

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

A Publication of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation





Theodore Roosevelt

MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora
EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.

Medora Musical

Bully Pulpit
GOLF COURSE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

8 New Housing in Medora	16 “The Magic of Medora”
10 The 2023 Bully Spirit Award	17 Veterans’ Day In Medora
11 Hatzenbuhler Receives Award	19 Record Year for Medora WISH
14 Western Heritage	22 Girl’s Golf Camp
15 Black Tie & Spurs	24 Badlands Chautauqua
4 From The Desk of Randy Hatzenbuhler	
6 Thank You, TRMF Board Members	
12 More To Explore In Medora	
21 Under Harold’s Hat	
26 Positive, Life-Changing Experiences	



FROM THE DESK OF RANDY HATZENBUHLER

All summer I've been saying: "We work in paradise."

Timely rains and moderate temperatures made for a perfect start to Summer 2023. I hope you will get a chance to visit us before the end of summer. We are thrilled to bring *Million Dollar Quartet* to Medora for a fall run too – it is the story of an impromptu jam session when Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins found themselves together in 1956. This show will sell out, so you will need to book early!

More on Medora activities later. First, I want to share how happy we are about one of the most important things that has happened in Medora in decades. We are fortunate to have people who want to live and work in Medora on a year-round basis. Lack of housing for year-round residents has been a tremendous challenge. Last August, Roers Construction began working on Wild Horse Place, a 32-unit apartment building located across the street to the east from the Life Skills Center. People began moving into the building in late June. Residents include employees of the TR National Park, ND State Parks & Recreation Department, private citizens, and our employees. We have created affordable, high-quality living spaces for our valued employees and friends. It has been emotional to witness the excitement and joy people moving into their new apartments. This \$7.5 million project could not have happened without Rick Berg, Roers Construction, and over \$3 million dollars of donations, led by the Bavendick Family's \$1.5 million lead contribution. Thank you for allowing people to choose to make Medora their home.

Bully Pulpit Golf Course is enjoying a resurgence since over \$3 million of improvements were made to the course. The course is amazing; my golf game has not improved at all.

We had a goal to have a big start to our season—and we did. Attendance was up 19% in June! Why?

First, thanks to the Medora WISH program, we were able to provide free tickets to children for the first three weeks of the season. The earnings from the Wish Endowment along with other annual supporters called "WISH Branders" helped us fund about \$100,000 worth of free tickets this summer!

Next, the show is wonderful as always. For three seasons, COVID kept us from inviting kids on the stage during the Medora Musical. We are thrilled to see the little ones on the stage again this season. This year's "kids' number" tells the Native American tradition of dream catchers – the message in its simplest form is that dream catchers allow the good dreams to pass through while holding off bad dreams.





**WILD HORSE PLACE,
COMPLETED LATE JUNE 2023**



**MEDORA WISH PROGRAM
PROVIDED FREE TICKETS TO
CHILDREN FOR THE FIRST 3 WEEKS
OF THE SEASON**

As a grandpa, I appreciate this year's "kids' number" more than any I can remember because one of my grandchildren had been having occasional "night terrors" and asked for a dream catcher for his room after seeing the show.

Dirt is being moved for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. They plan to open July 4, 2026. When you arrive at the Medora Musical, look to the west of our parking lot and you will see the awesome dream of a presidential library for our 26th president becoming a reality. For more information on the Library, check out their website trlibrary.com.

What's next for the TR Medora Foundation? Planning for two major projects is intensifying with hopes to have these begin in the next year. Just across the Little Missouri River, Western Heritage Park aims to include a premier rodeo arena and grandstand with a practice arena, 200 covered horse stalls, large rig camp sites, and an equine learning center. And just south of Bully Pulpit Golf Course we are planning an event barn with cabins to serve corporate outings, golfers, and weddings. Stay tuned.

At our recent Rough Riders Roundup, we celebrated Char and Duey Marthaller as the most recent recipients of the Bully Spirit Award – a quiet humble volunteer couple who have done so much for Medora. We are also celebrating milestone years: 65th anniversary of the shows at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre (1958-1964 Old Four Eyes, and 1965-present the Medora Musical, which was originally titled Teddy Rides Again.) We are also celebrating the 25th anniversary of our incredible volunteer program.

One of our core beliefs is that being thankful is always right. We are thankful – for thousands who have volunteered, more who have given generously and promoted Medora as a special place, and for every visitor. The landscape here is remarkable, but it is the people who make it enjoyable for all. Thank you.

I hope you are enjoying your summer as much as we are – and that you find your way to Medora before summer gets away from you. We look forward to serving you.

Randy
President & CEO

OUR LEADERSHIP

TRMF Board Chair Tim O'Keefe Says Thank You To Five Outgoing Board Members

Achieving our vision of connecting people to historic Medora for positive, life-changing experiences starts with great leadership. Our Board of Directors offers our organization just that. As we say farewell to five board members whose terms are coming to an end, here are some words from our Board Chair, Tim O'Keefe.

"This group of graduating Board members collectively emulate the best qualities a non-profit organization seeks," said O'Keefe.



Twylah Blotsky

"Tywlah Blotsky is an extraordinary leader, running one of North Dakota's largest companies, Butler Machinery. The Butler family, Jim and Twylah, define philanthropy throughout our state, and their impact on Medora and TRMF has been huge."



Bruce Furness

"Bruce Furness is one of the most recognized and respected leaders in our state. His stature and strategic abilities lift every Board he graces his time with, and TRMF was no exception."



