Great Scott! Conference Registration Is Closing Soon!

Wait a minute, Doc, are you telling me there’ll be a DeLorean at the NDACo Annual Conference on October 2-4 at the Bismarck Event Center? Yes, in fact, bring your camera – we found a DeLorean!

But the Event Center isn’t big enough to get it up to 88 mph, so you won’t be able to go back in time to get registered.

Online registration, available on the conference web page at www.ndaco.org/annual-conference, will close September 13! You’ll be able to register by calling the NDACo office through September 23. After that, registration will be on site.

The agenda has been updated on the conference web page, and we’ll continue to add information as it comes in. We’re also working on the conference app. Watch for information on that, which will arrive in your inbox shortly before the conference.

WORKSHOPS

Thanks to input from members throughout the year, our slate of workshops represents a wide variety of topics as could be fit into two days. As of this writing, the following workshop topics are planned:

- Transportation & ARPA Funding – Maximizing Your Options
- Not Heroic: Just Save Lives
- Social Security – The Choice of a Lifetime
- Windows 11 & Cybersecurity Update
- Hot Button Legislative Issues for 2023
- County Fraud, Not a How To
- Human Service Zones — Where We Have Been and Where Are We Headed?
- Developing Your Next Leaders
- Water Developments Across the State
- NDPHIT: Providing Better Health Insurance Solutions for Counties
- NDACo GIS Program and Statewide Parcel Program Updates
- Getting Creative in Attracting and Retaining Employees in Your County
- You’ll also get plenty of time to explore exhibit booths from every imaginable industry related to counties. They want your business and you need their products and services, so plan to meet them!

Returning with an entirely new set for your entertainment Monday evening will be the thoroughly entertaining Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos! As always, workshop participants can elect to earn ILG Training Hours; and thanks to NDIRE, every county gets one conference registration FREE as long as your county has at least one commissioner and one other official sign in at the closing workshop. Stay tuned to www.ndaco.org/annual-conference for updates.

If you’ve been to the National Association of Counties or other national conferences, you may have noticed that most organizations are moving away from printed agendas and passing attendees to use a conference app. At NDACo, we plan to print an agenda this year, but everything on paper is also available on our app, so we strongly encourage all attendees to use it. If you installed it last year and haven’t removed it, you’re all set! There are several easy ways to get the “Yapp” app for our conference.

1. Scan the code on this page with your phone and it will take you to a website that will explain a few easy steps, OR…
2. Use your phone’s web browser to go to my.yapp.us/ndaco. It’s the same web page the code goes to, OR…
3. Navigate to that same address on a computer and enter your cell phone number. You will then receive a code to click on and get started.

Whichever method you choose, you’ll be downloading Yapp from your app store (Apple Store or Google Play) and it should then take you right to our content. If for some reason it doesn’t, you can simply conduct a search for NDACo and you’ll find us.

Will NDACo stop printing agendas? Not this year, but eventually. If and when that happens, we’ll be sure to print some kind of bare-bones schedule and have it available.

Contact Jeff Eslinger if you have any problems at jeff.eslinger@ndaco.org or (701) 328-7332.

NDACo Continues Work on Youth Placement

Lisa Jahner | Juvenile Justice Program Manager

NDACo has been instrumental this past year in helping local law enforcement and communities adjust how and where unruly youth are placed. For many years, NDACo has administered a program termed “Attendant Care,” which provides short-term supervision for youth picked up by law enforcement on a citable charge, as an alternative to secure detention. Federal dollars through the US Department of Justice intended for alternatives to incarceration are used to reimburse the county, or private provider on behalf of the county, for the direct costs of those placements.

Statute changes this past legislative session designated unruly youth (those who have committed an offense that would not be criminal if committed by an adult) as a new legal category considered “Children in Need of Services” or “CHINS.” As of August 1, CHINS youth are no longer arrested and referred to Juvenile Court but rather referred to the Human Services Zones to help youth and families address issues that may have precipitated the behavior. The CHINS category includes behaviors such as ungovernable behavior, truancy, runaway and the use of tobacco under the age of 14. This was seen as a very positive change for youth and families, as many youths who do not belong in the justice system will now be kept out. In addition, the use of temporary shelter care can prevent foster care placements by addressing immediate needs.

CHINS youth that are taken into custody by law enforcement, i.e., runaways, and in need of short-term supervision are now to be placed in shelter care rather than attendant care. The ND Department of Human Services (DHS) issued new administrative rules to “certify” shelter care sites so that providers can receive funding from DHS to cover the cost of youth placed in these facilities.

In addition, DHS has made grant funding available to interested shelter care providers to use for start-up costs, such as the initial operating costs, construction, remodeling, payroll, training, staffing ratios and related costs associated with meeting certification standards.

Many of the providers of attendant care services are now also providing certified shelter care services. For safety reasons, administrative rules require that CHINS youth placed in certified shelter care be kept separate from delinquent youth placed in attendant care.

The changes have resulted in possible increased costs for some providers:

- The separation requirement, although in the best interest of youth, may require additional staff and/or space to be able to...
STEVE FORDE
Nelson County Commissioner, Representing Region 4

Day job: CFO of Nelson County Health System, a rural health clinic that also offers critical access hospital, care center and assisted living. Also help with the family farm.

Favorite thing about being a County Commissioner? Learning the different departments and how they work together to help the residents of the county.

Family: Wife, Rebecca, one son who recently graduated and twins, a boy and a girl still in school. We live on a farmstead by Pekin, ND.

Favorite Movie/Genre: Still a Star Wars fan – all of them.

What is your car radio tuned to right now? Country, but I flip to Public Radio for the news and Main Street feature.

Reading: Enjoy mysteries, Stephen King, etc., but don’t have as much time for reading as I’d like.

Something people probably don’t know about you: I coached baseball, basketball and football for 20+ years at the local school.

Philosophy of life and/or work: Theodore Roosevelt’s “Man in the Arena.”

Steve Forde
Continued on page 22
Get Involved...I'm Glad I Did

Summer is flying by and what an amazing summer it has been! I have had the pleasure of traveling to Anchorage Alaska for the Western Interstate Region Conference (WIR) and Aurora Colorado for the National Association of Counties Conference, representing you as your President of NDACo. Being involved on the national level has really opened my eyes. The issues we struggle with here in North Dakota are the same across the nation.

That is why it is so important to get involved in NACo. A challenge you are facing is probably the same that another county somewhere in nation has already faced. It's counties collaborating and helping other counties! You can make a difference by getting involved, whether it's attending the conferences or being part of a committee and bringing back what you learned to your county and your state association. Literally, if you want to be on a committee, you don't even have to travel. You can jump on a Teams or Zoom meeting in the comfort of your home or office, and you are involved on the national level.

It's been a whirlwind year as NDACo President, but my favorite part has been the County Tours. Getting out to the counties – where it's “boots on the ground” – definitely is one of the most important parts of the job. It's about hearing the counties tell their stories of what is working, what is not working and trying to figure out solutions. It is so important as a county official or employee to get involved with NDACos. Go to the Annual Conference in October and take in the many ILG breakout sessions. The Conference is where networking takes place and we solve our common problems together. We are all working towards the same goal to best serve our constituents.

In closing, I want to thank the County Recorders Association for having the confidence in me to be their representative on the Board of Directors, the NDACo members for believing in me and my county family for supporting me as I have traveled and attended meetings. It has been one of the most rewarding positions I have ever held, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to serve you!

Hope to see you in October in Bismarck!

Carrie Krause | NDACo President
Wells County Recorder

Congratualtions! Today Is Your Day

Dr. Seuss is my favorite author. Honestly, there isn't even a close second. One book, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* is wonderful in so many ways. It's about choosing your path, sometimes struggling along the way and finally how well you will do when you get there.

