

## Traffic Plan For America's 250th Birthday Celebration In Medora

The North Dakota Department of Transportation and North Dakota State Patrol are reminding motorists to plan ahead and expect increased traffic in and around Medora for America's 250th birthday celebration June 30 through July 5. To help keep traffic moving and maintain access for emergency vehicles, a temporary traffic plan will be in place throughout the week.

### Entering Medora

Motorists traveling into Medora are encouraged to take advantage of a free parking and shuttle service from Exit 36 near Fryburg. Visitors entering Medora may also use Exit 24 on Interstate 94. Exit 27 is reserved for shuttle services and emergency vehicles entering Medora.

Additional free shuttle routes are available within the town of Medora to help visitors access different sites.

### Leaving Medora

When leaving Medora, motorists can use the interstate on-ramps at Exit 24 and Exit 27. Significant travel impacts are expected on Wednesday, July 1, when President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit Medora. Motorists should anticipate additional traffic restrictions, temporary road closures and travel delays associated with the presidential visit. More information will be shared as

details become available. "We want visitors to have a safe and enjoyable experience while celebrating this historic occasion," said Lt. Ryan Duletski, North Dakota State Patrol Southwest Regional Commander. "Planning ahead, using designated routes and taking advantage of the free shuttle service will help reduce congestion and keep traffic moving."

Travelers should allow extra time, watch for pedestrians, and be prepared for slow-moving and stopped traffic.

Drivers are reminded to:

- Slow down and avoid distractions.
- Watch for pedestrians and increased bicycle traffic.
- Use caution when entering and exiting parking areas.
- Follow directions from law enforcement and traffic control personnel.
- Be patient and allow extra travel time.

Traffic information and updates throughout the week will be available at [dot.nd.gov/ND250TravelMedora](http://dot.nd.gov/ND250TravelMedora).

For event information, parking details and shuttle schedules, visit [www.trlibrary.com](http://www.trlibrary.com) and [www.medora.com](http://www.medora.com).

## Prairie Fare: Can Weeds Become Part Of Your Dinner?

By Julie Garden-Robinson, Food and Nutrition Specialist, NDSU Extension

I braced myself and tried to pull the weed. The weed was stronger than I was, and I almost fell backward onto the ground.

"I could use a little help over here," I called out to my husband, trimming the bushes.

He glanced over and saw me struggling with a plant whose leaves were the size of rhubarb leaves.

Burdock is sometimes mistaken for rhubarb if you look at the leaves. The seeds must have been dropped near my house by a bird or carried by the wind.

"I need the lopper," I added as I unsuccessfully tried weed removal a second time.

The stem was very thick, but it was no match for the lopper designed to cut tree branches. I later learned that the roots can grow 2 to 3 feet deep.

Although I was able to pull the smaller weeds, unfortunately, the large burdock will probably grow back. I covered the remaining stump with mulch so it will need to struggle for sunlight, I hope.

I learned that burdock root can be used as a vegetable in salads and has been used in traditional medicine for its medicinal properties to treat skin issues, colds, inflammation and digestion. Unfortunately, the roots look similar to a toxic plant, and it may interact with medications. Talk with a healthcare provider before trying new foods.

Although it contains antioxidants and fiber, I had one mission in mind: getting it away from stealing all the nutrients and moisture from my perennial plants.

Burdock produces thistle-like burs that like to stick to the fur of my dogs or clothing of humans. My long-haired dog sported a rather unusual haircut after he encountered some.

Take precautions if you choose to forage for wild plants, including edible weeds. Learn from a knowledgeable forager or use a reliable field guide with clear photographs. Some plants closely resemble edible species but can cause illness or allergic reactions, especially if the plants are relatives of ragweed.

Several common weeds are edible. Dandelions, amaranth, lambsquarters and purslane are considered "weeds," but technically, many parts can be consumed.

However, properly identify the weeds. Harvest only from areas free of pesticides and contaminants.

## Audit Of WSC Finds Tuition Waivers Awarded Without Oversight

An audit of Williston State College has found that over \$200,000 in tuition waivers were given out without the required procedures or proper approvals in place. Without proper guidance and approvals, waivers can be awarded inconsistently, and taxpayers may end up covering costs that should not be waived.

### Presidential Tuition Waivers

The college awarded \$62,045 in presidential tuition waivers to fifteen students in 2024 and 2025. These waivers are meant to support education and cultural enrichment opportunities.

