

## Classifieds

### Wanted

**HORSE BUYER:** Rugby Livestock July 3. Buying ALL horses, good, bad, ugly or pretty! Licensed & bonded buyer. For information: 612-839-9568. 8-11c

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**PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT/MAINTENANCE WORKER.** Application/resumé due July 1, 4 p.m. City of Maddock, PO Box 276, Maddock, ND 58348. More info: www.maddocknd.com, 701-438-2252

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### For Sale

**ND FARM LAND Values** surge upward. Are you selling or renting? Pifer's Auction and Farm Land Management. Bob Pifer 701.371.8538. Kevin Pifer 701.238.5810. Free valuation.

### Miscellaneous

**CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES!** Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. These brands only! Call 1-877-297-0556

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
A public notice is information that may affect the citizens' everyday lives. Public notices have been printed in local newspapers, the trusted sources for community information, for more than 200 years.

North Dakota newspapers also post public notices that are printed in newspapers on [www.ndpublicnotices.com](http://www.ndpublicnotices.com) at no additional charge to units of government.

### City of Columbus Council Proceedings

June 8, 2026  
Unofficial Minutes

The June meeting of the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:02 pm on Monday, June 8, 2026, by Mayor Chris Kihle at the Columbus City Hall, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Mayor Kihle (Teams remote), Darla Westerness, and Scott Sandy; Auditor, Sandy Raines. Katie Nygard and Amber Nygard arrived at 7:12 pm.

**Guests Present:** Brian Julius, Ackerman-Estvold Engineering.

**Agenda: Motion by Westerness and second by Sandy to approve the agenda as presented. The mayor stepped down from the chair. The auditor called for the vote. Motion approved.**

**Minutes: Motion by Sandy and seconded by Westerness to approve the City Council minutes of May 4, 2026, as presented. The mayor stepped down from the chair. The auditor called for the vote. Motion approved.**

**Public Comment:** There being no members of the public wishing to comment, Mayor Kihle proceeded with the meeting.

- City Engineer:** Submitted a questionnaire to State Water Commission to put Columbus on inventory list. Discussion regarding funding for future water and sewer infrastructure updates.

- City Attorney:** No report.

- City Maintenance:** Mowing; trimming; weed spraying; repaired fogger for mosquitoes; manhole on Flower repaired; and curb stop at Fire Dept. repaired. Presented quote from Garden State Contractors to repair asphalt around manholes and lay strip in front of Fire Dept. and on Meyer St. No action taken.

- Building Permits:** None

- Financials: Motion by K. Nygard and second by Sandy to pay the June bills and file the May financial statement. The mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, Westerness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.**

**Old Business:**

- Fee Structure:** Utility rates, fines, and ordinance violations – tabled
- Water and Sewer:** Review of bill delinquency and water use accountability.

- Columbus Community Club:** Contractor to be in Columbus between July 13-27.
- Tree Grant:** All trees will be planted by end of the current week.

- AARP Livable Grant:** awaiting decision

- Vault Toilet:** Grant search continues

**New Business:**

- Insurance:** City added water main and sewer main liability through NDIRF. City also added insurance for the bulk water building and the vault building. Motion to approve included in bills to pay.

- Hazardous properties:** FDHU has visited Columbus and some properties will be receiving letters for abatement.
- Yard of the Month: Motion by Sandy and second by K. Nygard to recognize a yard of the month and present owners with small thank you token. The mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, Westerness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.**

- Refund of Water Access Payment: Motion by Westerness and second by K. Nygard to refund payments of \$873.60 to owner at 504 Robin for water access overpayment. The mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, Westerness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.**
- BDEC RV lots: Motion by A. Nygard and second by Westerness to offer BDEC \$500 for the RV lots on Flower Street. The mayor called for the vote. Ayes: K. Nygard, Sandy, Westerness, and A. Nygard. Nays: None. Motion approved.**

**Announcements:**

- Election Day** is Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Canvass will be June 22, 2026.
- Next meeting** is July 6, 2026, at 7:00 pm. Newly elected officials take office on July 1, 2026, and reorganization will be at July 6, 2026, meeting.