Rich Becker

"Rich Becker has a long track record of 'passion for the cause' in everything he engages. He and Joanne were the impetus for the critical expansion of our Medora Campground."



Tracy Martin

"Tracy Martin is a listener and a deep thinker. When she expresses her thoughts, people listen. She and her husband Rick are quiet philanthropists, leaving impact everywhere they go in their wake."



Guy Moos

"Few people have provided more time and dedicated guidance to TRMF than Guy Moos, who is completing 18 consecutive years of service between the for-profit Bully Pulpit Inc. and non-profit TRMF Board of Directors. Beyond his expertise, Guy is one of the most respected leaders in western North Dakota, adding to the stature of our organizations. Finally, Sandy and Guy are also very prominently known for their generosity – especially in their hometown of Dickinson and in Medora."

This group has a few traits they share in common: quiet leadership, strategic thinkers, philanthropy, and dedication to Medora, TRMF, and the legacy of Harold Schafer and Teddy Roosevelt," said O'Keefe. "We are beyond grateful for their service!"

WELCOME TO TRMF!

We are excited to welcome three new leaders to our Board of Directors!



Glenn Baranko

Glenn Baranko is the President of Baranko Bros Inc., an earthwork contractor based in Dickinson. "Medora is a hub for great people – from TRMF employees and my fellow board members to the visitors I have the pleasure of meeting," Baranko said. "I'm excited to help Medora innovate and grow into an even brighter future, while honoring and respecting the deep heritage of this place."



Kate Black

Kate Black is the Vice President of Inland Oil & Gas Corporation, a fuel exploration and production company based in Bismarck. "The future of Medora excites me!" Black said. "Many BIG projects are in the works that will expand and build on Medora's western novelty. I'm honored to be part of the team of multi-talented leaders who are executing on great ideas and finding new ways for visitors to explore and enjoy the edge of the west!"



Byron Snider

Byron Snider is the Vice President of Information Technology at Scheels. "It is truly an honor to dedicate my time to the TRMF Board," Snider said, "where I have the privilege of sharing my thoughts on preserving our cherished western heritage for future generations, including my beloved family and three wonderful children."



Since the early days of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, our friends at Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have supported the Medora Musical. For 18 years and counting, they have been the exclusive sponsors of our Burning Hills Singers!

"Concern for community is one of our cooperative principles. So many of our members enjoy the Musical and all that Medora has to offer every year. We take great pride in supporting the Musical, doing our part to ensure it sees success for many years to come."

-Jeremy Woeste
Basin Electric Power Cooperative



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative

The power of human connections[®]

Thank you to our area Touchstone Energy Cooperatives for sponsoring the Burning Hills Singers since 2007!

•Basin Electric Power Cooperative •Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative •Central Power Electric Cooperative •Goldenwest Electric Cooperative •KEM Electric Cooperative •Lower Yellowstone Electric Cooperative •McKenzie Electric Cooperative •McLean Electric Cooperative •Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative •Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative •North Dakota Assn of Electric Cooperatives •Northern Plains Electric Cooperative •Powder River Energy Corporation •Roughrider Electric Cooperative •Slope Electric Cooperative •Southeast Electric Cooperative •Upper Missouri Power Cooperative •Verendrye Electric Cooperative

Cutting the ribbon at...

Wild Horse Place

APARTMENTS



Thank you to the following supporters of Wild Horse Place:

Joanne Bavendick & Family
George Dynes
Elsie Gilbertson
Roger & Mary Johnson
Joyce Krabseth
Nick & Bobbi Jo Lonski
Rick Berg & Tracy Martin
Duane & Paula McIntyre
David & Mary Muehlen Maring
Mike & Kathy O'Keeffe
Russell & Marsha Rogne
Cheri & Errol Schoenfish
Dave & Marlys Sunderland
Michael & Kim Vannett
David & Ninetta Westrum
Ray Doering & Mary Weimerskirsh
Anonymous Donor

Families in Medora have a new and much-improved place to lay their heads at night: Wild Horse Place.

On Saturday, June 24, the ribbon was officially cut on the 32-unit apartment building that now houses TRMF employees and their families, as well as Theodore Roosevelt National Park employees and other individuals wanting to call Medora home.

“This is a big day for Medora,” said Randy Hatzenbuehler, TRMF President & CEO. “Our Board of Directors saw a critical need for additional permanent housing in Medora, and they encouraged us to move briskly toward the completion of Wild Horse Place.”

“Medora would not be the special place that it is without great people,” he continued, “and this new addition to our city allows us to recruit even more of those great people to serve the traveling public.”

Cutting the ribbon at the ceremony was Greg Bavendick – who, along with his family, contributed \$1.5 million to see the project through to completion.

“The people here deserve it,” Greg said following the ribbon cutting. “It’s fulfilling for us to be able to help and make their lives a little easier.”

Wild Horse Place was also made possible by Rick Berg, whose property group funded the construction. During the ceremony, he thanked the Medora City Commission for helping the project move forward, and highlighted Roers Construction for their on-time, on-budget work.

“We have almost all 32 units rented already, which is unusual,” Rick said. “It feels good to know that we’re meeting a clear need for this community.”

One of those units is rented by Justin Morales, who supervises housekeeping services at the Badlands Motel.

“It’s something I’ve been looking forward to since last year when I learned that Wild Horse Place was being built,” Justin said. “I’m on the third floor and I get a great view of the sunset – and the fireworks every night at the Medora Musical.”

