



# DAKOTA DATEBOOK

## North Dakota Quarter

BY LANE SUNWALL  
April 14 -- On this day in 2004, Governor John Hoeven launched the selection process for the design of the North Dakota state quarter. According to Governor Hoeven, the state quarter represented a unique opportunity to “share North Dakota’s many cultural, commercial and recreational wonders with the rest of the nation and the world.”

The 50 State Quarter Program Act, passed by Congress in 1997, authorized the redesign of the reverse side of the US quarter dollar. Each new design would bear images emblematic of each state’s heritage, customs and history. Five quarters were to be released each year in the order that the state was admitted to the Union.

When it came time for the design of North Dakota’s quarter in April 2004, a selection commission was organized under the leadership of Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple. The commission asked all North Dakotans to participate in the design process by writing a narrative discussing how North Dakota should be seen on a national level. By July, Lt. Governor Dalrymple had received nearly 400 narratives, which the selection commission divided into five groups: agriculture, landscape, International Peace Garden, Badlands and Native American culture.

Based upon these narratives, the selection commission recommended three concepts to the US Mint. From these recommendations, artists from the Mint’s Artistic Infusion Program created three concept coins. The concept coins were then sent back to the ND Commission, who then narrowed the choice to two. The final selection of the quarter design was put to a public vote.

In May 2005, thousands of North Dakotans participated in the quarter’s selection and voted for a design emblematic of the state’s “roughrider” heritage -- two buffalo grazing peacefully under the setting sun in the rugged North Dakota Badlands. Brought back from the brink of extinction, buffalo now flourish in their native Badlands, a sight bringing to mind settlers’ recollections of the large herds that once flourished in the plains.

More than two years after the selection process had begun, the North Dakota state quarter was officially launched on Aug. 30, 2006 by John Hoeven in the Bismarck Civic Center. The design, bringing to mind scenes from the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, home to hundreds of wild buffalo, was heralded by Hoeven “as a great symbol to showcase our state for generations to come.”

## Thomas Edward Whelan, Ambassador to Nicaragua

BY JAYME L. JOB  
April 15 -- On this date in 1895, Thomas Edward Whelan was born in St. Thomas, ND. A potato farmer by trade, Whelan later served as a state senator, as well as the state chairman of the Republican Party. His most surprising role came in 1951 when President Harry Truman appointed Whelan to be the US ambassador to Nicaragua.

Whelan’s political work centered on the state’s agricultural industry, and he was largely concerned with the plight of the family farmer. He was also active in the American Legion, serving as state commander, and later as national chairman of the American Legion Foreign Affairs Committee. But it was in 1951 that Whelan was asked to do something that no other North Dakotan had ever done.

Since the early 1940s, it was well known that North Dakota Senator William Langer had one very salient complaint during his time in Washington. He often lamented that “There’s never been one ambassador from North Dakota, not in [all] the years since statehood.” In response, President Harry Truman appointed Whelan to be the US ambassador to Nicaragua in 1951.

The North Dakota farmer soon found himself and his family relocating to the Latin American country. To Truman’s delight, Whelan became one of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza’s closest friends. The two referred to each other affectionately as “Tommy” and “Tacho.” The men “partied, played poker [and] junketed around the country together.”

When President Eisenhower took office in 1953, Whelan resigned, but the president quickly reappointed him to the position. In 1956 Somoza was shot and critically wounded by an assassin. Whelan rushed to

his friend’s side and quickly “arranged to fly the dying dictator to a US hospital in the Panama Canal Zone.” Somoza was succeeded by his sons, and Whelan remained ambassador until 1961. By the time his tenure ended, Whelan was the nation’s longest-serving ambassador. He returned to North Dakota, where he passed away in 1977 and was interred in his home town of St. Thomas.

## North Fargo Arrives in Grand Forks

BY DEREK DAHLSDAD  
April 16 -- Despite their similar names, Fargo and West Fargo have been separate cities for many years, and only in the past few decades have they grown enough that their boundaries touched. Until 1923 Fargo was also neighbors with the city of North Fargo, but their relationship wasn’t as polite as it is with West Fargo today.

The village of North Fargo was incorporated as an independent city, with its own government and constable, just south of where Fargo North High School sits today. By 1922 the city of Fargo had grown so far north that its boundary touched the south end of North Fargo. In September of that year Fargo annexed an area that contained half of North Fargo without asking the citizens of North Fargo for permission. North Fargo sued, and in the spring of 1923 the ND Supreme Court ruled that the annexation was illegal.

The citizens of North Fargo weren’t united against becoming a part of the city of Fargo. Opinion was split almost 50-50, making regular village business difficult. After a bond issue to fund the village was voted down, on this date in 1923 North Fargo decided to put annexation to a vote. Two weeks later the votes were cast. Annexation won by just six votes, to take effect Nov. 1, 1923.

