



**2025 FREE GUIDE**  
TO NORTH DAKOTA'S LAKE SAKAKAWEA REGION

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# WELCOME

from the publisher

Welcome to the newly updated Sakakawea County Visitors Guide! We are thrilled to introduce our 2025 edition, packed with expert tips on where to go and what to see in Sakakawea Country. For our returning visitors, you'll notice that we've completely revamped the look of our guide, and we've also included feature stories highlighting some of our communities. These stories showcase what we are most proud of, and we hope you enjoy exploring them. As you tour our area, we encourage you to support our local communities and take in all the unique experiences they have to offer during your stay!



and where they met Sacagawea, who became a crucial part of their journey westward.

Just as the Corps of Discovery experienced centuries ago, you, too, can immerse yourself in the rich history and adventure that Sakakawea Country has to offer. The area is home to Lake Sakakawea, a premier destination for fishing, hunting, camping and more. With 1,600 miles of shoreline, it's the perfect spot for a weekend getaway or a longer vacation, offering an abundance of recreational opportunities for visitors of all ages.

Whether you're looking to explore Native American history, learn about the historic trade and events at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers, or bike the Maah Daah Hey Trail in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Sakakawea Country promises a legendary experience.

Come discover the region and take a step back in time, retracing the path of legends who shaped history.

**Kelsey Majeske**  
**Publisher**  
 NorDak North Publications  
 Central NorDak Publishing



Nestled in this beautiful region is the rugged landscape that Lewis and Clark, along with the Corps of Discovery, first explored over 200 years ago. It was here that their true adventure began,

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### COMMUNITIES

Beulah .....	4
Center .....	8
Coleharbor .....	14
Garrison .....	16
Golden Valley .....	22
Hazen .....	28
Max .....	36
Pick City .....	38
Stanton .....	42
Turtle Lake .....	46
Underwood .....	50
Washburn .....	54
White Shield .....	58
Wilton .....	62

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Area Map .....	56
Camping .....	59
Golfing .....	60
Hunting & Fishing .....	3
National Wildlife Refuges .....	19
Parks & Trails .....	52



PHOTO CREDIT OF RYAN SCHLEHUBER



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 Central McLean News-Journal | Leader-News | McLean County Independent



# GARDNER IMAGES FOCUSES ON LOVE OF LANDSCAPE ▶▶

Cover photos by Washburn photographer

**BY KELLI AMELING**  
Associate Publisher

It's not just a love and passion for a local photographer who can be credited with the cover's photo in this publication of scenic views around Sakakawea Lake – it's a whole lifestyle.

Capturing the moments – especially the creative ones – is Laura Gardner's specialty when it comes to photography.

Gardner began shooting photography 14 years ago after becoming obsessed with capturing life's moments – both big and small – but decided to start her own business, Gardner Images, eight years ago.

"I love the ability to share a story and invoke a multitude of feelings



with a photo," Gardner said of taking photos.

Featured on the cover of Sakakawea Country, you will see a few photos Gardner captured of the Aurora Borealis and other scenic moments from Lake Sakakawea taken in 2024.

"Capturing the Northern Lights is still one of my favorite things," Gardner said. "Over the years, I've gotten to shoot in some incredible places. Photographing the sunset from the top of a water tower in winter and doing a family photoshoot in a junkyard are probably two of my most memorable shoots! And, of course, my granddaughter is currently my favorite person to photograph!"

The Washburn native encouraged others to get out and enjoy the profession – her hobby – as much as she does, noting a person doesn't have to have the best equipment, but just to fall in love with what you are doing.

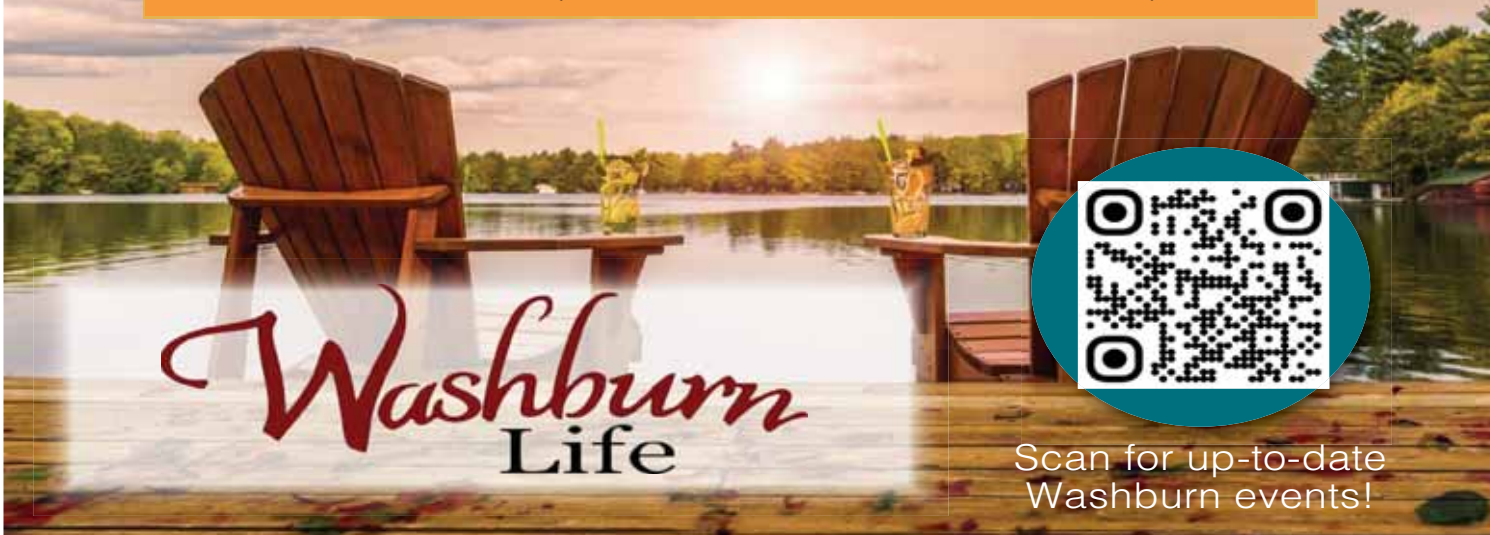
"Don't get caught up with the Jones in the camera gear game," Gardner said. "You and your perspective are more valuable than your gear! Much like owning a piano, the more you play, the comfortable and better you get. Don't be afraid to make mistakes!"

Anyone interested in seeing more of Gardner's photos can do so by visiting [www.laurajeangardnerimages.com](http://www.laurajeangardnerimages.com). The website includes a variety of options for viewing and even purchasing.



## Plan Your Relaxing Washburn Vacation!

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>March: Taste of Washburn</b>    | <b>October: Candy Caravan</b>            |
| <b>May: City-wide rummage sale</b> | <b>November: Small Business Saturday</b> |
| <b>June: Riverboat Days</b>        | <b>December: Santa Days</b>              |



Scan for up-to-date Washburn events!







# FISHING IN NORTH DAKOTA



\* A fishing year is from April 1 through March 31 of the following year.

\* Residents and nonresidents 16 years of age and older must possess a valid fishing license for the current fishing year.

\* Nonresidents under 16 years of age may fish if accompanied by a valid licensed angler. Go to the N.D. Game and Fish Department website, ([gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)) or telephone, 701-328-6300, for residency qualifications, license fees, and additional details.

\* No fish can be transported in water away from the water

body where it was taken.

\* Only fathead minnows, creek chubs, sticklebacks, white suckers, or rainbow smelt are legal live baitfish. Leeches, native frogs, salamanders, and crayfish are legal live aquatic bait. No live aquatic bait can be imported into North Dakota.

\* Some lake-specific regulations apply. The North Dakota Fishing Guide provides detailed fishing and aquatic nuisance species regulations and is available at vendors or online, ([gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)).



# HUNTING IN NORTH DAKOTA

## TENTATIVE 2025 SEASON OPENING DATES



**SPRING TURKEY** April 12

**DEER AND PRONGHORN BOW,  
MOUNTAIN LION** Aug. 29

**DOVE** Sept. 1

**SHARPTAIL, HUN, RUFFED GROUSE,  
SQUIRREL** SEPT. 13

**YOUTH DEER** Sept. 19

**YOUTH WATERFOWL** Sept. 20

**EARLY RESIDENT WATERFOWL** Sept. 27

**PRONGHORN GUN** Oct. 3

**REGULAR WATERFOWL, YOUTH PHEASANT** Oct. 4

**PHEASANT, FALL TURKEY** Oct. 11

**MINK, MUSKRAT, WEASEL TRAPPING** Oct. 25

**DEER GUN** Nov. 7

**DEER MUZZLELOADER** Nov. 28

### HUNTING CONTACT INFORMATION:



North Dakota Game and Fish Department headquarters, Bismarck 701-328-6300 or [www.gf.nd.gov](http://www.gf.nd.gov)

Game and Fish Department Riverdale office 701-654-7475

Report All Poachers, toll-free telephone number to report game and natural resource violations: 800-472-2121 or 701-328-9921.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Garrison Dam Project, Riverdale office: Telephone 701-654-7441 or website ([www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Dam-and-Lake-Projects/Missouri-River-Dams/Garrison/](http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Dam-and-Lake-Projects/Missouri-River-Dams/Garrison/)).

U.S. Forest Service Dakota Prairie National Grasslands (includes Little Missouri, Cedar River, and Sheyenne National Grasslands): [www.fs.usda.gov/dpg](http://www.fs.usda.gov/dpg). Link to information such as "Recreation", "Maps and Publications", or a specific National Grasslands for more hunting-related information.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region website (includes North Dakota): [www.fws.gov/mountainprairie](http://www.fws.gov/mountainprairie). Click on the link "Locate a Refuge", then click "Visit a Refuge or District" for contact information for major refuges in the state.





PHOTO CREDIT OF RYAN SCHLEHUBER



# BEULAH



*visit Beulah*



## FOR AN HOUR

Learn about the roots of the Beulah community through its history at Mercer County Historical Society Museum. The 15,000-square-foot building holds an array of local historic artifacts, including perhaps one of the largest miniature farm toy collections in the country. It also has a collection of beautiful amethyst (purple) colored glassware, as well as several old-fashioned vehicles

## FOR A DAY

The Beulah Water Park is a unique feature for a small town in North Dakota, featuring a colossal water slide and lap swim area. It is a highly popular destination for both residents and visitors during the summer months and a great way to cool off from the summer heat. While the children enjoy the pool, other family members can walk right next door to the Energy Wellness Center and Sparks Dog Park to get some exercise in for you and your "best friend."

## FOR A WEEKEND

Beulah Bay is perhaps one of the most beautiful sites the community of Beulah has to offer. With camping available, families, couples and individuals can enjoy the beach and waters of the bay, Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River. The Beulah Bay Campground provides all the necessities for a fun weekend, from "glamping" and primitive camping sites, to outdoor sports like Frisbee golf and volleyball, to dirt trails and, of course, water for recreational play or fishing.

Beulah, North Dakota, is a wonderful place to visit whether one likes indoor or outdoor entertainment. Settled in on the western side of the state, the community is close to Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River, offering great beach-quality experiences at Beulah Bay. It also has its own water park in town. As for those seeking a more relaxed experience, Beulah offers a variety of unique shops, a public library that is popular for its many events, Riverside Park and dining – from American favorite dishes to unique, German-based foods such as fleischkuekle, which is part of the local community's beloved heritage.





# WELCOME from the mayor



**DEAR VISITORS,**

As the mayor of Beulah, along with my family, I am delighted to extend a warm invitation to you to visit our wonderful town.

Beulah is a hidden gem in the heart of Coal Country that offers a unique blend of natural beauty, community warmth and rich history.

Here are just a few reasons why you should make Beulah your next destination:

**1. Beulah Bay Recreation Area**

Beulah is blessed with the stunning Lake Sakakawea, one of the largest man-made lakes in the United States. The lake offers endless opportunities for fun and relaxation, including boating, fishing, kayaking and simply enjoying the beautiful scenery. The Beulah Bay Recreation Area, located on the shores of Lake Sakakawea, is perfect for camping, picnicking, fishing or just a relaxing day on the lake with friends and family.

**2. Dakota Waters Resort**

Dakota Waters Resort offers excellent fishing opportunities, boat rentals and cozy cabins for a relaxing stay. It's a great place to enjoy the natural beauty of the area and spend quality time with family and friends.

**3. Beulah Public Library**

Our library is a welcoming space for both residents and visitors. It's a great place to relax with a good book, access free Wi-Fi, and participate in community programs. The library offers a quiet and comfortable environment to unwind and learn.