The book starts by encouraging the reader to take the first step. And that's what I humbly ask of you. I need you to take the first step and get involved in NDACo if you haven't. If you have, could you do more? The book continues as we watch the main character, you, moving forward, sometime not easily, but progressing to success. I again ask you to do the same.

With such a dynamic year ahead of us, your voice is needed outside your county. Whether it's volunteering for a NDCCA standing committee or taking a leadership role, we need your voice. Your opinion matters. If you're willing to take your “shoes full of feet” even further, you can get involved in NACo. Committees are easy to become involved in and just as easily be appointed to. I promise there is one or more NDCCA or NACo committees that will interest you. And when you get involved, you will learn.

During my last NACo convention, I learned about new federal resources that will be available to all of us; but we need to have mechanisms in place to receive the money. I've already forwarded on sample legislation to a legislator and put him in contact with NACo staff. I anticipate debate and hopefully a passed bill that would allow North Dakota and our citizens to access these dollars in the coming session.

Would someone pick up on this eventually? Maybe. But what if it gets missed and we miss the session? We will miss access to resources for two years. This is one easy example of countless others I could discuss, but we need people like you in the room.

I took the first step. I ask you do the same.

Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way.

Chad Peterson | NDCCA President
Cass County Commissioner

Change Brings Opportunity

As you may have noticed at the top of page 1, we're trying something new this year for our Annual Report. For many years, we have published the Annual Report separately, put it on our website, and handed it out at the Annual Conference. By including it in this issue of County News, we are saving money on printing; but more importantly, we promise there is one or more NDCCA or NACo committees that will interest you. Further, you can get involved in NDACo. Committees are easy to become involved in and just as easily be appointed to. I believe that spirit will continue, and will believe that you will continue, and will help us meet the challenges ahead.

I hope you like this way of handling the Annual Report. Like so many changes, there's no way to know if it works or doesn't work until we try it. Let us know what you think.

Aaron Birst | NDACo Executive Director

FROM the ASSOCIATION

FROM the COMMISSIONERS

Hope to see you in October in Bismarck!

Aaron Birst | NDACo Executive Director

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Chad Peterson | NDCCA President
Cass County Commissioner

FROM the COMMISSIONERS
SAVE TIME & MONEY WITH STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACTS & SURPLUS PROPERTY!

THE STATE CAN HELP YOU AFFORD WHAT YOU NEED.

- Computers
- Copiers/Multifunctional Devices
- Software
- Vehicles
- Paper & Paper Products
- Janitorial Products & Trash Bags
- Batteries
- Food
- IT Consulting
- Government Credit Card

- Computers/Technology
- Office Equipment & Furniture
- Cold Weather Gear
- Rescue Vehicles
- Law Enforcement Equipment
- Mechanical Equipment
- Utility Vehicles
- Road Maintenance Machinery
- Tools
- First Aid Gear

NORTH Dakota
Be Legendary.
Procurement MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

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NORTH Dakota
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Surplus Property MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

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701.328.9665 • SURPLUS@ND.GOV
ND.GOV/SURPLUS
National Association of Counties Leadership Development: Learn From the Best!

Scholarships still available for you and your team.
Join the 1,710 county leaders already benefiting from the effectiveness of the NACo Leadership Academy, the 12-week, online leadership program led by General Colin Powell.

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the April North Dakota graduates:
- Christopher Deery, Veterans Service Officer of Cass County
- Nichole Degenstein, Human Resources Director, Mountrail County
- Eugene Gartner, Maintenance Supervisor, Cass County
- Laurie Johnson, Mountrail County Correctional Center, Mountrail County
- Debbie Magnuson, Treasurer, Barnes County
- Melissa Vachal, Recorder/P&Z Administrator, Mountrail County

Please Consider Budgeting for Leadership in 2023
The final cohort for 2022 is underway, and the next opportunity to sign up will be in late 2022 for the January 2023 cohort. As county budgeting is underway, we urge all counties to consider offering High Performance Leadership Academy to your department heads and select employees. Leadership training is a great incentive for retaining and promoting for positions that open in your county.

In Remembrance of General Powell on the First Anniversary of His Death:

**My 13-Rules of Leadership**

1. It ain’t as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.
2. Get mad, then get over it.
3. Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.
4. It can be done.
5. Be careful what you choose: You may get it.
6. Don’t let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
7. You can’t make someone else’s decisions. You shouldn’t let someone else make yours.
8. Check small things.
9. Share credit.
11. Have a vision. Be demanding.
12. Don’t take counsel of your fears or naysayers.
13. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.
**New Faces at NRG**

Amber Schriock | NRG Service Manager

Our world is constantly changing and so is the way we engage with each other. As we move through our new workforce landscape, we see less and less face-to-face encounters. With that in mind, we would like to introduce our newest staff members in 2022, so you know who is on the other end of your helpline.

Dawson Dosch is a Bismarck native and a Saint Mary’s High School graduate and was hired as a Service Coordinator in January. He enjoys softball and competitive video games and has an avid interest in working with computers and technology. Fun fact: he has an impressive collection of Rock Band games. Dawson comes to us with several years of customer service experience. You may hear his voice when you call the main NRG phone number. He has proved a valuable employee and is a fast learner and a pleasure to work with. We hope to further develop his technical skills in the near future.

Erik McGurren was hired as an intern in 2021 and as full-time Security Analyst in 2022. A Bismarck native who enjoys softball and basketball, he came to us via the internship program through BSC, where he graduated with an AAS in Cybersecurity and Computer Networks and a BAS in Cybersecurity and Information Technology. Erik has been working with computer setup and help desk tickets and is now heading our cybersecurity efforts. You may hear from him regarding mitigating vulnerabilities, addressing computer threats, cybersecurity assessments and security awareness training. The internship program has yielded many quality candidates that have transitioned to full-time employment over the years, but that’s a different article!

Jacob Fricke, also a Bismarck native and Century High School graduate, was hired in August to complete our Account Management team and complement our Service Coordination team. He enjoys softball, volleyball, pool, DnD and video games. Jacob comes to us with over seven years of customer service and sales experience. He is interested in sales and marketing. He has only been with us a short time, so we are still getting to know him, but we are excited for his future with us.

**Important Ransomware Communications Training**

If your political subdivision is hit by a ransomware attack, how do you plan to communicate to those affected? What do you say to employees? How does it affect the credibility of your security and reputation?

The Bank of North Dakota highly encourage counties to send a communications staff person to this free training that will be held as a pre-workshop before the CyberCon event.

| TITLE: | Tears, Fear & Confusion: The Human Side of a Ransomware Attack |
| DATE: | Tuesday, October 4, 2022 |
| LOCATION: | Bismarck State College NECE Conference Center |
| SCHEDULE: | 8:00 Registration |
| | 8:30 - 10:30 Casey Self, HL Strategy |
| | 10:30 - 11:00 North Dakota Ransomware Communications Response Plan |
| | 11:00 - 11:30 Questions |

Casey Self was the director of marketing for Perceptics, LLC in May 2019, when the company was hit with a ransomware attack. What followed was a months’ work of national media attention, a congressional hearing, and an effort by activists to make the stolen data publicly available. Ultimately, Perceptics lost its contract with the federal government, which financially devastated the company and personally affected employees. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to help others prepare for and respond to cyberattacks.

After Casey’s presentation, cybersecurity and communications experts from North Dakota Information Technology and the Department of Emergency Services will share the framework for a coordinated communication response in North Dakota. It is critical that all agencies and subdivisions are coordinated in their response if it occurs because of the financial and reputation risks associated with an attack of this magnitude. Visit cyberconbsc.com/register to attend this important training.