**Adjournment: Motion by Westerness and second by K. Nygard to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.**

**Bills to Pay:** Intuit \$275.00; BDEC 11.50; Verizon 288.52; NWRW 2610.93; NCC 223.21; MDU 1150.13; Gov Card 49.00; Bowbells Insurance 2516.00; BC Sheriff 400.00; Burke County Tribune 139.89; Circle Sanitation 1899.75; First District Health 60.00; Jacob's Hardware 313.85; Jerry's Transfer 28.00; Lowe's Garden Center 2549.32; Next Level Excavating 122,640.00 & 12,100; One Call 12.00; R. Casteel 873.60; Visa Maintenance 1202.08; Visa Auditor 274.38; Mayor Kihle 1800.00; Council members Sandy, Westerness, K. Nygard, and A. Nygard \$900 each. Sandy Raines, Auditor June 17, 2026

### Call for Bids

City of Powers Lake is calling for written bids on a 2012 Chevy Tahoe. The Tahoe is white in color, mileage of 73,765 and will be sold as-is. For questions or to view the vehicle, please contact the Powers Lake Public Works at 701-705-4866.

All bids must be in writing with the bidder's name, mailing address, telephone number, within a sealed envelope. On the outside of the envelope "Tahoe Bid" shall be clearly marked. All bids must be delivered to Powers Lake Auditor's Office, P.O. Box 198, 218 Main Street, Powers Lake, ND 58773 no later than 3:00 pm CDT on Thursday, July 2nd, 2026.

Bid opening will be 6:30 pm CDT on Monday, July 6th.

The city council reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

June 17 & 24, 2026

### City of Portal Council Proceedings

Meeting date: June 6, 2026  
Unapproved Minutes

A regular meeting of the Portal City Council was held at the Community Center in Portal, ND on June 6, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm by Mayor Lisa Smith. Members of the City Council present were Kenneth Evenson, Tamara Rudland, Dustin Degenstein and Auditor Kaydee Smith. Members absent were Lorie Fitchner. Others present were Patrick Samson with Ackerman-Estvold.

There were no public comments. Motion was made by K. Evenson, and seconded by D. Degenstein to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2026 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion was made by T. Rudland, and seconded by K. Evenson to approve the financials as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

No Sheriff's report given. Patrick gives council an update with the Brownfield Grant Application and FEMA NFIP graph letter.

The following properties have been claimed nuisance (Ordinance 121.010101(1)(b)(iv)) for having weed or grass in excess of 8 inches: Lot 5 Block 24 OT, Lot 1 Block 24 OT, Lots 1-12 Block 29Less Por., Lots 1 and 12 for HWY OT, Lot 9 and 10 Block 23 OT, Lots 7 and 8 Block 2 OT, Lots 4-5 Block 23 OT, Lot 8 Block 24 OT, Lot 10 Block 18 OT, Lots 1 and 2 Block 5 OT, Lot 7 Block 23 OT. The landfill was discussed; landfill will only be available by appointment only from now on.

Council is reviewing Planning and Zoning.

Auditor presented council with the bond of the city Auditor.

Council discussed 90-day delinquency. July 14, 2026 at the Community Center in Portal, ND at 5:15 pm is next regular meeting.

Motion was made by T. Rudland, and seconded K. Evenson to adjourn the meeting 5:43 pm. All in favor, motion carried.

**Bills:** May: EFTPS \$1490.23, Dacotah Bank 10.00.

June: Ackerman \$275.00, BC Sheriff 400.00, BC Tribune 128.65, Circle Sanitation 2413.00, Farmers Union Ins. 1483.00, First District Health 30.00, Jerry's Transfer 28.00, MDU (Utilities) 1908.45, MDU Contract 3525.13, Morellis 62.40, Titan Machinery 3762.35, Tri-County Regional Development 4500.00, Vernon Manufacturing 242.50, Kevin Harms (Milage) 139.20.