However, the college did not have written procedures explaining who qualifies, how to apply, or how decisions should be made.

Our team also found informal processes being used. In two cases, students were told by their coach to email the College President to request a waiver. In one instance, the student's email request came after the President had already issued the award letter.

### Presidential ERE Tuition Waivers

The ERE waiver was approved by the WSC President for fall 2023 only. The purpose of this waiver

is to reduce tuition for early entry students to the high school unsubsidized rate. Even though the approval was only for one semester, students continued receiving this waiver into spring 2024. The total amount waived was \$94,248.

### Athletic Tuition Waivers

The College awarded \$133,054 in athletic tuition waivers to twenty students in 2024 and 2025. As with the other waivers, the college did not have written procedures for eligibility, application requirements, selection criteria, the awarding process, or monitoring of the requirements.

All athletic waivers were automatically set to waive 100 percent of a student's tuition. There was no documentation showing why the full amount was needed or appropriate.

When tuition is waived, the college must find another source of money to make up the difference. That may include general fund dollars. Without policies and approvals in place, taxpayers across North Dakota could end up covering unnecessary costs.

The audit report period was from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

## Registration Open For 2026 Behavioral Health & Children And Family Services Conference

Registration is now open for the sixth annual Behavioral Health & Children and Family Services Conference, scheduled for September 14-17 at the Bismarck Event Center and online through a livestream option.

The main conference will take place September 15-17, with optional pre- and post-conference sessions offered September 14 and September 17.

More than 1,400 in-person attendees and hundreds of virtual participants are expected to take part in keynote presentations, breakout sessions and networking opportunities focused on behavioral health, child welfare, suicide prevention and youth development.

The conference brings together behavioral health and child welfare professionals, healthcare providers, educators, law enforcement personnel, foster and adoptive parents, kinship caregivers, tribal and faith leaders and others committed to supporting community well-being from across North Dakota to explore emerging trends, evidence-based practices and innovative approaches that support children, families and communities.

This year's conference features nationally recognized speakers, in-

cluding Dr. John "Push" Gaines, an educator and resilience expert who will present on strengthening protective factors for youth and families impacted by substance use and mental health challenges. Additional featured speakers include Erin Walsh, a nationally known author and speaker on youth development and technology, and Patti Heffernan, a leader in healing-centered engagement and trauma-informed practices.

The conference will also feature an exhibit hall, which has included more than 55 agencies and organizations in past years. Sponsorship opportunities remain available.

Additionally, nominations are now being accepted for the conference's 2026 awards and recognition program, which celebrates outstanding individuals, teams and community partners who demonstrate innovation, collaboration and excellence in supporting North Dakota children, families and communities. Nominations are due July 17.

Continuing education units are being pursued for multiple professional disciplines.

For conference details, speaker information and registration, visit: [hhs.nd.gov](http://hhs.nd.gov).

## North Dakota Celebrate America's Story Amid National Divide

By Judith Ruiz-Branch, Prairie News Service

As North Dakotans countdown to America's 250th anniversary, polling suggests Americans are divided over the country's future and worried about the state of democracy.

A recent survey from the Public Religion Research Institute showed nearly 70 percent of Americans think the nation is in real danger of losing important democratic rights and freedoms. A poll from the Pew Research Center showed people are split on their optimism for the country's future.

Meg Bostrom, co-founder of the strategic advisory firm Topos Partnership, said during a recent webinar exhaustion has set in from political gridlock.

"The people are disillusioned by the sense that the wealthy and powerful get to call all the shots," Bostrom explained. "But beneath that pessimism, there really is a persistent belief in America's highest ideals."

Bostrom pointed out research from her firm showed the public resonates most with the principle the people are supposed to be in charge.

In North Dakota, the state's 250th Commission has distributed more than \$140,000 in grants to encourage local organizations to host

activities and celebrations to tell the story of how North Dakota has contributed to American history. The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library is scheduled to open on Independence Day.

As more people seem to have doubts about the morals and intentions of their fellow citizens, Bostrom stressed reminding everyone "We the People" includes every one of their neighbors can counter the divisive patriotism seen across the country.

"The strategy we developed is not an anti-Trump strategy," Bostrom emphasized. "It's designed to speak to a supermajority of Americans, which includes a lot of people who voted for Trump, and they still gravitate toward the ideals behind this message."