**4. Local dining**

Beulah boasts a variety of family-owned restaurants that offer everything from classic American fare to unique local dishes. Whether you're in the mood for a hearty meal or a quick snack, our dining options are sure to satisfy every palate.

**5. Black Sands Golf Course**

For golf enthusiasts, Beulah is home to the beautiful Black Sands Golf Course. This scenic nine-hole course offers a fun and challenging experience for golfers of all skill levels. With its well-maintained greens and stunning views, it's the perfect place to spend a relaxing day on the links.

**6. Beulah Aquatic Center**

Perfect for family fun, the Beulah Aquatic Center features a swimming pool, water slides, lazy river, zero-depth baby pool and a splash pad for kids. It's a great place to cool off and enjoy some fun in the sun, making it a favorite destination for both locals and visitors.

**7. Mercer County Museum**

Discover the rich history of our area at the Mercer County Museum. This museum showcases artifacts, exhibits, and stories that highlight the cultural and historical significance of Mercer County. It's an excellent place to learn about the local heritage and gain a deeper understanding of our community's past.

**8. Pfennig Wildlife Museum**

The Pfennig Museum houses the largest wildlife collection in North Dakota. The collection of more than 175 species comes from the private compilation of Helmuth Pfennig's travels to Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Canada and Alaska.

**9. Local shopping**

Beulah offers a variety of local shops and boutiques where you can find unique gifts, handmade crafts, and other treasures. Whether you're looking for a special souvenir or just want to browse, our local shopping scene has something for everyone.

As someone who has lived in Beulah for many years, I can personally attest to the charm and warmth of our town.

Beulah is more than just a place to visit; it's a community where people care for one another and where the beauty of nature is always close at hand. My family and I are proud to call Beulah our home, and we are excited to share it with you.

We hope that your visit will be filled with joy, relaxation and unforgettable memories.

We invite you to come and experience all that Beulah has to offer. We are confident that your visit will be filled with memorable moments and lasting impressions.

Sincerely,  
**Sean Cheatley**





PHOTO CREDIT OF RYAN SCHLEHUBER



# 'Something there for Everyone'

## MERCER COUNTY MUSEUM OFFERS A CHANCE TO TURN BACK TIME ▶▶



**BY RYAN SCHLEHUBER**  
**BEULAH BEACON, CENTER REPUBLICAN EDITOR**

Arguably, there is no better way to learn about a new area than by starting with its history.

With the community of Beulah, there is no better place to start learning – and enjoying – its history than the Mercer County Museum, which opened in the early 1980s.

On the outside, the museum's façade is quaint, simple and yet inviting. However, when one steps into the place, a magical experience happens, said Leilani "Loni" Meyhoff, of Hazen, who is a museum board member and part of its historical society.

"Visitors are always mesmerized when they step in the museum and it just keeps going and going," laughed Meyhoff.

The 15,000-square-foot building holds sections and sections of Beulah's history, from its residents who served in the military to a collection of vintage vehicles, like steam-powered tractors and Ford Model A and Model T cars to perhaps one of the largest model toy collection in the country.

"What I always tell visitors when they come in is the museum always has something for everyone," Meyhoff said. "What I hope, when they leave this place, is they have recollections of themselves, like, 'I remember that,' or 'I wore roller skates like that.' I hope that they find something that helps them remember their own past."

For out-of-town visitors, the museum offers a chance to see Beulah as it once was and how it came to be as what it is now, Meyhoff said, pointing out the replications of original Beulah business buildings displayed at the museum as one example.

The building replicas were owned by Helmuth "Doc" Hilz, who died

in 2022. He owned the Coast to Coast Hardware store in Beulah for 23 years, according to the historical society. One of his hobbies was creating replicas of original Beulah business buildings, including Occident Lumber Company, Hilz Oil Company and the town's theatre building. A few of these buildings still exist, though they've been re-modeled, Meyhoff said.

There is no better feeling than watching a visitor come into the museum and suddenly connect with one of its many collections, said Randy Becker, a 1976 Beulah High School graduate and retired coal mining reclamation supervisor for the former Knife River Coal mining company, which is now Dakota Westmoreland.

"Last summer, I was getting ready to close the museum when a man happened to walk in. He was an engineer from Puerto Rico, he had an accent," Becker said. "He found his way to the steam-powered tractors and, I swear, I think he spent three hours just looking at the tractors. He was just amazed at the technology they had back then."

"That stuck in my head," Becker continued. "Generations nowadays have no idea as far as how living was like back in those days. This museum gives them somewhat of a view."

Becker, whose family lineage on both sides is linked to homesteaders in the Beulah area, said the most beneficial thing he gets out of being a part of the Mercer County Historical Society and working at the museum is watching youngsters come into the museum and not only enjoy what they see displayed, but learning about local history, as well.

"It's a very educational experience here," he said. "I try to reach out to the younger generations on what it was like back then. It's important to educate them, to get them familiar with how it was back then."

The Mercer County Museum, at 108 7th St. NE, in Beulah, is open Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m.





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# CENTER

visit Center

## FOR AN HOUR

A small, rural town with wonderful and interesting features, Center is a great place to insert yourself into serene nature, local history and an inviting community with several events visitors can enjoy. From North Dakota's heroic story of Hazel Miner, to the community indoor pool to annual events like Old Settler's Days, Center provides a unique experience, whether for an hour, a day or a weekend.

Perhaps one of North Dakota's most tragic, yet most heartfelt story was that of the death of Hazel Dulcie Miner. The 15-year-old daughter of a farming family in Oliver County gave her life to protect her younger brother and sister after their horse-pulled buggy overturned on the prairies during freezing and blinding conditions in a spring blizzard in 1920.

In the heart of Center, visit a monument dedicated to her, which was installed in 1936 by former North Dakota Governor L.B. Hanna. It is located in a small park behind the Oliver County Courthouse in Center. Just up the road is St. Martin's Catholic Cemetery, where Hazel Miner and her family are buried. Her gravesite is marked by a small red flag and an artistic wrought-iron frame that hovers above her headstone.

## FOR A DAY

The Cross Ranch (Sanger) State Park, a 26-minute drive west of the city of Center, and is located near stretches of the Missouri River. The park has close to 17 miles of trails that is accessible year-around, either by foot or cross-country skis during the winter months.

Set on a 5,000-acre nature preserve, visitors can take in the natural scenery of North Dakota prairies, river-bottom forests and even roaming bison. Cross Ranch is also a hot spot for fishing. Fish include walleye, trout, catfish, salmon, pike and bass. A boat ramp is available and the park offers lodging with two campgrounds, cabins and yurts.

The Cross Ranch State Park is at 1403 River Road in Center. Call 701-794-3731 for more information.

## FOR A WEEKEND

The annual Oliver County 4-H Fair, held every early August, is one summer event that pulls in many local residents and visitors together to enjoy a variety of entertainment, from 4-H static competitions to livestock shows to pig wrestling and mud volleyball. The Fair is perhaps the best way to enjoy the locality of Center, its people and its culture all at once.

Center has two available RV parking options, the Ball Park RV Park, which has 12 spaces and offers electric hook-up (on a first-come, first-serve basis), and the Center RV Park, in which spaces can be rented out per night, week or month.

The Ball Park RV Park is at 314 ND-25 in Center. Call 701-794-3502 for more information. The Center RV Park is at 304 Square Butte St. E. in Center. Call the city of Center at 701-794-3650 for more information.





WELCOME from the mayor

# A INVITATION TO VISIT CENTER, NORTH DAKOTA

**BY LISA GUSEWELLE**  
Center City Councilwoman

Anglers, this is your dream spot – catch walleye, trout, catfish and more.

On behalf of City Mayor John Lee and the entire city council, welcome to Center, North Dakota – a small-town treasure packed with BIG experiences. Whether you're here for a quick stop, a day of exploration, or a full weekend escape, Center has it all.

Let us show you why 2025 is the year to visit:

### Unmissable events

Save the dates and join the fun:

**JAN. 26: Dazzlers Dance Home Show:** Watch local dancers shine at Center-Stanton High School

**FEB. 15: Winter Fest:** Enjoy indoor and outdoor activities at the Cross Ranch State Park.

**MARCH 1: Fat & Furious Fat Bike Race:** Kick off cycling season at Cross Ranch State Park.

**JUNE 5-8: Old Settler's Day:** A community celebration with parades, live music and more.

**JUNE 13-14: Missouri River Bluegrass Festival:** Bluegrass tunes meet riverside views at Cross Ranch State Park.

**AUG. 7-9: Oliver County Fair (August 7-9):** Rodeo thrills, mouthwatering foods, mud volleyball, pig wrestling, and 4-H projects.

**DEC. 7: Christkindlemarkt:** Holiday magic with crafts, treats, and festive cheer.

### Explore great activities

Adventure is calling, and Center delivers.

- Splash year-round at Center Community Pool or tee off at Square Butte Creek Golf Course.
- Get your adrenaline pumping at the Oliver County Gun Range, a must-visit for shooting enthusiasts.
- Head to Nelson Lake for boating, fishing, camping, 4-wheeling, and a swim like no other with its unique warm-and-cold waters.
- Join us for an indoor rolling skate event or pickleball at our Betty Hagel Memorial Civic Center or book a space for your next party or event at an affordable price.
- For a nature escape, visit Cross Ranch State Park, featuring hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing trails. Explore the Mahoti/Ma-ak-oti "Old Village" Trail with its stunning prairie vistas and river views or rent a kayak and paddle along the Missouri River.

### Step Into History

Get to know the stories that built Center. Visit the Historical Society Museum (Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m.) or explore landmarks like the Hazel Miner Monument and the old schoolhouses and jail at the courthouse. Don't forget to snap a selfie at the Scientific Center of North America marker – a must-see spot.

### Family Fun for Every Season

Our city parks are packed with activities: playgrounds, horseshoes, sand volleyball, softball, and even winter ice skating. Frolf enthusiasts, we've got you covered.

Need more? Book a tour at BNI Coal Mine or Minnesota Power Plant for a behind-the-scenes look at energy production.

### Shopping

Center, North Dakota, offers a blend of shopping, dining, and local craftsmanship that adds charm to every visit.

- Souvenirs and local finds: Select premium local goods at Legendary Meats Shop, and souvenirs at the Cross Ranch State Park Gift Shop. Don't miss the fine woodworking at Anderson Cabinet Shop for custom furniture and cabinetry.
- Food and hangouts: Relax at local favorites like Square Butte Creek Golf Course, Wolfie's Place Bar, Lonewolf Saloon or O.C. Saloon.
- Vehicle and outdoor needs: Stop by Straight Shot Gunsmithing, K&M Repair, Dave's Sales & Service, or Ryan's Paint & Autobody for expert assistance.
- Local manufacturing: Visit Maertens Manufacturing for Hank's Dog Food and Center Machine Inc. for quality metalwork.

### Why Center?

Because here, every visit feels like home. Whether you're camping under the stars, strolling our historic sites, or cheering at a festival, Center delivers unforgettable moments.

Don't wait – plan your 2025 trip now and discover the charm, adventure, and heart of Center, North Dakota. We'll be waiting to welcome you.



# 'CENTER' STAGE TO A NORTH DAKOTA HEROINE

*Center's history includes a young heroine who gave her life for her siblings*

**BY RYAN SCHLEHUBER**  
**BEAULAH BEACON, CENTER REPUBLICAN EDITOR**

Visitors to the small, rural area of Center can enjoy several features within the community, such as Square Butte Creek Golf Course, an indoor community pool, nearby Lake Sakakawea and several annual seasonal events.

But what many visitors may not know – and astonishingly, some residents in North Dakota don't realize – is that Center and Oliver County hold a special story of a young heroine who gave her life to save her young siblings.

Fifteen-year-old Hazel Miner, born April 11, 1904, was the daughter of William and Blanche Miner, who were farmers living just outside of Center. In 1920, the family included Zelda, 21, Emmet, 10, Myrdith, 8, and Howard, 5.

A quiet and reserved eighth-grade student, Hazel attended a one-room schoolhouse, which both Emmet and Myrdith attended, as well.

During a school day on March 15, 1920, classes were dismissed early to allow the students time to return home before a storm came.

"In the morning on that day, it was absolutely beautiful. Then a 'northerner' came in," said Judith McNulty, a local historian and president of the Oliver County Historical Society and Museum.

A northerner storm, said McNulty, is a fast-moving cold front marked by a rapid drop in temperature, strong winds and dark skies.

Hazel and her siblings had ridden to school on a sleigh, pulled by one of their barn horses, and covered with a piece of canvas. Students arriving at the school were able to hook their horses up in a small barn next to the school, according to McNulty.