The citizens against annexation sued, on the basis that the polls weren’t open during the hours required by law. Annexation was tied up in the courts, and the conflict with the city of Fargo reached a peak in the summer of 1923. In June it was discovered that the village of North Fargo had secretly tapped into the Fargo water mains. Fargo waterworks employees were sent to disconnect the illicit pipes, but the workers found the site guarded by North Fargo constables with shotguns. The connection was left intact, but the city of Fargo billed North Fargo an unduly high rate of \$0.50 per thousand gallons for the water North Fargo used.

The animosity -- and the water rates -- shrank after the ND Supreme Court ruled that the voting irregularities were not made in bad faith, and the annexation was made official.

## Dr. John E. Engstad

BY DR. STEVE HOFFBECK  
April 17 -- X-rays were so named because this radiant energy was of unknown origin. The “X” in “X-ray” was a scientific symbol for “the unknown.” Discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895, X-rays were immediately put into practical medical use the following year.

The new technology came to Grand Forks in 1896, when Dr. John E. Engstad secured an X-ray machine, using it that December to conduct successful wrist surgery.

On this date in 1898 the *Grand Forks Herald* printed a small advertisement for Dr. Engstad and his fellow surgeon, Dr. A. A. Westeen, informing the public that both doctors had “studied in Germany and Italy.” Engstad, who had been born in Norway in 1858 and who immigrated to the US with his parents that same year, had been

practicing medicine in Grand Forks since 1885. Dr. Engstad became nationally known for founding St. Luke’s Hospital in 1892, the first hospital in the US built and owned by a Scandinavian.

It was in 1898 that Dr. Engstad made headlines for an X-ray operation noted as a “peculiar case.” A man named William Dodge had accidentally stepped on a large sewing needle in his home in the nearby village of Inkster. Involuntarily jumping up in pain, Mr. Dodge somehow broke the needle into two, with one end stuck in his right foot and the other half embedded in his left ankle.

In pain, Mr. Dodge visited his local doctor, who quickly plucked out the visible part of the needle, but the doctor could not locate the other half. The doctor sent Dodge to see Dr. Engstad, who “used his large X-ray machine to locate the needle point.” The “X-ray photograph plainly showed the needle entirely hidden between two bones at the ankle.” Having determined the needle’s exact location, Dr. Engstad easily removed it.

The X-ray machine proved its worth, and in 1917 Dr. Engstad bought a more powerful machine, said to be an “exact duplicate” of one at the Mayo Clinic.

Dr. John Engstad had a long medical career, passing away in 1937 at age 78, having been one of the revered “pioneer physicians” of Grand Forks.

## The Ping-Pong Craze Arrives in Grand Forks

BY DR. STEVE HOFFBECK

April 18 -- Ping-pong sounds like the game itself. The small celluloid ball “pings” from the paddle and “pongs” off the table.

Ping-pong, also called table tennis, started as a ripple in England and reached America in a frenzied wave in 1902, a game everyone just had to have. The craze came just after the bicycle vogue of the 1890s. A newspaper advertisement on this date in 1902 described ping-pong as the “most popular means of enjoyment and entertainment [that] can be played on any dining-room table” by young and old alike.

“The ping-pong craze has finally reached Grand Forks,” announced the *Herald* newspaper

in two “As You Like It” society-page columns that April. Several prominent families, including the Engstads and the Griffiths, already owned a set and “any number [had] sent in an order for one,” but the “rage for the game all over the country” left manufacturers struggling to make enough equipment to “supply the demand.”

People loved ping-pong because they got indoor exercise and plenty of fun social interaction. Ping-pong was inexpensive, for “Ping-pong sets with burnt-wood rackets” could be bought at the local Ontario Store “for 89 cents.”

All it took to play ping-pong was a net stretched between two wooden pegs attached to the middle of the table, a ball, and two rackets covered with vellum parchment. A good-sized dining-room table instantly became an indoor sports arena.

The celluloid ping-pong balls were “very light like birds’ eggs” with “no possibility of their breaking anything they [might] strike” in the dining room. The greatest difficulty was finding stray ping-pong balls “hiding in dark shadows” under furniture.

Ping-pong parties became the rage for young ladies, and young men held tournaments. Within a year, the Dacotah Hotel and the Pioneer Club opened ping-pong rooms and the YMCA got a table. Ping-pong’s popularity spread to Bismarck by July and to Minot by August. At Christmastime, advertisements for ping-pong sets, priced from \$0.50 to \$5, proliferated.

Oddly, the ping-pong craze diminished by 1904, and echoes of “ping” and “pong” in dining-rooms seemingly went silent. However, ping-pong came back in a late 1920s revival, and in the present day, reverberations of “pinging” backhands and “ponging” forehands still resonate from green-topped factory-made tables in family rooms across North Dakota.

