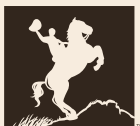


NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

A Publication of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation



SUMMER 2025



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora

Medora Musical

Bully Pulpit
GOLF COURSE

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FOUNDATION.MEDORA.COM



A STAR BEHIND THE STAGE

The *Medora Musical* is performed all summer by the incredible Burning Hills Singers and Dancers. The generosity of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives supports these performers. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives has been alongside the Burning Hills Singers and Dancers for many years!

With the help of Touchstone's sponsorship, the Burning Hills Singers and Dancers can boot, scoot, boogie, and belt out their best tunes in the Greatest Show in the West! Audiences experience firsthand how important it is for our performers to be in tip-top shape, and the support from Touchstone ensures they deliver their best, night after night.

Thank you Touchstone Energy Cooperatives for your partnership!



Front cover: Pitchfork Steak Fondue
Photo below: Medora Musical

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 From the Desk of Clarence Sitter	12 Honoring Those Who Serve
6 Randy's Medora Memories	14 Medora WISH
8 Black Tie & Spurs	15 Badlands Chautauqua
10 Bully Spirit	16 More to Explore in Medora
11 60 Years of Stories	18 Cash vs. The King



FROM THE DESK OF CLARENCE SITTER

A Summer to Remember in Medora

Stepping into the role of CEO at the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation is both a humbling honor and an incredible opportunity — and I couldn’t be more excited about what lies ahead. For the past 13 years, my wife Jennifer, our five kids, and I have proudly called Medora home. We’re grateful to remain based here as I begin this new chapter with TRMF. It’s a privilege to lead an organization whose mission is to *connect people to Medora for positive, life-changing experiences* — and there’s never been a more inspiring time to be part of it.

My personal connection to Medora stretches back to my childhood memories of visiting my grandparents in Dickinson, who brought us out to Medora for ice cream and trips through the National Park, and my education at the University of Mary, where I was fortunate to know Harold and Sheila Schafer. I was a member of the very first class in the Harold Schafer Leadership Program — an experience that helped shape my view of servant leadership and instilled in me a lasting respect for purpose-driven work. That legacy lives on, and I’m honored to help carry it forward.

Celebrating the Season

This summer has already been a remarkable one — with rain keeping the Badlands greener than ever this late into July, and the 60th Anniversary season of the *Medora Musical* being one of our best ever. If you haven’t seen the show yet, now’s the time. It’s packed with history, energy, and powerful celebrations of faith, family, and freedom — truly something for everyone.

We’ve also had the privilege of celebrating meaningful moments throughout the season:

- Honoring Ed and Nancy Schafer as the 2025 Bully Spirit Award recipients;
- Welcoming Vice President JD Vance and his family to Medora on July 4;
- Hosting our annual Veterans & Military Appreciation weekend and Medora WISH Endowment Wranglers and recipients;
- Empowering young leaders at the Medora Cowgirl Camps and Medora Girls Golf Camp.

We’re also looking forward to a special celebration on the final night of the *Medora Musical*, September 13, where we’ll honor Randy Hatzenbuhler and his incredible legacy in shaping Medora’s growth and mission these past 30+ years.

Looking to the Future

This year also brought national recognition to one of our crown jewels — Bully Pulpit Golf Course, recently named the #1 Public Golf Course in the United States by USA Today 10Best Readers’ Choice Awards! The Course is in top shape, the scenery is breathtaking, and the renovated clubhouse is stocked with great new merchandise.

And we’re not slowing down. TRMF, the Medora community, and our partners at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation are hard at work preparing for the grand opening of the Library in 2026 — a transformational milestone for Medora and North Dakota.

Major projects are already underway, including a new 100-room hotel just west of the Little Missouri River and the upcoming Ranch at Bully Pulpit — an event center destination with cabins and motel-style lodging that will welcome weddings, family gatherings, and corporate retreats.

Come Join Us

So, if you haven’t made your way to Medora yet this summer, let this be your sign and invitation to bring a friend or two and experience everything Medora has to offer — a Fleetwood Mac tribute concert, to our beloved hot air balloon rally, the *Medora Musical* and Pitchfork Steak Fondue, an unforgettable fall show (Cash vs. The King), and so much more. The best of Medora is happening right now — and the future is even brighter.

With gratitude,

Clarence Sitter, President & CEO, Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation



Randy's Medora Memories

TWO MEN I ADMIRE MOST.



