

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

A Publication of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation



SUMMER 2024



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora
EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.

Medora Musical

Bully Pulpit
GOLF COURSE

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FROM THE DESK OF RANDY HATZENBUHLER

It is not too late!

The first half of the summer in Medora has been excellent. A highlight was Bill Sorensen receiving the Bully Spirit Award. Bill has entertained and inspired over one million guests in Medora since 1976. He is “North Dakota’s Greatest Showman” and deserved the highest honor from the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

It has been fun to see families take advantage of even more dates when admission to the *Medora Musical* is free for kids 17 and younger because of funding by the Medora WISH Endowment. Thank you to the increasing number of “Wish Wranglers” growing the fund!

There is a “buzz” about Medora around the state. The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation is building! We are delighted to see a world-class facility for the 26th president being built next door to a world-class outdoor amphitheatre!

The *Medora Musical* and the Gospel Brunch’s cast and crews carry on the tradition of outstanding entertainment. Congratulations to RWS for their inaugural season producing both shows. They had the challenging task of following the people of StageWest Entertainment, who are, in my mind, legends of Medora. Nearly thirty years

ago, I succeeded another Medora legend, my friend and boss, Rod Tjaden. It is not an enviable responsibility. RWS has produced a show that celebrates Theodore Roosevelt, stirs pride for our state and country, and has people singing along!

Before summer slips away – please come and enjoy the unique charm of Medora and the beautiful Badlands. Make sure you allow time for the Musical, Gospel Brunch, a drive through the TR National Park, and a dip in the Lazy River. And if you happen to be in town on a Wednesday or Friday morning – join me for a guided hike on Point to Point Trail!

See you on the boardwalks,

Randy
President & CEO

The Development Team

We connect people to Medora for positive, life-changing experiences.

Our Support Staff



Darla Tescher,
Development Accountant

Darla, originally from Dawson, ND, holds a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting. Her family includes her husband, Adam, and two foster sons. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and reading. Beginning as an Accounting Intern in 2014, Darla has dedicated seven years to the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. She loves working in our state’s most beautiful location alongside exceptional people.



Morgan Bruhn,
Development Assistant

Morgan is a South Florida native with a bachelor’s degree in Crop and Weed Sciences from North Dakota State University (go Bison!). When not working, she enjoys cooking and exploring new recipes. Having recently returned to North Dakota, Morgan’s favorite Medora moments include experiencing the *Medora Musical* for the first time and golfing at Bully Pulpit with family. Morgan’s favorite part of her job is meeting volunteers, guests, and donors!

Under Harold's Hat

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



Everyone knows the story of how Medora was brought back to life with the help of Harold Schafer and his Gold Seal Company. However, it is still fun to look back on old articles to see how the town was revitalized. The Pierce County Tribune out of Rugby, North Dakota, published this on Thursday, August 29th, 1968:

“Medora, the topmost tourist attraction of the Midwest, is nestled among buttes of the colorful and fascinating North Dakota Badlands... We salute Harold Schafer, president of the Gold Seal Company, for his extensive investments in North Dakota. He has brought back to life one of the most historical areas of North Dakota, to live again for the entertainment of tourists and North Dakotans of all age.”

COMING THIS FALL ★ RING OF FIRE ★

Medora and its revitalization go beyond city limits and seasonal changes. This fall, audiences will have the opportunity to become re-enamored with the story of Johnny Cash with the jukebox musical *Ring of Fire*.

Ring of Fire tells the legendary story of Johnny Cash through his songs about love, faith, struggle, success, redemption, and family. Book your tickets now to see the beauty of the Badlands in Autumn as *Ring of Fire* fires up at Old Town Hall Theater. Performances run from September 11 to October 27.



Medora is a special place in the hearts of many. The healing capacity has drawn people in from all over the United States, including Theodore Roosevelt. Many of those people include families with children. The Medora WISH Endowment helped to make the *Medora Musical* accessible to families of all backgrounds in Medora. This year, 13 Kids Free nights at the *Medora Musical* are covered by the Medora WISH Endowment. Since 2019, almost 12,000 kids, 17 and under, have attended the *Medora Musical* and other attractions at no cost thanks to the Medora WISH Endowment Fund.