Bostrom added the country is at a critical juncture in its history. She pointed out people-led movements have previously succeeded in bettering society as a whole, and a powerful and unifying message could shift the way people talk and think about American identity.

"We have an opportunity to remind Americans of what we're supposed to stand for, and people are hungry for that," Bostrom asserted. "They want a unifying idea that helps them make meaning of this moment in time."

## Proceedings Of The Mountrail County Park Commission

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MOUNTRAIL COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
March 30, 2026

The Board met in regular session on Monday at 9:00 A.M. with Commissioners Eric Jaeger, Arden Eide, Jason Rice, John DeGroot and Wayne Olson present. Wade Enget, State's Attorney was present.

Also in attendance were Justin & Dawn Ritts, Kristin Iverson, Steve Nelson, Steven Littlefield, Mallory Goff, Morgan Olonia, Wayne Johnson, Jay Harstad, John Heinen & Steve Lipp.

Chairman Jaeger called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Comm. Eide, seconded by Comm. Rice, to approve the agenda as corrected. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Eide, seconded by Comm. Olson, to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2026 meeting. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

Stephanie A. Pappa, Auditor reviewed the 2026 financials with the board.

Wayne Johnson discussed developing an endowment fund for the County Parks. John Heinen & Steve Lipp with ND Community Foundation discussed how the process works for the endowment funds. The Park Board would have a larger buckets and then separate buckets for each park.

State's Attorney Enget stated that it would be best to develop a Community Foundation Committee without the park board being involved due to the audit requirements. The Park Managers would be responsible for letting the board know what the Foundation Committee is building for approval.

Moved by Comm. Rice, seconded by Comm. Eide, to approve moving forward with establishing a Community Foundation Committee through the ND Community Foundation. Upon roll call, Rice, Olson, DeGroot, Jaeger and Eide voted yes. Motion carried.

### CLEAR LAKE DISCUSSION:

Steve Nelson, Manager of Clear Lake gave an update on the park. Discussion was held on the possibility of holding a retreat for around 150 girls. The Board stated that would be up to the Managers to approve or disapprove that.

Moved by Comm. Jaeger, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the signing of the Game and Fish cost share for a floating fishing pier and the purchase of a disc, tools & a compressor. Upon roll call, Rice, Jaeger, Eide, Olson and DeGroot voted yes. Motion carried.

### WHITE EARTH BAY DISCUSSION:

Kristin Iverson, Manager of White Earth Bay gave an update on the park.

Moved by Comm. Jaeger, seconded by Comm. Eide, to approve the signing of the Game & Fish cost share for the extension

of the fish cleaning table. Upon roll call, Eide, Olson, Jaeger, DeGroot and Rice voted yes. Motion carried.

Loretta Hansen & Joan Koob Corps of Engineers discussed the ongoing work for the bathhouse on the AMP.

**VAN HOOK PARK DISCUSSION:**  
The building permits were supplied to the board.

Moved by Comm. Eide, seconded by Comm. Rice, to approve the transfer of Lot 6, Block 9 from Ray & Angela Schepp to Tristen Barstad. Upon roll call, all present voted yes. Motion carried.

Dawn & Justin Ritts Managers of Van Hook gave a park update.

Moved by Comm. Eide, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the purchase of gravel, seeding, spraying of weeds, dust control, boundary fencing, moving electrical pedestals, grass aerator, new entrance sign and trees not exceeding \$70,000. Upon roll call, Jaeger, DeGroot, Rice, Olson and Eide voted yes. Motion carried.

Loretta Hansen & Joan Koob, Corps of Engineers discussion was held on the 300 feet on the east side of the park to be removed from the AMP.

### PARSHALL BAY DISCUSSION:

Mallory Goff & Morgan Olonia, Parshall Bay Manager gave an update on the park. Mallory Goff stated the boat ramps have a lot of silt build up. Manager Goff discussed upgrading the West Boat ramp to a 4 lane.

Moved by Comm. Jaeger, seconded by Comm. DeGroot, to approve the signing of the Game & Fish cost share for graveling the west ramp & purchase & installation of a new 5' wide skid dock with weights at the west ramp. Upon roll call, Jaeger, Eide, DeGroot, Rice and Olson voted yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Comm. Jaeger, seconded by Comm. Eide, to approve the purchase of a Vault toilet, gravel, refurbish park canopies, dust control, signage, picnic tables not to exceed \$60,000. Upon roll call, Eide, Olson, Jaeger, DeGroot and Rice voted yes. Motion carried.

