

**LEGALS** FROM PAGE 17

Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds	0
Common Capital Stock	5,083,164
Preferred Capital Stock	0
Aggregate Write-ins for Other Than	0
Special Surplus Funds	0
Surplus Notes	0
Gross Paid in and	
Contributed Surplus	265,075,599
Unassigned funds (surplus)	363,698,523
Total Capital and Surplus	633,857,286
Total Liabilities, Capital	
And Surplus	3,121,162,968

**NORTH DAKOTA BUSINESS ONLY FOR THE YEAR 2025**

Total Direct Premiums	
Earned	5,873,732
Total Direct Losses	
Incurred	3,831,146
Total Accident and Health Direct Premiums	0
Earned	
Total Accident and Health Direct Losses	0
Incurred	

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE**  
I, Jon Godfread, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Abstract of Statement, as officially filed by the Company in this office.  
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my

hand and affixed the seal of this office at Bismarck, the first day of March, A.D. 2026 (SEAL).

**JON GODFREAD**  
Commissioner of Insurance  
**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the above corporation duly organized under the laws of its state or country of domicile, has filed in this office a sworn statement exhibiting its condition and business for the year ending December 31, 2025 conformable to the requirements of the laws of this State regarding the business of insurance and

WHEREAS, the said company has filed in this office a duly certified copy of its charter with certificate of organization in compliance with the requirements of insurance law aforesaid.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JON GODFREAD, Commissioner of Insurance of the State of North Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of said laws, do hereby certify that the above named company is fully empowered through its authorized agents and representatives, to transact its appropriated business of authorized insurance in the state according to the laws thereof, until the 30th day of April, A.D. 2027.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Bismarck this first day of March, A.D., 2026 (SEAL)  
**JON GODFREAD**  
Commissioner of Insurance

**DATEBOOK** FROM PAGE 13

son B. Wells took naps, and Nookums liked lounging on top of the fridge.

Whether for companionship, business, shows, rat catching, or laughs, North Dakota cats have always held their own. So why not adopt, and continue the tradition?

**The North Dakota geological survey**

By Dr. Carole Butcher

July 1 – The term “Great American Desert” can be traced back to the 1820 scientific expedition of Stephen H. Long. At the time, the word “desert” was used to describe any treeless area. Long was not impressed with the promise of the High Plains. He saw the region as barren and lacking potential for agriculture. His assessment was that the land was unsuitable for settlement and discouraged westward migration.

Today, we know Long’s conclusion was wrong. North Dakota has an impressive agricultural output, producing everything from cattle to sunflowers. But there was something else Long missed. When he scanned the vast and seemingly empty plains, he failed to recognize the geological treasure beneath his feet.

On this date in 1895, the North Dakota State Legislature created the North Dakota Geological Survey, known as the NDGS. Operating under the Department of Mineral Resources, the legislature directed the Survey to “effect a complete account of the mineral resources of the state.” That included geological materials such as ores, coal, mineral water, and “other useful materials” like building stones.

During the first half of the 20th century, the NDGS published bulletins, reports, and maps, focusing mainly on the state’s water, coal, and clay resources. When oil was discovered, the NDGS shifted focus to petroleum geology and began regulating oil exploration and production.

Today, there’s growing interest in rare earth elements. These seventeen elements are essential components of modern technology, including smartphones, electric and hybrid vehicles, and flat-screen TVs. Though small in quantity, without them, many of the devices we rely on wouldn’t exist.

In the fall of 2014, the NDGS proposed a rare earth project. The following year, an in-depth survey began to investigate their presence in North Dakota. Since then, the NDGS has published reports detailing those findings. The conclusion? Rare earth elements are present and several companies are exploring the possibility of extracting them.

That development could be a major boost to the state’s economy and help reduce

America’s reliance on foreign sources.

**Fort Rice and the Lakota Sioux**

By Dr. Carole Butcher

July 2 – As settlers and prospectors moved into Dakota Territory, conflicts increased between the newcomers and the people who had long called the Great Plains home. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 was an attempt to reduce that conflict and allow for free passage through Native American lands. The treaty established territory for the exclusive use of different tribes. Unfortunately, the terms began to unravel almost immediately. The United States lacked the resources to stop the flow of prospectors and settlers.

Fort Rice was the first Army post on the Upper Missouri River. It became the site of both peaceful cultural contact and armed conflict. According to the 1861 treaty, the land around the fort was designated as Lakota territory. The Lakota were not pleased with the location of the fort, and tensions were rising.

On this date in 1868, the largest peace gathering ever held on the Great Plains took place at Fort Rice. It was estimated that as many as 50,000 Native Americans gathered for the meeting. But some of the most important Native leaders chose not to attend. Sitting Bull, quickly gaining recognition as a strong defender of Native rights, refused to participate. As one of the most respected leaders, his absence meant the treaty carried little weight without his approval.

The Treaty of 1868 appeared to offer security to the Lakota with the creation of the Great Sioux Reservation, an enormous area covering parts of present-day North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Nebraska. The government also agreed to remove Army posts along the Bozeman Trail, which ran through Wyoming to the gold fields of Montana.