**NRG TECHNOLOGY STAFF**

| Lonny Bosch | President |
| Cody Anderson | Systems Engineer |
| Dwight Driscoll | Service Coordinator |
| Travis Fandrich | Field Technician |
| Kendall Fey | Field Engineer |
| Jacob Fricke | Service Coordinator |
| Danielle Kraft | Accounting Assistant |
| Jeff McDowell | Systems Engineer |
| Erik McGurren | Security Analyst |
| Amber Schriock | Service Manager |
| AJ Snyder | Field Technician |
| Kay Ternes | Service Coordinator |
| David Weiland | Systems Engineer |
GIS Program Picking Up Momentum
Kaitlyn Bakken | GIS Coordinator

Since the program’s kick-off just a half year ago, the GIS Program has performed work directly for six counties while continuing to build on the data and mapping foundation that will help more counties take advantage of this program in the future.

Counties will definitely benefit from getting in on the ground floor, as we can offer more time and assistance to you now rather than later. Presently, we are working on a pilot parcel project for Ransom County. It is a perfect project to help us learn about their needs to better define opportunities we can offer other counties.

GIS technology offers so many opportunities in creating boundary maps for counties, school, emergency, zoning, etc. Many counties take advantage of GIS data to offer online maps with different layers for public use. The possibilities are endless.

Everything we create with our counties is completely at their discretion. Edits will be made in a timely manner and sent back for approval. Even if a county is just looking for assistance with questions, collaboration on a project or troubleshooting issues, we are here for you. The program is intended to assist with any GIS needs in your county.

Beginning in July, Kaitlyn Bakken took on the GIS Coordinator role here at NDACo. She is a Bismarck native and recent graduate from Bismarck State College, plus she has worked hard to build a repertoire of ESRI certifications and additional professional development hours through South Dakota School of Mines.

Kaitlyn found her niche in GIS because she’s devoted to helping people with all the many things this technology offers. She has a “can-do” attitude, so you probably won’t hear her say “no” very often. Since taking on the role, she has dedicated time to ensuring open lines of communication between the Association and county officials. She looks forward to participating in the Annual Conference and is eager to meet everyone in person!

9-8-8 Updates

On July 16, 2022, North Dakota joined the rest of the United States in beginning to use the 988-dialing code. 988 is the new three-digit number that connects people to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, where compassionate, accessible care and support are available for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress. In North Dakota, the 988 Lifeline is answered by FirstLink.

In the first week that 988 was active, Lifeline nationally saw an approximate 45 percent increase in volume from the previous week and an approximate 66 percent increase compared to the same week in 2021.

People can call or text 988 if they are experiencing thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crises, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

The Lifeline works! Since FirstLink began answering the Lifeline, it has served as an invaluable resource, helping thousands of people overcome suicidal thoughts or mental health-related distress every day. With the transition to 988, these life-saving services will be even easier to reach.

FirstLink will continue to answer the 2-1-1 Helpline for North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota for callers looking for information on community resources.
Fall is approaching quickly in North Dakota, which means schools are back in session and many young drivers will be driving to and from school and activities. To help prepare teen drivers for this high traffic time and the roadblocks they may encounter, Vision Zero and their partners hosted Driving Skills for Success (DSFS) on August 3rd at the VFW Sports Center in Bismarck for drivers ages 14 to 18.

Teen drivers in North Dakota in 2020 accounted for only 5% of all licensed drivers, but were behind the wheel in nearly 20% of the total crashes and 12% of fatal crashes. Vision Zero is helping North Dakota get closer to their goal of zero fatalities on North Dakota roads by educating young drivers and providing them with opportunities to enhance their driving skills.

DSFS allowed teens to participate in a variety of interactive traffic safety activities. Teens had the opportunity to drive through a challenging course with various obstacles, learn how to parallel park, and experience simulators focused on impaired and distracted driving prevention and the importance of wearing your seat belt.

A unique interactive tool that was available for participants was the SIDNE. SIDNE stands for Simulated Impaired DriviNg Experience. The SIDNE is a battery-powered go-cart that simulates the effects of impaired driving. The go-cart operates in two different modes: normal and impaired. In impaired mode, the go-cart reacts with delayed steering, braking, and acceleration, simulating the effects of a vehicle being driven by an impaired driver.

After the teens went through the course with the SIDNE, the Vision Zero Outreach Coordinators discussed what they experienced. Many teens lost control of the go-cart and crashed into obstacles when they were in impaired mode. What is interesting to see is the driver of the go-cart is slightly shaken up by the experience, but the passenger, who has no control of the vehicle, is more affected than the driver. The Coordinators spoke with the driver and passenger about how their choices can have consequences for life and emphasized the importance of never getting into a vehicle with someone who is under the influence of alcohol.

The SIDNE was just one of the many simulators at the DSFS event. Other simulators included the Seat Belt Convincer from the Dickinson Police Department, the Rollover Simulator from the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP), the Motorcycle Simulator from American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE), and the ATV Simulator from North Dakota Parks and Recreation. In addition, the North Dakota Safety Council (NDSC) hosted their Alive at 25 defensive driving course, which is designed to reduce the likelihood of motor vehicle crashes in young drivers. Teens also had the opportunity to learn how to back up a trailer, change a tire, and be aware of the dangerous areas around trucks and buses where crashes are more likely to occur.

With almost 100 participants and nearly 50 parents supporting their teens, the event was a huge success. A special thanks to everyone who helped make the Vision Zero DSFS possible, including the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), NDSC, NDHP, AAA – The Auto Club Group, Tires Plus, North Dakota Parks and Recreation, Ward County Sheriff's Department, Bismarck Police Department, Morton County Sheriff's Department, Dickinson Police Department, ABATE, the Vision Zero Outreach Coordinators, Vision Zero Outreach Program Director Ryan Gellner, and Carol Thurn from the NDDOT, who helped plan the event.
A lot of county employees work with or around hazardous chemicals. Of course, weed control and vector control employees certainly are among the first to come to mind, but cleaning and maintenance staff also regularly come into contact with and use chemicals, as well as employees involved in vehicle maintenance, and many others.

The purpose of hazard communication training is to ensure that employees are aware of the hazards of the chemicals found in their workplace so they can properly handle, store and transport these items, as well as properly protect themselves during normal use or upon accidental release.

One of the key components of hazard communication training is to ensure that all affected employees know how to read the labels on those substances, as well as understand the pictograms associated with those labels and the corresponding safety data sheets. Employees should be trained at the time of assignment to an exposed occupation, and refresher training should occur periodically. Of course, you can always contact me at the CEG for your Hazcom training needs. I can do training in person or online, or direct you to free web-based training programs.

There are 9 pictograms employees should be familiar with:

- **Health Hazard:** Causes serious health problems or death from chronic exposure such as cancer or reproductive toxicity.
- **Acute Toxicity:** Causes death or serious injury/illness with acute exposure. Think poison!
- **Environmental Toxicity:** Dangerous to the environment, especially if it gets into a water source like a stream or ground water. Kill fish, trees, etc.
- **Oxidizers:** Substance that can cause or contribute to a fire worse than exposure to air does. Acts as an accelerant in some cases, and makes fires harder to extinguish.
- **Explosives:** Makes things go boom!
- **Corrosives:** Causes skin or eye burns. Might react with certain types of containers. Strong acids and/or bases.
- **Compressed Gases:** Compressed gases can cause oxygen displacement, fires, explosions, and toxic gas exposure if stored or handled improperly.
- **Exclamation Mark:** This pictogram is kind of a catch-all for various health effects that don't warrant a health hazard or acute toxicity pictogram. Substances that are irritants, have harmful but not potentially fatal acute toxicities, and skin sensitizers will have this pictogram associated with them.
- **Flammables:** Substances which easily ignite or cause combustibles to easily ignite.