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to this important project so far – and our Development Team is continuing to raise funds to bring the Wild Horse Place project to completion. If you are interested in speaking to a member of our Development Team, we invite you to contact us by calling 701.223.4800. Thank you for your consideration!



The 2023 Bully Spirit Award *Char & Duey* Marthaller

Char and Duey Marthaller receive the Bully Spirit Award at the Rough Riders Roundup Luncheon.



When you think of Char and Duey Marthaller, you think about Medora.

Their story began like many others.

“When our kids were little, we started coming out here, probably 40 years ago,” Char told TRMF. “We came out with the boys, just goofing off in the park in Medora. We really enjoyed it here.”

“Then when our grandkids were born, it accelerated quite a bit,” Duey added.

Those family connections planted seeds for the future.

Following Duey’s retirement in 2013, the duo set their minds and hearts on volunteering in Medora – and working on special projects.

“January is always ‘Medora month,’” Char said. “That’s when Duey would start working in his workshop, whatever we needed to build or get ready for the summer.”

The fruits of that labor can be found all over Medora: from the wishing well in the Andrist Wind Garden to drip irrigation systems for Medora’s flowers; from remodeled apartments above the Ferris General Store to signs and benches at the Medora Campground.

“Whatever job it is, it’s the two of us together. That’s the way we’ve always done it,” explains Char.

So what keeps them coming back? “Certainly it’s the people,” said Duey.

The people – and the promise of the future in Medora, thanks to the hard, meaningful work of people like Duey and Char Marthaller.

“One of our granddaughters was five or six,” recalled Char. “We were walking in town, and she said ‘Grandma, I wonder what Medora’s going to be like when I bring my kids here.’ I don’t think I’ll ever forget that. This is why we’re here. This is why people should be here, doing what they can.”



Watch the full video here

***“This is why we’re here.
This is why people should
be here, doing what they can.”***

LEGENDARY LEADERSHIP



Randy Hatzenbuehler Receives Travel & Tourism Award

North Dakota's most iconic popcorn salesman was celebrated for his legendary impact on our state's tourism industry this May.

TMRF President & CEO Randy Hatzenbuehler was presented with the Legend Award for Travel & Tourism Industry Leadership in May of 2023.

The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated legendary leadership in the tourism industry statewide and beyond, with an emphasis on "a significant impact in visitor spending and/or creating differentiated communities," according to the State of North Dakota.

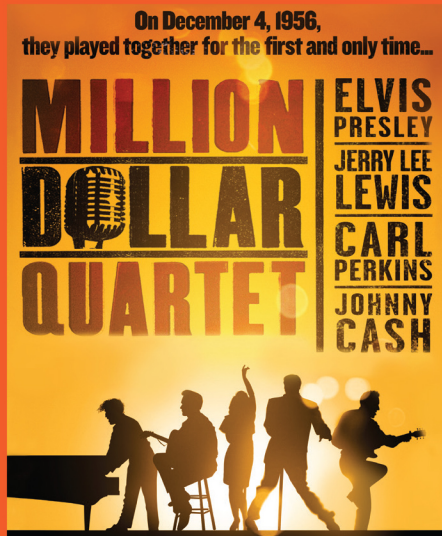
In Medora, Randy's impact in that criteria is unmistakable. He oversaw threefold growth in visitor spending over the last two decades – from approximately \$6 million in 2003 to \$23 million in 2022.

Randy has also been committed to philanthropy, leading TRMF to receive \$68 million in philanthropic gifts during his three-decade tenure with the organization. Such philanthropy has led to improvements all over Medora – from renovations at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre and the Rough Riders Hotel to the development of new destinations like Bully Pulpit Golf Course and Point to Point Park.

But it's his popcorn selling at the Medora Musical that is emblematic of what sets Randy apart most. It's a testament to his style of leadership: never asking anyone to do a job that he wouldn't do himself – and setting an example for the rest of us of what it truly means to serve the public.

Congratulations, Randy!

Fall Into Fun!



MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

SHOW TIMES: 7:30pm 2:00pm

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				



Host Your Next Big Event in Historic Medora!

From corporate retreats and meetings to weddings and other celebrations, your group will love experiencing Medora at any time of year.

Million Dollar Quartet

Old Town Hall Theater

SHOW PREVIEW SEPT. 13TH
OPENING NIGHT SEPT. 14 - OCT. 29

Wednesday - Saturday 7:30pm

Sunday 2:00pm

The Broadway Musical inspired by the electrifying true story when **Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley** came together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions ever! **MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET** brings that legendary December night to life with an irresistible tale of broken promises, secrets, betrayal and celebrations that is both poignant and funny.

Tickets available at Medora.com/MillionDollarQuartet/

Visit Medora.com/Groups to start planning your event!

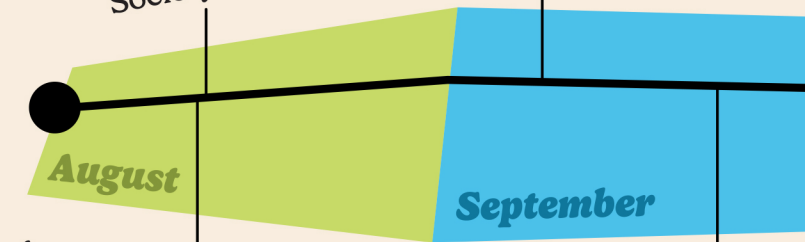
MORE TO



Aug. 27-28:
Founders'
Society Days



Sept. 3: Last chance
to catch the Medora
Magic Show feat.
Colin Zasadny



Aug. 8 - Sept. 9: Comedian
Michael Palascak at the
Medora Musical



Sept. 8-10: Badla
Hot Air Balloon
Rally & Kite Fe



EXPLORE IN MEDORA!