However, for some, the trip is more than that, the trip is a wish come true. McKenzie Kost made such a wish and was able to visit Medora on July 13th of this year. Thanks to Medora WISH and in partnership with the Anne

Carlsen Center in Jamestown, McKenzie and her family were able to take in quite a few activities in the 24 hours that they spent in Medora. The day started with getting lunch at the new Badlands Pizza buffet and building a Teddy's bear. Then, they experienced the marvelous Medora Magic Show, cooled down with ice cream, and finished the evening at the Pitchfork Steak Fondue and *Medora Musical*. The family was able to enjoy

themselves at the later 8:30 show, beating the heat of the day.

It is because of our wonderful donors that honor the tradition of family fun that so many families are able to enjoy Medora this summer and every summer. Harold Schafer's legacy of keeping Medora affordable to North Dakota families is near and dear to the Medora WISH Endowment.



The 2024 Bully Spirit Award **BILL SORENSEN**

Theodore Roosevelt, The Marquis de Mores, Harold Schafer. These three men have often been associated with the history and success of Medora. However, there is one person missing from the list: Bill Sorensen.

“Well, you can’t find anyone that doesn’t know Bill Sorensen.”

Bill Marcil remarked during his interview. Bill Sorensen has been a performer for almost 50 years in Medora, mayor of Bismarck, and the manager of Olympic Silver Medalist ND legend, Virgil Hill. Bill Sorensen is one of the most accomplished individuals in the entire state of North Dakota. In 2024, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation made the decision to honor Bill for his work not only in Medora, but in greater North Dakota.

Bill Sorensen has been in the limelight for most of his adult life. He has put on thousands of shows in Medora which he has done nearly every year since 1976. However, the strenuous life of a performer is not an easy task. Bill’s family and doctor have been vocal about the struggles that Bill has faced.



“Bill, despite having a serious heart issue, seems to have an indomitable spirit... he always maintained a very positive attitude.”

Dr. Mark Ericstad stated when asked about Bill’s drive to continue his performances in Medora.

“Oh, Bill’s my hero,”

a misty eyed Jim Sorensen reminisced on his memories with his brother and his love and passion in this lifetime. Bill has been one of the most inspirational figures in modern Medora history. From his struggles to his triumphs, he has inspired many other performers. One of those performers is Joe Wiegand, who was adamant that “Bill Sorensen makes my Teddy Roosevelt a better Teddy Roosevelt.”

It was with great pleasure that the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation was able to honor Bill at this year’s Bully Spirit Award Weekend. Many laughs were shared, and tears were shed as Bill’s friends, family, and all of Medora came together to share appreciation and love for Bill Sorensen.



VETERANS AND MILITARY

Appreciation Day In Medora 2024

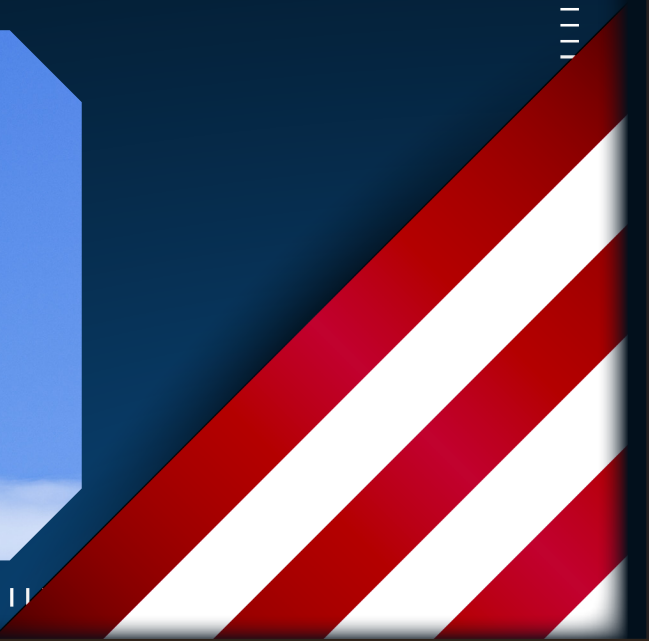
July 14th marked a significant day in Medora. The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF) celebrates Veterans and Military Appreciation Day on the second Sunday of July, with a special focus on veterans, reservists, and active military personnel. The event began years ago with veterans, reservists, and active military members invited to attend the *Medora Musical* free of charge and has grown since its inception. The day started with a panel that included moderator LtCol, Retired Nathan Huntington, UND President Brig Gen, Retired Andrew Armacost, Ms. Lacey Urlacher, Sergeant, Retired Nikki Frohlich, and West Point graduate and President of Bravera Bank, Mr. David Ehlis. The panel discussed veterans serving their communities and communities serving their veterans.