Labels for chemical containers must include the following information:

- **Name, Address and Telephone Number** of the chemical manufacturer, importer or other responsible party.
- **Product Identifier:** chemical name, code number or batch number. Must be the same identifier used on SDS.
- **Signal Word:** Danger or Warning. Danger is used for more severe hazards.
- **Hazard Statement(s):** Describe nature and degree of the hazard.
- **Precautionary Statement(s):** Describe recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects.

Again, this is a serious topic, so we encourage you to call on us with any questions.
North Dakota will need to invest more than $10.5 billion over the next 20 years to maintain local, township and tribal roads and bridges according to a study by the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University. That amount includes $6.5 billion for unpaved roads, $3.29 billion for paved roads and $715 million for bridges.

That’s an increase of nearly 14 percent over the estimates provided in a similar report released two years ago. The report was drafted at the request of the North Dakota Legislature. The Legislature will use the report as part of the formula to determine the distribution of funding to counties under the provisions of House Bill 1066, commonly known as Operation Prairie Dog. The legislation allocates up to $250 million of oil and gas tax revenue per biennium to infrastructure with $115 million designated to counties and townships.

The study is the sixth biennial local road investment need study conducted by UGPTI since 2010. “With each study we’ve improved the quality and scope of the data collected and the quality of the analysis methods,” explained Alan Dybing, a UGPTI economist and one of the researchers leading the project. “The intent is to provide the most comprehensive analysis of North Dakota’s local roads and bridges.”

During early July, UGPTI staff held meetings with local officials in Devils Lake, Valley City, Mandan and Watford City to outline statewide findings and to take input on refining data from townships and counties. A draft of the report and presentations from the meetings are posted at https://www.ugpti.org/downloads/road_needs/, and UGPTI researchers accepted public comments on the report until August 25. The report will be revised and delivered to the North Dakota Legislature once it is in session.

The study includes four primary components:

UGPTI’s traffic model evaluates and predicts truck traffic across the state. The model focuses on truck traffic because they cause the most wear on local roads and bridges, Dybing said. It uses agricultural- and oil-related data to forecast truck traffic over the next 20 years. Those predictions are compared and adjusted against 1,718 traffic counts across the state. Agricultural predictions are based on the nine most common commodities produced in the state, and information is drawn from elevator shipment data as well as from the National Agricultural Statistics Service satellite imagery and county average yields. For oil production, the model takes into consideration drilling, fracking and production, relying on data from the Oil and Gas Division and the Pipeline Division of the ND Industrial Commission.

The unpaved road analysis assigns maintenance costs based on traffic level forecasts from the traffic model as well as local costs for gravel and maintenance. Data on local practices and costs are collected from surveys administered to all 53 of North Dakota’s counties and approximately 1,300 organized townships. Dybing notes that the research team also relies on input from a steering committee of county road supervisors and a panel of township officers to improve the surveys and to provide insight on new and emerging practices for managing local roads. Cost to maintain local gravel roads for the next 20 years increased by about 7.3 percent over the previous study.

The pavement analysis predicts pavement deterioration and cost projections for resurfacing and reconstruction and is generated from road condition data collected from observations and input from county road departments across the state, according to UGPTI engineer Brad Wentz. UGPTI students drive 3,000 miles of county paved roads every two years, using a smartphone app that relies on the smartphone’s built-in accelerometer to detect variations in the road surface. UGPTI also developed a roadway image capture tool that uses smart phones to collect images of the roadway every 500 feet. The researchers use collected data and images to evaluate pavement distress and condition. Wentz notes that key information on county roads is submitted by counties via the Geographic Roadway Inventory Tool (GRIT) which provides information on pavement thickness and age, base thickness and type, subgrade strength, and shoulder type and width. The study shows about a 12.5 percent increase in costs over the previous study and is similar to increases in pavement maintenance, repair and reconstruction costs seen nationwide, Wentz said.

The Bridge Analysis considers the condition of the state’s local bridges and costs for maintaining bridges and replacing substandard bridges. The analysis factors in the condition of bridge decks, superstructures and substructures, notes UGPTI bridge engineer Kelly Bengtson. UGPTI’s bridge needs target takes into consideration the structural adequacy and safety, serviceability and essentiality for public use, and factors in scour and fracture critical ratings, use of timber materials and load postings. “We’ve broadened the basis for bridges that are in poor and fair condition for the new investment needs calculations in this study,” Bengtson said. In addition, this study includes steel and concrete culverts spanning more than 20 feet. All told, changes to the study parameters added 53 more bridges to the study as well as 17 culvert bridges. Cost estimates were calculated from bid reports and cost projections. In 2019, 56% of local bridges were rated as being in good condition. In 2022, that number dropped to 51%. The number of bridges rated in poor condition remained at 8%. During that same time, the cost to replace bridges has increased by about 25%.
State of the Counties

At this midpoint of 2022, NDACo finds itself in a position similar to many counties; budgeting at a time of economic uncertainty, putting new people in jobs long held by retiring officials (this includes me) and as our conference theme says, trying to get “Back to the Future.” By that, we mean getting back to the business of working toward a better future.

Speaking of looking toward the future, this November’s election will NOT include 35 commissioners and 29 other county officials who have chosen not to run. Even if all the incumbents on the ballot were to win, that is a lot of new faces across the state. We thank all those officials for their dedicated service, and we welcome all the new officials into the county family. By the way, counties are not the only ones seeing major changes. The legislature itself will be looking at a 20% plus turnover!

But with change comes opportunity. I am optimistic about our future together in the counties. I have seen how county people lean on each other, lift each other up, and work for the common good. Despite all that will be new and unfamiliar in the future, I believe that spirit will continue, and will help us meet the challenges ahead.

County Employer Group

For the purpose of “worker’s comp,” all county employees are covered together – rather than in 53 separate employers – saving money, time and administration. This model, called the County Employer Group (CEG) has been modeled in other states due to its success here.

CEG saves money and lives in three important ways:

1. Safety Training to prevent workplace injuries
   Over the past year, CEG trained over 7,000 employees on safety topics, ranging from the general - like lifting safely - to the highly specialized - like bloodborne pathogens. County employees in 27 counties received over 10,000 hours of safety training. While the pandemic prevented person-to-person training efforts, CEG more than made up for it, offering nearly 4,800 computer-based safety training courses - 800 more than in 2020.

2. Risk Management
   Fifty-six risk managers assist CEG with compliance issues such as investigations, inspections, reporting and injury prevention, among other duties, resulting in discounts of up to 17% in worker’s comp premiums.

3. Transitional Work Program
   CEG handled 306 claims in 2020 - a 23% decrease from 2019 - largely a result of COVID reducing the number of hours the workforce was on the job.

We’re proud that CEG’s indemnity claim (lost time) is less than half of the average cost of other North Dakota employers, according to ND Workforce. CEG is one of our earliest and most successful programs; a fine example of how we work for the good of all counties.

Human Resources Service

The HR Collaborative for Local Government continues to be an important element in NDACo’s HR effort. The statewide HR Conference was held in 2022 with nearly 200 participants in attendance. The Collaborative continues to work with local government partners, including NDACo and ILG, in providing HR training to its members. The online HR Reference Guide for Local Governments was updated in 2022; this resource is a great tool for government officials/department heads to understand many facets of human resources for government. You can find this resource, along with many others, at www.HRNDGOV.org. If you are new to local government or would like to stay connected on HR updates and guideline changes, please join the email group, which has over 400 subscribers. Go to the HR Collaborative website and click on JOIN NOW.