But the treaty lasted only six years. In 1874, Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer led an exploratory expedition into the Black Hills. When news broke that the expedition had found gold, prospectors poured into the area and the government again lacked the means to stop them.

In the end, the impressive gathering of so many Native Americans in the quest for peace came to nothing. Two years after his expedition, Custer met his end at the Battle of the Little Bighorn and the Lakota lost possession of the Black Hills that had been promised to them.

**Rodney Kephart’s Flag**

By Scott Nelson

July 3 – Rodney Kephart

was born in Spencer, Iowa, on this date in 1917. He and his family later moved to North Dakota.

In early 1941, Kephart took a job building a military airfield on Wake Island in the Pacific. On December 7, the same day Pearl Harbor was bombed, Wake Island was also attacked. Kephart, a civilian contractor, assisted the US Marines defending the Island. The Americans fought off the Japanese until December 23, when the remaining forces surrendered. Rodney Kephart became a prisoner.

Along with several hundred prisoners, Rodney was shipped to Japan. 98 prisoners left on Wake were eventually executed.

For the next several years, Kephart worked in a POW labor camp. Many of his fellow prisoners died from malnutrition and mistreatment by Japanese guards. Rodney served as the camp Chaplain and provided services for those who passed away.

As the war was ending, the last days of August, 1945, the Japanese guards abandoned the camp. American planes dropped food and supplies to the prisoners. Red, white and blue parachutes used to drop supplies were brought to Rodney with instructions to make an American flag. Kephart worked all night, and on the morning of September 2nd, the day the Japanese surrendered, the American flag was raised over the Fukuoka Number 6 POW camp. It flew over the camp until the prisoners were repatriated.

Rodney did not see the flag again until 36 years later at a POW convention in Oregon. It was on loan from the Idaho Historical Society. No one knew how it got from Japan to Idaho.

In 1994 the flag was brought to Jamestown, North Dakota, to be displayed for a convention in the custodial care of Mr. Kephart. At the close of the convention, Raymond Seerup of Miles City asked what Rodney was going to do with the flag. “Send it back to Idaho” was his response. Seerup said, “That flag is yours. You made it, you keep it.”

Rodney did keep his flag, but was then sued by the Idaho Historical Society! However, the Historical Society had no proof of ownership. Kephart’s proof was that he had made the flag. Rodney won the suit.

Rodney Kephart died at Stanley, North Dakota, on February 5, 2003, and was buried as a civilian with full military honors for fighting with the Marines on Wake Island.

“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, subscribe to the “Dakota Datebook” podcast, or buy the Dakota Datebook book at shoppairiepublic.org.

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**Our Local Church Directory**

**PROTESTANT CHURCHES**

**WESTERN PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
PASTOR JULIAN BURGESS • 605-461-6727  
13 1st Ave NE and E. Divide St. Bowman  
• Services Sunday Morning 10:00 am  
• Bible Study Weds. evenings 6:30 pm

**BOWMAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
PASTOR ED KVAALE  
• Sunday School - 9:30 am  
• Sunday Worship - 10:30 am

**BOWMAN METHODIST CHURCH**  
PASTOR COREY JENKINS • (701) 523-5492  
• Sunday School - 8:30 am  
• Sunday Worship - 10:00 am  
• Roman’s Study Tues - 10:00 am  
• Come & Go Communion - Every Weds. 6:30 am - 9:00 am

**CORNERSTONE APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
PASTOR SETH SPRINGER  
Sunday Morning Service  
10:00 am Prayer • 10:30 Worship

**Bible Study is Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer - 7:30 Bible Study**

**BOWMAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**  
PASTORS RON WRIGHT • 701-523-3531  
<https://bowmanand.adventistchurch.org/>  
• Saturday Bible Study at 9:30 am  
• Worship Service at 11:00 am

**LYLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MOUND CHURCH**  
PASTOR TERRY BAGLEY  
• Sundays at 9:00 am (weather permitting)  
• Potluck Lunch to follow

**DAKOTA PRAIRIE LUTHERAN PARISH**  
PARRISH OFFICE - 701-523-3345

**BOWMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
BOWMAN • SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
11 MILES SOUTH OF RHAME  
• Sundays at 11:00 am

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH RHAME**

**Sundays at 9:00 am**  
**LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH AMIDON**  
• Sundays at 11:00 am

**CATHOLIC CHURCHES**

**ST. CHARLES OF BOWMAN**  
Fr. Ben Franchuk • Bowman  
• 701-523-5292  
[www.stcharlesbowman.com](http://www.stcharlesbowman.com)  
• Saturday - 4:00 pm  
• Sunday - 10:00 am

**ST. MARY'S OF MARMARTH**  
Fr. Ben Franchuk • Marmarth  
Saturday - 6:00 pm  
• Confession Saturday's before Mass

**ST. MEL'S OF RHAME**  
Fr. Ben Franchuk • Rhame  
• Sunday - 8:00 am  
• Confession Sunday at 7:30 am b

To add info or make a change, please contact the bowman county pioneer 701.523.5623 • [bcpioneer@badlandspatriot.com](mailto:bcpioneer@badlandspatriot.com)