

Commerce



Hear About
"Prairie Grass Ballet"
Artist Owen Fritts

CALL
AND HEAR



(701) 712-9329

STOP 351#

DISCOVER
JAMESTOWN
NORTH DAKOTA

Get Fit
Explore



WWW.CHPSTUTSMAN.COM

WHAT SCHOOL
LOUIS L'AMOUR
ATTEND?
MINUTES WEST

FULL ROUTE
BACK OF SIGN

NORTH
Dakota
Be Legend

Commerce News

May 13, 2021



Engaging impacts

New American Working Groups



Commerce had a great meeting involving Valley-based New American organizations last week. This work will extend to Hispanic groups in the west. The three teams led by Commerce staff and private sector partners included:

- Finance and innovation
- Small business development
- Workforce development

Outcomes of the meeting included:

- Leverage existing programs more effectively
- Develop more effective private sector funding streams
- Create recommendations for future programming
- Engage in effective interaction and education

The workgroup will meet every three weeks through the end of the summer. The next meeting will be May 28.

Williston Economic Development Summit

Commerce staff participated in this year's [Williston Economic Development Summit](#). During Commerce's discussion, the team provided our agency's vision and resources that we facilitate to attract, retain and expand wealth.



<https://youtu.be/fs2X6jx1Y4k>

XL Cabinet Meeting



Commerce hosted the state's XL Cabinet Leadership meeting and highlighted how Commerce collaborates with multiple state agencies to support businesses and partners throughout the state..



North Dakota to restore pre-pandemic unemployment programs to address statewide workforce shortage

Gov. Doug Burgum announced this week that North Dakota will terminate its participation in the federal government's pandemic-related unemployment assistance programs, effective June 19, to help address the ongoing workforce shortage across the state.

“After fighting through severe stress and financial hardship, many North Dakota businesses that survived the pandemic are now facing an unprecedented labor shortage as they attempt to recover,” Burgum said. “These federal unemployment programs were meant to supplement state benefits and provide short-term relief for displaced and vulnerable workers, and these programs have accomplished their goals but are now counterproductive. Safe, effective vaccines have been available to every adult in North Dakota for months now, and we have an abundance of job openings with employers who are eager to hire.”

North Dakota had 16,396 online job openings in April, which was nearly 50% higher than the same period in 2020 and represents the state’s largest number of online job openings since July 2015, according to Job Service North Dakota.

[Read more](#)

RFF launches to aid restaurants, bars, food trucks and other food and drink establishments

Restaurants, bars and other small businesses offering on-site food and beverages are vital to our communities and economy. From big cities to small towns, these restaurants and bars offer communities a place to gather, celebrate and share ideas. They also employed nearly 12% of all workers prior to the pandemic. Despite their importance, restaurants and bars have suffered severely during the pandemic. The leisure and hospitality sector, which includes restaurants and bars, had 17% fewer jobs this April than in February 2020.

Leisure and hospitality added 331,000 jobs in April, by far the most of any industry and more than it added in March – there is still more work to do to help this critical sector recover. Established through the American Rescue Plan, the Biden-Harris Administration recently launched the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) – a program to aid restaurants, bars, food trucks and other food and drink establishments.

These grants will give restaurants and bars the flexibility to hire back workers at good wages. In the first two days of the program, 186,200 restaurants, bars and other eligible businesses in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and five U.S. territories applied for relief.

This month, the administration is sending the first grants under the program to 16,000 hard-hit restaurants. These include restaurants in states and territories throughout the country and restaurants owned and controlled by women, veterans and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

[Learn more](#)

Recent stats for hospitality grants announced

Commerce has successfully adjudicated all submitted Hospitality Economic Resiliency Grant (HERG) round two applications. Final stats are:

- Submitted: 400
- Completed: 400
- Awarded applications: 316
- Total amount awarded: \$4,471,863.12
- Denied applications: 84
- Total denied amount: \$9,029,321.27

Applications are still processing for the Hospitality Economic Resiliency Grant PLUS. Current stats are:

- Total award amount in process: \$1,057,283.66
- Submitted: 68
- Completed: 66
- Awarded: 38
- Total amount awarded: \$793,516.87
- Denied applications: 28
- Total amount denied: \$2,979,097.80
- Applications currently in process: 2

Additional grant opportunities will be announced later this spring.

