**
- Experience**

Your vote on June 9 would be greatly appreciated!

(Political adv. inserted and paid for by the candidate)