Sept. 9: Finale Night at the Medora Musical



Sept. 24: Free Entrance to TR National Park



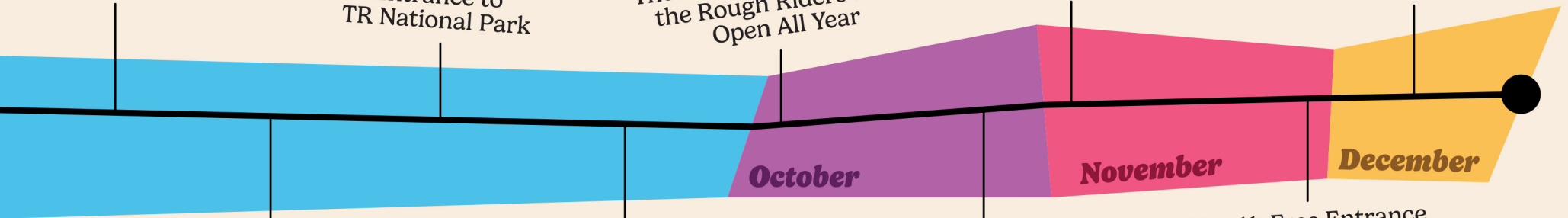
Theodore's Dining Room & the Rough Riders Hotel Open All Year



Nov 10: Medora's Annual Hunter's Feed



Dec 8: Medora's Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas



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t

Sept. 13-Oct. 29: Million Dollar Quartet



Sept. 29: Last day of public tee times at Bully Pulpit Golf Course (subject to change)



Oct. 2: Last day to get a trail ride in



Nov 11: Free Entrance to TR National Park



Dates subject to change. Visit [Medora.com/Calendar](https://www.Medora.com/Calendar) for a full list of what's happening in town.

Introducing WESTERN HERITAGE

Energizing the Western Experience in Medora

What does it take to make a living in the Badlands of North Dakota?

For an answer, perhaps the best place to look is to our region's cowboy history – and the grit required to tame Dakota territory.

"There isn't anybody that works harder than a rancher, 365 days a year," said Rick Thompson, Executive Director of the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. "They're responsible for the livelihood of those cattle. That work is hard, and it's long, and it's every day."

That lifestyle – and the "rules" that help a person abide by it – was coined "**the Code of the West**" by author Jim Owen. Cattle rancher, entrepreneur and TRMF board member Laurel Nelson is an advocate for the set of ethics.

"These principles are timeless in how we should live, behave, and make decisions," said Nelson. "What did cowboys know and do that allowed them to survive and progress in some of the harshest and most rugged environments of their time? They followed these principles."

Inspired by the principles of the Code of the West and the culture it helped create in the North Dakota Badlands, **the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation has begun seeking support for our latest initiative: Western Heritage.**

Western Heritage will showcase the cowboy way of life in many ways by creating new facilities on the west side of the Little Missouri River in Medora – starting with a modern rodeo grandstand and arena, capable of hosting a range of events with up to 2,000 attendees in the awe-inspiring Badlands.

The initiative will also comprise of a practice arena to facilitate animal health, horse stalls, additional campsites, and an interactive learning center, highlighting the fundamentals of Western life to inspire visitors of all ages.

"This is the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation's highest capital project priority," said TRMF President and CEO Randy Hatzenbuehler. "And it's a perfect fit for our organization's vision to connect people to historic Medora for positive, life-changing experiences."

"Our founder Harold Schafer was passionate about this place and its cowboy history. It's why we feature live horses on stage each night at the Medora Musical," said Hatzenbuehler. "The Western Heritage project will take this idea even further. Western Heritage in Medora will include a whole host of facilities to educate and inspire people to reconnect with the land and where their food comes from."

We look forward to sharing even more details about Western Heritage with you in the coming months, including the fall/winter edition of Notes From the Trail. For now, we invite you to reach out to our Development Team at 701.223.4800 to learn more and discuss ways that you can support Western Heritage in Medora!





The Code of the West

- 1) Live each day with courage.
- 2) Take pride in your work.
- 3) Always finish what you start.
- 4) Do what has to be done.
- 5) Be tough, but fair.
- 6) When you make a promise, keep it.
- 7) Ride for the brand.
- 8) Talk less and say more.
- 9) Remember that some things aren't for sale.
- 10) Know where to draw the line.

THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEDORA FOUNDATION BLACK TIE & SPURS

MATCHING GIFT BY NELSON FAMILY LEADS TO RECORD-SETTING EVENT

Our new Western Heritage initiative received a major boost this June at our bi-annual Black Tie & Spurs gala.

Hundreds gathered in downtown Medora – dressed in their best cowboy hats, boots, and bolo ties – for the social, dinner, and auction that raised money for Ranching 101 – a site for children to get a hands-on, up-close experience of the West.

