

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

A Publication of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation



FALL 2025



Theodore Roosevelt

MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora Medora Musical Bully Pulpit

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ELKHORN

SEASON 2 WORLD PREMIERE IN MEDORA
SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

Earlier this fall, the cast of *Elkhorn* was welcomed by the town of Medora and had a tour of many iconic Medora locations, such as the Rough Riders Hotel, Theodore's Dining Room, and Elkhorn Ranch. Later that day, a special red carpet event took place in Medora! The show's stars, Mason Beals, Ashton Solecki, Jeff DuJardin, and more arrived at the premiere by stagecoach to awaiting fans. The first episode of *Elkhorn* Season 2 was shown in the Old Town Hall Theater, which was followed by a Q&A with the cast. We are grateful many joined us in celebrating this premiere.



Top photo: Elkhorn cast on the red carpet
Bottom photo: Mason Beals (plays Theodore Roosevelt) with Joe Wiegand
Front cover photo: Elkhorn cast at Theodore's Dining Room



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OCTOBER 25, 2025

Wild West Fall Fest was a fun-filled day of family activities. Over 300 kids enjoyed trunk or treat, while guests could also take part in activities around town that included a craft fair, kids' carnival, pumpkin carving/painting, a movie at Rough Riders Hotel, lantern tours at Chateau de Mores, and our fall show, *Cash vs The King*.



FROM THE DESK OF CLARENCE SITTER

As we enjoy crisp fall mornings and warm afternoons in Medora, this season invites reflection and gratitude. It's a time to celebrate what we've accomplished together and honor the people who make it all possible.

This year has been remarkable in many ways. We celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the *Medora Musical*, received national recognition for Bully Pulpit Golf Course, and continued creating countless lifelong memories for guests, employees, volunteers, and donors. This year would not have been possible without the loyalty and support of each of you. Thank you!! You make the Badlands come alive with laughter, music, and memories.

Throughout my 14 years in Medora, and in my first year as CEO of TRMF, one of my favorite parts of working here has been hearing stories of *positive, life-changing experiences*. These stories often give us goosebumps about how Medora has impacted someone personally, a family member, or a friend.

My daughter Laura has worked at Bully Pulpit Golf Course for the past three years and has participated in the Medora Girls Golf Camp each June. These experiences have built her confidence, leadership skills, golf game, and taught her the value of relationships. This fall, she gave my wife and me one of those goosebump, once-in-a-lifetime moments: Laura made a key birdie putt on the 17th hole to help her team win the Class B State Golf Tournament in North Dakota by one shot, achieving her two best golf scores in her high school career. Yes, I am a proud parent, but I am even more proud of what Medora brings to the lives of others through the beauty of the Badlands, the music and history in the *Medora Musical*, and the power of Medora to change lives of all ages.

Looking ahead to 2026, Medora will be in the national spotlight. National Geographic recently named it one of the top 25 destinations in the world to visit, and we are collaborating with the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation on its grand opening over the 4th of July. We're preparing to meet the moment with value-added experiences that honor our history and enhance the guest experience all year long. Stay tuned for more information on the exciting events to come.

As we celebrate the holidays and look toward a new year, know that your connection to Medora — as a guest, volunteer, donor, or staff member — sustains a legacy begun by Theodore Roosevelt and Harold Schafer. If you'd like to be part of this exciting chapter, consider joining us as a Rough Rider Member or making a year-end gift at Foundation.Medora.com/Give. Your support ensures that future generations can discover their own Medora stories.

Warm regards,

Clarence Sitter, President & CEO, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation

MEDORA, ND BADLANDS AND ATTRACTIONS AMONG TOP 25 PLACES TO VISIT IN THE WORLD

BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The North Dakota Badlands are truly remarkable, and National Geographic is recognizing this distinction as it selected the North Dakota Badlands as one of the **BEST OF THE WORLD** for 2026. National Geographic's article noted the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, *Medora Musical*, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

With construction and changes being made, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation strives to keep Medora the same small town it always has been. There will still be the themes of Faith, Family, and Freedom at the *Medora Musical*. The Badlands will remain a quiet retreat, a place that guests can call a home away from home, and a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Medora is a place where *positive, life-changing experiences* happen every day.