"When the kids left, the horse went out the east gate of the barn and not the south gate, which would've led them straight home," McNulty said. "It was their farm horse who usually never left the property, so he didn't know where he was."

With the storm upon them, visibility was down to zero, Hazel steered the horse as best she could, however, the horse ran into a coulee, a small gully, that was full of ice and slush. Hazel worked the horse out of the coulee and got the sled going again, however, McNulty said the sled had tipped over three or four times with the last incident making it impossible for Hazel and her siblings to push the sleigh back upright.

With the storm preventing them from seeing any kind of house or landmark, Hazel decided to hunker down and wait out the storm, using the sleigh as a shelter.

McNulty said her father, knowing the storm was coming, went to the school to find his kids but when he arrived they were already gone, so he headed back home, but they weren't there either.

After ringing townfolk to help with a search and rescue, McNulty said only a few people managed to go out initially, owing to how bad the storm was. After between 24 to 29 hours, searchers came across the family's horse with the sleigh.

"They dug out the mound of snow on the sled and reached in and lifted Hazel," McNulty said. "When they picked her up she moaned, so they quickly took her to the nearest farm but they realized she was frozen solid. She had died sometime before the rescue."

According to Emmet, who was interviewed after being rescued, Hazel



PHOTO CREDIT OF RYAN SCHLEHUBER

had told the children not to fall asleep, and kept them singing and pinching themselves to stay awake.

With only two small blankets, Hazel had given her coat to her siblings to keep them from freezing. It was in that moment Hazel realized she had to sacrifice herself to save her siblings, said John Mahoney.

"You hear this often all over the place, that 'I would give my life for you,' or 'I'd take a bullet for you,'" Mahoney said. "She made the ultimate sacrifice."

Mahoney, who recently retired as Center's city attorney after almost 50 years of service, is the relative of Francis Mahoney, who was Hazel's teacher at the schoolhouse at the time. Though John Mahoney never met her or heard much about her, when his grandfather, Howard Mahoney, spoke of his sister, John revealed in the story.

"It's a powerful story, and I was really touched when I first read about it," Mahoney said.

Since that tragic day, the community, the county and the state have kept the legacy of Hazel Miner alive, with a monument being installed in 1936 by Governor L.B. Hanna, which still stands today behind the Oliver County Courthouse in Center.

"There were many articles from across the country written about her, which I've collected and compiled at the Oliver County Courthouse," McNulty said. "We also put a program on at the school every two years."

A movie about Hazel Miner, called, "Hazel," directed by Danile Bielinski of Canticule Productions, is expected to be out sometime in 2025, which Mahoney got to play an extra in it, playing one of the people in the search party.

One of the other extras is a descendent of Emmet Miner, too, Mahoney said.

"Things in life can be so tragic, where you can see the worst in people. But sometimes you see the best in people, too," Mahoney said. "Hazel's story is a confirmation that we, as humanity, have compassion and love, which I believe our community is about. She was selfless to the very end."

Because the Miner family was poor, the local homemakers club stepped in to raise money for Hazel's grave.

Today, she is buried at Center Community Cemetery, which is next to St. Martin's Catholic Cemetery, on N.D. Highway 25, less than a mile southwest of Oliver County Courthouse.



# STRONGER TOGETHER



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PHOTO CREDIT OF HEITH POCHANT



# COLEHARBOR

*visit Coleharbor*

## FOR AN HOUR

For a short visit, stop by Coleharbor's newly renovated City Park. With upgraded playground equipment and a full outdoor basketball court, it's an ideal spot for families to unwind and enjoy the outdoors.

## FOR A DAY

If you have a day, treat yourself to a hot meal and a cold drink at one of Coleharbor's local gems.

The Harbor Bar is famous for its steak night specials on weekends, while Wolf Creek Winery offers a cozy atmosphere and delicious local fare.

## FOR A WEEKEND

For those planning a weekend adventure, the nearby Audubon National Wildlife Refuge is a must-see.

This sprawling refuge boasts rolling prairie grasslands, wetlands, and over 100 islands in Lake Audubon, providing safe havens for diverse wildlife.

From spring migrations of thousands of waterfowl to the haunting howls of coyotes, every season offers a unique and enriching experience for nature enthusiasts.

Whether passing through or staying awhile, Coleharbor invites you to discover its hidden treasures.

### COLEHARBOR: A TINY TOWN WITH BIG CHARM

Located off Highway 83, just six miles north of Underwood, the town of Coleharbor is a quaint rural community with a population that fluctuates from about 70 in the summer to just a few dozen during the winter months.

Despite its size, Coleharbor offers unique experiences for visitors looking to explore its charm.





PHOTO CREDIT OF ETHYN WILLIAMS-CALVERT



# Uncorking Coleharbor's hidden gem WOLF CREEK WINERY ▶▶



**BY ETHYN WILLIAMS-CALVERT**  
**CENTRAL MCLEAN NEWS-JOURNAL EDITOR**

Visitors passing through Coleharbor, North Dakota, are in for a treat at Wolf Creek Winery, a boutique winery nestled right on Main Street.

Owned and operated by Randy Albrecht and Darcie Hardy, this charming establishment invites guests to savor the flavors of North Dakota's finest wines while enjoying a welcoming atmosphere that embodies the spirit of the small-town community.

Wolf Creek Winery's story is one of passion, perseverance, and innovation.

What began as a humble hobby in the early 2000s transformed into a thriving boutique winery by 2012. With a vision of producing up to 2,000 gallons of wine per year, Randy and Darcie have built a reputation for crafting high-quality, small-batch wines that capture the essence of North Dakota's burgeoning wine scene.

Nestled in the heart of a recreational wonderland, the winery is surrounded by the stunning landscapes of Lake Sakakawea and Lake Audubon.

Visitors to the region can immerse themselves in outdoor activities like camping, fishing, and hunting, and then unwind at the winery with a glass of locally inspired wine. Whether you're an experienced wine

enthusiast or a curious newcomer, Wolf Creek Winery offers tastings, events, and a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the winemaking process, ensuring a memorable experience for all.

From the tranquil environment to the meticulous craftsmanship in every bottle, Wolf Creek Winery is a testament to Randy and Darcie's love for their craft.

The duo draws inspiration from the natural beauty of the region, producing wines that are as bold and enchanting as the landscape itself.

With over 20 years of experience, the winery stands as a shining example of North Dakota's growing reputation as a destination for wine tourism.

So, if you find yourself exploring the charms of Coleharbor, make sure to stop by Wolf Creek Winery.

Enjoy a sip of North Dakota's wine country, and let the flavors of the region and the warm hospitality of Randy and Darcie create an unforgettable experience.

For more information about Wolf Creek Winery and its offerings, visit them on Main Street in Coleharbor or online.

Uncork the adventure and discover the magic of Sakakawea Wine Country!







PHOTO CREDIT OF TYSON MATTHEWS



# GARRISON

visit Garrison

FOR AN HOUR

Head to Main Street and see the "World's Largest Walleye" Wally for a great photo opportunity. After that, browse the shops along Main.

FOR A DAY

Spend the morning at Fort Stevenson State Park, North Dakota's most popular state park, and go for a ride on one of its Fat Tire bikes. Or in the winter, try out cross-country skiing or a kicksled. Then check out the Talking Trail self-guided tour of the Garrison's points of interest.

FOR A WEEKEND

Garrison hosts the Dicken's Village Festival the weekend of Thanksgiving and runs through Christmas. It's a Victorian Christmas themed festival that features costumed characters, a lighten parade at dusk, the double-decker "Queen Elizabus," street food vendors and a vendor show. Finish the weekend with a new version each year of "A Christman Carol" play.

## NORTH DAKOTA'S PLAYGROUND

Garrison is located on the northeast edge of Lake Sakakawea.

The population of Garrison is around 1,500-year-round, and double that in the summer.

There is always something to do in the area.

Summers are filled with fishing tournaments, and winter brings the annual Dicken's Village Festival.





# WELCOME

*from the mayor*

## WELCOME TO GARRISON!

Garrison, located in the heart of North Dakota, has a variety of amenities to draw visitors and potential new residents to our fine community.

Garrison is a four seasons playground.

Located on the eastern shores of Lake Sakakawea, the Garrison area offers quick access to numerous outdoor activities from hunting, fishing, hiking and camping to boating and swimming and more. Garrison is an outdoor playground.

If you have a mind to shop, Garrison has numerous businesses to satisfy any taste. And when you're on Main Street, stop at the City Park and say "hi" to Wally the Walleye.

Want something else to do? The community of Garrison has activities year-around, from the popular Garrison Fire Department's annual buffalo feed to Skyfest Sakakawea. For anglers, there's the state's oldest fishing tournament, the North Dakota Governor's Walleye Cup Tournament in July.

Step back in time at Fort Stevenson State Park and visit the historic guardhouse where you can learn all about Garrison's unique history.

And you can't miss the fall activities like Party in the Park with a classic car show.

Ride on the big double deck bus the Queen Elizabeth or Wally Trolley during the popular Dickens Village Festival the last week-end of November and first two weekends in December.

These are just a few of the activities to draw you to our community.

As people say, "There's always something to do in Garrison!" So, come, Get Hooked on Garrison!

**Stu Merry, mayor**  
City of Garrison



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PHOTO CREDIT OF NORTH DAKOTA PARKS & RECREATION

# Something to do any time of the year

## FORT STEVENSON STATE PARK HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ▶▶

**BY TYSON MATTHEWS**  
*McLean County Independent Editor*

Fort Stevenson State Park is located on the bluffs of the largest lake in North Dakota; Lake Sakakawea.

It was named after Brigadier General Thomas G. Stevenson.

Fort Stevenson officially became a state park in 1974. With miles of trails, a wide variety of rental equipment, breathtaking views, and year-round special events, there is always something fun to do.

Fort Stevenson is three miles south of Garrison, the “Walleye Capital” of North Dakota, and is a preferred spot for a great day on the lake.

### Camping

Fort Stevenson offers a wide selection of camping options that include 48 premium campsites, one premium group campsite, 18 modern group campsites, 56 modern campsites, and 17 primitive campsites.

### Marinas

FSSP is located on the northeastern shore of Lake Sakakawea and is home to two marinas, Garrison Bay and de Trobriand Bay. de Trobriand Bay Marina is located on the east side of the park. This marina can accommodate 44 electric slips, sizes ranging from 26 to 40 feet and four buoyed moorings.

### Garrison Bay Marina

Garrison Bay, a deep-water marina on the west side of the park and offers 61 electric dock slips ranging in size from 26 to 56 feet in length. There are also four jet ski docks.

The Marina Store located at the Garrison Bay Marina is a concession store that operates from 7:30 am – 10:00 pm, seven

days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day and is stocked with ice cream, bait, tackle, clothing, ice, pop, camping gear, and ND products. The store also operates a grill and is open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It also offers free WiFi for visitors.

### Hiking

If hiking is the activity you seek, FSSP offers eight different hiking trails. That’s about 10 miles total of groomed trails, some offered year-round.

Trails range in length from .22 miles for the shortest trail and 2.32 miles for the longest hike, bike, or ski in the winter months.

The trail system winds through tree plantings, shrublands, ponderosa pine woodlands, wooded ravines, grasslands and native prairie. Trails follow the lake shoreline and wander over remote portions of the park.

### Rental Items

Aqua Lily Pads, stand-up paddle boards, bikes, canoes, kayaks, motorized boats, pontoons, paddle boats, kick sleds, cross-country skis, and snowshoes are also available for rent at the Visitors Center at the park’s entrance.

### Other Offerings

- Dog park
- Fish cleaning station
- Gas dock
- Guardhouse interpretive center
- Picnic shelters
- Playgrounds
- Sewage dump station
- Showers and flush toilets
- Swim beach



# NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

*Content from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services*

## AUDUBON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**WHERE:** Lake Audubon's south shore, three miles north of Coleharbor, on the east side of U.S. Highway 83 between Lake Sakakawea and Lake Audubon.

**WHAT:** Audubon National Wildlife Refuge is a 14,739-acre refuge that attracts numerous species of waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and other migratory birds. The Refuge occupies the southern portion of Lake Audubon and adjacent lands of native prairie, planted grasslands, and wetlands. These wetlands and surrounding grasslands provide food, shelter and nesting sites for waterfowl and other birds.