The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation is deeply grateful to everyone who bid, dashed for desserts, and donated that night. **Altogether, we raised \$591,672 – the most we have ever raised at a Black Tie & Spurs event.**

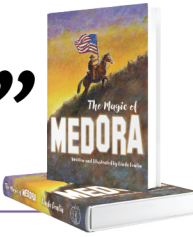
We could not have reached this milestone without the generosity of Laurel and Brent Nelson, who provided matching dollars of \$250,000 to help us reach this fundraising milestone!

Thank you, Laurel and Brent, and all of our generous donors at Black Tie & Spurs!





The “*Magic of Medora*” leaves a legacy



In 2020, Linda Donlin, Bismarck, took her granddaughter Ava to Medora for the first time. Ava loved it but had questions about Medora’s historical figures and how this magical town came to be. So they searched for a book to help connect the dots. They didn’t find exactly what they were seeking, so they decided to write one – and get the whole family involved!

“We have nine grandkids,” Donlin says, “but only two had been to Medora. I felt they were missing out on North Dakota’s history, not to mention the experience of our state’s greatest adventure destination. I hoped that working on this book would allow them to appreciate Medora as well as leave a legacy in our family.”

Donlin pitched her idea to Randy Hatzenbuehler, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation President and CEO, who endorsed it. He suggested she interview Rolf Sletten, TRMF board member, who gave her his Medora book to use for reference. During 2022, Linda along with her grandchildren, ages ranging from 4 up to 20 years old, interviewed other Medora experts, including Ed Schafer, Joe Wiegand, Emily Walter and Bill Sorensen, and traveled often to Medora. Her grandchildren kept journals, took photos and drew pictures documenting their research.

A retired public relations professional, Donlin wrote the manuscript and created 45 illustrations for the book. “While I did the creative work, our grandkids provided the inspiration,” she says. “I listened to their questions about Medora, observed what excited them, and kept them involved every step of the way.”

The book is written in Theodore Roosevelt’s voice because Donlin’s grandchildren seemed most intrigued by his Medora story. “As you read it, you can imagine him reading it aloud to his grandchildren.” Donlin targeted middle-school audiences because that’s when they study North Dakota, but she feels “The Magic of Medora” is an easy-read resource for all ages.

Purchase the book now at shopmedora.com



VETERANS AND MILITARY

Appreciation Day In Medora 2023

We strive to honor our nation's heroes every day in Medora – but Sunday, July 9 was extra special. Here's a look at how, thanks to supporters of the Veterans' Day in Medora Endowment, we were able to say **"thank you"** in 2023!

We welcomed 518 active duty, retired, and reservist military members to the Medora Musical at no cost!

The colors of the United States and our military branches were on brilliant display before the Medora Musical – presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Color Guard from Mandan, North Dakota.

All eyes were on the sky at the Medora Musical – watching as retired Colonel Bill Griffin flew a historic Navy trainer aircraft over the Burning Hills Amphitheatre.

"It's interesting seeing Medora from this perspective," Col. Griffin said of his view from the air. "The setting is so surreal – you don't have to look far, even from the air, to find an American flag flying in Medora. It's a beautiful scene."

Col. Griffin is no stranger to the pilot's cockpit. During his time in the United States Air Force, he commanded the 103rd Fighter Squadron and the 111th Attack Wing. As a Command Pilot, he logged 3,500 flight hours, including 300 combat hours. And he deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan six times in support of Operation Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We serve so that we can protect what's been given to us," he said. "When I see something like the Medora Musical, that is Americana – and that is why we serve. We do it so we can continue to enjoy what we have in places like Medora."

The flyover of the 1956 T-34 Mentor aircraft was made possible by Col. Griffin's sister, Kathy Neset – President of Neset Consulting and member of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation Board of Directors.

"Having that historic plane fly over the Amphitheatre is just another way of saying 'thank you' to the veterans, whose stories are so important," Neset said. "But the flyover is also a way of inspiring the children in attendance. It's an authentic connection to the golden era of flying – and it helps us carry veterans' stories forward to the next generation."

Veterans and Military Appreciation Day began with a 90-minute question-and-answer panel featuring four great veteran presenters: U.S. Army Specialist Ray Nay, U.S. Air Force Sgt. Emily Walter, U.S. Navy RADM David Architzel, and North Dakota National Guard Sgt. 1C Lucinda Bolyard.

Guided by our moderator, retired U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Nathan Huntington, the group covered a host of topics important to veterans and their families – from difficulties facing veterans when returning to civilian life to the importance of family support systems.

We're grateful that so many veterans and families turned out for the panel discussion – it was "standing room only!" – and look forward to the opportunity to do even more to serve veterans in Medora in the years ahead.

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

A CANDID DISCUSSION

A HIGH-FLYING TRIBUTE

PRESENTING THE COLORS



SUPPORT THE CAUSE!

We are grateful to Mary Larsen, who created and initially funded this endowment. We also thank the following donors for their generous support: Sandy Boehler, Dr. John & Marian Hamilton with the American Postal Infrastructure Partners, Terry & Kristina Heintz, Norman & Eunice Jones, Van & Dee Larson, The Title Team, and David & Ninetta Westrum. We hope you will consider joining them in their support of veterans in Medora!