Randy's Medora Memories

Written by: Destiny Meyer

PEOPLE.

That's what Randy will miss the most about working full-time in Medora. The people of Medora, the organizations, employees, volunteers, donors, guests, seasonal employees, and everyone who makes Medora wonderful are what he will miss the most.

I had the opportunity to produce a video that interviewed people from TRMF and across Medora for Randy's retirement party, and without fail, every person told me that Randy would miss the people.

Randy has impacted many individuals, from Daniel Gannarelli, the cast of the *Medora Musical*, guests who have taken guided hikes (and sometimes have even had the opportunity to sell popcorn at the *Medora Musical* with Randy), to even people like Joe Wiegand, Bill Sorensen, and seasonal employees. Many people have a connection to Medora and Randy.

For the final Medora Memories from Randy, I thought I would share some of the highlights that friends of Randy shared with me.

Laurie Hatzenbuhler remembered times when she and Randy would be working late into the night, and the *Medora Musical* cast would bring their kids back home after the show.

Daniel Gannarelli reminisced about long car rides listening to Van Morrison and Tyler Childers for donor visits. He also made lots of comments about the matchmaking abilities of Randy and Laurie. Their efforts are legendary.

Bill Sorensen remembers the first time Rod Tjaden introduced Randy at a luncheon in Medora. Rod said, "Don't think of him as an accountant." Bill said he still does not know what Rod meant by that.

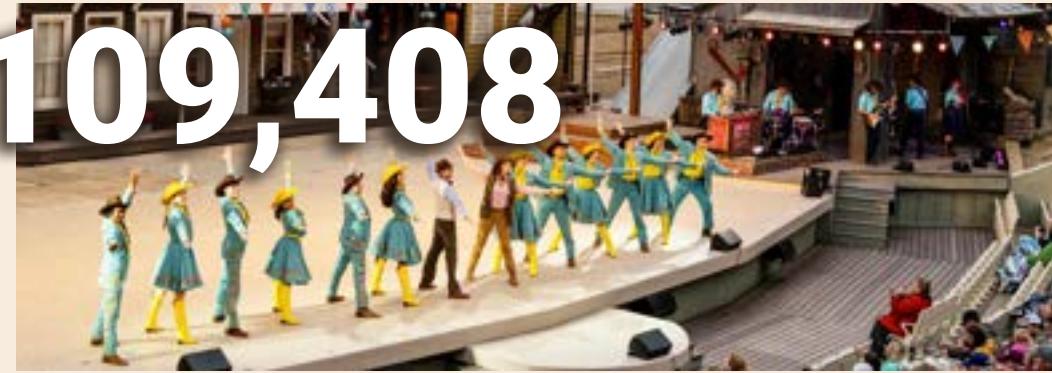
Emily Klym remembers that Randy taught her three lessons: Don't let perfect get in the way of good, there's always a third path, and just get back to the basics.

Gretchen Stenehjem told the story of how her husband was initially asked to be on the TRMF board, but her husband told Randy that Gretchen was the right choice. Gretchen remembers being shocked to be in the presence of "Mr. Medora" as she recalled meeting Randy for the first time.



A YEAR IN REVIEW BY THE NUMBERS

109,408



The 60th Anniversary of the *Medora Musical* concluded on September 13, 2025. This year, 109,408 guests attended the show. It featured many fun moments, from recreating famous Medora memories and using past costumes to create new looks, to returning to classic Medora traditions like clogging and yodeling. This *Medora Musical* was truly memorable.

8,000

The Medora Gospel Brunch fed the hearts, souls, and stomachs of almost 8,000 guests. This year's Medora Gospel Brunch was one of the best yet, with great talent and an amazing message from Bill Sorensen.



4,000

The Teddy Roosevelt Show, with brunch or dinner, had a great sophomore year. Beating most of its goals, the Teddy Roosevelt Show served history with a meal to nearly 4,000 guests!



5,000

The Medora Riding Stables kept busy this summer! With several cowgirl camps, a ladies' horse camp, and sunset rides, the horses and wranglers at the stables worked hard for our guests. This summer, 5,000 trail rides were taken by visitors.