**MISSION:** Migratory bird, endangered species, and resident wildlife habitat.

**WILDLIFE:** The majestic flights of thousands of ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, and shorebirds are visible on the Refuge during spring and fall migration. Endangered whooping cranes are often seen migrating in small groups or with sandhill cranes. Piping plovers, a threatened species, nest in the area each summer. Giant Canada geese, in addition to ducks such as mallards, gadwalls, blue-winged teal, northern pintails, and lesser scaup, are common nesters on the Refuge.

Other birds you may see include northern harriers, marbled godwits, upland sandpipers, western meadowlarks, bobolinks, and more than 200 other species.

Audubon National Wildlife Refuge also provides habitat for wildlife that make the prairie their year-round home. White-tailed deer, coyote, red fox, sharp-tailed grouse, and gray partridge are some of the hardier species that are adapted to North Dakota's climate. The ring-necked pheasant is also a Refuge resident whose numbers often decline during severe winters.

**VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES:** \*Free public access. \*Visitor Center and Exhibit Hall: A mile east of Highway 83 on the south shore of Lake Audubon. Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except federal holidays, it features wetland and grassland, migratory birds, refuge history and wildlife exhibits, etc. \*Prairie Nature Trail: Beginning near the Visitor Center, the mile-long, self-guided gravel walking path winds through native prairie, grasslands, and along wetlands, providing bird, plant, and animal viewing opportunities. \*Auto Tour Route: Eight-mile gravel road starts near the Visitor Center, traveling along Lake Audubon's south shore. A brochure details the route's interpretive kiosks. \*Wildlife observation: Spring and fall migration offers an array of migratory wildlife with best viewing opportunities in the early morning and evening. Bring binoculars for better viewing. Wildlife checklists are available at the refuge. \*Hunting: The refuge's upland bird season begins the Monday after North Dakota's regular deer gun season closes. It's open for archery, gun, and muzzleloader deer

hunting. Special regulations apply. \*Ice fishing: The refuge portion of Lake Audubon opens for ice fishing once the lake ices over. Special regulations apply. \*Contact the refuge for additional public use opportunities and hunting and fishing regulations: Telephone (701) 442-5474, email [Audubon@fws.gov](mailto:Audubon@fws.gov), website ([www.fws.gov/refuge/Audubon](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Audubon)), or mail Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, 3275 11th St. NW, Coleharbor, N.D. 58531.

## LAKE ILO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**WHERE:** A mile west of Dunn Center on N.D. Highway 200.

**WHAT:** Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 560 refuges and 38 wetland management districts in the National Wildlife Refuge System—a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge System is a living heritage, preserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come. Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1939 by Franklin D. Roosevelt as a breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife. The Refuge provides fish and wildlife-oriented recreational opportunities, conserves endangered species, and protects cultural and natural resources.

**MISSION:** Migratory bird breeding habitat.

**WILDLIFE:** The Refuge has 4,034 acres of native prairie, planted grasslands, and wetland habitat. These habitats provide a home for 227 bird, 36 mammal, 6 reptile, 3 amphibian, and 11 fish species.

**VISITOR OPPORTUNITIES:** \*Free public access. \*Open sunrise to sunset. Refuge headquarters along the southeast shore of Lake Ilo are open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. \*Lake Ilo Park day use area offers fishing pier, charcoal grills, picnic tables, restrooms, and trash containers. \*North Shore Nature Trail: A mile-long trail with benches and kiosks begins at Lake Ilo Park and winds along the lake's north shore. \*Wildlife observation: Spring and fall migration offers an array of migratory wildlife. The best viewing opportunities are early morning and evening. Bring binoculars for better viewing. Wildlife checklists are available at the refuge. \*Fishing: Parts of Lake Ilo are open to shore, boat, and icefishing. A boat ramp is west of the park on the lake's north shore. \*Cultural interpretation: The refuge is a major archeological site providing insight into prehistoric Plains Indian dwellers. Interpretive kiosks near the North Shore Nature Trailhead explore its ancient cultural history. \*Contact the refuge for more information about public use opportunities and fishing regulations: Telephone (701) 548-8110, email [Lakeilo@fws.gov](mailto:Lakeilo@fws.gov), website ([www.fws.gov/refuge/Lake\\_Ilo](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Lake_Ilo)), or mail Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge, 489 102 Ave. SW, Dunn Center, N.D. 58626.



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[history.nd.gov/visit](https://history.nd.gov/visit)



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*everyone.*







PHOTO CREDIT OF ALAINA STANGLE PHOTOGRAPHY



# GOLDEN VALLEY

visit Golden Valley ★

## FOR AN HOUR

If heading to or going through Golden Valley, enjoy a stop at the Hay Bale People site or the large steel likeness of Golden Valley's own bull riding star Wayne Herman along North Dakota Highway 200. A great place to stretch your legs and snap some memorable photos.

## FOR A DAY



Visit Golden Valley's recreational areas, including Log Cabin Park, where a historic log cabin was constructed in the 1940s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

## FOR A WEEKEND

Three in-town camping locations are available in Golden Valley, which are perfect for staying to enjoy the annual Golden Valley Rally, one of the town's biggest – and last – summer events of the year. For the past seven years, locals and visitors to the area have enjoyed a day of fun that includes a car show, poker run, vendor shows, street dance and a picnic, all put on by the Golden Valley Fire Department.

The Rally, which ends shortly before the fifth annual Golden Valley Shootout begins, starts includes a Firemen's Picnic, where firefighters and volunteers will be serving burgers, hotdogs and "all the fixings."

The existence of the community of Golden Valley can be contributed to George Bratzel, who decided to build a new town in 1908, though, by 1913, another town nearby, called Olanta, was established nearer the railroad system. Eventually, Bratzel moved his store and newly established post office to Olanta and, by 1914, renamed it Golden Valley.

Since then, the small community has moderately grown, specifically in farming and ranching.

Today, the community on the western side of Mercer County boasts several recreational areas and many annual events, including the Golden Valley Rally and the Golden Valley Shootout bull riding event and Wayne Herman Invitational Xtreme Bareback & Broncs.





# WELCOME from the mayor



## HOWDY FROM THE CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY!

Golden Valley, located in western Mercer County along the winding Spring Creek, was incorporated in 1914 as a stop along the now abandoned Northern Pacific Railroad. Even though the railroad tracks are long gone, two old grain elevators still stand watch over the town as a reminder of our city's strong ties to farming and ranching. The Hay Bale People along ND Highway 200 greet our visitors and provide photo opportunities to locals and passersby alike.

We take great pride in our city parks and recreation areas. They include two newly constructed playgrounds and the Log Cabin Park. The name refers to the historic log cabin which was constructed in the 1940s as a Civilian Conservation Corps project and sits under a canopy of large shade trees. Any of our parks make a great location for a family picnic. Other recreational facilities include basketball and tennis courts and a softball diamond.

If you are in need of an event venue, the Golden Valley Community Center boasts a full commercial kitchen and seating for 240 guests. Adjacent to the Community Center is the home of the Golden Valley Rural Fire Department. The department is comprised of 24 volunteer firefighters and serves an area of 162 square miles including the city of Golden Valley.



In late summer, the Golden Valley Rural Fire Department hosts the annual Golden Valley Rally. In the past, this celebration has included a car show, vendor show, kids activities, car and motorcycle fun run and a meal served by our dedicated volunteer firefighters.

This event is held in conjunction with the Golden Valley Shootout bull riding event and Wayne Herman Invitational Xtreme Bareback & Broncs. These rough-stock events take place atop the old Golden Valley High School's track and field area, which adds nostalgia and small-town charm to the event. Spectators are greeted by a larger-than-life steel tribute to hometown cowboy, Wayne Herman, 1992 PRCA World Champion Bareback Rider. A good old-fashioned street dance takes place on Main Street as the Saturday festivities draw to a close.

Services offered in Golden Valley and surrounding area include U.S. Postal Service office, metal fabrication, windshield and headlight repair, engine machining/rebuilding, licensed auctioneer/clerking, landscape photography, travel agency, tax preparations and many other home-based businesses.

Golgotha Lutheran Church-AFLC, is our local house of worship. Sunday school takes place after church service for children ages fourth through sixth grade, and youth groups grades kindergarten through 12th grade meet Wednesday evenings. All are welcome to attend services, fellowship and youth events.

As you travel through Mercer County, please feel free to stop in and enjoy a little bit of quiet, small town, country living.

**Kenton Richau**  
Mayor of Golden Valley



PHOTO CREDIT OF ROCK N' DAISY PHOTOGRAPHY



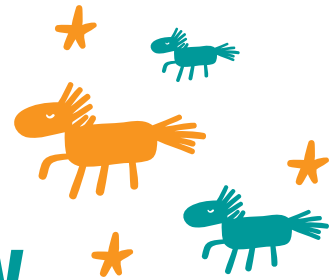
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# Riding a Growing Tradition

## GOLDEN VALLEY'S ANNUAL BULL RIDING AND RODEO SHOW BECOMING A COMMUNITY STAPLE ▶▶



**BY RYAN SCHLEHUBER**  
**BEULAH BEACON, CENTER REPUBLICAN EDITOR**

For the past five years, the small community of Golden Valley has been drawing more and more interest from professional bull riders, rodeo riders and spectators with its annual Golden Valley Shootout and Wayne Herman Invitational Xtreme Bareback & Bronco, which happens each mid-August.

Two men with roots in Golden Valley – Brent Schaff and Coleman Entze – put together the event seemingly at the worst time in recent history – in 2020, during a pandemic. However, the men believe it was because of the pandemic that people jumped at the chance to be able to enjoy something with other people.

“When we started it, I just thought it would be cool to have a bull ride in my hometown,” said Entze, a 30-year-old Golden Valley resident. “We decided to do it because there wasn’t a lot going on that year because of COVID. We went around the businesses and looked for sponsors and went ahead with it. It was a huge hit.”

Schaff, a 30-year-old bull rider with almost 10 years of experience, called 2020 the event’s “banner year” and hangs his hat on the bold decision to go for it that year.

“I think the whole statement of, ‘Build it and they will come,’ has held true in this case,” Schaff said. “It was one of the very few public things going on in North Dakota, practically the entire country for that matter, that year. And we had a great show. We’ve just kept expanding it year after year.”

Though set in a small North Dakota town, Schaff and Entze are proud to have created the growing event, as it “puts Golden Valley” on the map. It embraces its small-town feel, too, as the event is held at the former Golden Valley High School track and field area, which, according to Golden Valley Mayor Kenton Richau, “adds nostalgia and small-town charm to the event.”

Golden Valley also prides itself on other annual events, such as the Golden Valley Rally, which is put on by the local fire department in the late summer, which is another local event that gathers residents and visitors alike, especially with its car show. But the “star of the Golden Valley show” has been the Shootout and Wayne Herman Invitational Xtreme Bareback & Bronco, bringing in nationally-coveted talented riders, which in turn attracts spectators knowing the events will provide high-level competition.

Typically, the bull riding event will feature 25 to 30 competitors, as does the rodeo event. Competitors from across the country flock to these events, with some coming from Canada, as well.

What sets the Shootout and Invitational apart from other similar events around North Dakota is the detail in which Golden Valley’s event is done, Schaff said.

“We put in a lot of care and attention to what you see and hear there,” he said.

From a big 9-foot by 11-foot video screen installed at the competition ring for audience members to better see the action, to getting local

and national sponsors involved, to even having volunteers helping out in a pinch during a rainy event last year, the Shootout puts in its work to give people the best show it can, Schaff said.

Schaff said he and Entze will be looking at different ways to maximize their capabilities for the event, as far as marketing and organizing it. He pointed out the success of the food trucks that were on-site this past event and that the event was sponsored by several energy companies representing all the elements – solar, oil and gas, and wind, for example.

Not only do spectators and visitors see a great show both that Saturday and Sunday, they also see the fruits of labor by local volunteers and businesses that support it.

If you plan to travel to or near Golden Valley around mid-August, check out one of North Dakota’s finest bull riding and rodeo events in Golden Valley.



PHOTO CREDIT OF ALAINA STANGLE PHOTOGRAPHY





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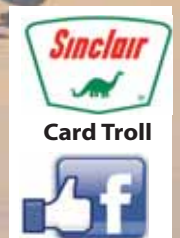
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# HAZEN



*visit Hazen*

## FOR AN HOUR

Hazen thrives on parks and recreation, with over 4 miles of paved walking and biking trails. Besides parks and playgrounds in residential areas, there is the Pocket Park and Sensory Garden right in downtown Hazen, and further east along Main Street the renovated Heritage Park, which includes outdoor instruments at the Musical Play Park. Wherever you go, you'll find a place you and your family are sure to enjoy.