From left to right: Laurie Hatzenbuhler, Harold & Sheila Schafer, Randy Hatzenbuhler

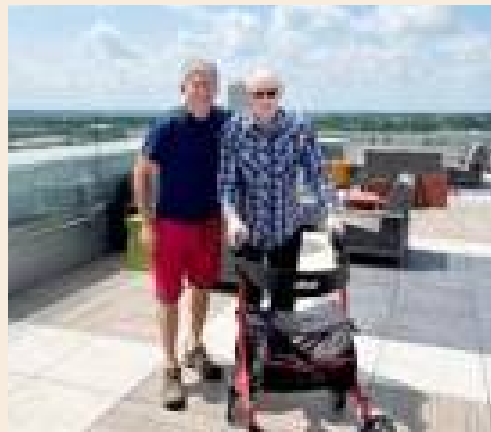
Hearing Harold again was awesome and emotional. It brought back memories of conversations with Harold.

Each year when we planned for the next season, Harold would say the same thing about the show – ***“the show needs to start with a bang, it needs a bang in the middle and bang at the end.”*** I hope you get a chance to see this show because it delivers big time on Harold’s vision!

We had only three incoming phone lines when I started working in Medora. We could not keep up with people trying to call in to book rooms and tickets. Harold said, ***“I have always found that businesses that answer their phones, do better.”*** We created a reservation/call center with 16 incoming lines.

Similarly, he once said to me when the front door of the Rough Riders Hotel lounge was locked late in the afternoon one summer day – ***“I have always found that businesses that keep their front door open, do better.”***

Mostly, though, his voice reminded me that he was unafraid to genuinely say to me and so many others – ***“I love you.”***



Randy Hatzenbuhler with his father, Christ Hatzenbuhler

Transition to the second man I admire most.

People often say to me, “You must have learned so much about work from Harold Schafer.” I did. But it is the man who first told me he loved me and who first taught me about work who I admire the most. My father, Christ Hatzenbuhler. I share one story about work, because I am proud that people see my passion for Medora in my work. I learned that from a man who stacked cases of milk for 38 years. He had “Popeye muscles”. And at 96 years old, he still tells me he loves me.

I was about 14 years old when I asked my dad if I could use his snowblower to clean sidewalks. He said yes. I was eager to earn spending money. My dad went to work at 1:30 AM and came home around 2:00 PM each day.

As I was taking the snowblower out to do my first jobs, he came around the corner and asked, “What are you doing?” I replied that he had said I could use the snowblower. He told me that I needed to take the proper tools with me to which I said in a typical teenager indignant way, “I have the snowblower.” His answer stuck with me forever. He said, ***“You take a broom and shovel with you, and you clean their sidewalks and driveways so well that they hope it snows again so they can watch you work.”***

As North Dakota luck would have it, we had a spring snowstorm that started and stopped several times over three days. Each time the storm stopped, I blew the snow, shoveled it, and swept it clean so that I would earn the right to do it again. I got to clean sidewalks and driveways repeatedly that week and made \$750 which was a fortune at the time.

Thank you, Harold. Thank you, Dad.

BLACK TIE & SPURS

AN EVENING OF IMPACT

\$1.1 MILLION RAISED

This year's Black Tie & Spurs was our biggest yet! With over \$1.1 million raised, the Ranch at Bully Pulpit is coming closer to fruition!

The guest speakers included Governor Kelly Armstrong, Rolf Sletten, North American Coal Sr. Vice President & COO Carroll Dewing, and Mike & Peggy Bullinger. During his speech, Mike presented a check for \$250,000. The surprise check was met with many cheers and a standing ovation.

Other highlights of the evening included a melody performed by the *Medora Musical* cast, heads n' tails game hosted by Joe Wiegand, dessert dash facilitated by TRMF CFO Emily Klym, live auction by auctioneer Scott Bachmeier, and live music by Breaking Eight Band. Some of the live auction items included matching shotguns owned by Harold and Sheila Schafer, a beautiful bronze statue "Buffalo Jump" by artist Harvey Rattey, a 2026 *Medora Musical* Workshop Experience in New York City, and the mounted head of Mammoth the Bison Bull, who was featured in the movie *Dances with Wolves*.

The event was also supplemented by a silent auction, cash donation paddle raise, and a matching \$50,000 donation from Marv and Jane Kaiser. A special thank you goes to our volunteer Black Tie & Spurs Committee: Twylah Blotsky, Medora Sletten Lauf, Tracy Martin, and Gretchen Stenehjem.

The Ranch at Bully Pulpit will begin construction soon. If you are interested in supporting this endeavor, please contact our development team at (701) 223-4800.