[Check back for updates here](#)



2021 Governor's Photo Contest for Travel and Tourism kicks off

Gov. Doug Burgum and the North Dakota Tourism Division, in partnership with AAA of North Dakota and North Dakota Council on the Arts, have

launched the 2021 North Dakota Governor's Photo Contest for Travel and Tourism.

The contest celebrates the talents of North Dakotans and the appeal of our wide-open spaces and community spaces where we follow our curiosity, not the crowds. The contest is open now through August 31, 2021.

"The Governor's Photo Contest for Travel and Tourism provides an opportunity to capture images of our state's vibrant communities, outdoor adventure and scenic beauty while also showcasing North Dakota as a great place to live and work." - Gov. Doug Burgum

Photographers can submit photos to one or more of the following categories: Road Trips, Recreation, Wildlife, Badlands Scenery, Beyond Badlands Scenery and Main Street ND.

One winner will be selected in each category and a \$200 cash prize will be awarded to the photographer of each selected photo. Additional honorable mentions may be selected in each category, with photographers receiving \$50 and North Dakota merchandise. A Best in Show photo will be selected from the winning photographs, and the photographer will receive an additional \$300 cash prize and a one-year basic membership to AAA

[Learn more](#)



ED&F

Burgum joins ADM in announcing soybean crushing plant at Spiritwood

Gov. Doug Burgum joined ADM in announcing plans to build North Dakota's first dedicated soybean crushing plant and refinery in

Spiritwood. The \$350 million crushing and refining complex will create 70 permanent jobs and have the capacity to process up to 150,000 bushels of soybeans per day. It's expected to be completed prior to the 2023 harvest, according to ADM.

"This soybean processing plant is a gamechanger for North Dakota farmers, adding value and expanding the market for this important crop closer to home while also supporting the production of products such as renewable green diesel right here in North Dakota. Now, with innovative leader ADM and collaboration with local economic development and multiple state agencies, this exciting value-added project has come to fruition. We're deeply grateful for ADM's investment in our state and our highly productive farmers as well as the tireless efforts of so many who helped make this happen, including the Office of State Tax Commissioner, the Jamestown/Stutsman County Development Corp., North Dakota Department of Commerce, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford, the state Legislature and our entire congressional delegation." - Gov. Doug Burgum

Read more

Marketing-Tourism

New visitor services center unveiled at the Chateau de Mores in Medora



State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson and Commerce Tourism-Marketing Director Sara Otte Coleman at the new visitor center's unveiling.

Commerce and the State Historical Society of North Dakota unveiled a new concept for expanded services for visitors at the Chateau de Mores Visitor Center in Medora.

With the interest in safe and worry-free travel throughout rural areas increasing due to the pandemic, North Dakota has an opportunity to provide improved visitor services without investing in expensive visitor centers found in most other states.

“By better leveraging existing infrastructure and staffing in place, the state can elevate the Be Legendary brand and provide valuable referrals to tourism and hospitality businesses which were the most impacted of all industries by COVID-19.” - Commerce Tourism and Marketing Director Sara Otte Coleman

The collaborative effort involving North Dakota Tourism, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, North Dakota Department of Transportation and North Dakota Parks and Recreation would apply our culture and values by reinventing government and working as one. This site is the first in the state to provide personal service, updated state branding and access to statewide promotional materials.

“The State Historical Society and North Dakota Tourism share a great many things in common and by working with each other we can broaden the net and extend the wonders of North Dakota to a wide audience. This project is a win, win and win.” - State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson

[Read more](#)

Community Services

Community Action Awareness Month commemorates CAPND's role in reducing poverty and securing opportunity for all North Dakotans