“*Dakota Datebook*” is a radio series from *Prairie Public* in partnership with the *State Historical Society of ND* and with funding from the *ND Humanities Council*. See all the *Dakota Datebooks* at [prairiepublic.org](http://prairiepublic.org), subscribe to the “*Dakota Datebook*” podcast, or buy the *Dakota Datebook* book at [shopprairiepublic.org](http://shopprairiepublic.org).

## Auto interior maintenance and cleaning tips

A number of factors are involved in keeping a vehicle functioning and looking good. Ensuring a vehicle interior is clean and tidy is easily overlooked, but such efforts can improve the driving experience.

Drivers who want their cars and trucks to look their best should not forget their vehicle interiors. Drivers unsure where to start can spruce up their vehicle interiors in the following ways.

- **Remove any trash.** Wrappers, receipts, empty water bottles, and other items can quickly pile up inside a car, especially for drivers who have young children. Routinely go through the vehicle to gather and remove debris.

- **Vacuum the interior.** Start off with a can of compressed air and blow out dust and any other dirt that has accumulated in tight crevices. Then use a high-powered vacuum to conduct a thorough cleaning. Pay attention to the seams of car seats, door handles, armrests, floor mats (and under them), underneath child safety seats, and the trunk or cargo area. If you don’t have a vacuum with a lot of suction, utilize one at a do-it-yourself car wash location.

- **Scrub floor mats.** Drivers with rubber mats can remove them and make a mild cleaning solution of a few drops of dish soap and warm water. Use a soft-bristled brush to clean the mats. Upholstered mats can be shampooed using a carpet cleaner. Then rinse and hang to dry.



All mats should be completely dry before being returned to the vehicle.

- **Clean the upholstery.** Seats can get dirty and dingy over time. For cloth vehicle seats, use a proper spray or foam upholstery cleaner. All-purpose cleaner can work on vinyl seats, but leather seats require a special leather soap and conditioner. Avoid products with silicone, which can stain your clothes and may make interior surfaces too slippery.

- **Address glass surfaces.** Turn your attention to the windshield, windows and mirrors. You can use a store-bought glass cleaner on these surfaces and a lint-free cloth. Avoid products containing ammonia, which may damage tinting on windows.

- **Consider lingering odors.** If the interior of the car has an odor, the cabin air filter may need to be changed, or there may be water entering the vehicle somewhere and creating a musty smell. Seek out any problems and address. A car air freshener can further improve the interior smell.

-metrocreativeconnection

## Yes, you can enjoy the outdoors after an asthma diagnosis

Increased hours of sunlight and warmer temperatures typically compel people to enjoy the great outdoors. Spring, summer and fall are some of the best times to be outside enjoying fresh air and the bevy of activities available.

Healthgrades says about 25 million Americans live with asthma, which is a medical condition that causes airways to swell and tighten, making breathing difficult. Those with asthma may face a few extra challenges when enjoying the outdoors or exercising outside, but they don’t have to hibernate in their homes - even if they have a severe form of the condition. Here are some pointers for enjoying the outdoors after an asthma diagnosis.

- **Know your triggers.** Asthma can be triggered by different factors. This can include smoke, air pollution, strong odors, pollen, and even dramatic shifts in weather. It’s important for asthma sufferers to identify what might trigger an attack and then assess the situation to mitigate the risk.

- **Take it slow.** A sudden shift in air temperature can trigger an asthma attack. Even leaving an air conditioned home and going outside to the hot outdoors can trigger an attack. Gradually moving from different climates can help ease the lungs into the new environment. Always take it slow when planning to exercise outdoors, gradually acclimating the body.

- **Take medication as directed.** It’s important for those with asthma to take controller medication as prescribed, as



that can have a huge impact on long-term asthma control, says Asthma Canada. Medication can reduce the severity of reactions to triggers. In addition, one should keep a rescue inhaler nearby at all times, especially during allergy season.

- **Check pollen counts.** Use reliable sources to check pollen levels and other allergens. Those who are triggered by these allergens might want to reconsider spending a lot of time outdoors until counts are lower. Pollen levels typically are at their highest between a.m. 5 and 10 a.m. Wearing a face covering also may help.

- **Bring a buddy along.** Having someone available to call for help should an asthma attack occur is essential. Asthma sufferers can have an asthma action plan in place and the buddy will know what to do and who to call in the event of an emergency.