THE RANCH AT BULLY PULPIT

RENDERINGS AS OF NOVEMBER 2024



Bully Spirit

ED & NANCY SCHAFER

Every year, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation celebrates an individual or a couple who truly embodies the Bully Spirit.

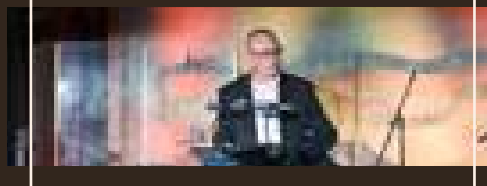
This year, the TRMF board chose a couple who has given their time, love, dedication, and more to Medora: Ed and Nancy Schafer.

Ed and Nancy are a powerhouse couple in North Dakota, from their time in the governor's office to their roles in the White House and Washington, D.C., and in Medora. The Schafers have done more than embody the Bully Spirit; they have been instrumental in creating the Bully Spirit in Medora.

Their leadership was evident when both of them served on the board of directors for TRMF: Ed served as Board Chair, and Nancy continues to serve on the Bully Pulpit Inc. Board. The incredible dedication that the two of them have shown to Medora has been through service and often, silent generosity. Their work often goes unannounced as the two have been described as incredibly humble.

The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation is honored to celebrate two of the hardest-working, most generous, kind, and humble couples that have served not just Medora, but also North Dakota and the entire United States.

To learn more about the Bully Spirit Award and to view their video, visit Foundation.Medora.com/The-Bully-Spirit-Award.



“

Leadership to some is about speeches and casting vision, but leadership to Ed and Nancy is about character and values. This character of leadership has provided decades of focus to stay true to our mission: to connect people to Medora.”

Levi Andrist, TRMF Board Chair, spoke about the Schafers' legacy at the Bully Spirit Award Dinner.

60 YEARS OF STORIES

RIDING THROUGH TIME

A new segment called 60 Years of Stories has been playing every Tuesday on KFYZ from May to August. It has featured some of the stories from Notes From the Trail, but also featured new tales from Medora's colorful past!

Medora Sletten Lauf, former TRMF Board member and granddaughter of Harold and Sheila Schafer, went on the show on June 25. She recalled being very young and attending the *Medora Musical* with both of her grandparents.

Bill Sorensen has been performing in Medora for over 50 years. He reminisced about his time in Medora, performing in the Old Town Hall Theater, being a host of the *Medora Musical*, and giving his special message at the Medora Gospel Brunch.

Levi and Bethany Andrist, former Burning Hills Singers, met and fell in love in Medora as they performed in the *Medora Musical*. Levi is now the Board Chair for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

Fran Allery is a familiar face in and around Medora. Fran is a long-time volunteer for TRMF and a Medora superfan!

We are grateful that this 60th Anniversary has been such a fun time! We still have more performances through mid-September, so make sure to come out and enjoy!

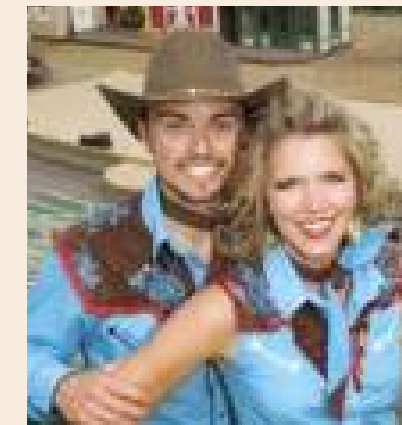
Do you want to ensure the *Medora Musical* lasts for another 60 years? Give to our *Medora Musical* Endowment. This Endowment supports the *Medora Musical* as it continues to live on in Medora. If you are interested in contributing, please contact our development team at (701) 223-4800.



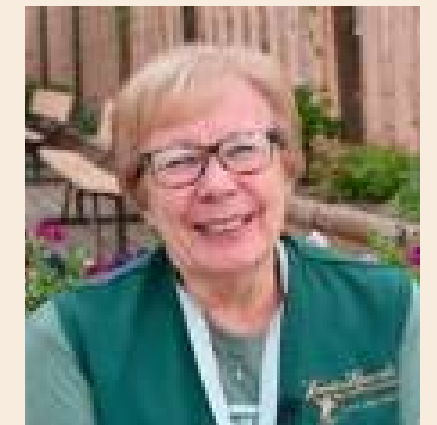
Medora Sletten Lauf
with Harold & Sheila Schafer



Bill Sorensen



Levi & Bethany Andrist



Fran Allery

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE

VETERANS & MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY IN MEDORA



Veterans and Military Appreciation Day in Medora is a big event; in fact, it is the largest veterans and military appreciation event in the state of North Dakota.

