

THEODORE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Interactive Presidential Library highlights

Medora expecting crowds, changes, as word of experience gets out

BY MICHAEL STANDAERT



Rumbling virtual train car rides. Avatar butterflies fleeing a mounting case to fly around the room. Shadows of flies buzzing around a harbor seal skull.

A panoramic charge up San Juan Hill. Toy rifles for virtual shooting of bottles from a fence. An AI Theodore Roosevelt telling stories and answering questions. Building a campaign poster and setting out for a presidential run.

These are just a few of the many interactive features visitors experience as they meander through the newly opened Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, adding a vibrancy to the journey through the life of this remarkable man that few presidential libraries attain.

Upon entering, visitors are given a wristband with a wooden compass attached that they scan into a system, allowing them to see themselves in period dress at different stages in the journey through Roosevelt's life - cowboy, sailor, soldier, politico.

"People are just overwhelmed with all the interactive experiences that they weren't expecting," said Matt Briney, chief communications officer for the TRPL.

"The whole idea is that it puts you into the arena, and I think the reaction of guests is going to be the thing that is most special for me," Briney said.

While guided tours are available, self-guiding allows

visitors to trace Roosevelt's early interests in animals and the outdoors and how that built his desire to craft a bold and courageous life for himself, as well as how his ideas about conservation emerged throughout his life.

Dark and light play prominently as visitors pass from room to room, reflecting on Roosevelt's sometimes tumultuous life.

The journey through includes Roosevelt's time in the North Dakota badlands following the deaths of his mother and first wife Alice, early political rise and later presidential campaigns, his times in Cuba, Africa and Panama, and his conservation efforts including the establishing of what would become the first national wildlife refuge, Pelican Island in Florida.

For Simon Roosevelt, the details about his great-great grandfather's conservation efforts displayed throughout the library brought home how important of a figure he has been in protecting and preserving America's lands.

"I don't want to say any one thing was the most important to him, but the land, the outdoors, the wild life, if there were things he cared so deeply about from the time he was small until his very last days, those were it," Roosevelt said.

Roosevelt said he hopes the library becomes something beyond just a place to visit once, but a continuing draw for people, particularly as the programming is built out.

"I hope it will become a gathering space for people to come share ideas, to advance ideas forward, and for solutions to come out of those meetings to advance the interests of the whole country," Roosevelt said.

"I guess I overwhelmingly feel proud that the values and the things that were most important to him are finding expression here in

the way that they are," he said.

Rex Shulz, president of Ducks Unlimited, said he was very impressed with the library and how it fit into the setting of the North Dakota badlands as well as the context of Theodore Roosevelt's life.

"That Roosevelt had conservation prior to anyone else recognizing that, he was so impactful being that first generation of conservation, and being a conservationist myself and in my volunteerism, that really resonates with me," Schulz said.

The TRPL has gone from concept stage over a decade ago, to several years of concepts, then finally construction and exhibit development during the past three or so years, with leadership appearing to hit all the right notes on how the experience is for visitors.

Briney said there was a lot of time spent on figuring these issues out - whether it would be a library with a lot of books and research, or something like a museum full of relics and artefacts - and veered down a road not often taken with presidential libraries.

"I think people are going to be blown away by the fact that it is neither of those things," Briney said.

Supporters of the library, Char and Duey Marthaller, who've been involved since 2020 and volunteered with helping plant the grasses on the roof, said Medora will possibly experience some change - more crowds at times, maybe a bit more congestion at others - but that the addition of the library to the community is an exciting development.

"We think that over time it's going to even out and mesh with all the other things going on in Medora," Duey Marthaller said. "It's not going to be a crowded place every day."

While some local resi-



Visitors to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library on July 2 activate wristbands before entering the exhibition which provides a multitude of interactive experiences.

dents privately express concern about potential impacts, including costs, more crowds and higher prices at stores and restaurants, others are going with the flow and businesses expect it will help them in the long run.

"Yes, it's going to change, there's going to be more people here, but hopefully it doesn't change what the town is a lot," Char Marthaller said. "It's such a great place to come with your family and with your kids, and you don't want that to change."