Loretta Hansen & Joan Koob, Corps of Engineers stated good with vault toilet on AMP.

### ONGOING DISCUSSION:

Discussion was held on the G&F email stating they'll have resources if lake levels are low and need help with the boat ramp access.

### ADJOURN:

The Board adjourned at 11:15 A.M. to meet in regular session on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Accepted and approved this 18th day of June, 2026.

Eric Jaeger  
Mountrail County Park Commission

ATTEST:  
Stephanie A. Pappa  
Mountrail County Auditor

## ND State Investment Board Adopts Modernized Governance Structure

The North Dakota State Investment Board (SIB) has adopted a modernized governance structure designed to strengthen oversight, improve decision-making, and support the long-term stewardship of public funds. The changes follow an independent assessment conducted by Funston Advisory Services LLC.

The new Governance Policy System provides a unified, modern framework for how the SIB makes decisions, delegates authority, and exercises its fiduciary responsibilities. The system introduces improved decision processes, clearer roles, and disciplined, multi-year governance cycle that supports long-term financial stewardship.

"Modernizing the State Investment Board's governance framework is essential to safeguarding North Dakota's financial future. The updates strengthen clarity, transparency, and accountability across the entire investment oversight process," said Governor Kelly Armstrong, SIB Chair. "By putting a more disciplined and forward-looking structure in place, we are ensuring that the State Investment Board can meet its fiduciary responsibilities with the rigor and responsiveness that North Dakotans deserve."

Key enhancements include:  
• Budget and Finance Committee Creation: A new standing committee will oversee financial reporting, multi-year financial planning, financial controls, procurement and the alignment of resources to SIB priorities.

• Securities Litigation Oversight Transition: Oversight of securities litigation will transition to the Retirement and Investment Offices (RIO) executive director, who will provide structured reporting to the SIB, simplifying governance while maintaining necessary transparency.

• Clarified Roles and Delegations: The new system updates and clearly defines the executive director's responsibilities, including oversight of operational risk management, while modernizing outdated terminology. Committee charters and board authorities were also refined to strengthen accountability and decision-making.

• Investment Manager Selection Authority Delegated: The selection of external investment managers will occur under staff-delegated authority, reflecting modern governance practices and allowing the SIB to focus on strategic oversight. The SIB's Investment Committee will continue to oversee performance, risk and compliance.

• Exception-Based Reporting: Routine items will move to consent agendas across board and committee meetings, allowing the members to focus more time on strategic and risk-sensitive issues.

• Modernized Board Materials and Decision Calendar: A new interactive web-based governance manual improves navigation and accessibility and introduces a decision calendar to organize board approv-

als and reviews.

"Strong governance is foundational to manage public funds responsibly. This modernized system brings greater clarity to roles and responsibilities, strengthens decision-making discipline, and enhances our ability to oversee risk in a rapidly evolving investment environment," said Dr. Rob Lech, SIB vice chair and the chair of the board's Governance and Policy Review Committee which led the review.

The new governance structure takes effect July 1, 2026, with full implementation occurring over the next fiscal year as operational changes, reporting updates, and internal processes are aligned with the modernized framework.

The SIB established its original governance structure in 1995, when it oversaw \$1 billion in assets. While foundational policies were refined over the years, the Funston review was the SIB's first independent governance assessment. Currently, the board oversees more than \$29 billion, including the assets of the North Dakota Legacy Fund, Public Employees Retirement System, Teachers' Fund for Retirement and Workforce Safety and Insurance. RIO administers the SIB's investment program.

For more information about the SIB or RIO, visit [rio.nd.gov](http://rio.nd.gov).

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW

**INVITATION TO BID**  
PROJECT INFORMATION  
Project: New Town Public School Bus Barn Improvements  
Bid Date and Time: Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 2:00 PM CDT  
Project Number: 20263410  
Issue Date: June 22, 2026  
Issued By: EAPC Architects Engineers, 116 West Main Avenue, Suite A, Bismarck, ND 58501, Telephone number: 701-258-3116

**OUTLINE OF PROJECT: NEW 2,740**  
sf bus garage for the New Town public schools. Building consists of one story wood construction and relative mechanical, electrical, structural and site work.