Thanks to the Medora

WISH

Endowment

and our

Kids

Free

Day

sponsors,

approximately

17,500

children

attended

the

Medora Musical

at no cost.

17,500



Billy Pulpit Golf Course was a popular destination this year! It was also voted the winner of the USA Today Top 10 Best Public Golf Courses! Almost 18,400 rounds were played at Billy Pulpit Golf Course this season..

18,400



BULLY PULPIT GOLF COURSE RISES TO THE TOP

A SEASON OF GROWTH, RECOGNITION, AND UNFORGETTABLE ROUNDS IN THE BADLANDS

Bully Pulpit Golf Course is a one-of-a-kind golf course. This year, Bully Pulpit Golf Course was voted the #1 Best Public Golf Course by USA Today, received high accolades from Chris Lewis at PGA of America, and was one of the most beautiful courses to play in North Dakota, thanks to all the wonderful rain that kept our greens green!

“Designed by world-renowned architect Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Medora, North Dakota’s Bully Pulpit Golf Course follows suit with his other famous designs — by providing golfers a challenging, naturally gorgeous layout.

Nestled within the North Dakota Badlands, the course features breathtaking, natural terrain that leads to all-encompassing views, along with several opportunities for golfers to fully utilize their course management and shot making skills.

Bully Pulpit Golf Course is focused on providing golfers a destination they’ll want to visit year after year. To do so, staff members strive to create ‘positive, life-changing experiences’ for each of their guests.

Such experiences are associated with the course’s tranquility, as it offers golfers ‘a peaceful escape from everyday life.’ Guests are able to truly slow down, be more present and reconnect with their friends and loved ones amidst nature.”

— Chris Lewis, PGA of America

Bully Pulpit Golf Course has had many improvements in the last couple of years. These improvements have been made possible thanks to donations, members, and major sponsors.

Bully Pulpit Golf Course is closed for the season, but we are happy to say nearly 18,400 rounds were played on the course this season! We look forward to hosting more tee times and good times next summer!



All summer long, Starion Bank and Bully Pulpit Golf Course have been partnering to give away a new set of golf clubs and golf bag. Guests who golf on Bully Pulpit Golf Course and take a selfie at Hole 16, known as our “OMG Hole,” and tag #BullyGolfGiveaway and #StarionBankSelfieClub are entered into the giveaway.

Our 2025 winner is Val Mack. Though Bully Pulpit Golf Course is now closed for the season, this special partnership will run again next year. A big thank you goes to Starion Bank for this partnership and their continued support of the Bully Pulpit Golf Course.

2-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPION UND HOCKEY TEAMS

BULLY PULPIT GOLF COURSE

We were honored to welcome the University of North Dakota’s 1997 and 2000 national champion hockey teams to Medora, where they gathered for a round of golf at the scenic Bully Pulpit Golf Course.



Make lifetime memories in Medora...

Reconnect with friends and family in an unforgettable setting, say “I Do” surrounded by the Badlands, or bring your team together for a purposeful corporate retreat.

Learn more about how Medora can be your next event destination at Medora.com/Groups.

Book your event in our **NEW Event Barn**, opening Spring 2027!

MEMBERSHIPS

Giddy up and glowing



LADIES' HORSE CAMP

This past September, TRMF hosted 12 ladies, 45 and better for the first Ladies' Horse Camp in Medora. These ladies worked hard for two days, learning about horsemanship, cleaning and brushing their horses, and getting to know their horses. Some of the ladies left the camp feeling like experts.

The ladies not only got to learn about tacking up, groundwork, and saddling in the Badlands, but the camp also allowed the ladies to take in the *Medora Musical*, Pitchfork Steak Fondue, and enjoy each other's company!

The camp did sell out, and lots of interest was garnered after the camp from ladies all across the Midwest, chomping at the bit for the next camp!

If you are interested in signing up to get notified about the next camp, visit Medora.com/LadiesHorseCamp for more information!

Reins of generosity

Our horses are some of our best employees and hardest workers. The horses of Medora work tirelessly at the Medora Riding Stables and in the *Medora Musical*. These four-legged beauties are well-loved by their wranglers, the guests who form special connections to them, and the people of Medora.

