

Front-row view of history

Belfield Rough Rider witnesses Trump visit, TR Library grand opening

By Gaylon Wm. Parker

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photo | Gaylon Wm. Parker

With thousands of people visiting Medora over the Independence Day weekend—which featured a July 1, 2026, visit from President Donald J. Trump, along with many national, state, and local dignitaries and special guests—the local area did its best to put on a good show. A significant part of that show was performed expertly by the area’s Rough Riders, whose ranks included residents from New England, Belfield, and other communities.

One of those riders was Belfield resident Jayson Jones, who was fortunate enough to be part of the motorcade that preceded President Trump on his way to the Burning Hills Amphitheatre and later

joined him onstage during the event. Jones also rode into the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library’s Independence Day grand-opening ceremony atop his horse, Cochise, as part of the Rough Riders. Although he will soon leave the organization, Jones viewed the four-day tour de force as a fitting way to cap his career with the Rough Riders.

“It’s absolutely an honor to be asked to be part of this. I mean, this is a spectacular building and tribute to Theodore Roosevelt, and I’m just happy to help portray the Western image that he embodied,” Jayson Jones said. “I had a chance to shake President Trump’s hand, and that’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Meanwhile, his son, Isaiah Jones—who handles Cochise for his father—was originally scheduled to be part of the July 1 detail but was unable to participate because of U.S. Secret Service protocols that limited the number of individuals allowed in the backstage area. Instead, Isaiah was seated in the front-row VIP section as compensation for the inconvenience, just a few seats away from President Trump’s sons, Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr.

Eric Trump even gave Isaiah a hat to help shield him from the heat that Wednesday afternoon. The hat read, “Trump Was Right About Everything,” and Isaiah wore it throughout the speech and again during

the festivities on Saturday, July 4, 2026.

“It was quite hot that day, and we were just sitting there for what felt like a couple of hours, but I know it wasn’t that long,” Isaiah said. “I liked it. I got to see Trump in person, and not many people get to say they did that.”

Jayson’s wife, Megan, had to work on July 1 but made sure to attend the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library’s grand-opening ceremony to support her husband and be with her son.

She also attended to honor the legacy of her great-great-granduncle, Thomas Harbo Rynning, who served as a U.S. Army officer and rode with Theodore Roosevelt’s Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War.

In videos of the speech—which can be viewed on the Billings County Pioneer Facebook page—President Trump is seen shaking hands with Jayson and the other current Rough Riders. According to Jones, the commander in chief was impressed by the riding demonstration.

“Well, he was very impressed with our riding demonstration, and I believe he expected kind of a slow little parade route,” Jayson said. “Then we kind of impressed him—we were moving.”

Jones works as a driver for Schwartz Construction. He previously operated the Medora Stagecoach and also served as an extra for Canticle Productions, a Bismarck-based film production company

that produced Medora: Empress of the Badlands, which was released earlier this year.

Jayson Jones has lived in the Belfield area since about 2010, while Megan moved there in 2020 from Eureka, California, after growing up in the Redding area. Although she had hoped to attend President Trump’s July 1 speech, she said it was a tremendous opportunity for both her husband and her son.

“I think it’s really awesome, and it’s a once-

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Medora Planning and Zoning Committee has scheduled a Public Hearing regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan for the City of Medora on July 21, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Roosevelt Room at City Hall, 465 Pacific Ave in Medora, ND. The public hearing will review and hear the proposed Comprehensive Plan and amendment to the Master Plan for the City of Medora.

A copy of the draft Comprehensive Plan and amendment to the Master Plan can be reviewed at the Office of the City Auditor during regular business hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30PM Monday - Friday. The Planning and Zoning Committee will consider all comments, written or spoken, at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to the City Auditor’s Office prior to the meeting date.

Should you plan to attend the hearing and need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, contact the City Auditor at (701) 623-4828. The City Auditor will provide digital connection information for individuals interested in attending the meeting via Zoom upon request.

/s/ Ivy Maus
Ivy Maus, City Auditor

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in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in or even just be a spectator,” she said. “I had a relative, Thomas Harbo Rynning, who was one of the Rough Riders, and Captain Tom was a member of Troop B, which didn’t have very many North Dakotans in it.