This year, there was a special event featuring the landing of a Blackhawk helicopter at Tjaden Terrace. The Blackhawk was brought in from the Minot Air Force Base, allowing families to take pictures and ask questions to the crew. Additionally, a keg social for veterans was held at the Tjaden Terrace for them to enjoy before the rest of the evening's activities.



The evening then followed with two *Medora Musical* performances and special military pre-shows. The VFW Post 707 Color Guard of the Bismarck-Mandan area presented their colors to the tune of all the branch themes played by former Burning Hills Singer Misti Koop. A special message from both TRMF President Randy Hatzenbuhler and UND President Brig Gen, Retired Andrew Armacost was followed by a flyover of Beechcraft T-34 flown by Col, Retired Bill Griffin. The T-34 has been a wonderful addition the past couple of years and was made possible by Kathy Neset.

These proceedings were brought together with the help of the Veterans' Day in Medora Endowment through the TRMF. The endowment, created by Mary Jo Larsen, helps to celebrate our heroes and honor past and present service members in Medora. The day was a huge success, with more veterans enjoying this year's events than any year before! It could not have been a more perfect day to celebrate our country's military, past and present.



FOR THE GIRLS!

MEDORA GIRLS HORSE CAMP

The beginning of Summer in Medora saw its first cowgirl camp! Girls from all over the United States traveled to Medora to enjoy a weeklong cowgirl camp. Lead by Tracy Martin and Laurel Nelson, the camp included teaching the girls how to rope, ride, and care for the horses, showing the girls the value of work, grit and caring for the land while at the camp. When asked what her favorite moment was at cowgirl camp, Brianna from Minnesota stated, "Probably the horses and the people. You meet friends, that's pretty fun!"

Many of the girls made friendships with their fellow cowgirls and their horses. A lot of excitement occurred on the first day when each of the girls got to meet the horses they would be riding for the week.

"Be kind to your horse," Lucia from Fargo piped up when asked about what she had learned at the camp. She was eager to learn about horses at the camp and expressed that although she did not have

horses back home, she would be taking in everything she learned at the horse camp. The girls were excited to not just take home the new information but apply it to the rest of their lives. Many of them stated they wanted to work with horses as they got older. Some wanted to work in rodeos, others in veterinarian hospitals, and a few stated they wanted to be horse trainers. While the girls were at the camp, they got to take in numerous things in the town of Medora, including shopping, Point to Point Park, and the *Medora Musical*.

A huge thank you to Marsh McLennan Agency for their generous gift that helped the Medora Cowgirl Camp get its start. Another thank you to the volunteers and organizers, Laurel Nelson, Tracy Martin, Diane Larson, Kim Vannett, and the staff at the Medora Stables for creating life-changing experiences at Cowgirl Camp. And lastly, thank you to all of the families who allowed their daughters to join in on a great week of Cowgirls learning at the Camp.



MEDORA GIRLS GOLF CAMP YEAR 2

In its second year, the Medora Girls Golf Camp welcomed 101 young golfers who teed up for an unforgettable experience at Bully Pulpit Golf Course. Clubs in hand and excitement in their eyes, girls ages 13 to 18 traveled to Medora eager to learn and grow their golf game.

The camp kicked off with the Rough Riders Girls Golf Classic, a new addition to the camp in which the girls had an opportunity to showcase their golf skills, get to know their fellow campers, and have some fun competing on the course. As the golfers played their way across Bully Pulpit's 18 holes it was clear the course would be challenging.

Soon the real work began. The girls took to the course for skill sessions with the camp's special guests and coaches. Each camper got one-on-one time honing their swings, perfecting their putts, and learning from leaders like Amy Olson, professional LGPA golfer and NDSU

alumni, Danielle Foster, NCAA Minot State Women's Golf Alumni, and John Murphy, Head Women's and Men's Golf Coach at Mayville State University. The sessions gave girls an opportunity to ask questions, get hands-on experience, and gain vital tips to take home.