This year, we had over 600 veterans and military members in attendance at the *Medora Musical* on Sunday, July 13. It was our largest year yet! Our nation's heroes were able to enjoy many events that took place around town, including a veterans panel focused on "patriotism after service", the landing of a Blackhawk helicopter at Tjaden Terrace, a keg social, and free admission to the *Medora Musical*.

Our special guest was James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., The American Legion National Commander. He took part in the veterans panel discussion and gave special remarks before each performance of the *Medora Musical*. The Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation was more than honored to have this special guest.

Another special event was the demonstration of the VertaCat by the Stand Up and Play Foundation at Bully Pulpit Golf Course. The VertaCat is bringing its all-terrain mobility rider to the range! Designed by a paraplegic athlete, this standing rider helps more people experience the game, with cutting-edge performance and safety features. This demonstration was a great addition to the day's activities!

In the evening, veterans at the keg social expressed gratitude for the day, saying it was one of their favorite days to come out to the *Medora Musical*. Many of the veterans traveled across the state, from West Fargo, Bismarck, Dickinson, Richardton, Oakes, Tioga, and more. There were also whole American Legion member groups that joined us!

If you are interested in supporting this special day for veterans and military members, please consider giving to the Veterans' Day in Medora Endowment by contacting our development team at (701) 223-4800. The Endowment covers the costs of the tickets, helps offset the costs of the events, and brings in special guests, among other benefits.

Behind the Giving

"I am a 26.5-year veteran; my wife, Carolyn, is a 20-year veteran, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. We enjoyed our military medical careers and survived combat deployments without injury. We have seen many from conflicts in Grenada, the Tanker War (Persian Gulf, 1987-88), Panama, Iraq, and Afghanistan and those injured in training accidents - parachute, aircraft - who were not so fortunate. Giving to the Veterans' Day in Medora Endowment (and Tunnel 2 Towers and Folds of Honor) provides support and assistance to members of an American family, called Veterans, who put country before self. I cannot think of a better investment."

Stephen C. Craig, DO, PhD (Hist.), FRCP (Edin.)
Colonel (ret.), Medical Corps, U.S. Army





MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE... *ONE WISH AT A TIME*

The *Medora Musical* has welcomed families for generations. This year, the first two weeks of the *Medora Musical*, along with July 1-6, were free for kids 17 and under. The Medora WISH Endowment helps families enjoy the *Medora Musical* at a more affordable price.

The goal of the Medora WISH Endowment is to provide free tickets for kids every night at the *Medora Musical*. As the Endowment grows, that dream is closer to coming true.

The Medora WISH Endowment also provides *positive, life-changing experiences* for families in some of the most challenging situations. The Medora WISH Endowment partners with the Anne Carlsen Center each year to bring some of the children from the Center out for a fun time in Medora.

This year, thanks to Keith Huschka, four families will enjoy an unforgettable trip to Medora. The trips are full of fun with activities at Point to Point Park, shopping at Teddy's Bears, dinner at the Pitchfork Steak Fondue, and of course, watching the *Medora Musical*.

Looking ahead, there's a growing dream to bring even more families to Medora for these memorable experiences. With continued support, we hope to see this dream come true by welcoming more children and their families each summer on Medora WISH trips.

If you want to connect more people and children to Medora for these *positive, life-changing experiences*, please consider donating to the Medora WISH Endowment! Contact our development team at (701) 223-4800.



Gavin Hoime and Family on his Medora WISH Trip

A GATHERING OF TEDDY ROOSEVELTS: **BADLANDS CHAUTAUQUA**

We welcomed 12 Theodore Roosevelt reprisors this summer, marking our 12th Annual Badlands Chautauqua in Medora. Individuals from Theodore Roosevelt's family and his past joined, including Edith Roosevelt, Alice, Kermit, Ethel, Archie, Quentin Roosevelt, and the Marquis de Mores.

Reprisors had the chance to perform at the Andrist Stage in front of audiences who came from near and far to watch this TR spectacle! They also received notes and questions from other reprisors and guests.

The Badlands Chautauqua is supported by the Teddy Roosevelt Show Endowment. The Endowment helps support various performers, including one of our youngest Theodore Roosevelt reprisors, Nolan Reynolds:

"I've been able to fully immerse myself in the role of a young Theodore Roosevelt, not as a distant figure in a textbook, but as a living, breathing human being shaped by hardship, ambition, and the raw beauty of the Dakota Badlands. This support hasn't just helped me afford the time and resources to research and perform—it's allowed me to meet people where they are, whether in parks, theaters, or open prairie, and invite them into Roosevelt's world."