“In many ways, he has a very well-documented history, so yeah, it’s just an extra cool factor for me that I have a relative who was an actual Rough Rider and then having Hubby portray one during this week’s events.

It’s really freaking cool, and it definitely made a big impact on him, too.

“You can see Trump walked up to him, shook his hand, and stopped to chat with him for a second. People asked him, ‘What did Trump say to you?’ and he said Trump told him he was really proud of them and was astonished by what they were able to accomplish. Trump is not someone who’s astonished easily.”

This version reads much more smoothly while preserving your reporting voice. The main

edits included improving sentence flow, correcting punctuation and comma usage, standardizing titles (President, U.S., etc.), fixing possessives and spacing, removing redundancies, and making the story conform more closely to Associated Press style without changing its substance.

For more information about the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, please keep reading the Billings County Pioneer.

SECTION 00100 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**2026 THOMPSON PIT
CRUSHING & STOCKPILING SCORIA
N1/2 SEC 17, T141N, R100W
BILLINGS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**

Sealed bids will be received by Billings County, at the office of the Billings County Auditor, 495 4th Street, PO Box 168, Medora, North Dakota, 58645, until 11:00 AM MT, August 4th, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for the furnishing of materials, labor, equipment and skill required for the construction of Crushing and Stockpiling Scoria and incidental items in and for said Billings County, as is more fully described and set forth in the project manual therefore, which are now on file in the office of the Billings County Auditor.

**Bids shall be upon cash payment on the following estimated quantities and types of work:
1 LSUM CONTRACT BOND; 1 LSUM STRIP & STOCKPILE TOPSOIL & OVERBURDEN;
60,000 CY CRUSH & STOCKPILE SCORIA; 1 LSUM RECLAIM PIT SITE; 1 LSUM
MOBILIZATION**

**The contract documents are on file and may be examined at the following:
Billings County Auditor, 495 4th St, Medora, North Dakota
KLJ, 677 27th Ave E, Dickinson, North Dakota**

Complete digital project bidding documents are available at www.kljeng.com “Projects for Bid” or www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$22 by inputting Quest Project #10261626 on the website’s Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. Please contact us at 701-483-1284 if you have any questions.

All bids are to be submitted on the basis of cash payment for the work and materials, and each bid shall be accompanied by a separate envelope containing the contractor’s license and bid security. The bid security must be in a sum equal to five per cent (5%) of the full amount of the bid and must be in the form of a bidder’s bond. A bidder’s bond must be 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 be accepted and the contract awarded to the principal, the principal, within ten (10) days after notice of award, will execute and effect a contract in accordance with the terms of his bid and the bid bond as required by the laws of the State of North Dakota and the regulations and determinations of the governing body. If a successful bidder does not execute a contract within ten (10) days allowed, the bidder’s bond must be forfeited to the governing body and the project awarded to the next lowest responsible bidder.

All bidders must be licensed for the full amount of the bid as required by Section 43-07-07 and 43-07-12 of the North Dakota Century Code.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish Contract Performance and Payment Bonds in the full amount of the contract.

Contracts shall be awarded on the basis of the low bid submitted by a responsible and responsive bidder for the aggregate sum of all bid items. A single contract will be awarded for the work.

All bids will be contained in a sealed envelope, as above provided; plainly marked showing that such envelope contains a bid for the above project. In addition, the bidder shall place upon the exterior of such envelope the following information:

1. The work covered by the bidder
2. The name of the bidder
3. Separate envelope containing bid bond and a copy of North Dakota Contractor’s License or certificate of renewal.
4. Acknowledgement of the Addenda.

No Bid will be read or considered which does not fully comply with the above provisions as to Bond and licenses and any deficient Bid submitted will be resealed and returned to the Bidder immediately. The work on the improvement will be completed by May 28th, 2027.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in any bid, to hold all bids for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of opening bids, and to accept the bid deemed most favorable to the interest of the Owner.

Should the Contractor fail to complete the work within the time required herein or within such extra time as may have been granted by formal extensions of time approved by the Owner, there will be deducted from any amount due the Contractor the sum of \$900 per day and every day that the completion of the work is delayed. The Contractor and his surety will be liable for any excess. Such payment will be as and for liquidated damages.

**Dated this 1st day of July, 2026
BILLINGS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
s/Marcia Kessel
Billings County Auditor**

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