There are many ways people can get involved philanthropically with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. Generally, people give their time or through financial means, but occasionally, a special opportunity is brought forward. Roger & Jeanette Kenner and their family are donating over 300 hay bales to the Foundation for our four-legged employees. Farm Rescue continues to deliver the hay to Medora from South Dakota, helping to make this donation possible.

If you are interested in helping to sponsor a *Medora Musical* horse, please reach out to our development team at (701) 223-4800.



ROUGH RIDER MEMBERSHIP

CHOOSE ONE MAIN BENEFIT

- 2 *Medora Musical* season passes
- 2 golf rounds at Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- \$150 gift card for shopping
- Full donation

PERKS

- Name listed in *Medora Musical* program
- Notes From the Trail newsletters
- Invites to exclusive, member-only events

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

PERKS

- Transferable *Medora Musical* season passes
- 4 golf rounds at Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Name listed in *Medora Musical* program
- Notes From the Trail newsletters
- Invites to exclusive, member-only events

NEW PERKS

- *Medora Musical* behind-the-scenes tour vouchers
- Venue rental discount

NEW PERKS

- **FREE** Junior Rough Rider Members
- **FREE** custom popcorn bucket
- **FREE** behind-the-scenes tours
- **PRE-SALE** opportunities for special events

**FREE FAMILY PHOTOS ON
Medora Musical STAGE**



**POSITIVE,
LIFE-CHANGING
EXPERIENCES**



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY CALL (701) 223-4800 | SCAN THE QR CODE



RECOGNIZING OUR EXCEPTIONAL SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

In Medora, hard work is recognized and rewarded. Harold Schafer often said his work ethic and ability to work hard were what made him successful. Theodore Roosevelt famously said, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation is fortunate to welcome exceptional employees and recognize their dedication through philanthropic awards. These employees exemplify the hard work that both Harold Schafer and Theodore Roosevelt fondly embraced. We were proud to announce this season's award recipients during a special pre-show at the *Medora Musical*.

"Medora is the perfect molding of history, family, and fun. You come here to have fun and to learn. You come here to create connections, and that's what I feel Medora is all about," Nina Tershel discussed why she enjoys working in Medora. Nina and her family have been coming out to Medora to work seasonally for several years and have loved every summer.

A special thank you goes to all our workers who help keep Medora running smoothly throughout our busy summer season. Our employees are world-class, and we look forward to those who will be a part of next season! Positions for summer 2026 will be posted soon. With the opening of a new lodging property and The Ranch at Bully Pulpit, new opportunities are popping up. Interested in working in Medora? Check Foundation.Medora.com/Employment for our current seasonal and full-time listings.

TJADEN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Tjaden Educational Assistance Program supports university students who demonstrate outstanding job performance, leadership skills, and the ability to positively impact co-workers and visitors.

Matthew Alley, *Retail*
Allison Andrews, *Bully Pulpit Golf Course*
Monique Belen, *Front Desk*
Kiersten Berry, *Marketing*
Auster Blakestad, *Riding Stables*
Jaema Bordelon, *Retail*
Katherine Briggs, *Theater*
Juliana Diab, *Theater*
Jagger Honeycutt, *Accounting*
Kenlee Martin, *Bully Pulpit Golf Course*
Miranda Morrissette, *Riding Stables*
Tre Redden, *Retail*
Laura Sorenson, *Marketing*
Nina Tershel, *Retail*

SHEILA SCHAFER STAR AWARDS

The Sheila Schafer Star Awards, started by Loren Wold, celebrate Medora's roots and recognizes exceptional employees who embody the spirit, enthusiasm, and standards of service established by Sheila Schafer.

LARSON AMBASSADOR AWARDS

The Larson Ambassador Awards, started by Van & Dee Larson, recognize individuals with leadership abilities and commitment to the mission, vision, and values of TRMF.