If you are interested in giving to the Teddy Roosevelt Show Endowment and supporting our initiative to blend history, education, and entertainment, please contact our development team at (701) 223-4800.





GATHER IN THE HEART OF THE BADLANDS

From listening to the coyotes sing from Boicourt Overlook at dusk, to watching the fireworks at the crescendo of an amazing night at the *Medora Musical*, Medora offers countless experiences to make family memories.

Spend your days watching stinger shots soar across the blue skies of Bully Pulpit Golf Course, and enjoy evenings chasing the aurora borealis on our growing trail system. Medora magic is non-stop, making it the perfect place for your next family adventure.

No matter how your family likes to spend time, our team can help you create a memorable family reunion. Explore the activities below and start planning your gathering in Medora.

FOR THE ACTIVE FAMILY:

- Hiking Point to Point Trails
- Horseback riding
- Manitou Zipline
- Badlands Shooting Gallery
- Guided tours
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- *Medora Musical*

FOR THE RELAXED FAMILY:

- Lazy Lil Mo lazy river
- Town Square Showhall shows with brunch or dinner
- Shopping around town
- Old Town Hall Theater shows
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- *Medora Musical*

WHY GATHER IN MEDORA:

- Quality time
- Lots of laughs
- Good food
- Great memories
- Anticipation for your next reunion in Medora!

To learn more about how to book your next group trip, visit [Medora.com/Groups](https://www.medora.com/Groups), call our group events services department at (701) 623-4444, or email GES@Medora.com.



2025 Zaun Family Reunion



2025 Schafer Family Reunion

COMING TO MEDORA

CASH VS. THE KING

After summer is over and the *Medora Musical* closes down, a special show at the Old Town Hall Theater opens! Back again for a second run, Cash vs. The King will be performed Wednesday – Saturday at 7:30 PM and Sunday at 2:00 PM from September 17 through November 2, 2025.

Cash vs. The King is an unforgettable showdown between two of the most acclaimed stars in music history. Cash and “The King” earned an incredible list of awards and achievements: multiple Grammys, Country Music Hall of Fame inductions, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductions, and much more. Come along as they compete to earn your vote as the ultimate performer, bringing you many of their favorites from the early days at Sun Records to their current status as legends!

This show was initially performed in Medora in the spring of 2024 and completely sold out! Cash vs. The King features two incredibly talented performers: Alex Swindle as the King of Rock, Elvis Presley, and Bill Scott Sheets as the Man in Black, Johnny Cash.

For more information about Cash vs. The King and to buy tickets to the show, visit Medora.com/CashVsTheKing or scan the QR code.



DECEMBER 4 – 21, 2025
OLD TOWN HALL THEATER, MEDORA
THURSDAY – SATURDAY AT 7:30 PM
SATURDAY – SUNDAY AT 2:00 PM

Medora.com/Christmas

KEEP YOUR BOOTS ON

Soak in the last of summer fun in Medora

Rumours: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show | August 25

Join us on August 25 at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre for a night of unforgettable rock and roll with Rumours: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show. Formed in Los Angeles, CA in 2012, Rumours has toured across North America, crafting a performance that embodies the legendary essence of Fleetwood Mac’s 1975 to 1987. Get your tickets now at Medora.com/Rumours!

Hot Air Balloon Rally | September 6-7

September brings one of our biggest events of the summer: Hot Air Balloon Rally. This year, the Rally will take place September 6-7. The morning will be filled with hot air balloons being launched in the early hours of the day, and they will float over Medora. This event comes with a plethora of other happenings, including early morning hours at select retail shops, breakfast offerings, and guided hikes at Point to Point Park.

Medora Musical | Through September 13

The *Medora Musical* will run one week later this summer! Join us at the Greatest Show in the West through September 13! The 60th Anniversary of the *Medora Musical* has been very special to those who have not only poured hours of work to make it happen but also to guests who have enjoyed this wonderful show.



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 Slauter, *Attractions & Entertainment Director*
Sheila Strommen, *Human Resources Director*

Our Development Team

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Morgan Bruhn, *Development Assistant*
Jacky Emanuel, *Development Officer*
Randy Hatzenbuehler, *Development Officer*
Katrina Hellman, *Development Graphic Designer*
Micky Huntington, *Executive Assistant*
Destiny Meyer, *Communications Specialist*
Jennifer Sykora, *Salesforce Product Manager*
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**.



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora

Medora Musical

Bully Pulpit
GOLF COURSE

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