



N.D. Game and Fish announces tentative 2026 season opening dates

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department annually provides its best estimate for opening dates to help hunters prepare for hunting seasons. Hunters should note the opening date for the regular waterfowl season is still under discussion. Dates become official when approved by the governor's proclamation.

Tentative opening dates for 2026 include:

Spring turkey	April 11
Dove	Sept. 1
Deer and pronghorn bow, mountain lion	Sept. 4
Sharptail, hun, ruffed grouse, squirrel	Sept. 12
Youth deer	Sept. 18
Youth waterfowl	Sept. 19
Early resident waterfowl	Sept. 26
Pronghorn gun	Oct. 2
Youth Pheasant	Oct. 3
Regular Waterfowl	TBD
Pheasant, fall turkey	Oct. 10
Mink, muskrat, weasel trapping	Oct. 24
Deer gun	Nov. 6
Deer muzzleloader	Nov. 27



'DACF GRANTS' CON'T FROM PAGE 1

in classroom instruction, hands-on learning and FFA activities, gaining experience in plant and animal science, mechanics, welding, construction and natural resources. Riddle said students regularly complete projects for local farmers and civic groups, strengthening ties between the school and community.

The Drayton Bombers PTO received \$675 to support organization and inventory for the school's Care Closet.

The volunteer parent-teacher organization provides support for classroom needs, student activities and family engagement. PTO Vice President Rhonda Sylskar said the Care Closet offers essential clothing and hygiene items to students who need them during the school day.

Grant funds will be used to add shelving and improve organization after the Care Closet was relocated to a new space, as well as to help replenish frequently used items such as socks, toiletries and hygiene products.

The final grant, totaling \$800, was awarded to Pembina County Meals & Transportation to help reduce the cost of medical transportation for Drayton-area residents.

According to PCMT Director Sally Kliniske, the funding is applied directly to passenger fares for medical rides, allowing riders to pay less out of pocket for trips to medical appointments. The funds cannot be used for operational expenses and are designated solely to benefit passengers receiving medical transportation.

"For medical rides in Drayton, we typically cover the entire fare," Kliniske said. "For trips to Grand Forks, the grant allows us to pay \$10 of the \$15 round-trip fare, with the passenger paying just \$5."

In 2025, the grant helped provide reduced-fare medical transportation

to 14 Drayton-area residents, totaling 96 rides. Those trips included 44 rides to Grand Forks, 41 rides to Grafton, four in-town trips for physical therapy, four trips to Park River and three trips to Fargo for specialized eye care.

Kliniske said the assistance is especially impactful for residents who require frequent medical appointments, such as those undergoing cancer treatments or ongoing therapies.

"The money is definitely helping people that need it," she said. "It directly benefits the passenger by allowing them to pay less for their rides."

The funding comes from earnings on an endowment established when Drayton Medical Services closed its accounts following the transition to Altru Clinic services. Those earnings are restricted for medical-related needs within the Drayton community.

Since 2005, volunteer advisory committee members have worked to build the Drayton Area Community Foundation's permanent endowment, which now holds a balance of just over \$170,000. Income generated from the fund is used to award grants each year to local organizations and projects serving Drayton and the surrounding area.

Grant applications are accepted annually from Aug. 15 through Sept. 30.

'RE-LOVABLES' CON'T FROM PAGE 1

be wearing it and the style they like.

"It is a fun adventure and rewarding all at the same time," she said.

Since she started, Mattice has made more than seventy sweatshirts, all different colors and styles. She said she hasn't participated in many craft fairs or vendor shows but would like to get back into them again.

Prior to her sweatshirts, Mattice refurbished furniture and home decor, something she absolutely loved. She said, although she hasn't done much of that lately, she would possibly like to get back into making things out of discarded items.

She said she has received so many compliments from customers on the sweatshirts she has created and said people tell her they absolutely love them. She said the biggest challenge is explaining the size of her sweatshirts to people

"Since I am combining two different pieces, every sweatshirt is going to fit differently," Mattice said.

"I encourage people to try on a sweatshirt if they are interested in purchasing one to see if the fit works for them and if a sweatshirt doesn't fit quite right, I can alter it to fit."

Her favorite sweatshirt she has made through all of them would be that very first one she made out of the t-shirt she received from her daughter in August of 2024. She said her small business just took off after that.

She said anyone who may be interested in purchasing one of her sweatshirts can contact her on Facebook or send her a text message at 701-360-4131.

Mattice explained she initially learned to sew in high school and said that after she graduated, she would make a lot of items with iron-on decals. She also made her

brother's Zumba pants back when they were in style. She said after becoming a mother, she didn't sew for many years because she was focused on raising her children.

"Then when Katie wanted me to make that bear, I thought to myself, 'I can do this,'" Mattice said.

Mattice first moved to Drayton in 1992 and worked at Altru Clinic in Drayton as a laboratory and x-ray technician for 29 years. Along with her husband Ian, they currently live in rural Drayton and together they have seven children and two grandchildren. She now works at Kittson Healthcare in Karlstad, Minn., as a Radiation Safety Officer.

She said she wants to thank everyone who has believed in her and encouraged her through her creative endeavors. The support has meant a great deal to her, and she is committed to making unique and inspiring creations.

"I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement," Mattice said.

She said she loves taking what is old and giving it new life. She does not like to throw things away, so she looks for creative ways to reimagine items and make them new again. She said she feels like there is so much waste in this world.

"Years ago, when I began refurbishing furniture, I started my Facebook page called Re-Lovables," Mattice said. "To me, the name says it all. I re-imagine, recreate, and re-love."

(This is the third story in a series about local entrepreneurs.)

Attention Drayton Residents ANNUAL DUES

Drayton Volunteer Ambulance Assn. is now accepting dues for 2026.

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PO Box 238
Drayton, ND 58225

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