We invite you to tear out and return this form to the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, along with a contribution, to the Veterans' Day in Medora Endowment. Or scan the QR code below to make a secure gift online. *Thank you for your consideration!*

VETERANS' DAY IN MEDORA ENDOWMENT

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

I AM GIVING:

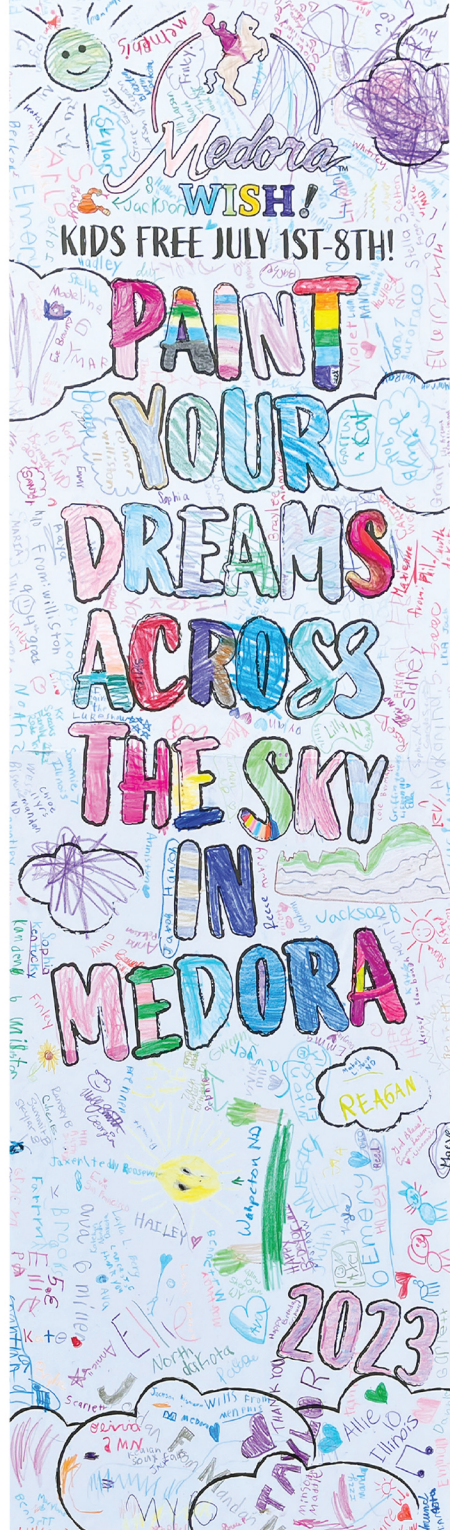
- ☐ \$25,000 Donors at this level will be recognized on a plaque at the Tjaden Terrace in Medora
- ☐ \$5,000
- ☐ \$ _____

Or scan this QR code to donate today.



In support of the Veterans' Day in Medora Endowment.
North Dakota residents who contribute to this endowment may qualify for a 40% tax credit!





Each night at the Medora Musical this summer, kids are invited onto the stage to participate in a new Dolly Parton song: "Paint Your Dreams Across the Sky".

It's a fitting song for 2023 – because the dream of making the Medora Musical more affordable for families is well on its way to coming true, thanks to Medora WISH.

Altogether, 4,540 kids tickets at the Medora Musical were given free of charge during two runs of Medora WISH Kids Free days – made possible by generous supporters of the Medora WISH Program and Endowment.

And this year, those kids were given the opportunity to say "thank you," Medora-style!

During Kids Free Week in July, kids added their personal touch to this giant "thank you" card: their colors, drawings, and greetings.

The result is a bright, one-of-a-kind piece of art – made possible by everyone who has supported Medora WISH and its mission to make family entertainment more affordable in Medora.

We are deeply grateful to the generous founders of Medora WISH: Don & Pat Clement and Michael & Vicki Zaun - and to everyone who has supported this effort! See a full list of our WISH Wranglers on the right.

Thanks to your generosity, more and more kids are painting their dreams across the sky in Medora - and Harold Schafer's desire to keep costs low for families is being made a reality!



Thank you to our generous supporters of Medora WISH!

Created and initially funded by
Michael & Vicki Zaun and
Don & Pat Clement

The following WISH Wranglers have
contributed at least \$25,000 to the
Medora WISH:

Ardis Afseth
Dan & Shelly Armbrust
Sandy Boehler
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Your Support Makes It Happen!

When *Michael & Vicki Zaun* and *Don & Pat Clement* established the Medora WISH in 2019, they started a fast-growing trend of generosity toward families hoping to experience the magic of Medora.

"It takes a movement of people to help us do something historic," said Don. "If we can make the Medora Musical free for kids all season, that would be achieving Harold Schafer's wish for Medora."

To achieve that goal, the Zauns and Clements hope to achieve a goal of growing the Medora WISH Endowment to \$7.5 million. With a spending policy of four percent annually, such a figure would allow the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation to cover all kids tickets to the Medora Musical – all summer long.

Maybe you're considering making your first gift to Medora WISH – or maybe you're already a WISH Wrangler who has given \$25,000 or more to the cause. Regardless, your support will help us get even closer to our ultimate goal.

"Family is everything. When it's all said and done, what else is there?" said Pat Clement.

"My wife Vicki was once asked, 'Why support Medora?'" recalled Mike Zaun. "Her response was, 'North Dakota is home, and there's no better place than Medora to focus our energies.'"

We invite you to tear out and return the form on the left side of the page, along with your contribution, to TRMF. You can also make a secure gift online by scanning the QR code shown here. Thank you for considering supporting the Medora WISH!

Medora WISH Endowment

NAME: _____

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I AM GIVING:

☐ \$25,000 to become a WISH Wrangler

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Or scan this QR code to donate today.