Trolley driver Mark Billings, who had a day off and was able to see President Donald Trump come through on July 1, said the library and the visit by the president were a coup for the area.

"I think it's been very well received by the locals," Billings said. "There's been so much planning for this. It's been seamless so far, and I haven't sensed any frustrations or any hiccup they haven't thought of. For a



Displays like this at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library showcase Roosevelt's appreciation for nature as a young boy and how that initiated a lifelong commitment to what became the conservation movement.

small town, it's been a great achievement."

The North Dakota News Cooperative is a non-profit news organization providing reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. The organi-

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County Court Report

MAY DISPOSITIONS

Jeremy Curtis Sarkilahti, Pisek, dispensing alcohol to a minor. Defendant shall pay a \$200 fine. Defendant shall set up payment schedule-\$50 per month commencing May 30, 2026, six months unsupervised probation and violate no criminal laws. Defendant shall successfully complete a responsible server course and file proof of completion with the clerk of court.

Christopher Alden Shoemaker, Las Vegas, Nevada, possession of controlled substance-marijuana-less than half an ounce. Defendant shall pay a \$500 fine. Defendant shall serve six months deferred imposition, set up payment schedule-to be paid in full on or before June 30, 2026, six months unsupervised probation and violate no criminal laws. \$250 of the \$500 fine shall be suspended upon successful completion of unsupervised probation.

Chace Cody Stewart, Grafton, unlawful possession of drug para-

phernalia-Use SI, SII, SIII. Defendant shall pay \$325 in fees. Defendant shall serve 18 months supervised probation and 360 days in Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation with first serve 90 days with credit given for 59 days served. All criminal convictions in 50-2024-CR-151, 50-2025-CR-24; 50-2025-CR-246 and 50-2026-CR-70 shall run concurrent with each other. Defendant agrees to forfeit all controlled substances and any drug paraphernalia seized by law enforcement in this case, pursuant to NDCC 19-03.1-36.1 to the Grand Forks Narcotics Task Force to be disposed of pursuant to NDCC 19-03.1-36.

Ian Desmond Tebay, Grafton, driving under suspension-fourth or subsequent offense in five years. Defendant shall pay a \$150 fine and \$325 in fees. Defendant shall serve one year unsupervised probation, violate no criminal laws and 360 days in Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation with first serve 30 days.

This sentence shall run consecutive with 50-2026-CR-55. This sentence shall run concurrent with 18-2025-CR-1978.

Tilly Victoria Emily Welsh, Grand Forks, assault. Defendant shall pay \$325 in fees. Defendant shall set up payment schedule-\$50 per month commencing June 1, 2026, one year unsupervised probation, violate no criminal laws, attend Choice to Change-within 10 days the defenant shall contact the Domestic Violence Advocacy Center in Grafton to complete the domestic violence offender intake process and thereafter to complete the Choice to Change program for male offenders or the Alternatives to Violence program for female offenders with 90 days and 360 days in Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation with first serve one day with credit given for one day served. Defendant shall have no contact with the victim.

Public Notices

Case No.: 50-2026-PR-00024
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WALSH COUNTY STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
In the Matter of the Estate of Steven J. Wieler, a/k/a Steven Wieler, Deceased
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 [¶11] NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred, except that the claim of any creditor to whom said Personal Representative mails a copy of this notice shall not be barred until three (3) months after the date of such mailing. Claims must either be presented to Tia Wieler, Personal Representative of the Estate, at 1103 Lawler Avenue, Grafton, ND 58237, or filed with the Court. Dated this 26 day of June, 2026.
 /s/ Tia Wieler
 Tia Wieler, Personal Representative
 1103 Lawler Avenue
 Grafton, ND 58237
 Lawrence D. DuBois (ND #03563)
 FLEMING, DuBOIS & FLEMING, PLLP
 Attorneys at Law
 PO Box 623
 Cavalier, ND 58220-0633
 Attorney for the Personal Representative
(July 8, 15 and 22, 2026)