## FOR A DAY

Enjoy a favorite movie in Hazen's own movie theater, Cinema Flix, located just off Highway 200, east of Cenex. Get a meal at a variety of local restaurants, enjoy a wide selection of drinks from town coffeehouses and relax in the sun at the pool outside the high school.

## FOR A WEEKEND

Hazen Bay is located just a 20-minute drive north of town. Every kind of camping, from primitive to full hookup, is available, with easy access to the lake.

Hazen is a small, rural community with a vibrant life. The arts thrive in this town, from Music in the Park performances in the summer to a Christmas chorale in the winter, and with major festivals like Chalkfest in August and Harvestfest in early September drawing lots of visitors to town. In addition to its arts, movie theater and eateries, the town is also just 12 miles away from the Hazen Bay Campground on Lake Sakakawea.





# WELCOME

*from the mayor* ★

Welcome to Hazen, North Dakota! We are thrilled that you are considering visiting our peaceful and resourceful community. Nestled in the heart of the Sakakawea South Shore and the Lignite Coal Capitol of the World. The Hazen area offers a rural escape, where you can relax, reconnect with the outdoors, and experience the beauty of our natural setting.

Hazen and Lake Sakakawea are surrounded by rolling hills and abundant hunting. This is the perfect spot for those who enjoy fishing, boating, kayaking, golfing or simply soaking in the natural surroundings. Whether you're here for a weekend retreat or an extended stay, there's something for everyone.

We hope your time in the Hazen area brings you peace, adventure, and many wonderful memories. Should you need any assistance or have questions about your stay, don't hesitate to stop by the city hall, or reach out to us via [www.visithazennd.com](http://www.visithazennd.com), our chamber of commerce and park board directors can help you.

Once again, welcome to Hazen! We hope you have a wonderful time and enjoy all that our rural lake community has to offer.

Warm Regards,  
Jerry Obenauer  
City Council President



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# CHALKFEST BRINGS ARTISTS AND VISITORS TO HAZEN ▶▶

BY DANIEL ARENS  
HAZEN STAR EDITOR

You might not often put rural North Dakota and the arts together, but the community of Hazen has found a niche in providing residents and visitors alike with rich artistic, musical and performance activities.

One of the biggest examples of this is Hazen's annual Chalkfest in mid-August. In 2025, the town is gearing up for its 5th annual Chalkfest on Aug. 13 and 14, a two-day event of 3D chalk art by professional artists from around the nation, smaller chalk art that anyone can do, outdoor musical performances at the adjacent park, special displays, food, vendors and more.

"I've been thinking what it is about Chalkfest that motivates me," Bill Wagner, a member of the Hazen Chalkfest Committee, said. "It is something that doesn't happen in small towns. And people need something to be happy about. This is a bright spot in our summer."

"This is a nice-sized community," Lauren Donovan, another committee member, said. "When the community is with itself, and we have people coming in, and you see the generations all together and people with their families, it's just really special."

During the two-day festival, 3D chalk artists will create mesmerizing works of chalk art looking to spring up off the pavement of Main Street, even as visitors can add their own splash of color all around the professional artists' centerpieces. There will be live music from 4 to 8:30 p.m. both days as well, along with the food, vendors, Chalkfest Shop and other attractions.

Hazen Chalkfest started in 2021 on East Main Street, after the nearby Heritage Park received some noteworthy upgrades and the committee of community-minded individuals who did the work began to consider bringing outdoor musical instruments to the park as a new "Musical Play Park".

"We want to do something to dedicate that musical instrument park back in 2021," Donovan said. "We decided, 'Let's make more of a celebration thing out of it than just a 10-minute event.'"

Donovan said one of the committee members saw 3D chalk art at a festival somewhere else and thought it would be cool to bring this art to Hazen. The committee also began looking at bringing live entertainment to the park to play different kinds of music at the event, including a demonstration of the new instruments.

At the same time, former Hazen resident Bonnie Johnson, who was instrumental in bringing the arts to Hazen residents and students, passed away suddenly. The committee decided to honor Johnson's legacy as well.

"This idea kind of came in, and with Bonnie's passing, it was like these are two things that go together really well," Donovan said. "Lots of family and friends of Bonnie contributed to help purchase the instruments."

That first year's Chalkfest, a one-day celebration, was a major success. It was initially intended to be a one-time only event, but seeing the enthusiasm of the community, the number of visitors from around



PHOTO CREDIT OF DANIEL ARENS

Hazen, ND Chalkfest is more than just an art show; it is a two-day celebration of life, family and community, with visitors welcome to contribute their own art as families and friends while also watching 3D chalk artists bring street art to life and listening to a variety of solo and group musicians performing at the nearby Heritage Park.

North Dakota (and beyond) and the possibilities for a new way to make Hazen a more vibrant town, the committee began looking at ways not only to continue holding Chalkfest but to expand on it.

"I think we realized right away that one day was really not enough time to make it happen," Wagner said. "That first year, the artists were painting little squares for the kids. We had so many people needing squares, and Shawn (McCann, one of the main artists each year) couldn't get his own work done, so we started painting the blocks. We couldn't keep ahead of the kids."

The committee decided to expand the number of squares at future events while also making Chalkfest a 2-day long event, with musical performances during the late afternoon and evening of both days.

Donovan said the family element is one of the things that makes Chalkfest special, as the event is open to all ages and enjoyed by kids, parents, grandparents and everyone. It is also free to attend.

"Our goal is to raise the money each year so that no family ever needs to pay to come to this event," she said. "Hazen is big enough that we have enough businesses and community-minded people to come up with that kind of stuff. And we have people who just come up to us and they get out their checkbooks and say, 'Thank you for this.' It's not that hard to raise the money cause it is such a great event."

Although large businesses help make Chalkfest possible, there are also lots of chances for anyone to show support in smaller ways.

"We do have lots of opportunities at our festival for people to help," Wagner said. "We set up a Chalkfest Store, we have meals you pay for with the money going to Chalkfest. If people participate and are a little generous, just those \$5 bills, we really appreciate that."

In 2024, although the community once again saw a big turnout from residents, the number of visitors from outside Hazen actually surpassed the number of community members at the event.

"We just want people to know that everyone is welcome," Wagner said. "Come find us in downtown Hazen, and while you're here, you can spend a day at the lake as well."

In 2024's Chalkfest, the committee and artists first hit upon the idea of doing a theme, with last year's festival focused on "Wonderful World". Donovan said the plan is to have a theme again this year, although the exact format is still to be determined. They are also hoping to expand into unique booths and art for the public and for kids, having introduced a spray paint art exhibit at last year's festival.

The committee is also looking into options for easier handicapped parking and accessibility to the event.

"The first day and the second day are both great, so if you just come for one day, it will be great what you will see," Wagner said.

More information will be available as the festival draws nearer on the Hazen, ND Chalkfest Facebook page.



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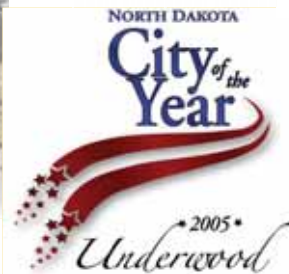
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FOREWORD BY AL LINDNER  
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PHOTO CREDIT OF TYSON MATTHEWS

# MAX

## BUSTLING SMALL TOWN

The 300 residents of Max are a tight-knit community. Max's Main Street host two bar and grills, a library, a bank, and

visit Max 

### FOR AN HOUR

In the winter, visit the Max Museum on Main Street and check out the lighted Christmas village displayed in the backroom. Cross the street to take in the Armed Forces Honor Roll monument.

### FOR A DAY

During the summer the Max Museum features a look into life in the early 1900s. There's a one-room school setting and other antiques. After the museum grab a bite to eat at the Red Light Bar or the Pour House Bar and Grill.

### FOR A WEEKEND

The Max Rodeo will take a whole weekend to enjoy. Beside the bucking broncs and bulls, you can check out the vendor show and street dance.





# A HIDDEN GEM ▶▶

**BY TYSON MATTHEWS**  
**MCLEAN COUNTY INDEPENDENT EDITOR**



PHOTO CREDIT OF TYSON MATTHEWS

Each year around this time, museum director Ray Iverson heads down to the basement of the Max Museum and breaks out the many totes containing the Christmas decorations. The back room of the museum is packed with Christmas trees, Santas and hundreds and hundreds of lighted pieces of a beautiful Christmas village.

Around 450 pieces.

Every year, more village pieces show up by donation or because Iverson finds them at auctions and garage sales.

"The back room is definitely everyone's favorite," Iverson said.

Moving to the front two rooms of the museum there is every type of Santa's you can think of. There are Santa dolls, Santa lights, Santa pictures, and so much more.

"There are Santas everywhere. On the floor, up top and way up top," Iverson said.

Along with the many Santas, there are fully decorated Christmas trees, and all are a different theme.

And even after many trips to the museum, there are still new items to see and discover each time.

The Max Museum is now open daily from 1 to 6 p.m. for their Holiday viewing.

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# PICK CITY

visit Pick City 

## FOR AN HOUR

Pick City has a beautiful playground on the north side of town. The kids will have a blast with the variety of options the park provides for enjoyment, while parents can spend their time in good conversations in the lakeside breeze.

## FOR A DAY

The Garrison Dam is located just east of Pick City. Travelers will want to check out this historic site, including tours of the actual plant powering the dam.

## FOR A WEEKEND

Take a full week up to the lake and enjoy Lake Sakakawea State Park. Just east of the city limits, the state park offers boating, fishing, swimming and camping recreation for all ages.

In summertime, the population of Pick City suddenly explodes. The reason is simple: few places in North Dakota can rival the lake feel of this small town. Situated just west of the Garrison Dam, Pick City is embedded in the heart of both North Dakota history and North Dakota recreation. Indeed, it might be said to be as much a large resort as it is a small city.

# WELCOME from the mayor

Pick City is the small town with a big recreation reputation.

Ideally located just west of Garrison Dam near Lake Sakakawea and Missouri River, Pick City is a perfect destination for a day-trip, or a longer adventure.

Pick City businesses provide all necessary amenities when you visit the Pick City area.

From Pick City's lovely city park to the abundance of public lands and facilities complementing.

Lake Sakakawea's allure, recreational fun is almost limitless.

See you at "the Lake."

**Pick City Mayor,  
Arvid Anderson**



# WHERE ND'S FISHING OPPORTUNITIES BEGIN



PHOTO CREDIT OF DANIEL ARENS

A large group sets off from the visitor center on a guided hike of one of the trails at the fish hatchery. The hike goes by the ponds where the hatchery raises millions of fish, with over 12 million walleye spawned in 2024.

**BY DANIEL ARENS  
HAZEN STAR EDITOR**

Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River bring excellent opportunities for fishing to the state of North Dakota, but many of those opportunities begin with the massive hatching, breeding and stocking program at the Garrison Dam.

The Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, located just below the dam, east of the power plant and Missouri River outlet, raises and stocks fish, not just for Lake Sakakawea but for many of the rivers and watersheds in North Dakota.

The hatchery is also open to visitors, with tours of the hatchery buildings, hiking trails through the hatchery ponds and down towards the river, and special programs for different groups held annually throughout the year.

"Stop by and see the place that produces 12 million walleye per year," Toni Ganje, Administrative Officer with the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, said. "I think it is outstanding to see those numbers. And we have other fish production as well."

While sturgeon hatchlings, previously a major part of the hatchery's operation, have greatly declined, the hatchery still regularly raises hundreds of thousands of other species, such as pike, trout and salmon, in addition to its walleye focus.

"We produce fish for the fishing season," Ganje said. "That is why we stock out so many walleye each year. And trout as well, which is a good fish for kids to start fishing on."

Ganje praised the pallid sturgeon program at the hatchery, even though that program is now scaled way back. She said the hatchery played a big part in providing breeding and rearing for the endangered pallid sturgeon through the program.

"We are partnered up with North Dakota Game & Fish, and I just want to mention that," Ganje said. "They give us a lot of fish orders, since North Dakota doesn't have a state hatchery. It's nice to have that relationship with them, and we do a lot of work for both the federal and state levels."

From Memorial Day to Labor Day each year, the hatchery holds tours of its different buildings from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., which are open to anyone in the public and free of charge. These are held 7 days a week.

For the rest of the year, tours are not held regularly, but people are still welcome to call in and schedule a tour if they like. In addition, the hiking trails are available year round at any time.

Tours begin at the main hatchery building, which includes a visitor center and tank room, as well as the hatchery's isolation division. The "Sturgeon Building" and "Salmon Building" are also included in the tour, where fingerlings of salmon and trout can be watched and even fed by the public.

The tour extends out to the west and south of these buildings as well, where the actual ponds are. The 100 acres of ponds the hatchery has in total are used primarily in the spring spawning, with fry eating the plankton that grows within these ponds.