Tips for the course were not all the golfers took home. Throughout the weekend, girls dove into the topic of leadership. Chairman, President, and CEO of First Western Bank & Trust, Brenda Foster shared about her experience as a leader. Leadership skills are a cornerstone to building strong character, but also building a strong golf game.

Whether the girls were on the course, connecting with fellow golfers, or learning from leaders, the impact of the 2024 Medora Girls Golf Camp was clear. A special thank you to First Western Bank and Trust for their support and sponsorship of the Medora Girls Golf Camp.

LIVING WESTERN HISTORY

Larry Goodall

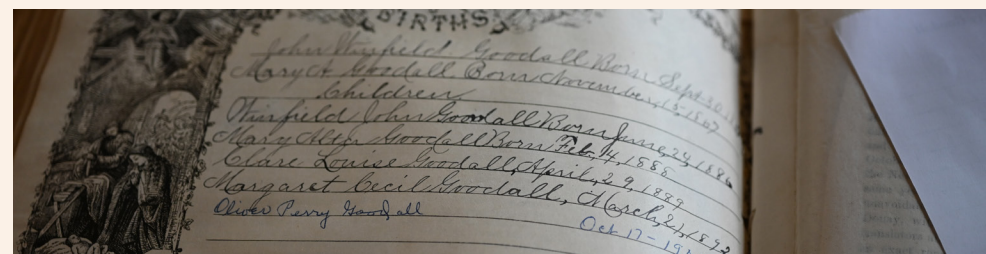
TOO MANY TEDDYS

Badlands Chautauqua Brings Even More Living History To Medora

North Dakota and its Wild West past seem so far in the past that it is hard to imagine present day connections to it. However, for donor Larry Goodall, the connection to Medora's past is just two generations away.

Larry and his wife Dorothy live in Stanley, North Dakota, a short 3 hour drive northeast from Medora. They have been coming to Medora for all their lives. Dorothy grew up in Beach, ND and can remember sitting on the wood planks and logs to watch the *Medora Musical*. The Goodall's have also been generous supporters of Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF). Larry's grandfather, John Goodall, worked for the Marquis De Mores. Over the years, a collection of firearms has been passed down as family heirlooms. A Winchester rifle that once belonged to one of the horse thieves that Theodore Roosevelt apprehended during his time in Medora. The other, an 1871 revolver - the story goes that Theodore Roosevelt gave John Goodall the revolver, but Larry stated he was unable to confirm that.

John Goodall worked for the Marquis and his ranch back in the 1880's and was married in the Catholic Church in Medora to his wife Mary. After ranching, the Marquis returned to France and tried his next endeavor of building railroads in Africa and China. He asked John Goodall to wait for him as he wanted him to help him build the railroads, however, due to the Marquis' demise, that dream was cut short. John continued farming and ranching and died in 1931.



Larry and Dorothy said that they would soon have some of John Goodall's items on display at the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Some pictures of those items are included on this page!

Chautauqua, named for a lakeside village in Western New York State where it all began, is a gathering of performers, musical groups, lecturers and audience members who enjoy entertainments, usually beneath a white canvas tent in the summertime. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, before the advent of movie theaters, radio, and television, traveling bands of Chautauqua entertainers would tour the country to the delight of hundreds of thousands. Many cities have Chautauqua Parks or Chautauqua Streets that date to the heyday of Chautauqua. The 11th Annual Badlands Chautauqua: A Gathering of TRs, always held in Medora over the third weekend in July, has just concluded, and was it a doozy!

Teddy & Edith Roosevelt reprisors came from Minnesota, Missouri, Florida, North Dakota, Montana, New York, and California, to perform and learn from each other and other performers. Adult and child actors from California, Montana, Minnesota, and North Dakota portrayed Roosevelt children Alice, Ethel, Archie, and Quentin. Gary Stamm of Minnesota brought cousin Franklin Delano Roosevelt to life.

Donna Sewall Davidge of Island Falls, Maine, returned for her second Chautauqua and, at the Heritage Center in Bismarck, added a second performance of "In This Our Home," a one-woman portrayal of her Great Grandmother, Mary Sewall, wife of TR's Elkhorn Ranch foreman William Sewall.