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
 FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF:
 Water System Improvements Phase 1
 Grafton (Walsh County), North Dakota
 DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT NUMBER: 5000408-05
 The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) has conducted a review of the proposed Water System Improvements Phase 1 for the City of Grafton in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 6). The NDDEQ has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion and is exempt from further substantive environmental review.
 Because the proposed project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion, a full Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment will not be required. Following is a description of the proposed project and a brief statement of how the project meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion.
 The proposed project consists of replacing existing asbestos cement mains with PVC, as well as removing and replacing the existing inoperable lime slaker within the water treatment plant. This will address the current deficiencies in the system and reduce the risk of health and safety hazards.
 The City of Grafton has applied for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$2,569,000 to finance a portion of the project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.
 This project is being granted an exclusion because the improvements will occur entirely in the alignment of the existing water infrastructure and within the water treatment plant. No previously undisturbed areas will be affected by the construction activities. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with the determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" provided the project takes place in the location and in the manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source (ND SHPO Ref.: 26-0022). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed this project (ID No. NWV-2025-0157-05) and determined that a Section 404 permit may be required. It has been determined that exempting the proposed project from further review under the National Environmental Policy Act will not result in adverse impacts to the population or area of Grafton and Walsh County.
 The documentation to support this decision will be on file and available for public review at the NDDEQ, Division of Municipal Facilities.
 Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Aaron Wellman, Environmental Engineer, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy St., Bismarck, ND, 58503-1324. Dated July 1, 2026.
 David J. Bruschwitz, P.E.
 Director
 Division of Municipal Facilities
(July 1, 8 and 15, 2026)

IN THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, COUNTY OF WALSH IN THE DISTRICT COURT, NORTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE SALE
 CIVIL NUMBER: 50-2025-CV-00124
 PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, Plaintiff,
 v.
 Chad Ek a/k/a Chad A. Ek and State of North Dakota by and through Dept. of Human Services, Child Support Division and LVNV Funding LLC and United States of America acting by and through the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Trust Bank, and any person in possession, Defendants.
NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE SALE
 1. Judgment in the amount of \$81,895.97, having been entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants, which Judgment was filed with the Clerk of Courts of Walsh County, North Dakota, on January 13, 2026, for the foreclosure of a real estate mortgage.
 2. Notice is hereby given pursuant to said Judgment that the real property described as:
 Lots 8 and 9 and the South 15 feet of Lot 10, in Block 1, Votava's Addition to the City of Grafton, situated in the County of Walsh, State of North Dakota.
 Real Property address: 816 Eastern Avenue, Grafton, ND 58237
 The above real property is the subject of the Mortgage dated August 19, 2016, which Mortgagegors, Chad Ek, Anita Weibye, executed and delivered to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Cornerstone Bank, a corporation, its successors and assigns and recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Walsh County, North Dakota, on August 30, 2016, Instrument Number 286636, which is subject to the entered Judgment. Said Mortgage was assigned to Plaintiff, its successors or assigns, by Assignment of Mortgage recorded February 14, 2023, Instrument Number 302128.
 3. In order to realize the amount of \$81,895.97, as of January 13, 2026, plus interest accruing there-after on said amount as awarded by the court, together with the costs and expenses of sale, will be sold subject to redemption as provided by law as one parcel of land at public auction, subject to the lien for unpaid real estate taxes and assessments of Walsh County, North Dakota, and easements and restrictions of record, to the highest bidder for cash under the direction of the Sheriff of Walsh County, North Dakota, at the main entrance of the Walsh County Courthouse located at 600 Cooper Avenue, Grafton, North Dakota 58237, on August 12, 2026 ("Sale Date"), at 10:00 AM.
 4. If the sale is set aside for reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagegors, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
 DATED this 30th day of June, 2026.
 SHERIFF OF WALSH COUNTY
 Ronald Jurgens
 By: Lisa Graham
 Sheriff / Deputy Sheriff of Walsh
 Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.
 By: /s/ Tyler S. Wirick
 Tyler S. Wirick, ND Bar: 10014
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 376 East 400 South, Suite 300
 Salt Lake City, UT 84111
 Tel: 801-355-2886
 Email: tylerw@hwmlawfirm.com
(July 8, 15 and 22, 2026)

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 North Dakota newspapers also post public notices on www.ndpublicnotices.com at no charge to units of government.
(July 8, 15 and 22, 2026)