"The best time to come is probably in May, although we are not open on the weekends then," Ganje said.

In addition, the hatchery includes a storage building, three residences on site (since there must be someone on call at all times to feed fish in inclement weather or to address any electrical problem) and two hiking trails.

The trails are the Salmon Run Trail (which goes out toward the Tailrace to the west and where the salmon come upstream) and the River Loop Trail (which goes to the nearby campground and along the Missouri River). The trails also take you past the hatchery's ponds.

While the hatchery is open for tours (regularly in the summer and scheduled in advance in other months) and hikers, the facility also holds special events throughout the year geared toward particular groups.

"We always plan to have our Hatchery Fun Day on the Saturday before Memorial Day," Ganje said. This event is open and free to everyone and is geared toward families, with lots of games, programs and interactive events that even the youngest kids are sure to enjoy.

In the last week of July (potentially continuing into August), a Fish Camp is held at the hatchery, in which people can preregister for. Ganje said the 2024 camp saw a big increase in numbers from previous years, with about 50 kids attending.

Finally, a "Fishability" fishing derby for people with physical challenges is held at the hatchery ponds in September. This year's event will be on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to noon.

"We would like to get a bigger turnout for that and connect with the right market to give those people a chance to get out and go fishing," Ganje said.

The Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery is located at 530 Hatchery Road, Riverdale, ND 58565. You can call the hatchery at 701-654-7451 to get more information, schedule a tour or register for events. The hatchery also has a website and social media page.



PHOTO CREDIT OF DANIEL ARENS

The Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery's fun day on Memorial Day weekend provides a wide variety of activities for all ages to enjoy, while the hatchery is open for tours throughout the summer months.

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# STANTON



visit Stanton



## FOR AN HOUR

Situated on the banks of the Knife River, Stanton's large city park boasts an impressive playset, numerous shelters and open access to the river, just above its meeting with the Missouri River. The park is an ideal place to take in the summer sunshine.

## FOR A DAY

Located at the confluence of the Knife and Missouri rivers, Stanton provides residents and visitors with ample opportunities to get out on the water, including a boat ramp on the Missouri River, donated by Great River Energy and located northeast of town.

## FOR A WEEKEND

Knife River Indian Villages is a National Historic Site at the heart of local Native American culture. Check out the gift shop and visitor center for books and souvenirs, along with a museum of artifacts. You can also attend programs put on by experts in a number of different fields and get out on the hiking trails to see the old village sites for yourself.

Stanton is a small town with a rich history for Mercer County and the United States. A turning point for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, it was at this point along the mighty Missouri where the explorers met the Shoshone woman Sacagawea, who became their guide. The heritage of that journey and the history, culture and craft of the Native tribes they encountered in this region is preserved at the Knife River Indian Villages. The town itself serves as the county seat, preserving a rich legacy of settlers from diverse backgrounds. The revitalized Stanton Civic Club is working hard to bring new activities and a vibrant lifestyle to the community throughout the year.





# FIFTY YEARS OF HERITAGE, EDUCATION AND TOURISM ▶▶



PHOTO CREDIT OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MHA Nation dancers perform during 2024's 50th anniversary celebration.

**BY DANIEL ARENS  
HAZEN STAR EDITOR**

No trip to the Lake Sakakawea and Coal Country area is complete without visiting the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, which is now in its 50th year of operation.

Situated a half mile north of Stanton, off County Road 37, the historic site features the preserved mounds of Native villages along the Missouri and Knife rivers. The site was a major Native American trade center for hundreds of years prior to becoming an important marketplace for fur traders after 1750.

Established by Public Law 93-486, an Act of Congress, on Oct. 26, 1974, the Knife River Indian Villages (or KRIV) was founded to preserve the heritage of the Native Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara peoples (or the Three Affiliated Tribes).

According to Emilee Franklin, education specialist at KRIV, over 776,000 visitors have come to the site since 1981, when the park first started keeping count, with even more stretching back to the 1974 founding date.

KRIV is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day of the year. The visitor center is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the winter season and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the summer season (Memorial Day to Labor Day). The visitor center and earth lodge are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

In the mid-1990s, the National Park Service constructed a full-size, reconstructed, 40 ft. diameter earthlodge with traditional materials. The earth lodge is located just outside the park's visitor center and is open to visitors during regular park hours.

"Our earth lodge was built in 1994, so it also celebrated its 30-year anniversary last year," Franklin said.

Earth lodges are earthen structures within a circular timber structure that typically housed between 10 and 20 people. At the center of the earth lodge's interior is a fire pit, with smoke escaping through a hole in the roof. The fire can warm the entire lodge even in frigid North

Dakota winters.

One of the primary focuses for KRIV over the years has been education. These include various demonstrations, where kids have the chance to make their own crafts, using techniques that the tribes traditionally used.

"We typically host this program for a week or two every September and have full groups of students every day, typically with even more who wish they could join," Franklin said.

The visitor center includes a small theater that shows various movies about Native life and culture, like the 15 minute orientation film "Maxidiwiac" about the life of Buffalo Bird Woman as well as a museum with a rotation of different artifacts on display.

The site also features hiking trails. The 1.3 mile Village Trail starts at the visitor center and walks through two village sites. The 2.2 mile North Forest Trail traverses bottomland forest and native prairie. The 6.2 mile Two River Trail follows the Knife River to the south end of the park, providing a scenic view of where the Knife River flows into the Missouri River.

Over the years, larger events have also been held over the half-century of the park's existence, including the drama "Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery Meet the Earth-lodge People" in 1985, Culture Fests, viewings of recent solar eclipses and last year's 50th anniversary celebration.

In addition to Native American history, the fur trade and the Lewis and Clark expedition, KRIV also holds regular programs related to ornithology, entomology, botany, meteorology and astronomy. The picturesque scenery makes the park an ideal place to visit for hikers, birders, history buffs or people following the Lewis and Clark trail who are eager to see the place where the expedition first met the Shoshone woman Sacagawea.

Knife River Indian Villages is located at 564 County Road 37 Stanton, ND 58571. You can call the park at 701-745-3300 or visit the website at <https://www.nps.gov/knri/index.htm> to learn more.



PHOTO CREDIT OF EMILEE FRANKLIN

The reconstructed earthlodge at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, just outside the park's visitor center, with a rainbow above it.



*"Home of Sakakawea"*

# STANTON

*North Dakota*

It's Mercer County's oldest city and serves as its county seat, nestled at the confluence of the Knife and Missouri rivers.

But there's so much more.

It's a community surrounded by agriculture and industrial opportunity in the heart of Coal Country, yet bordered by untouched prairie waving in the North Dakota wind. It's a community blessed with access to unparalleled hunting grounds and unmatched lake and river fisheries. It's neighbor to Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, the home of Lewis and Clark's famed Shoshone guide, Sakakawea.

It's a friendly community with plans for the future, but whose heart lies deeply entrenched in the area's rich historical significance.

Visit Stanton, and let good ol'hometown hospitality put a smile on your face.

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# Chalkfest

August 13-14 • 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Heritage Park on East Main St.

HAZEN, ND



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Public street chalking *(chalk provided)*

SCAN THE CODE  
for 2025 event  
info & updates



[www.HazenChalkfest.com](http://www.HazenChalkfest.com)







PHOTO CREDIT OF ECITY OF TURTLE LAKE

# TURTLE LAKE

## visit Turtle Lake

### FOR AN HOUR

For a quick visit, stop by the town's iconic turtle statue. This delightful artistic centerpiece is a perfect photo opportunity and a nod to the town's namesake.

### FOR A DAY

If you have a day to explore, head just east to Lightning Lake. Renowned for its excellent Rainbow Trout fishery, the lake also hosts Small-mouth Bass, Bluegill, and even the occasional Largemouth Bass.

Whether you're an experienced angler or just looking to enjoy the scenery, Lightning Lake is a must-see.

### FOR A WEEKEND

Planning a weekend getaway? Venture north to Lake Brekken and Lake Holmes. These peaceful lakes offer not only great fishing but also overnight camping opportunities. Spend your days on the water and your nights under the stars, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Nestled along ND 41, the City of Turtle Lake is a small rural community of about 575 residents.

Known for its welcoming spirit and natural beauty, Turtle Lake offers visitors a variety of ways to enjoy its charm, whether you're here for an hour, a day, or an entire weekend.





# Turtle Days: A SHELL-EBRATION OF SUMMER FUN IN TURTLE LAKE ▶▶



PHOTO CREDIT OF ETHYN WILLIAMS-CALVERT

**BY ETHYN WILLIAMS-CALVERT**  
CENTRAL MCLEAN NEWS-JOURNAL EDITOR

Each summer, the streets of Turtle Lake, North Dakota, come alive with laughter, community, and creativity during the annual Turtle Days Festival.

For one unforgettable weekend, this quaint McLean County town transforms into a vibrant hub of turtle-themed fun, welcoming visitors from near and far to join in the celebration.

On any given day, Turtle Lake greets travelers with its iconic large turtle statue, a charming landmark perched along the highway.

But during Turtle Days, the town takes its turtle pride to a whole new level.

From the whimsical turtle-themed decorations lining the streets to the much-anticipated Turtle Races, the festival is a complete immersion in small-town charm and creative community spirit.

Turtle Days offers something for everyone, making it a perfect weekend getaway.

Savor mouthwatering food from local vendors, stroll through lively streets filled with unique events and activities, and experience the warmth of Turtle Lake's friendly residents.

Whether you're participating in the family-friendly games, browsing craft booths, or simply soaking in the festive atmosphere, you'll find yourself swept up in the fun.

At the heart of the festivities are the Turtle Races, where competitors cheer on their shelled champions in an event that's as delightful as it is unique. It's just one of the many ways Turtle Days brings people together and puts a playful spin on the town's name.

Good food, great company, and an unforgettable sense of community await anyone who makes the trip to Turtle Lake for their summer festival.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning to relive the magic, Turtle Days is an event that promises fun for all ages.

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PHOTO CREDIT OF ETHYN WILLIMAS-CALVERT



# UNDERWOOD

visit Underwood 

## FOR AN HOUR

For a quick visit, stop by Underwood's charming city park. Families can relax while children enjoy the playground equipment, making it a perfect spot for some outdoor fun.

## FOR A DAY

If you have a full day to explore, consider scheduling a tour of the Falkirk Mine's impressive operations.

Tours are available May through October, Monday through Friday, and provide an up-close look at one of the region's largest lignite coal mines. Be sure to call 701-442-5751 at least 24 hours in advance to reserve your spot.

## FOR A WEEKEND

For a leisurely weekend activity, head over to Westridge Golf Course. This scenic course offers an afternoon of friendly competition and fresh air, making it an excellent choice for golf enthusiasts or anyone looking to unwind.

From recreational opportunities to educational experiences, Underwood invites visitors to discover the charm of its rural community.

### EXPLORE THE HIDDEN GEMS OF UNDERWOOD

Located just off Highway 83, north of the Falkirk Mine, the City of Underwood is a quaint rural community of 775 residents, known for its welcoming atmosphere and serene surroundings.

Whether you have an hour, a day, or a weekend to spend in Underwood, there's something for everyone to enjoy.





# Summer thrills in Underwood

## THE MCLEAN COUNTY FAIR AND SPEEDWAY ▶▶



PHOTO CREDIT OF ETHYN WILLIMAS-CALVERT

**BY ETHYN WILLIAMS-CALVERT**  
**CENTRAL MCLEAN NEWS-JOURNAL EDITOR**

Underwood, North Dakota, knows how to make summer unforgettable.

At the heart of the season, the McLean County Fairgrounds transform into a hub of activity, blending small-town charm with high-energy entertainment.

Whether you're a local or just passing through, a trip to the McLean County Fair and Speedway is an essential summer experience.

Every June, the McLean County Fair comes to life for three exhilarating days.

The event showcases the talents and dedication of local FFA and 4-H students, whose projects range from livestock to crafts, offering visitors a firsthand look at the community's agricultural roots.

Beyond the barns, families can revel in the excitement of carnival rides or browse the shopping booths supporting local businesses.

From handcrafted goods to tasty treats, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

But the fun doesn't stop there.

Just a stone's throw away, the McLean County Speedway delivers an adrenaline rush that race fans won't want to miss.

Throughout the summer, Friday nights belong to the track, where four to five high-octane races take center stage.

The roar of engines, the cheers of the crowd, and the excitement of dirt-track racing make for an electrifying evening under the lights.

A trip to the fair simply wouldn't be complete without a stop at the speedway.