In support of the Medora WISH Endowment.

North Dakota residents who contribute to this endowment may qualify for a 40% tax credit!





Under Harold's Hat

Stories, ideas, and values from our founder, Harold Schafer

My contribution to this article should really be called, "Inside Harold's Head" because that's where I spent 8 months creating "WONDERFUL WORK" a one man show about Harold. I hesitated to take this on because after working for TRMF for a year, I understood the impact this man had on Medora and the people that knew him. But as Harold always said, "Work hard, dream big and always just try."

I used a lot of Harold's direct quotes for the script because that's where the soul of any character exists. What comes through is his unbridled passion, not only for Gold Seal and Medora, but for life, love of people, and the boundless opportunities we have every day.

But with any individual who has been put in an "iconic" position, it's only fair to tell the whole story, and that's what we set out to do. After conversations with Randy and Rolf we chose to tell the entire story that would have been in Harold's head. Stories that would have reflected his character as a young boy, his passion for good work, success, and failure - both in business and personal life, his love for North Dakota, and his message to dream big.

When I arrived in Medora 8 months later, I saw it as completely different. For myself it became a spiritual place where the dreams of one man became the reality of a community and the thousands of families visiting each year. Thank you TRMF for the chance to be inside Harold's head.

By Tom Milligan



The Medora Girls Golf Camp

A New Experience For Young Golfers!

What made the first-ever Medora Girls Golf Camp so impactful to the 100 girls who gathered in the Badlands in June?

The answer, according to one of the participants, goes beyond the game.

"It wasn't just about who was the best golfer," said Lizzy Bachler, high school senior attending Glen Ullin High School. "It was about helping us leave feeling more confident in ourselves as people. And I can say that I did."

The Medora Girls Golf Camp was a two-day experience for girls age 13 to 18 in early June. It brought young golfers of all skill levels to Bully Pulpit Golf Course to hone their swing, make new friendships, and master valuable leadership skills.

"We were able to create an event that would take care of the minds, bodies, and spirits of the young athletes who took part," said TRMF Major Gift Officer, Daniel Gannarelli, who spearheaded the event.

"The first thing I noticed was that everyone I met was extremely nice," Bachler recalled. "Everyone went out of their way to be helpful, to make us feel at home and enjoy the camp."

When they weren't learning from collegiate coaches on the course (or having friendly competition on the Little Bully Pulpit Mini Golf Course), they were taking in great presentations – from fitness and self-image discussions with Rock Gullickson and Dr. Tana Trotter to leadership lessons from Lieutenant Governor Tammy Miller.

"You don't change someone's life by teaching them to hit a 300 yard drive," Gannarelli said. "We wanted to take care of the whole person."

"It was a motivating camp," said Bachler. "I left wanting to do something bigger than play a game of golf."

We are grateful to everyone who helped make the Medora Girls Golf Camp a success – and we're already looking forward to 2024! If you want to learn more about how you can make an impact on young athletes in Medora, scan the code on the left to let Daniel Gannarelli know you're considering making a gift of support.



Scan this code to let us know you're interested in supporting the Medora Girls Golf Camp





*Thank you to our
generous sponsors!*



Dr. Melissa Spelchen



Thanks to our friends at Midco and an anonymous TRMF donor, kids 17 and under can golf for free at Bully Pulpit Golf Course!

**Sunday through Thursday – all day
Friday and Saturday – after 3:00 PM**
One paying adult must accompany each junior player.

“We so enjoy partnering with the Medora Foundation, helping to make golf accessible to young golfers. Between the sheer beauty of the course and the life lessons golf can provide kids, we’re pleased to be the sponsor.”

*-Paige Pearson Meyer, Vice President
of Corporate Communications at*



ACROSS THE TEDDYVERSE

BADLANDS CHAUTAUQUA BRINGS EVEN MORE LIVING HISTORY TO MEDORA

If you visited Medora during the third weekend in July, you might have found yourself seeing double. Or triple... or quadruple... or more!

The tenth-ever Badlands Chautauqua – a Gathering of Roosevelts – was held over the course of three days in July. It brought living history reprints to Medora to share their talents, hone their craft, and entertain the traveling public.

The name “Chautauqua” refers to Chautauqua, New York, where a movement began to host cultural and educational entertainment gatherings across rural America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Eventually certain communities became famous for hosting “Chautauquas” dedicated to certain subjects. Theodore Roosevelt called the Chautauqua “the most American of American institutions.”

“I identified some sixty Theodore Roosevelt reenactors around the country,” said Joe Wiegand, Medora’s resident TR reprinter. “Ten years ago, we decided to invite these other men who portray Roosevelt to the Badlands. They need to get the Little Missouri River in their veins. They need to watch the sun set over a butte. They need to walk the grasslands of the Elkhorn Ranch. That’s why we gather each year.”

Reprints come from around the country, and from varied backgrounds and levels of experience. Marty Jonason, an acting coach in Fargo, first embodied the role of Theodore Roosevelt in Medora in 1964, as part of *Old Four Eyes*, the production that preceded the *Medora Musical* at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre.

“He had bad eyesight; I have cataracts. He was a bad speller; I’m a bad speller. I was born to play this role,” he said with a laugh.

Jonason said he’s grateful for the chance to share a lifetime of theatre experience with his fellow reprints. “It’s invigorating. I like helping people move forward. Many reprints have not have schooling in theatre, so I try to simplify it for them and help them reach into the character.”