Naraporn Anuchai, *Retail*
Kevin Bryant, *Laundry*
Athanasios Cheimonas, *Food Service*
Johan Daniel Munoz Salas, *Laundry*
David Danilo, *Food Service*
Lesly Discua, *Food Service*
Grettel Espinoza Membreño, *Lodging*
Mitsy Flores Martinez, *Food Service*
Caleb Flynt, *IT*
Anna Fortuna, *Housekeeping*
Marvin Izaguirre, *Food Service*
Julia Keeling, *Theater*
Ivan Kereziev, *Housekeeping*
Alain Lombard, *Food Service*
Karina Melton, *Food Service*

Giovanni Boenari, *Group Event Services*
Nedyalka (Nellie) Kereziev, *Housekeeping*
Wiktoria Kleina, *Housekeeping*
Miriam Serrano, *Food Service*
Asha Wroblewska, *Point to Point Park*

Daniel Pena, *Food Service*
Matt Perkins, *Retail*
Aaron Petramale, *Point to Point Park*
Henry Purnhagen, *Retail*
Luis Saybe Santos, *Golf Course Grounds*
Brady Schmidt, *In-Town Grounds*
Tom Schock, *Food Service*
Gabby Schwarz, *Riding Stables*
Diana Shackelford, *Medora Campground*
Melvin Sheppard, *Housekeeping*
Astrid Smith, *Food Service*
Liz Tejada Orozco, *Laundry*
Aurora Tershel, *Theater*
Brayan Teurel, *Food Service*
Mateo Zapata, *Retail*

LARSON AMBASSADOR AWARDS

In Honor of Randy Hatzenbuhler and Joe Wiegand

Along with our Larson Ambassadors, we recognized two individuals with one receiving a special Randy Hatzenbuhler award and the other individual receiving the Joe Wiegand award for their incredible work and exemplification of Medora's mission.

IN HONOR OF RANDY HATZENBUHLER

Garrett Tershel, *Medora Campground & Medora Musical*

IN HONOR OF JOE WIEGAND

Heimuli Paletua, *Human Resources & Volunteer Program*

EXPERIENCE THE *magic* OF MEDORA AT CHRISTMASTIME

THE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE IN MEDORA

Christmas time in the Badlands is one of the most magical times of the year. This year marks the return of *A Very Merry Badlands Christmas*. The show will feature a lot of special talents, many of whom are returning to Medora!



Karter Dolan, from Bismarck, ND, is coming back to Medora for the holidays! Karter has been a Burning Hills Singer in the *Medora Musical* since 2024 and sang in the Medora Gospel Brunch both years! He is thrilled to be performing once again in his home state and to take part in *A Very Merry Badlands Christmas*.



Lauren Mikeal, from Waco, TX, is excited to return to the Badlands! Lauren is the coordinator of musical theatre at Baylor University. As a performer, Lauren has appeared in regional theatre, opera, concerts, and as a solo artist with bands across the country.



Day-Vawn Miller, from Nashville, TN, rejoins *A Very Merry Badlands Christmas* after four summers of performing in the *Medora Musical*. He not only plays the guitar but is a multi-talented instrumentalist as well. We are excited to have Day-Vawn back in the Badlands.



Brian Crowder, from Waco, TX, is looking forward to coming to the Badlands for *A Very Merry Badlands Christmas*. He works at Baylor University as the audio/sound supervisor. Over the past ten years, Brian has had the opportunity to be a drummer, singer, mix engineer, and sound designer.



Luke Surretsky, from Nutley, NJ, returns to the Badlands for *A Very Merry Badlands Christmas*. Luke first came to the Badlands to perform in the 2024 fall show, *Ring of Fire*.



Josie Tompkins, from Canton, GA, joins *A Very Merry Badlands Christmas* after her debut in the *Medora Musical* this past summer. Josie played the fiddle for the Coal Diggers Band and is eager to share her talents this winter!

A VERY MERRY BADLANDS CHRISTMAS

December 4 - 21, 2025 | Old Town Hall Theater

7:30 PM | Thursday - Saturday

2:00 PM | Saturday - Sunday

BUY TICKETS AT MEDORA.COM/CHRISTMAS

MAKE IT A *magical* NIGHT WITH SWEET PERKS!

Reserve 2 tickets for a Friday or Saturday evening show of *A Very Merry Badlands Christmas*, and enjoy:

- ✚ A FREE drink at the Old Town Hall Theater bar
- ✚ An invite to an exclusive, post-show dessert reception with the cast!