NDACo also provides specific HR consulting services for ND counties and related political subdivisions. HR services include, but are not limited to, updating employee handbooks, specific training in areas such as recruitment and selection, FMLA, sexual and workplace harassment, etc. Assistance can also be provided for Fair Labor Standards interpretations, writing job descriptions and consultation on specific HR issues and strategy. A networking group has been developed for the County HR Directors and can be accessed as a resource for guidance and direction.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Program

In the spring of 2022, NDACo launched the new GIS Program in response to a need in many counties. The program is designed to support counties with access to a qualified GIS resource and empower counties to get the most from GIS data. As with other NDACo programs, the GIS Program is envisioned not to replace county employees or vendor relationships, but as a support for counties to increase their usage of GIS data and GIS technologies. NDACo has dedicated one staff person to the program, although other staff with the appropriate expertise are available if needed. Six counties have already taken advantage of this new program, and we are excited to see what lies ahead.

Juvenile Justice Services

To assist counties with at-risk youth, the Division of Juvenile Services (a division of the ND Dept. of Corrections) contracts with NDACo to employ our state’s Juvenile Justice Specialist. This position is federally mandated by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. NDACo staff work with state and local officials on best practices and policies, administer federal funding and coordinate the activities of the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group provided funding to support a study of the state's juvenile justice system, which was conducted by the Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG). CSG’s findings and recommendations were incorporated into a bill draft (House Bill 1035) introduced during the 2021 Legislative Session. Passed with unanimous support, the bill will assist the state in aligning its various systems serving juveniles with policies and practices shown to improve outcomes for youth, helping them to become productive members of their communities.

In preparation for the implementation of House Bill 1035, three planning committees were created with the passage of another legislative bill (House Bill 1427). The planning committees will address:

1. Alternatives to juvenile detention
2. Youth, formerly known as status offenders and reclassified as Children in Need of Services, being referred to the Human Service Zones; and
3. Increasing community-based services.

The HR Collaborative has a number of resources to use in assisting counties with their HR needs and questions, including the online HR Reference Guide and HR Checklist.
While you might say everything we do at NDACo is a member service, there are certain activities that are designed solely to keep us in close touch with county officials – members – to be sure we are meeting their needs.

**Member Services and Communications**

NRG was created by NDACo to support all North Dakota counties with their IT needs. NRG’s owners are all North Dakota counties.

NRG works directly with the state’s IT department, NDIT, on issues that affect all counties, meeting with them to discuss the latest issues every six weeks. NRG was asked to present at the Cyber Security Interim committee meeting on behalf of NDACo. Dwight discussed the Cyber Security features provided by the State and the ability of Counties to help fund those features.

NRG’s Account Manager has been attending the County Tours with NDACo staff to spread awareness of the purpose of NRG and listen to feedback from all the Counties.

NRG’s President sits on the Criminal Justice Information Sharing Board and the State’s Cybersecurity Collaboration Committee. As resources become available, NRG purchases government bonds to help support local governments with financing their projects.

All Human Service Zones should now be using Microsoft 365, provided through DHS and NDIT, for email. They also have access to Teams for increased collaboration. NRG will send a representative to the Human Service Zone Director meeting to complement standardization and implementation efforts.

The tagline Stress-Free IT means their customers let them worry about managing their ever-changing and complex IT infrastructures.

**Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor**

The Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) is a joint effort between NDACo and the ND Department of Transportation (NDDOT). NDDOT funds the position through federal government grants, while NDACo provides the facilities and the equipment for the TSRP program.

In 2021-2022, TSRP trainers Aaron Birst and Kristi Venhuizen were involved in providing over 120 hours of training to more than 1,000 law enforcement officers and prosecutors. As much of the training is by necessity hands on, this represents more training hours but fewer trainees reached, an unfortunate but expected outcome of the pandemic.

NDACo continues to partner with the ND Department of Transportation in the Vision Zero Outreach Program.

The program now hosts four regional Outreach Coordinators who have been hard at work developing and maintaining partnerships, proving resources, and coordinating outreach activities to support communities to work toward zero motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries. In the past fiscal year, the Outreach Coordinators have conducted nearly 50 Impact Teen Driver presentations across the state, educating nearly 2400 North Dakota teenagers on the dangers of distracted and reckless driving.

The Coordinators have widespread partnerships in every corner of the state and continue to push the needle on the importance of traffic safety and safe driving.

The mission of Vision Zero relies on personal responsibility to obey traffic safety laws and is implemented through various strategies, including:

1. Widespread public education/outreach
2. Infrastructure/road safety improvements
3. High visibility enforcement of existing laws
4. Technology advancements
5. Working with the legislature to ensure state laws represent best practices in traffic safety

The strategy of Vision Zero is simple: to eliminate motor vehicle crash fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roadways.

**Next Generation 9-1-1**

The Next Generation 9-1-1 Program made some significant progress this past year including network upgrades at Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) to prepare for eventual delivery of video, images and data from 911 callers. It also kicked off a project with DCN to modernize the inbound networking from DCN’s member telecommunications companies from analog to digital.

In March of this year, the three-year grant from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ended. The federal grant program was instrumental in progressing GIS data management and maintenance services for our counties, supporting the purchase of a new 911 call recorder for statewide use and modernizing other 911 network infrastructure.

Looking forward to the future, the program is eying full completion of 911 GIS data for the end of 2022. Accomplishing this milestone is an important next step towards an end-state NG9-1-1 system and complete an effort which began in 2014.
**Financials**

NDACo 2022 Budget

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**Legislative Services**

Legislators held a special session in the end of 2021, which focused on redistricting and appropriating the state’s share of $1.2 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The greatest success for counties in the special session was the allocation of **$100 million in infrastructure funding** for roads and bridges, with townships receiving an additional $17 million. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the National Association of Counties, not only for working so hard to encourage passage of ARPA, but also helping counties deal with the money with confidence we’re handling it correctly.

During discussions on the redistricting plan, NDACo encouraged lawmakers to keep counties as whole as possible when looking at district boundaries.

While 2022 is an off-legislative year, NDACo’s legislative team has provided information to various interim committees that have been assigned studies to determine if legislation is desired to address particular issues for the 2023 Legislative Session.

The issue with the greatest impact to counties lies in the interim Retirement Committee where lawmakers are tasked with developing a plan to **restructure the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)**. They have concentrated their efforts on how to close the defined benefit plan and move to a defined contribution plan for new employees. Lawmakers are exploring options due to the unfunded liability of $1.5 billion for the main system. NDACo has provided input on this matter in relation to the impacts this decision will have on political subdivisions, and the team continues to follow the discussion closely.

In addition, NDACo conducted an extensive study on recruitment and retention of local law enforcement and provided the findings to the Government Finance Committee for their study. NDACo provided a number of potential options to help support the law enforcement workforce.

NDACo is also watching closely the progression of **"Prairie Dog" infrastructure funds.** The fund, approved by lawmakers in 2019, is expected to fill for the first time this biennium. Once full, $250 million will go to counties, cities and airports in non-oil producing areas.

For issues and preparations related to the 2023 Legislative Session, check out ndcounties.blogspot.com. We encourage you to sign up as a subscriber to receive email alerts.

**Board of Directors**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- **Carrie Krause**  
  President  
  Wells County Recorder
- **Steve Lee**  
  1st Vice President  
  McLean County Commissioner
- **Jayme Tenneson**  
  2nd Vice President  
  Nelson/Griggs County State’s Attorney
- **Trudy Ruland**  
  3rd Vice President  
  Mountrail County Commissioner
- **Stanley Dick**  
  Past President  
  Cavalier County Commissioner

**REGION REPRESENTATIVES**

- **Beau Anderson**  
  Region 1  
  Williams County Commissioner
- **Nick Moser**  
  Region 3  
  Cavalier County Commissioner
- **Steve Forde**  
  Region 4  
  Nelson County Commissioner
- **Mary Scherling**  
  Region 5  
  Cass County Commissioner
- **Becky Hagel**  
  Region 6  
  Foster County Commissioner
- **Lynn Brackel**  
  Region 8  
  Bowman County Commissioner

**MEMBER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES**

- **Val McCloud**  
  ND County Auditors Association  
  Rolette County Auditor
- **Wanda Knutson**  
  ND County Clerks of District Court Association  
  Mercer County Clerk of District Court
- **Dana Larsen**  
  ND Association of County Engineers  
  Ward County Highway Engineer
- **Kim Jacobson**  
  ND Human Service Zone Directors Association  
  Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director
- **Chad Kaiser**  
  ND Sheriffs & Deputies Association  
  Stutsman County Sheriff

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**

- **Marcia Lamb**  
  NACo Board Representative  
  Billings County Auditor/Treasurer
- **Perry Turner**  
  NACo Board Representative  
  McIntosh County Commissioner
- **Chad Peterson**  
  ND County Commissioners Association President  
  Cass County Commissioner
Rough Rider Industries (RRI) was established in 1975 as a division of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (NDDOCR). They employ incarcerated individuals to produce goods and services while preparing them to successfully reintegrate into society. RRI is completely funded by the revenues of their goods and services and uses no tax-payer dollars.