**TYPE OF BIDS:** Separate bids will be received at the same time on the following portions of the work, separately as listed or combined at the bidders option:  
1. General Contract  
2. Mechanical Contract  
3. Electrical Contract

**THE OWNER:** New Town Public Schools  
**BID PLACE:** New Town High School Board Room by main entrance

Bids received after the designated time will not be accepted. All interested parties are invited to attend. Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. It is the bidders responsibility to see that mailed or delivered bids are in the hands of the Owner prior to the time of the bid opening.

**OBTAINING DOCUMENTS:** Drawings and specifications may be examined at the architect/engineer's office, and the owner's office at the address shown above and:

Dodge Plan Room and SCAN in Minneapolis  
ConstructConnect  
Minnesota Builders Exchange in Minneapolis  
North Dakota Builders Exchanges: Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Williston  
South Dakota Builders Exchanges: Aberdeen, Plains Builders in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Sioux Falls  
Montana Builders Exchange: Billings

If Contractor receives his bidding documents from a plans exchange, it is the Contractor's responsibility to contact EAPC Architects Engineers to be added to the plan holders list.

**BID SECURITY:** Each bid shall be accompanied by a separate envelope containing a bidders bond in a sum equal to five percent of the full amount of the bid, including all add alternates, executed by the bidder as principal and by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned that if the principal's bid is accepted and the contract awarded to him, he, within ten days after notice of award, will execute and effect a contract in accordance with the terms of his bid and a contractor's bond as required by law and the regulations and determinations of the governing board. Cash, cashier's checks or certified checks will not be accepted. See instructions to bidders 00 1000, art. 7.

**NORTH DAKOTA LAW:** all bidders must be licensed for the highest amount of their bids, as provided by North Dakota Century Code section 43-07-07; and no bid will be read or considered which does not fully comply with the above provisions as to bond and licenses, and any bid deficient in these respects submitted will be re-sealed and returned to the bidder immediately.

**PREBID MEETING:** No Prebid meeting is currently planned. If it is decided that a meeting is necessary, the time and location will be communicated by addendum.

**OWNER RIGHTS:** THE OWNER reserves the right to waive irregularities, to reject bids and to hold all bids for a period of 30 days after the date fixed for the opening thereof.

**SIGNATURE:** By Order of:  
Marc Bluestone, Superintendent.  
July 1, 8, 15, 2026

**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA -  
IN DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF MOUNTRAIL -  
NORTH CENTRAL JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT

Patrick Kernan,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.

Stacey J. Angel, Rande J. Ross, Liberator Emerald Holdings LP, a Texas Limited Liability Partnership, Louis C. Farley, Jr., Isabel K. Livermore, fka Isabel K. Farley, Walter A. Kernan, James C. Kernan, James C. Kernan, Jr., William C. Medley, Jr., Betty Jean Medley, and all unknown persons having or claiming an estate of interest in, or lien or encumbrance, upon the property described in the Complaint, whether as assignees, successors, lessees or as heirs, devisees, legatees or personal representatives of deceased persons,  
Defendants

### SUMMONS

Case No. 31-2026-CV-00167  
THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED** to appear and defend against the Complaint in this action, which is herewith served upon you, by serving upon the attorney for the Plaintiff an answer or other proper response within twenty-one (21) days after the service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

The Complaint is filed in the office of the Clerk of the District Court for the North Central Judicial District Court, Mountrail County, North Dakota, whose address is 101 N. Main St., Stanley, ND 58784.

### NOTICE OF NO PERSONAL CLAIM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that this action has been brought for the purpose of quieting title to a 75% of 1/4 oil, gas and mineral interest in and under the following described real property:

**Mountrail County, North Dakota**  
Township 157 North - Range 93 West  
Section 25: E1/2

and no personal claim is made against the Defendants above named, or any of them.

Dated this 28th day of May, 2026.

KUBIK, BOGNER, RIDL &  
SELINGER, PLLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
117 1st Street East  
P.O. Box 1173  
Dickinson, ND 58602-1173  
jonbogner@ndsnet.net  
By: /s/ Jon Bogner  
Jon Bogner (I.D. #03468)  
June 17, 24, July 1, 2026