BONUS: Be among the first 50 reservations each night and receive a commemorative "Merry Badlands Christmas" ornament.

Chad Willow, from North Woods, MN, has six past Medora Christmas productions in the books as music director and performer. Chad again leads the charge as writer, director, music director, and performer, with 12 seasons of the *Medora Musical* as associate musical director and leader of the Coal Diggers band. Chad and his wife, Kim, met in Medora and are happy to celebrate Christmas here in the Badlands.

Kim Willow, from Cedar Falls, IA, is back in the Badlands for *A Very Merry Badlands Christmas*. Kim was a Burning Hills Singer from 2012 to 2016 and performed in Medora Christmas shows from 2019 to 2022. She has also toured nationally and is excited to perform on the Medora stage this Christmas season.



MEDORA ON THE ROAD

Nov 28 | Hettinger, ND

Nov 29 | Spearfish, SD

Nov 30 | Billings, MT

Dec 1 | Crosby, ND

Dec 2 | Williston, ND

Dec 3 | Watford City, ND

Dec 4 | Tioga, ND

Dec 5 | Bottineau, ND

Dec 6 | Minot, ND

Dec 7 | Devils Lake, ND

Dec 8 | Wahpeton, ND

Dec 9 | Grafton, ND

Dec 10 | Barnesville, MN

Dec 11 | Park Rapids, MN

Dec 12 | Jamestown, ND

Dec 13 | Moorhead, MN

Dec 14 | Grand Forks, ND

Dec 15 | Detroit Lakes, MN

Dec 16 | Fergus Falls, MN

Dec 17 | Kindred, ND

Dec 18 | Burnsville, MN

Dec 19 | Alexandria, MN

Dec 20 | Valley City, ND

Dec 21 | Bismarck, ND

MEGAN TABER
Vocals

EVAN RAINES
Fiddle, Percussion

COLIN ZASADNY
Master Magician

BUY TICKETS AT MEDORACHRISTMAS.COM



CAST
BIL SORENSEN
Host

TRAVIS SMITH
Music Director, Keyboard, Vocals

MISTI KOOP
Saxophone, Vocals

DAMON FICHTER
Trombone, Keyboard, Vocals

CYNDY MCQUILLAN-GRAECE
Vocals

TRENT TABER
Vocals

EMILY SCHUMAN
Guitar, Vocals

MICHAEL CARTWRIGHT
Trumpet, Vocals

MEGAN TABER
Vocals

EVAN RAINES
Fiddle, Percussion

COLIN ZASADNY
Master Magician



DUST RISING

PREPARING FOR A HISTORIC YEAR

Exciting developments are happening in Medora this fall and winter. After the construction around town is complete, Medora will be ready to welcome many guests next year!

The newest lodging property, The Presidential Lodge, is going up on the west side of town, near the Medora Campground. This 100-room property has been going up very quickly, with Tharaldson Hospitality Management and our own operational staff hard at work to get The Presidential Lodge open by July 4, 2026!

The North Dakota Department of Transportation has been transforming Pacific Avenue, the main road through Medora, into a safer street for pedestrians and vehicles!

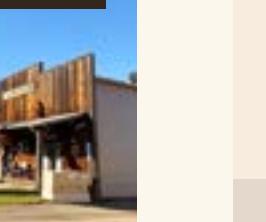
Other projects include The Ranch at Bully Pulpit, the new event barn and motel units south of town, the construction of three cabins in the Medora Campground, thanks to Don (Otto) Zasadny and Rick Berg, and basic updates to many area businesses!



THEODORE ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Make sure to check Medora.com and TRLibrary.com to learn about new updates to Medora!

Construction at Hidden Springs Java



Construction on Pacific Avenue



Cabins at Medora Campground



The Ranch at Bully Pulpit Construction Site



The crew at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library is working to complete the Library before its historic opening on July 4, 2026. Progress is being made daily up on the hill, with new additions to the building, landscape, and road leading up to it.

Make sure to check Medora.com and TRLibrary.com to learn about new updates to Medora!