RRI can provide products and services such as:
- Office & Home Furniture
- Seating
- Ergonomic Solutions
- Signage
- Dumpsters
- Recreational & Park Equipment
- Lockers
- Plastic Trash Bags
- Upholstery
- Sewing
- Mattresses
- Correctional Facility Products
- Wellness Products
- Gifts & Engravables
- Custom Fabrication

Since RRI is a state source of supply, purchases can be made from them without a competitive procurement process for state agencies. Entities available to take advantage of their products and services include:
- State Agencies
- County Agencies
- City Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Tribal Agencies
- Schools & Universities
- Hospitals
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Churches
- Authorized Retailers & Wholesalers
- Certified Private Sector Partners

For more information about RRI and their products and services, go to www.roughriderindustries.com. For questions on products or services, contact RRI at by email at rri@nd.gov or by phone at 701-328-6161.

North Dakota Housing Finance Agency’s Statewide Housing Forum will feature an overview of the 2020-25 Statewide Housing Needs Assessment followed by panel discussions led by a range of experts, insiders and government officials who will provide their perspective on North Dakota’s housing trends and policy solutions to make single and multifamily housing more accessible.

Statewide Housing Forum Registration is Open

AGENDA Wednesday, October 5, 2022

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Registration and Check-In
8:00-9:00 a.m. Networking Breakfast
9:00-9:20 a.m. Opening Remarks
9:20-10:30 a.m. Future Forecasts of North Dakota
10:45-11:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Barriers
11:30-11:45 a.m. Awards Presentation
11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: Next Steps and Wrap Up
12:30-1:00 p.m. Box Lunch
1:00-3:00 p.m. Concurrent Stakeholder Sessions

Stakeholder sessions to discuss legislative action and other initiatives will round out the event.

Registration link is at www.ndhfa.org.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is your organization, representing counties in Washington, D.C., just as your state association represents you in the state capital.

Build a stronger county with NACo

Our goal is to engage members with resources to achieve healthy, vibrant and safe counties across the United States.
RELIABLE, PRODUCTIVE & EASY TO OPERATE

950 GC WHEEL LOADER

The Cat® 950 GC wheel loader is designed specifically to handle all the jobs on your worksite from material handling and truck loading to general construction and stockpiling. Great machine performance combined with the low owning and operating costs makes the 950 GC the right choice for your business.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 950 GC, AND OTHER MEDIUM-SIZED WHEEL LOADERS, AT BUTLERMACHINERY.COM
The Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) Coalition, a national public-private partnership led by North Dakota State University Extension, is making a big impact for soybean growers across the nation. SCN is the most damaging pathogen of soybean in North America and is adapting to the genetic resistance in most of the soybeans in the U.S. The objective of the SCN Coalition is to help farmers reduce their risk of yield loss by actively managing SCN.

Since its launch in 2018, the SCN Coalition has been mentioned in 753 online articles and generated 31 million potential impressions through agricultural media. Its "Let's Talk Todes" video series generated over 2 million views.

The coalition's messaging is reaching soybean growers, many of whom are implementing SCN management strategies. In a comparison of two national surveys of grower practices and awareness conducted in 2015 and 2020, the SCN Coalition found that the percentage of U.S. soybean growers utilizing SCN management strategies increased between 6% and 18%.

"Even the most conservative estimates show the increase of active management practices has likely saved U.S. soybean growers more than $100 million annually," says Sam Markell, NDSU Extension plant pathologist and a leader of the coalition.

The impact of SCN Coalition's campaign is due to the strength of its partnerships. Partners include dozens of companies, universities and soybean checkoff organizations, such as the North Dakota Soybean Council. These partnerships allow the coalition to leverage resources to make an impact in North Dakota and nationwide.

"A coordinated effort from many committed partners is starting to make a big difference for soybean farmers," Markell says.

The success of the NDSU-led public-private partnership has gained national attention. In May of 2022, the SCN Coalition's campaign earned a prestigious Silver Anvil Award in Issues Management from the Public Relations Society of America.

For more information, visit: www.thescncoalition.com.

Source: Sam Markell, 701-231-8944, samuel.markell@ndsu.edu

NDSU-led Coalition Advances Fight Against Soybean Cyst Nematode

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Source: Sam Markell, 701-231-8944, samuel.markell@ndsu.edu
The Turtle Mountain Kiwanis club will honor the work performed by Bottineau county and city plow drivers with their “Heroes Award. The drivers will be honored for leaving their families for hours on end as they kept our city and county roads open in extremely adverse conditions, during a nearly six-month winter season, that included massive blizzards and at least one major ice storm.

- Kiwanis Club News Release

A representative from the North Dakota Livestock Alliance, called Trail County leaders to toss their support behind a pilot program that could lure new livestock operations to the county. Amber Boeshans, NDLA’s executive director, told Trail County commissioners that the program, which mirrors an existing one in South Dakota, would help write a report that identifies spots in Trail and Ransom counties ideally suited for new livestock-related businesses. Boeshans and Ty Eschenbaum, a consultant who grew up on a row-crop and cattle farm in South Dakota, said the program could collect data available to the public and that information could be shared with groups like feedlots and meat-processing plants that may have an interest in Trail County. Eschenbaum said the report would benefit the Trail County Economic Development Commission as the organization attempts to recruit new agribusinesses to the region. Jim Murphy, TCEDC’s executive director, said Trail County stands to capitalize on its proximity to a proposed $400 million soybean crushing facility in Casselton, N.D., and a separate Fufeng Group corn-milling plant under consideration near Grand Forks.

- Hillboro Banner

After years of much discussion and consideration, the decision to bring a second daycare to McKenzie County has finally come to fruition. During its Aug. 2 meeting, the McKenzie County Commissioners approved $18 million for the construction of a second Wolf Pup Daycare facility in Watford City. “We get calls every day, every single day,” says Tesa Moberg, director of Wolf Pup Daycare of parents calling looking for daycare for their children. There’s no denying that there is a need for a new daycare in the county and with the commissioner’s recent decision, the project is now scheduled for completion by 2024. In the meantime, there will be the temporary accommodation of modular buildings that will open in the spring of 2023 as an alternative for children needing daycare. “The county is well positioned to deal with the big up-front costs of the building, but not as well positioned to deal with operating costs,” says Joel Brown, McKenzie County Commissioner. Brown noted that there is a possibility of the state providing financial relief for the shortfalls of daycare facilities around the state, but he expressed apprehension over placing too much reliance on it. According to Kathy Skarda, Commission Chairman, spending $18 million in county funds for a new daycare is a good investment. “I think we can make it work,” said Skarda. Skarda also expressed her hope that the state will create a program that will help fund the operation of daycares.