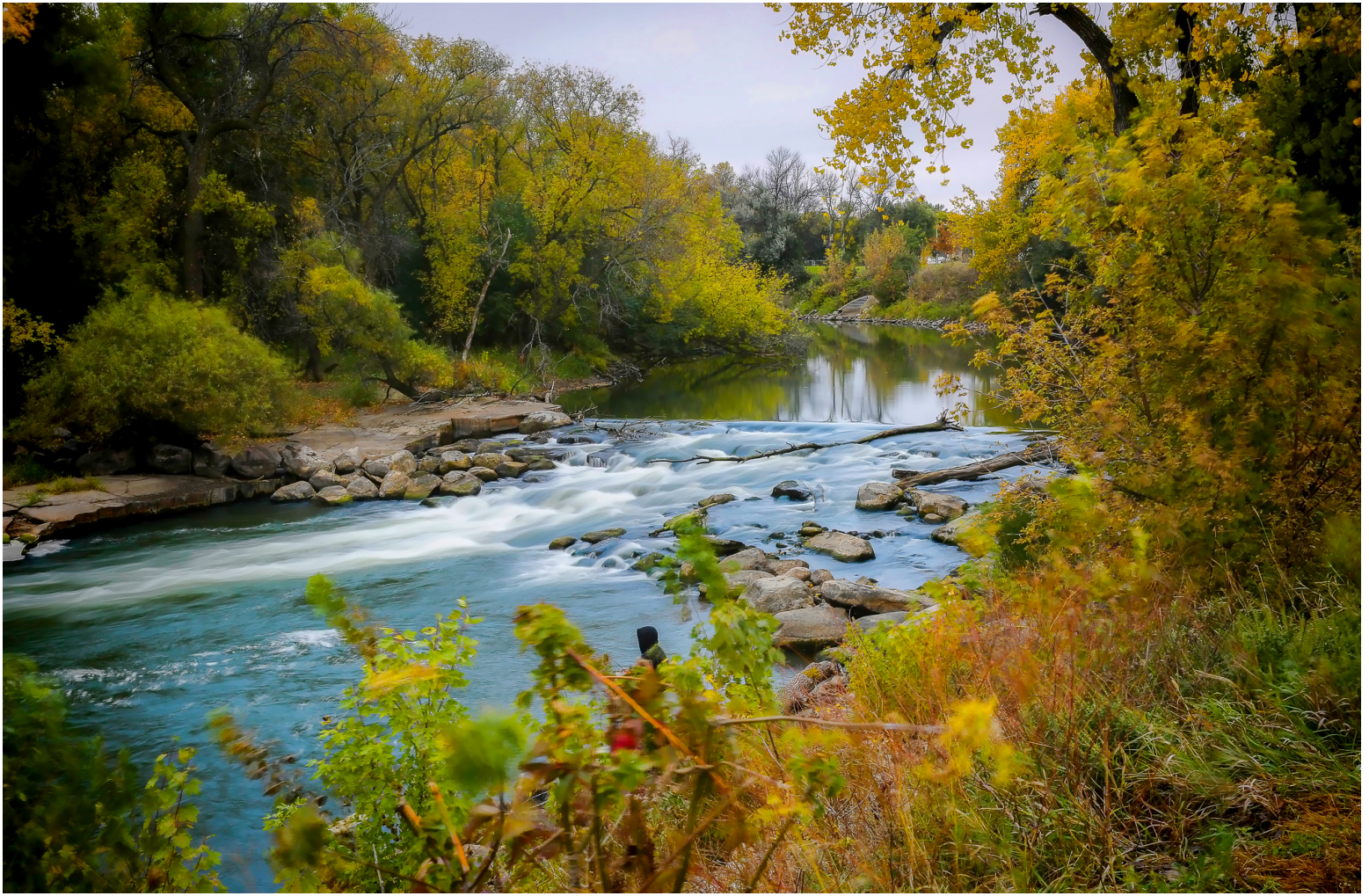
The North Dakota Department of Commerce today extended gratitude to the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota (CAPND) in commemoration of Community Action Awareness Month.

“Community action agencies serve an imperative role in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability and community revitalization. On behalf of Commerce, I would thank the agencies and all their members for their dedication to improving the lives of our residents.” - Commerce Division of Community Services Director Bonnie Malo

By combining local, state, private and federal resources, CAPND has helped North Dakotans break the cycle of poverty and achieve self-sufficiency for more than 50 years. Today, the partnership has seven

locations statewide dedicated to providing services, including, but not limited to, housing and emergency assistance, child and adult care, food programs, energy assistance programs, prevention programs and veteran support services.

[Read more](#)



In the News



[Commissioner James Leiman says Grand Forks tech accelerator reflects a "microcosm of our state"](#)



[KX Conversation: Sen. John Hoeven on new soybean crushing facility coming to North Dakota](#)



[LIVE: Year of the road trip](#)