MORE TO EXPLORE IN MEDORA

STAY UPDATED AND BUY TICKETS AT MEDORA.COM



DEC 4-21
A Very Merry Badlands Christmas



DEC 31
New Year's Eve Celebration



JAN 23-24
Close to You: The Music of the Carpenters



FEB 6-7 & 13-14
Romance in Medora



TBA
More Spring Concerts Coming Soon



APR 17-18
The Everly Brothers Experience



YEAR-ROUND
Theodore's Dining Room and TR's Tavern



ND
NORTH DAKOTA
PETROLEUM
FOUNDATION

THANK YOU

A special thank you goes to North Dakota Petroleum Foundation for their contributions and sponsorship of many of our attractions in Medora, including Bull Pulpit Golf Course, *Medora Musical*, and our *Teddy Roosevelt* repitors. Their support helps the Foundation continue our vision of connecting people to *Historic Medora* for positive, life-changing experiences.

WALTER KRATZ



GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Volunteering in Medora

Written by: Destiny Meyer

Volunteers have been coming out to Medora since the volunteer program started 27 years ago. One of those volunteers, Walter (Walt) Kratz, is remembered for his generosity and fun spirit. Walt is currently in his 90s. He still lives at home in Lamoure, ND and makes the occasional trip out to Medora when he can.

I got the opportunity to sit with Walt and chat with him about his time in Medora. He and his late wife, Donna, volunteered for several years in Medora. When Walt would come out, he brought with him Sweet Pea and Forest, his two ponies, with a wagon. He would give free wagon rides to children around town.



I loved all of the tasks out here. Even working at the Chuckwagon. That was hard work." Walt reminisced about his time as a volunteer.

Walt first started coming out to the Badlands to hunt deer, but soon fell in love with the town. Walt also loves the *Medora Musical*.

I have never seen a bad one. All of them have been good."

Walt is a long-time donor to the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. He has donated to several endowments, including the Next 100 Years Endowment and the Schafer Endowment, as well as donations towards building the Spirit of Work Lodge and Life Skills Center.

Volunteers are important to Medora in so many ways. They provide labor for the town, bring joy to guests, and are often the best ambassadors for Medora. Volunteers are needed almost year-round. There are many different sessions that one can choose from when deciding to volunteer. If you are interested in more information about the volunteer program or want to apply to become a volunteer next season, visit Foundation.Medora.com/Volunteer. The application closes January 23, 2026.

Next year...

CRUISE WITH MEDORA

Along the Columbia and Snake Rivers in Washington State

Mark your calendars and get ready for an exciting riverboat cruise with some of your favorite Foundation folks!

From September 25 to October 3, 2026, enjoy an eight-night journey aboard American Cruise Lines' *American Harmony*, traveling from Portland, Oregon to Clarkston, Washington. This trip features a one-night pre-cruise hotel stay in Portland, award-winning shore excursions, all-inclusive fine dining, complimentary cocktail hours, and more!

The cruise will be a great way to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America! Join us in Medora next summer and continue the celebrations while cruising and tracing the steps of Lewis and Clark in the fall.

ITINERARY

- Portland, Oregon
- Astoria, Oregon
- Kalama, Washington
- The Dalles, Oregon
- Cruising the Columbia River Gorge
- Richland, Washington & Pendleton, Oregon
- Clarkston, Washington

Ready to set sail? For more information and to book your cruise, visit GoNext.com/TRMF.



Our Executive Team

Clarence Sitter, President & Chief Executive Officer
Sam Dobrowski, Chief Operating Officer
Daniel Gannarelli, Chief Revenue Officer
Emily Klym, Chief Financial Officer
Holly George, Marketing Director
Lyubomyr Shkandriy, Hospitality Director
Kinley Sauter, Attractions & Entertainment Director
Sheila Strommen, Human Resources Director

Our Development Team

Nora Beebe, Events Coordinator
Morgan Bruhr, Development Assistant
Jacky Emanuel, Development Officer
Katrina Heilman, Graphic Designer
Micky Huntington, Executive Assistant
Destiny Meyer, Communications Specialist
Jennifer Sykora, Salesforce Product Manager
Darla Tescher, Development Accountant
Joe Wiegand, TR Repisor & 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 ownership mindset.
Always be grateful.
Sell like Schafer.



Medora *Medora Musical* *Bully Pulpit*
GOLF COURSE

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