- McKenzie County Farmer

County leaders have banned solar power projects from coming into Emmons County for the next 15 years through an emergency moratorium on solar energy farms. The moratorium pertains to solar projects or any generation other than wind conversion exceeding 50 megawatts of power. It does not include individual property owners using solar power for their own use. The Emmons County Commission amended the ban from two to 15 years during the second reading of the resolution at its July 19 public hearing conducted at the Emmons County Memorial Auditorium. The resolution was unanimously approved, putting the resolution in effect immediately. About 15 people attended the public hearing, which was conducted by Commission Chairman Erin Magrum. Also representing Emmons County were Auditor/Treasurer Marlys Ohlhauser, State’s Attorney Joseph Hanson, and commissioners Leonard Weichel, David Kalberer, Don Eberle and Gary Hulm. The commission was initially prompted to act after a petition was circulated by county landowners who were approached by representatives of Savion in April. Savion is a solar energy company that met with several landowners to discuss leasing land for a proposed solar energy farm. The proposed solar farm would be located about eight miles west of Temvik on its north point and run up to five miles south if land leases could be secured. The company is hoping to lease between 3,000-5,000 acres of land for the project. The petition was signed by landowners who were part of the proposed “footprint” of the project, as well as those who own land nearby. The signers indicated they were opposed to the project for various reasons. Although Savion has not formally approached Emmons County about the project, Commissioners Magrum and Weichel attended the meeting between the company and landowners, which prompted Magrum to bring the petition and the landowners’ concerns about the project before the commission at its May 3 meeting. After discussing the existing zoning ordinance for Emmons County, the commission unanimously approved the first reading of a resolution administratively denying any conditional use applications for a solar energy farm in Emmons County for a period of 24 months. Magrum said the county has never received an application for a solar energy farm in the past and would have to research it extensively in order to protect public health, safety, general welfare and property rights for the citizens of Emmons County. Magrum reiterated that concept during the public meeting. “This (solar farm) is something new to the county, and it is obviously not something we can rush into without researching it for several years,” Magrum said.

- Emmons County Record

With a 4-0 vote, the Richland County Board of Commissioners is publicly giving its support to a new natural gas pipeline in Richland County, North Dakota. The vote, made Tuesday, July 19, calls for an endorsement letter from the commissioners. The commissioners are considering the “Wahpeton Expansion Project” proposed by WBI Energy, not to be confused with the Midwest Carbon Express carbon capture and storage pipeline. In March 2022, the commissioners unanimously approved a resolution officially opposing use of eminent domain by Summit Carbon Solutions for the Midwest Carbon Express project. “North Dakotas Industrial Commission is on record supporting a project to bring more natural gas to southeast North Dakota,” PrairiePublic Broadcasting reported earlier in July. (The Wahpeton Expansion Project) would run from Mapleton to Wahpeton, and would also serve Kindred. Approximately 60.5 miles of 12-inch diameter pipe would travel from Mapleton, North Dakota, to Wahpeton. As of July 6, the Wahpeton Expansion Project was before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The commission has not issued an update on the project as of Monday, July 25. In June, North Dakota Pipeline Authority Director Justin Kringstad said there is still much urgency to provide gas to eastern North Dakota. “I’ve been talking with some folks in the Red River Valley to find out who could use that gas, how timely it is and what type of volumes,” Kringstad told Prairie Public Broadcasting. “They key is getting all these parties aligned, so it can support a project of that scale. The urgency is certainly still there.” The natural gas pipeline would be built by Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) and WBI Energy, Inc., News Monitor previously reported. As of July 2021, it was expected to be constructed in 2024 and in service by year’s end. Southeastern North Dakota communities including Wahpeton need approximately 40,000 cubic feet of natural gas each day to provide uninterruptible service to existing industries, as well as have the capacity to add an additional like-kind industrial user according to a 2019 report on regional natural gas supply concerns reported on by News Monitor.

- News-Monitor

Effective September 1, Church’s Ferry will no longer be an incorporated community. On April 19 of this year, the mayor presented a petition for dissolution to the Ramsey County commissioners. The matter was voted on at the city’s primary election, where the result was five in favor of dissolving, one opposed. The legal requirements for dissolution of an incorporated city are outlined in ND Century Code Chapter 40-53.1. If dissolution is approved by a city’s voters, “the county commissioners shall, by motion and proclamation, set a date upon which dissolution will become effective and the city shall be dissolved, provided provision has been made for payment of its current indebtedness, contracts, and obligations, and for levying the requisite tax to do so.” In addition, public records of the dissolved city must be deposited with the county auditor.

- Benson County Farmers Press

It all started with a few local moms who saw a need for childcare in our community. That small idea of opening a childcare center has blossomed into jobs for 11 employees and childcare for 13 families and counting. The Little Bobcats board of directors is composed of Mya Ertelt, president; Jayla Smith, vice president; Liz Slater, secretary; Bob Herrington, member; and Lacey Bergrud, daycare director. We are also welcoming two new board members in the near future. As a board, we are proud to announce the movement of The Little Bobcats Daycare! On Sunday, July 10, the Little Bobcats Daycare finally moved into its permanent location in the Benson County Events Center. The Little Bobcats Daycare has been leasing the meeting room in the Maddock Community Center since opening in August 2021. When the original timeline of staying in that space until November was exceeded, the Little Bobcats board moved hell and high water to find a new home for the daycare. In December 2021, the daycare was finally able to obtain a lease agreement with the commissioners of Benson County. With a five-year lease signed at the beginning of 2022, the ball got rolling to find acceptable bids to start the renovation project to meet the state and local daycare requirements.

- Benson County Farmers Press
US Supreme Court Opinion: North Dakota v. E.P.A.

BISMARCK, ND – “North Dakota secured a landmark U.S. Supreme Court victory in one of the most important environmental and energy law cases in decades, firmly establishing the States’ role as an equal partner with the Federal government in regulating greenhouse gas emissions from power plants,” Attorney General Drew Wrigley said. “This is a tremendous victory for North Dakota and for every State.”

By its action today in North Dakota v. E.P.A., the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the 2020 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. that struck down U.S. EPA’s Affordable Clean Energy Rule, which improperly recognized the allocation of State and federal authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants under the Clean Air Act. The Affordable Clean Energy Rule had replaced the 2016 Clean Power Plan, which unwisely stripped States of their right and authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and imposed a draconian and centralized one-size-fits-all nationwide mandate that would have had devastating effects on North Dakota’s economy and citizens. Long before today’s decision, North Dakota played a leading role in persuading the Supreme Court to stop the Clean Power Plan in 2016, and today the Supreme Court rejected the D.C. Circuit’s effort to revive that flawed policy again.

Wrigley said, “Our victory in the U.S. Supreme Court shows that the D.C. Circuit stepped over the line when it allowed the EPA to ignore Congress and the States and transform EPA into a new national energy regulator.”

The Supreme Court’s decision is a victory for all States, Wrigley observed, noting that “North Dakota’s challenge focused on the fact that the D.C. Circuit’s Opinion failed to apply the Clean Air Act’s cooperative federalism approach establishing the partnership relationship between EPA and the States.” In other words – EPA could not make a policy decision to force States to shift away from coal generation without a technologically justified basis for doing so based in the Clean Air Act’s text. The Supreme Court adopted North Dakota’s position, stating that it found it “highly unlikely that Congress would leave to agency discretion the decision of how much coal-based generation there should be over the coming decades” and that “it is not plausible that Congress gave EPA the authority to adopt on its own such a regulatory scheme in Section 111(d)” of the Clean Air Act.

Wrigley added that “North Dakota supports practical, affordable and science-based regulations based on the Federal-State partnership established by Congress. The EPA can’t just do whatever it wants and use climate change as an excuse to take the law into its own hands.” Rejecting widespread media reports that this decision is a blow to climate change policies, Wrigley noted that “climate alarmists overlooked the fact that the nation’s power sector easily beat the aggressive greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the Obama-era Clean Power Plan well ahead of schedule without the unnecessary and unlawful centralized command-and-control overreaching regulation the federal government attempted in this case.” Wrigley concluded that this “shows that significant greenhouse gas emission reductions can continue to be practically and efficiently achieved without giving up our rights to unelected administrators and bureaucrats in Washington D.C.”