19-year-old Nolan Reynolds caught the TR bug last year.

“I worked for the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association at the National Park last year,” he recalled. “I was working one day behind the desk when Larry Marple [who is in his tenth year portraying Roosevelt in Medora] came up to me and said, ‘You know, you look a lot like a young Theodore Roosevelt!’ I did have the mustache at the time.”

He made his debut days later at the 2022 Badlands Chautauqua – and now Reynolds portrays him twice each weekday for visitors at the South Entrance to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Thank you to Laura & Bob Spolum for creating the TR Living History Endowment in Medora, which helped fund this event. We also thank the State Historical Society of North Dakota and Humanities North Dakota for supporting the Badlands Chautauqua.





"I've gained a wealth of knowledge from this community of Roosevelt reprisors," Reynolds said. "I mean, I live four blocks away from Joe Wiegand! There have been times when I'm at his door bombarding him with questions."

Another young reprisor, 27-year-old Austin Artz, has spent several years in the shoes of Theodore's son Quentin Roosevelt. In 2018, he traveled to France with Joe Wiegand, where the duo performed on the centennial anniversary of Quentin's death fighting for France in World War I.

He described the process of historic reprisor this way: "You take the person and you put their mantle around your shoulders."

"Anybody can sit and do historical research," he continued, "but once you see the humanity – not just the historic facts from 100 years ago, but the person's humanity – you can step away from the facts and begin to recreate the persona."

Wiegand says his time with young reprisors like Reynolds and Artz is well spent. "You might think I'm mentoring them – but it's just as often the other way around," Wiegand said. "I am learning so much from these young people, and I'm inspired by their passion for the new discoveries they're making about TR."

In 2022, the full weekend of living history extended beyond Roosevelt roles. The Badlands Chautauqua also brought Donna Sewell Davidge, the great-granddaughter of Mary and William Sewell, to Medora. William Sewell was a lifelong friend of Theodore Roosevelt who went on to design and manage his Elkhorn Ranch in the 1880s.

Some 140 years later on stage at the Old Town Hall Theater in Medora, their great-granddaughter Davidge performed her one-person play, *"In This Our Home"*.

"The concept is to feature the woman behind the man," she said. "Anyone who knows Theodore Roosevelt's life intimately knows about William Sewell. But Mary was there too! She came out to Medora. She nearly died in childbirth here. And their life was interconnected with Theodore Roosevelt in a fascinating way."

Davidge's performance was met with a standing ovation from the audience in Medora. And for Joe Wiegand, it was yet another example of the stirring power of living history.

"One of life's greatest rewards," Theodore Roosevelt said, "is the opportunity to work hard at work worth doing," said Wiegand. "I believe I was knitted together to do this work. And I believe our participants and audience members at the Badlands Chautauqua are going back to what they do day in and day out with a little more wind in their sails."

Because, in Wiegand's experience, the more that he and others can share about the life and lessons of Theodore Roosevelt, the better.

"Just like we need more cowbell, we need more Theodore Roosevelt," he said.



Theodore Roosevelt

MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora
EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.

Medora Musical

Bully Pulpit
GOLF COURSE

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Jordin Roberts, *Membership Sales Officer*
Darla Tescher, *Development Accountant*
Joe Wiegand, *TR Reprisor & TRMF Ambassador*

Our Vision

We Connect people to historic Medora for
Positive, Life-Changing Experiences.

Our Mission

PRESERVE the experience of the badlands, the historic character of Medora and the values and heritage of Theodore Roosevelt and Harold Schafer.

PRESENT opportunities for our guests to be educated and inspired through interpretive programs, museums and attractions that focus on the Old West, our patriotic heritage, and the life of Theodore Roosevelt in the Badlands.

SERVE the traveling public, providing for their comfort while visiting historic Medora, the Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Our Values

Have **fun**.
Show **respect** for people and place.
Live life with an **ownership** mentality.
Always be **grateful**.
Promote **sales**.



JERAMEEL RECODIG

"Different place, same purpose. After a couple years working at the Polynesian Cultural Center, whose mission is to preserve and portray the Polynesian cultures, arts and crafts, here I am in Medora for my summer internship, preserving the historic character of the Old West. Aloha, howdy, and mabuhay to this great cause!"

Jerameel Recodig, Intern from Hawaii



**BONNIE FAUSKEE +
DAWN KESSLER**

"We're sisters who live several states away from each other – so we get together every year in Medora to volunteer. It's our time together, and we look forward to it all year."

**Bonnie Fauskee and Dawn Kessler,
Volunteers from WY and MN**

What's your Medora story? En

**BRINGING THE TRMF
VISION TO LIFE**

POSITIVE, LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES



**ROGER JOHNSON +
GRANDSON**

"There aren't a lot of places in this world that you can take your kids and know you're going to get a clean, heart-filled show. The Medora Musical is one of them."

**Roger & Mary Johnson, Rough Rider
Members from Donnybrook, ND**



**KARLA RISLOV, LEFT, AND
HER FELLOW TRMF
VOLUNTEERS**

"I spent 63 days hospitalized with meningitis this winter – but I knew I wanted to come back to Medora to volunteer. I'm grateful for the friends who came with me and gave me breaks when I needed them. Being in Medora helped me build up my endurance!"

Karla Rislov, Volunteer from Badger, MN

il it to timo@medora.com, and your positive, life-changing experience could appear in the next issue of Notes From The Trail.



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

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WHERE IT AROSE

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