The two events perfectly complement each other, blending family-friendly fun with heart-pounding action.

Together, they capture the spirit of Underwood's summer: a celebration of community, tradition, and adventure.

So, whether you're looking to support local students, enjoy classic carnival vibes, or feel the thrill of the racetrack, the McLean County Fair and Speedway offer a summer experience like no other.

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# PARKS & TRAILS

## CROSS RANCH STATE PARK

Cross Ranch State Park is located along some of the last free-flowing and undeveloped stretches of the Missouri River. While exploring Cross Ranch State Park, visitors may find themselves traveling back in time, catching a glimpse of the landscape as it appeared to Native Americans inhabiting the area hundreds of years ago, or hearing the echoes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition making its way to the Pacific coast along the Missouri River.

Cross Ranch has nearly 17 miles of trails that cater to the adventurer all year long. This extensive trail system can be explored either on foot or cross-country skis during the winter months. The trail system allows access to a 5,000-acre nature preserve with mixed prairie grass, river bottom forests, woody draws, and roaming bison.

Cabins and yurts are all available for overnight lodging along with two different campgrounds. A boat ramp is available for those wishing to explore this scenic segment of the river. An-

glers will find walleye, trout, catfish, salmon, pike and bass in its waters.

**LOCATION:** Cross Ranch State Park is located 12 miles south-east of Hensler via paved roads, or 6 miles by gravel. For paved access roads follow the brown park directional signs located on Hwy. 200 or Hwy. 25.

**FEES:** Entrance fees can be found at [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov).

**CAMPING:** Main campground has electrical, group, primitive and backcountry campsites with vault toilets nearby. Restrooms and showers at Visitor Center. Sanger Campground has electrical and primitive campsites with vault toilets only.

**CABINS:** Various cabins and yurts are available for overnight stays year-round. Amenities range from full-service to primitive. A vault toilet is located nearby, and shower facilities are available year-round at the Visitor Center.

For more information, visit [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov) or call 701-794-3731.

## FORT STEVENSON STATE PARK

Fort Stevenson State Park is nestled in the bluffs along the north shore of Lake Sakakawea. With miles of trails, a wide variety of rental equipment, breathtaking views and year-round special events, there is always something fun to do.

Fort Stevenson is three miles south of Garrison, the “Walleye Capital” of North Dakota, and is a preferred spot to experience a great day on the lake. Boaters will find excellent facilities, including two marinas with boat ramp access, boat rentals and fish cleaning facilities. Kayaks, fat tire bikes and pontoons are available for rent.

The park is named after a late 1800s fort that served as a supply depot for other military posts in the Dakota Territory. Park visitors can learn about the military past by visiting the park museum or by attending the Frontier Military Days event in June.

**LOCATION:** 3 miles south of Garrison on 41st Ave. NW.

**FEES:** Entrance fees can be found at [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov).

**CAMPING:** Premium campsites (water, sewer & electric), modern campsites (water & electric) and walk-in tent campsites are available in addition to group campsites. Comfort stations and vault toilets nearby.

**CABINS:** One premium, full-service cabin available for year-round stays with the option to add an adjacent campsite. Seasonal camping cabins are also available and located near a comfort station.

For more information, visit [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov) or call 701-337-5576.

## LAKE SAKAKAWEA STATE PARK

On the south shore of the third-largest man-made reservoir in the nation, lies Lake Sakakawea State Park. The park is surrounded by miles of lakeshore, providing stunning views. Visitors can spend time at the swim beach, camping beneath the trees, hiking on the trails, or out on the lake. Sail boaters and windsurfers can take advantage of North Dakota’s fabled wind on this 368,000-acre lake. Lake Sakakawea is known for its premier fishing. The lake is home to walleye, northern pike, and chinook salmon. Anglers can find a full-service marina, a convenience store, and a fish cleaning station. Boat ramps in the park offer deep water access to some of the best salmon

fishing on the lake. The park is also home to the Western Terminus of the North Country National Scenic Trail, a trail stretching 4,800 miles over eight states from Lake Sakakawea State Park in North Dakota to Vermont. The trail also passes through Fort Ransom State Park. For information on marina services, contact Lake Sakakawea State Park Marina at 701-487-3317 or the park’s main office at 701-487-3315. Two large boat ramps serve the park for access to the best salmon fishing on the lake. The park hosts several fishing derbies throughout the summer.

**LOCATION:** 1 mile north of Pick City.

**FEES:** Entrance fees can be found at [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov).





## LAKE SAKAKAWEA

**CAMPING:** Modern campsites (water & electric) and primitive campsites are available in addition to group campsites. Comfort stations and vault toilets nearby.

**CABINS:** Seasonal camping cabins are also available and lo-

cated near a comfort station.

For more information, visit [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov) or call 701-487-3315.

## LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK

Lewis and Clark State Park is situated on one of the upper bays of Lake Sakakawea. The park features miles of shoreline with picturesque views of towering buttes and rolling hills that provide a rugged backdrop for the park.

Modern boating facilities, including a marina with slip rentals and boat ramps, are major attractions. Anglers will find excellent fishing for walleye, sauger and northern pike.

Lewis and Clark State Park is home to a large native mixed-grass prairie and unique geological formations. Visitors can become acquainted with the natural communities associated with the park by hiking a self-guided nature trail.

Visitors can also enjoy the swimming area and a day-use beach located along the east shore of the campground near the

camping cabins. Kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddle boards, fat tire bikes and snowshoes are available for rent.

**LOCATION:** Lewis and Clark State Park is located 19 miles southeast of Williston on Highway 1804.

**FEES:** Entrance fees can be found at [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov).

**CAMPING:** Premium campsites (water, sewer & electric), modern campsites (water & electric) and a primitive campsite are available. Comfort station and vault toilets are nearby.

**CABINS:** Seasonal camping cabins are also available and are located near a comfort station and vault toilet.

For more information, visit [parkrec.nd.gov](http://parkrec.nd.gov) or call 701- 859-3071.

## KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES

In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled through the area and were greeted by the Mandan and Hidatsa as they spent a winter at Fort Mandan. Among those living in the villages at the time was the Shoshone native Sacagawea, who ultimately joined Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and the rest of the expedition on their journey west, acting as a guide and an interpreter as the explorers entered unfamiliar territory and encountered new Native tribes.

For the next couple decades after the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed by, the Knife River tribes continued to live autonomous lives in the area, but smallpox epidemics later weakened the Mandan and Hidatsa and caused them to remove upstream. Knife River Indian Villages is now a national park that aims to preserve both the history and the native landscape of the area. Several depressions in the ground, bearing witness to the sites where the buildings of the tribal villages once sat, are still preserved, with three village sites part of the park.

The national park strives not only for preservation, but also

public awareness and education. Numerous interactive programs allow people from around the state, the nation and the world to learn about Native practices and try their own hands at specialized skills. Other programs and tours allow interested visitors the opportunity to learn not just about the tribes, but about the Knife River valley and the original flora and fauna of the land. Many programs are geared toward kids, like summer camps and the addition of the ArcheoBlitz. This latter event pairs students with archeologists to learn skills and techniques related to locating, studying and sorting artifacts. The park includes three trails hikers can take, many of them associated with the sites of the villages.

There is also a full-scale earth lodge replica just outside the visitor center, which showcases better than any screen the challenges, opportunities and lifestyles of the land's original inhabitants, as well as traditional gardens just outside the lodge. The visitor center itself includes a gift shop, a museum and a small theater where presentations are offered.



PHOTO CREDIT OF LAURA GARDNER



# WASHBURN

*visit Washburn*



## FOR AN HOUR

Get an ice cream dish from a local shop, or visit one of many active restaurants throughout Washburn before taking a walk along the walking paths near the Missouri River.

## FOR A DAY

The city is packed with museums to satisfy every one's needs. From the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center to Fort Mandan and the McLean County Museum, there is information for all to enjoy!

## FOR A WEEKEND

During many months of the year, Washburn is bustling with festivals and events like Riverboat Days, Taste of Washburn, Lunch with Santa and many, many more. Check the local calendar of events to plan a weekend stay in Washburn at the local camping/RV parks.







PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE MCLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

The McLean County Historical Society, located on Main Avenue in Washburn, is capturing a moment in time, holding on to historical moments, documents, pictures and more for those near and far to explore.

## *A history worth seeing* **LOCAL MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY WORK TO PRESERVE MCLEAN COUNTY HISTORY ▶▶**

**By Kelli Ameling**  
 Associate Publisher  
[kelli@nordaknorth.com](mailto:kelli@nordaknorth.com)

What was started in the late '60s by a newspaper editor looking for new ways to document local history, the McLean County Historical Museum is preserving that information.

The McLean County Historical Society, located on Main Avenue in Washburn, is capturing a moment in time, holding on to historical moments, documents, pictures and more for those near and far to explore.

"We have everything here," said Museum Curriator and Historical Society Directory Rhonda Johnson. "Come in an see a variety of local rocks and historical information from the Native Americans and animals to historical moments from McLean County History."

The historical society was founded in 1967 with the museum being organized in 1968.

"In November 1968, the Society opened the McLean County Museum in the 1905 Courthouse. Fred Jefferis and many others collected donated items to be displayed," stated information from Johnson. "In 1969, the Society researched and built Fort Mandan

(a replica of where Lewis and Clark wintered in 1804), west of Washburn. This was the first project of the historical society. Construction of the fort was completed in 1972. The Society owned and operated the fort until they leased Ft. Mandan to the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation in 1997. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department took over the lease in 2015."

The museum also includes history on Lewis and Clark's travels, Sakakawea, artifacts and more.

"The original museum was named after Fred Jefferis, our first curator," the information stated. "This building originally was McLean County's second courthouse and it is on the National Register of Historic buildings. It was removed Oct 2021. The main building was purchased in 1997 and is located on Main Avenue."

The best part about it all, "it's free," Johnson said.

The McLean County Historical Society Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

"I love history," Johnson said, who started volunteering at the museum in 2013 before becoming its curator in June of 2016.

For more information, contact Johnson at [mcleancounty.nd.museum@hotmail.com](mailto:mcleancounty.nd.museum@hotmail.com).



## WILLISTON

**POPULATION: ABOUT 29,000**

Williston, the county seat of Williams County, grew tremendously between 2010 and 2020 after it nearly doubled in size credited largely in part to the North Dakota oil boom fishing spots.

## EPPING

**POPULATION: LESS THAN 100**

Known as the "second biggest little town" in North Dakota, founded along the Transcontinental Rail Line of the Great Northern Railway.

## NEW TOWN

**POPULATION: 2,764**

Known as "the heart" of Lake Sakakawea, New Town is located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and is known for its hunting and fishing spots.

## ALEXANDER

**POPULATION: 319**

Named after its founder, Alexander McKenzie, in 1905, Alexander is located in McKenzie County. The town grew by more than 100 people between 2010 and 2020.

## WATFORD CITY

**POPULATION: 6,200**

Founded in 1914, Watford City is the county seat of McKenzie County and is the 13th most populous city in North Dakota.

## ARNEGARD

**POPULATION: 282**

Located in McKenzie County, Arnegard was founded in 1913 and is considered a "bedroom community" to Watford City, the county seat.

## KILLDEER

**POPULATION: 908**

Known for its scenic beauty, Killdeer has a rich history and lots to do with outdoor recreation and "Western Excitement."

## DUNN CENTER

**POPULATION: 227**

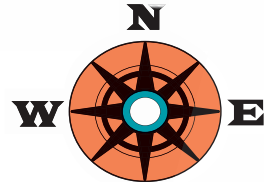
Founded in 1914, Dunn Center is located along Highway 200 in Dunn County - roughly centered between four of North Dakota's largest population.