Kaydee Smith, City Auditor  
June 17, 2026

## Dakota Datebook

(Continued from page 7)

nor refused to appropriate any money for UND, and it looked like it would have to close its doors.

The University of Montana saw an opportunity and tempted Merrifield to become its president and to bring his entire faculty along with him. The city of Grand Forks rallied, however, raising \$26,000, and the teaching staff voted to accept a 25% pay cut.

During Merrifield's presidency, UND's system was reorganized and actually expanded.

The School of Mines opened in 1897, and two years later the Law School opened. 1901 saw the creation of the College of Mining Engineering, and of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and also the College of Liberal Arts and the Normal College took shape. In 1905, a two-year School of Medicine was established, and in 1906, Merrifield and the president of Wesley College agreed to essentially share their resources with each other.

Freshmen dubbed the first campus telephone the "class tree" and "got back and forth to Grand Forks on daily afternoon trains or a horse and carriage bus called the "Black Maria." The few students who lived on campus during those earliest years occupied two large barracks called the Bull Pen and the Ram Pasture. One story tells of a pious classman who loudly delivered bedtime prayers that included the names and misdeeds of everyone in the whole Bull Pen – loudly enough for professors to hear. It was reported that students "took matters into their own hands with a forced dip in a cold bathtub, which soon solved the problem."

Merrifield also worked to develop and greatly improve curricular standards and graduation requirements for the state's many fledgling high schools. In fact, at his retirement in 1912, he was honored as the "father of secondary schools" in North Dakota.

Dr. Webster Merrifield died in his Pasadena home in January 1916.

### Lemke Enters Presidential Race

by JAME JOB

**ON THIS DATE:** June 19 – William Lemke, Fargo attorney and North Dakota congressman, announced that he would be entering the race for the United States presidency on this date in 1936.

The news was announced in an evening radio address, and shocked even Lemke's wife. "The news that she might someday be First Lady came as a complete surprise to Mrs. Lemke" on that evening. She had been told in a recent letter from her son, Robert, to listen to the radio program for a

'surprise'. She had no idea that the surprise would include the newly formed Union Party's endorsement of her husband as a presidential candidate. Mrs. Lemke remained unexpectedly grounded after the announcement, and an interviewer from the Fargo Forum found "life in the home [of the Lemke's] ... untouched by political fervor."

The fledgling third party under which Lemke ran was the creation of the popular Louisiana Senator Huey Long. Long's "Share our Wealth" platform urged for the creation of several well-liked programs aimed at ending the Depression.

Long was assassinated in September of 1935, and the party recruited Lemke to run as their candidate for the 1936 election against Democrat Franklin Roosevelt and Republican Alf Landon. Regarding his nomination, Lemke agreed to run "...in accordance with the thousands of messages and requests [he had] received from all over the nation."

He declared that the issue at hand was "economic slavery" and that his 15-point platform was "intended to 'save democracy and put a permanent end to the so-called depression.'"

Several regarded Lemke's experience as an Attorney General of North Dakota and Representative in the U.S. Congress as excellent credentials for his nomination. Upon hearing of the nomination, North Dakota Secretary of State J. D. Gronna said "Lemke ... will be the first candidate for president North Dakota ever had and we should certainly wish him well." Railroad Commissioner S. S. McDonald replied "I hope he gets it. We'd have a whole lot better country if Bill Lemke were president."

Several members of Congress believed that Lemke's decision to run was affected in part by the decision of President Roosevelt to kill the Fraizer-Lemke Bill that Lemke had introduced into Congress. The bill would have provided government refinancing of farm mortgages.

Although the election proved a landslide for President Roosevelt, Lemke managed to secure 892,378 votes, or two percent of the vote nationwide. Lemke continued to serve as North Dakota Representative until his death in 1950.

"Dakota Datebook" is a radio series from Prairie Public in partnership with the State Historical Society of North Dakota and with funding from The Study ND. See all the Dakota Datebooks at [prairiepublic.org](http://prairiepublic.org), subscribe to the "Dakota Datebook" podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at [shopprairiepublic.org](http://shopprairiepublic.org).

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