-metrocreativeconnection

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MADDOCK CITY COUNCIL

April 8, 2025

A regular meeting of the Maddock City Council was held April 8, 2025. Mayor Sarah Dove called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. at city hall. Present for roll call were council members Bradley Hermanson, Jamie Wentz and Dusty Pierson. Absent was Teresa Dosch. Also in attendance were Jamie Green, Keith Winslow, Jean Schuster, Rachel Markestad and Michael Sorlie via phone.

A motion was made by Hermanson, seconded by Pierson, to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2025 regular meeting. All voting yes, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Hermanson, seconded by Pierson, to approve the following bills. All voting yes, the motion carried.

Wages .....	\$8,984.59
BC Farmers Press .....	90.75
BC Sheriff’s Dept. ....	600.00
BC Tax Equalization .....	1,330.00
Butler .....	6.47
CenDak .....	637.95
Double M Sanitation .....	6,000.00
Fireside Office .....	
Solutions .....	176.26
Hawkins .....	571.48
Maddock Opera House ..	200.00
MRES .....	200.00
NAPA .....	312.46
Sarah Dove .....	191.49
TJ Plumbing .....	1,701.00
UpAhead .....	2,187.00
Vall .....	25.00
Vestis .....	106.60
Western Area Power .....	140.00

Admin. .... 7,786.50  
Northern Plains Elec. .... 4,135.00  
NDPERS .....| Northern Plains Elec. .... | 2,335.85 |
| Keith Winslow’s Report -- Double M Sanitation is currently making some repairs to our old dumpsters; provided an update on the water treatment plant; a temporary water plant is scheduled to arrive in June; reported on the LED streetlights. | 29,684.15 |

• **Keith Winslow’s Report --** Double M Sanitation is currently making some repairs to our old dumpsters; provided an update on the water treatment plant; a temporary water plant is scheduled to arrive in June; reported on the LED streetlights.

• **Jamie Green’s Report --** Provided an update on the AMI water meters; spoke on behalf of the Tree Committee to discuss the ongoing tree grant and any upcoming plans.

• **Pam Lee’s Report --** Reported that the annual audit was completed successfully with no issues; presented a price proposal for BMS Pay services from Nuvei; announced that the pet clinic will be held on May 16 from 3-6 p.m. at the gray city shop.

• **A motion was made by** Hermanson, seconded by Wentz, to approve the proposal from Nuvei for BMS services. All voting yes, the motion carried.

• **The city council discussed** strategies for enforcing city ordinances. They expressed interest

in setting up a meeting with Sheriff Rode, Candace Berg from Lake Region District Health Unit, and State’s Attorney James Wang to explore enforcement options and clarify roles. Pam Lee will contact all parties to schedule a meeting at a time that works for everyone.

The city council held a discussion regarding the possibility of allowing poultry within city limits. Before making a final decision, they agreed to send out surveys to all city residents to gather public input.

Benson County Deputy Assessor Jean Schuster was present to conduct the annual tax equalization meeting. A motion was made by Hermanson, seconded by Wentz, to approve the proposed changes. All voting yes, the motion carried.

Rachel Markestad was present on behalf of the Maddock 125th Celebration Committee to discuss proposed changes to the renovation plans for the bandstand/gazebo, a project being undertaken by the Maddock Historical Society. A motion was made by Pierson, seconded by Hermanson, to approve the proposed changes. All voting yes, the motion carried.

Michael Sorlie joined the meeting via phone to present an idea for a “walk through time” mural as part of the Maddock 125th Celebration legacy project. The mural is proposed for the north wall of the Thrifty White Drug Store, with a brick pathway and benches to be placed on the vacant city-owned lot between the drug store and First United Bank. He requested permission on behalf of the Maddock 125th Celebration Committee to use the vacant city lot for this project. A motion was made by Pierson, seconded by Hermanson, to approve the use of the city-owned lot. All voting yes, the motion carried.

• **A motion made by** Pierson, seconded by Wentz, to approve a quote from Lakeside Surveillance Lock & Key for a security door system at city hall. All voting yes, the motion carried.

• **The council members each gave** a portfolio report.

• **A discussion was held** regarding responsible beverage server training.

• **A motion made by** Pierson, seconded by Hermanson, to approve two gaming site authorization permits to the Maddock Opera House Association and the Maddock Rural Fire Protection District. All voting yes, the motion carried.

• **The meeting adjourned at** 9:07 p.m. The next council meeting will be Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

Pamela Lee  
City Auditor

Sarah Dove  
Mayor

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Classes start the end of May!

## Ready, Set, Bloom

### Ladies Spring Luncheon

#### Maddock Opera House, Maddock, ND

## May 3, 2025 :: 11 a.m.

### Tickets: \$35

Speaker  
**Rebecca Undem**

- ✿ Music by Dakota Blende
- ✿ Fashion Revue by Main Street Boutique :: Rugby, ND

Tickets available at [maddockoperahouse.com](http://maddockoperahouse.com)