Fargo photographer Kary Janousek lectured on her "wet plate collodion" photo process and proceeded to make beautiful old-timey photos of our participants.

Singer/songwriter/musician Anthony Rohr of Fargo stole the show with a musical entertainment titled "Tin Pan Alley Teddy" featuring the song book of TR's 1912 Bull Moose campaign.

With gratitude to our 2024 Chautauqua Coordinator, Joshua Hodge, author of "Theodore Roosevelt for the Holidays," and with high expectations for good fun, we invite you to circle your calendar for the third weekend in July 2025 for the 12th Annual Badlands Chautauqua.



Lucy, Aksel, Saife (Left to Right)
OldSchoolCollodion.com

MORE TO EXPLORE IN MEDORA!

Aug. 12: Matt Vee & The Killer Vees: Celebrate the Music of Neil Diamond

Sept. 7: Sanctus Real

Sept. 7-8: Medora Hot Air Balloon Rally

Sept. 11-Oct. 27: Ring of Fire: A Musical Celebration of Cash

Oct. 5: Last day of public tee times at Bully Pulpit Golf Course (subject to change)

Nov. 8: Medora's Annual Hunter's Feed

Dec. 6-8: Medora's Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas

Aug. 6-Sept. 7: World-famous juggler David DiMuzio at the Medora Musical

Sept. 1: Last chance to catch The Medora Magic Show feat. Colin Zasadny

Sept. 7: Season Finale of the Medora Musical

Sept. 8: Last day to see the Gospel Brunch

Sept. 28: Free entrance to TR National Park

Theodore's Dining Room & the Rough Riders Hotel open all year

Nov. 11: Free entrance to TR National Park

Dates subject to change. Visit Medora.com/Calendar for a full list of what's happening in town.

GOLF GIVEAWAY



Have you explored Bully Pulpit Golf Course lately? In its 20th year, Bully is looking beautiful with gorgeous greens and fresh fairways.

As your round winds through the Badlands, you'll land at hole 16 – thanks to our partners at Starion Bank it's back to its original glory and is fully playable. Although before you play, you may want to capture the scenery with a selfie! Any golfer that snaps a selfie and posts their pic will join the Starion Selfie Club and be entered to win a big Bully Golf Giveaway – a brand-new bag and sweet set of clubs.





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Medora Musical

Bully Pulpit
GOLF COURSE

Our Executive Team

Randy Hatzenbuehler, *President & CEO*
Clarence Sitter, *Chief Operating Officer*
Emily Klym, *Chief Financial Officer*
Daniel Gannarelli, *Development Director*
Nate Huntington, *Chief Projects, Facilities, & Strategy Officer*
Lyubomyr Shkandriy, *Hospitality Director*
Kinley Slauter, *Properties & Attractions Director*
Sheila Strommen, *Human Resources Director*
Kaelee Wallace, *Marketing & Communications Director*

Our Development Team

Morgan Bruhn, *Development Assistant*
Mike Kraemer, *Major Gift Officer*
Darla Tescher, *Development Accountant*
Joe Wiegand, *TR Reprisal & 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**.



LEFT TO RIGHT: OLIVIA, TROY, MADELINE, AND DIANE DELEON

“It is difficult to put into words how grateful we are for this trip and all of the experiences you planned for us. We met so many nice people and heard their Medora stories. We had the BEST time! From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!”

Troy, Diane, Olivia, and Madeline DeLeon, Owners of the iconic Moorhead Dairy Queen who have had a dream of making it to Medora for years



FRAN ALLERY

“I have never had a bad experience out here. Ever. It just gets better every year, you know? Something different. Different people and it’s just wonderful. No complaints!”

Fran Allery, Volunteer from Fargo, ND

BRINGING THE TRMF VISION TO LIFE
POSITIVE, LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES



GEMA SOZA

“A lot of learning, joy, and a sense of family is how I can resume my experience working for TRMF. Medora is definitely a hidden gem everyone needs to experience.”

Gema Soza, Reservations Specialist from Nicaragua



ANNETTE AND DELVIN LADUKE

“Getting to meet the new people, working with several couples that we have worked with before and working with them again, it’s just a fun time!”

Delvin and Annette LaDuke, Volunteers and Monthly Donors to the Medora Gospel Brunch Endowment



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora
ESTABLISHED ADORERS

Medora Musical

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