North Dakota Attorney General’s Opinions

These and all other Opinions issued by the ND Attorney General’s Office can be seen at: attorneygeneral.nd.gov/attorney-generals-office/legal-opinions.

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE REQUIREMENTS
Opinion #: 2022-O-07
Date issued: July 1, 2022
Issued to: Lake Region District Health Board
Requests: Did the Lake Region District Health Board violate the open meetings law by failing to properly notice a special meeting of a committee?
Conclusion: The Lake Region District Health Board created a committee to conduct interviews for the administrator position. All five people on the committee were board members. The committee held a special meeting by phone to discuss whether an applicant could continue to be a member of the county commission while serving on the board. The committee posted the notice on the board’s Facebook page and website, but did not post it at the principal office, provide notice to the official newspaper, or include the information necessary for the public to join the call. Therefore, the board violated the open meetings law.

Supreme Court Finds in Favor of Landowners

In the matter of Northwest Landowners Association v. State, et al., the North Dakota Supreme Court found in favor of landowners, striking down Senate Bill 2344 regarding “pore gas operators without surface owners’ consent or compensation is a per se taking.

A statute that strips surface owners of their right to possess, use, and exclude others from pore space within their lands and assigns that right to oil and gas operators without surface owners’ consent or compensation is a per se taking.

It is a fundamental principle that a statute may be constitutional in one part and unconstitutional in another part and that if the valid part is severable from the rest, the portion which is constitutional may stand.

42 U.S.C. § 1988 authorizes attorney’s fees to a prevailing challenger of a federal constitutional claim in state court against the state or a state official sued in his or her official capacity regardless of whether §§ 1983 and 1988 are expressly pled in the complaint.
Pipeline safety is no accident.
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Know what to do.
Know who to call.

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As hiring and retaining employees becomes more challenging, a great benefit package plays a major role in helping counties come out on top. That’s where the Nationwide 457 Deferred Compensation Program comes in.

The National Association of Counties (NACo), in partnership with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS), and state associations of counties (including North Dakota), provides county employees with a Section 457 Deferred Compensation Program. Since its inception in 1980, NACo’s Deferred Compensation Program has grown to become the largest supplemental retirement income program available to county employees. NACo Deferred Comp Program has helped more than 1.5 million county employees and retirees save for and live comfortably in retirement. More than 426,000 county employees from more than 2,900 county agencies currently participate in the Program, with accumulated assets of more than $28 billion.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**
- Helps public employees save for their future at no cost to their employer.
- Enables public employees to reduce current taxes.
- Institutes a systematic savings program for public employees.
- Automatic contribution deductions make it easy for employees to save.
- Contributions grow on a tax-deferred basis.
- Employees are 100% vested in their accounts.
- Retirement mobile app to see account balance, rate of return and retirement planning tools.
- Hands-on financial planning from retirement professionals at no added cost.

**EMPLOYER BENEFITS**
- Helps employers to recruit and retain high-caliber personnel.
- Usually less expensive to maintain than defined benefit plans.
- Flexibility in program design.

**Disclosure**
Securities are offered through Nationwide Investment Services Corp. (NISC) a registered broker dealer and a member of FINRA. Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) is a subsidiary of NISC. Retirement Specialists of NRS are Registered Representatives of NISC. NACo RMA and NACo RMA LLC are Registered Municipal Advisors and do not recommend the purchase or sale of securities and do not hold or maintain funds or securities. NACo RMA and NACo RMA LLC are NOT affiliates of Nationwide Investment Services Corp. or Nationwide Retirement Solutions.
I Voted Sticker Contest Wins National “Best in Class” Award

The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) has awarded its “Best in Class” award in the “Ceremony or Community Event” category to Donnell Preskey, NDACo Government Affairs Specialist for the “I Voted” sticker contest. The national association announced the winning entries in nine categories on August 25.

The contest was conducted statewide in 2020 with the winning sticker design by Hatton Eielson Public School 4th grader Khloe Brandon. The stickers were ordered by County Auditors and have been used in both primary and general elections since.

“I’m thrilled to accept this award on behalf of North Dakota’s County Auditors” Preskey said. “It was a great project to work on, bringing together County Auditors, teachers, and of course many very talented kids.”

The contest provided an opportunity for teachers speak about the election process. In some counties, auditors were invited into the classrooms to present on elections and their importance. This allowed for the chance to educate kids on county government and the role counties play in Elections.

Youth Placement
Continued from page 1

accommodate both populations;
- Due to the now small number of delinquent youth going into attendant care, an “on-call” stipend, or worker retainer, may be needed in order to have staff available at a moment’s notice when law enforcement needs to place a youth;
- DHS has determined that the first 24 hours of the placement of a CHINS youth in shelter care is a cost to be borne by local government until they are able to budget for the costs.

NDACo has been working to try to minimize the costs to local government, coordinating the development of regional MOUs, as applicable, and continuing to advocate for shelter care dollars through

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>BEHAVIOR</th>
<th>HANDLING</th>
<th>PLACEMENT (IF NEEDED)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unruly</td>
<td>Truancy, Ungovernable, Runaway, Tobacco Under Age 14</td>
<td>Referral to Juvenile Court</td>
<td>Attendant Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINS</td>
<td>Truancy, Ungovernable, Runaway, Tobacco Under Age 14</td>
<td>Referral to Human Service Zone</td>
<td>Certified Shelter Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent</td>
<td>An Act Designated a Crime Under Law</td>
<td>Referral to Juvenile Court</td>
<td>Attendant Care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Steve Forde
Continued from page 1

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who err, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”
North Dakota was well represented at the National Association of Counties Conference.

Cass County Administrator Robert Wilson moderated a session with two other panelists on the topic “Becoming an Employer of Choice: Leveraging Benefits to Attract Talent in a Tight Labor Market”.

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MATERIAL TESTING
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PROJECT FUNDING ASSISTANCE

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WATFORD CITY
NORTH DAKOTA

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### 2022 COUNTY CALENDAR

#### September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Meeting, NDSU, Fargo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Taxation Committee Meeting, Roughrider Room, Capitol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Judiciary Committee Meeting, Roughrider Room, Capitol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>ND Geospatial Summit, Prairie Rose Meeting Room, Bismarck Event Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Health Care Committee, Roughrider Room, Capitol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-22</td>
<td>ND Petroleum Council Annual Meeting, Rough Rider Center, Watford City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>First Day of Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>ND League of Cities Annual Convention, Alerus Center, Grand Forks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee Meeting, Roughrider Room, Capitol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Tentative – Budget Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Economic Development Association of North Dakota Fall Conference, Bismarck Ramkota Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Government Finance Committee Meeting, Roughrider Room, Capitol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>NDACo Annual Conference, Bismarck Event Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee Meeting, Prairie St. John’s Hospital, Fargo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tentative – Human Services Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>County Tour to Eddy, Foster, McHenry, Sheridan and Wells Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>Western Dakota Energy Association Annual Meeting, Rough Rider Center, Watford City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-22</td>
<td>National Retirement Security Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>Main Street ND Summit, Bismarck Event Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Wind, coal, oil, and gas are bountiful energy resources in North Dakota. They are all needed to grow and diversify our economy.**

Wind energy, located in 26 counties in North Dakota, is our most abundant and permanent natural resource – bringing new property tax revenue to counties.

In the past five years, wind energy has generated $42.5 million in property tax payments to local counties and pays landowners more than $19 million in annual lease payments.

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*According to an NDOE’s Department of Applied Science and Economics economic impact study, 2013.*

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