1. Downstream Campground
2. Lewis and Clark RV Park
3. Spillway Pond Rec. Area
4. Spillway Overlook
5. Riverdale Overlook
6. Government Bay
7. Wolf Creek
8. East Totten Trail
9. West Totten Trail
10. Sportsmen's Centennial Park
11. Fort Stevenson State Park
12. Douglas Creek
13. Indian Hills Resort & Campground
14. Deepwater Bay
15. Parshall Bay Recreation Area
16. Van Hook Recreation Area
17. Pouch Point
18. New Town Marina
19. White Earth Bay
20. Little Beaver Bay
21. Little Egypt
22. White Tail Bay (Lund's Landing)
23. Lewis & Clark State Park
24. Lake Trenton
25. American Legion Park
26. Tobacco Gardens
27. Four Bears
28. Skunk Creek
29. McKenzie Bay
30. Little Missouri Bay
31. Beaver Bay
32. Lake Shore Park (Dakota Waters)
33. Beulah Bay
34. Hazen Bay
35. Lake Sakakawea State Park
36. Brendle's Bay Resort
37. Long Creek (Chris Cove)
38. Antelope Creek



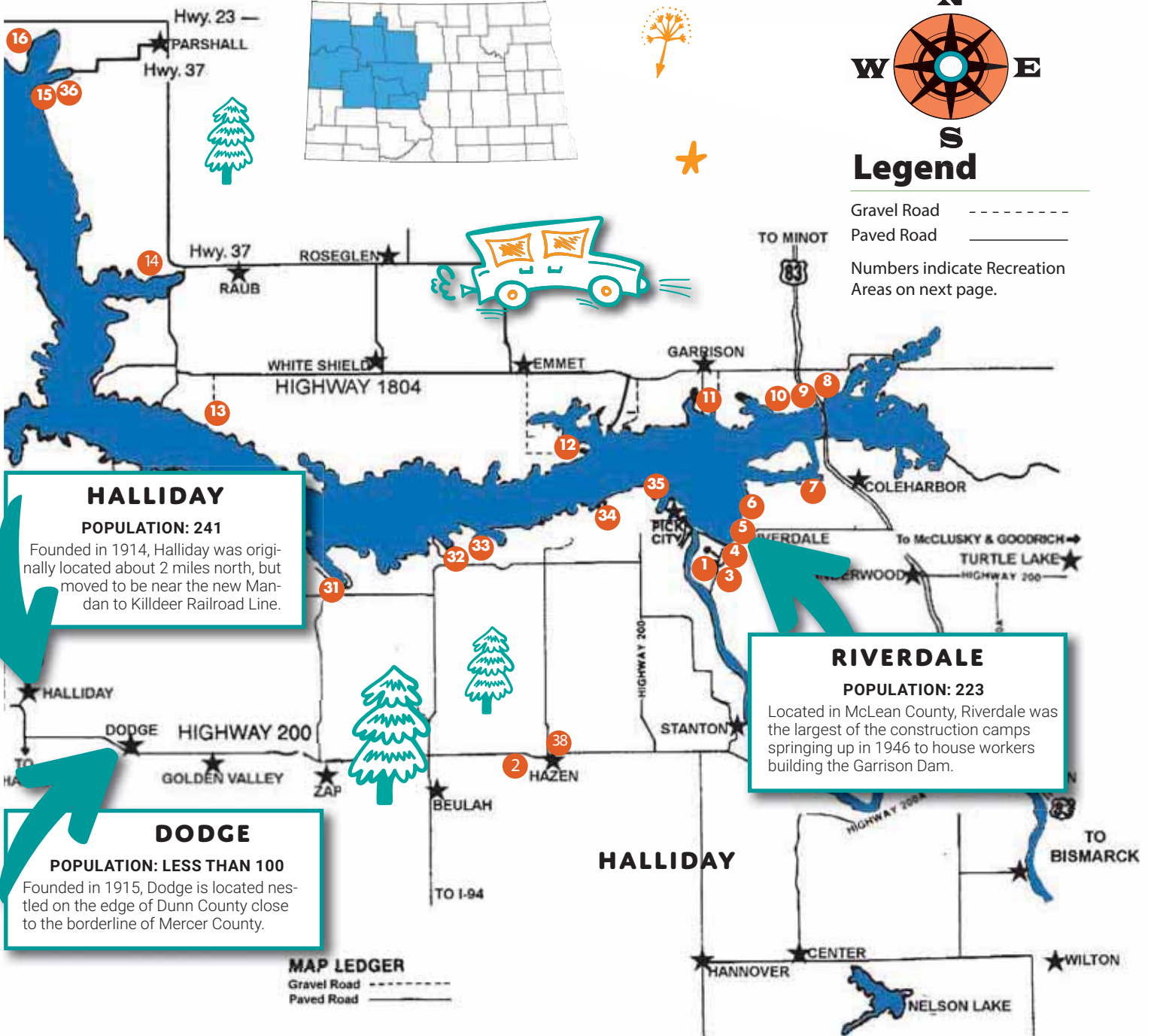


# SAKAKAWEA COUNTRY



## Legend

- Gravel Road - - - - -
- Paved Road \_\_\_\_\_
- Numbers indicate Recreation Areas on next page.



**HALLIDAY**  
**POPULATION: 241**  
 Founded in 1914, Halliday was originally located about 2 miles north, but moved to be near the new Mandan to Killdeer Railroad Line.

**RIVERDALE**  
**POPULATION: 223**  
 Located in McLean County, Riverdale was the largest of the construction camps springing up in 1946 to house workers building the Garrison Dam.

**DODGE**  
**POPULATION: LESS THAN 100**  
 Founded in 1915, Dodge is located nestled on the edge of Dunn County close to the borderline of Mercer County.

**MAP LEDGER**  
 Gravel Road - - - - -  
 Paved Road \_\_\_\_\_



PHOTO CREDIT OF ETHYN WILLIAMS-CALVERT

# WHITE SHIELD

## GROWING COMMUNITY

White Shield is part of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation located on the Fort Berthold Reservation and was named after an Arikara chief.

In the past decade, White Shield has grown extensively adding a clinic, elders center, recreation center, school and restaurant.

## visit White Shield

### FOR AN HOUR

Grab a bite to eat at White Shield's first dine-in restaurant, Old #8 Diner. Then on the way out of town, stop by the Old Scout Cemetery and pay tribute to Native Americans who served their country in times of war and peace.

### FOR A DAY

Check out the Ralph Wells Jr. Community Center. There are enough things to do to take a full day. Hit the swimming pool and water park, movie theater, gym, or golf simulator. There is something for everyone.

### FOR A WEEKEND

Camping is key near White Shield. Only 15 minutes west boasts the Indian Hills Resort that offers cabins, condos, and slips for campers and tents. The new Good Bear Bay Lodge offers eight queen beds, and two twin, accommodating up to 18 people. There is access to Lake Sakakawea for some of the best walleye fishing in North Dakota.





State of the art entertainment venue in the heart of White Shield  
**RALPH WELLS JR. COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**OFFERS SWIMMING, MOVIES, ATHLETICS AND**  
**SO MUCH MORE ▶▶**

**BY TYSON MATTHEWS**  
**MCLEAN COUNTY INDEPENDENT EDITOR**

The Ralph Wells Jr. Community Center in White Shield, was built for the three affiliated tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, or otherwise known as the MHA Nation.

The community center holds a fitness center, movie theatre, a swimming pool with a slide, an indoor running and walking track, basketball courts, a movie theatre, snack bar and indoor golf simulator.

One can also reserve the facilities for birthday parties, get-togethers and family reunions.

Community groups also hold basketball tournaments and other sports-related activities throughout the year.

It's located conveniently next to the White Shield School. The staff are all highly trained and professional in all areas of the community center.

As White Shield grows, more and more facilities have been built in the area in the last few years.

There is a new elders center, clinic, Head Start program building, as well as White Shield's first dine-in restaurant the Old #8 Diner. All are situated near each other.

**CAMPING ▶▶**

*Come and stay!*

**BEULAH BAY  
 CAMPGROUND**

**701-873-5916 • 701-870-0602**

Located 18 miles north of Beulah on Lake Sakakawea, offers camping grounds with tent sites, three cabins, RV sites with full hookups, RV sites with electrical hookup, pavilion, two lane boat ramp, playground, fish cleaning station, horseshoes, volleyball courts, on-site caretaker, coin operated bathhouses/showers and flush restrooms.



**BEULAH EAGLES  
 RV PARK**

**701-873-5852**

Located on N.D. Highway 49 South are tent sites and RV sites with picnic tables, plus electrical and water hook-ups. The site is within walking distance of the Black Sands Golf Course, Riverside Park, showers and convenience stores.

**RIVERSIDE  
 RECREATION  
 AREA**

**701-870-0602**

Features camping by permit only in either RV sites with electricity, showers and flush restrooms or primitive sites; playground, horseshoes and grills on the south side of Beulah.

**GARDEN COURT  
 ARDEN COURT**

Offering mobile home and RV sites with water, sewer, cable, garbage and telephone on N.D. Highway 49.

**SUN VALLEY  
 RV PARK**

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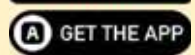


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# WILTON



*visit Wilton*

## FOR AN HOUR

Wilton is known for its scenic beauty, either spend an hour walking around the walking path near the pond, or if it's a beautiful fall day, watch the sunset over the blossoming sunflowers located right across from city limits.

## FOR A DAY

Known for McLean Bottoms Shooting Range, spend the day just east of Wilton to practice your hand at the targets, gearing up for a bustling hunting season around McLean County.

## FOR A WEEKEND

Spend the day learning about the history of Wilton! The city, itself, just celebrated its 125th birthday in 2024 and they have historical information all around the town. From old church buildings to the local museum, the history is rich in Wilton!







# A 124-YEAR LEGACY ▶▶

**BY KELLI AMELING**  
Associate Publisher

With every business and organization there is always room for changes and growth to help them stand the test of time.

When that growth happens over a 124-year period, those changes implant a legacy within a community that helps the establishment continue forward to serve the local area.

That is what First Presbyterian Church of Wilton has done.

Rev. Dr. Chuck Pedersen said the church was first established within the city of Wilton on Oct. 28, 1900. When it started, it grew from a Sunday school class to being incorporated in 1903.

"It has gone through many challenges and changes," Pedersen said.

One of the bigger ones is changing the church's denominational affiliation.

"Our church is a conservative Presbyterian church and we recently changed our denominational affiliation from the PCUSA - Presbyterian Church of the United States - to ECO - A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians," he explained. "We found that the new denomination is more in line with the history and beliefs of our church."

With that, has come growth for the First Presbyterian Church of Wilton, both in the number of people who attend for worship and spiritually.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILTON CHANGES DENOMINATIONAL FROM PCUSA TO ECO



**PHOTO CREDIT OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILTON**  
First Presbyterian Church of Wilton was established within the city in the 1900s as a Sunday School program, being incorporated as a church in 1903.

Through the church, a number of ministries are offered, including Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday Ministries:

- Sunday Ministries: The Sunday Worship service is at 11 a.m. on Sunday morning. It incorporates several uplifting hymns, reading of Scripture, the recitation of the Apostles Creed, a time for personal reflection, and the preaching from God's Word (the Bible). We also offer engaging worksheets for our children so that they are also involved in our worship time. Sunday school for both adults and children meets Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend!

- Wednesday Ministries: WOW Worship meets every Wednesday from 5:45 - 7:30 p.m. Offering a youth program and a prayer/Bible Study for adults. The youth program will include games, crafts, a Bible lesson, and pizza. The adults will be studying "Christian Beliefs" and we will also spend some time praying for personal needs and for the needs of the church.

- Thursday Ministries: Our Clothes Closet is open on the third Thursday of every month from 3-5 p.m. We have an abundance of good quality clothes that we offer free of charge. This is also a great opportunity to just stop by the church and enjoy some fellowship time with those leading this ministry and to learn a bit more about our church. So, we encourage you to stop by and visit the Clothes Closet. Crafty Fellowship meets the first and third Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. Bring your favorite quilt or craft and enjoy the fellowship of others. We will also enjoy lunch together and then our Bible study will start around 1 p.m. This is a great opportunity to get to know each other better and to share crafts and ideas while also studying God's Word.

"Throughout the year, we have a number of special activities including a Valentine's Dinner, a Fish Fry, a summer picnic/worship service, a Trunk or Treat Carnival, and we have a beautiful float in the Wild in Wilton Parade," Pedersen said.

Pedersen has been the pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Wilton for almost three years.

"(I) feel so very blessed," he said. "This is an extremely welcoming church that makes everyone feel right at home. If you would like some pictures of any of our activities, I can supply you with them. Please feel free to contact me for an interview or any additional information."



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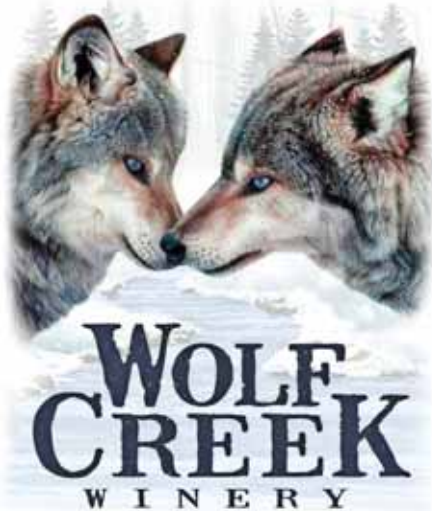
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