

The Ranch Hand

Volume 45, Number 2

Spring 2026

“Under the guidance of the Catholic Church, provide a safe home for all youth who have experienced physical or emotional trauma, where every act is done with love to help them discover the dignity of the human person and learn the skills to manage life’s challenges.”

Badlands Learning Center update

There’s lots of noise and excitement happening at Home On The Range. Even strong winds and rain didn’t slow down construction at the Badlands Learning Center, Home On The Range’s nonpublic school. The crew is currently working on an addition to the school.

The addition will include two classrooms, offices and bathrooms, an independent living skills center and kitchenette, a sensory room, and a space for outdoor activities and eco groups.

Home On The Range opened Badlands Learning Center in June 2024. The boys and girls take online classes through the Center for Distance Education. The children can take these courses at their own pace, and if they finish a course, they can take additional courses. BLC is a private GED testing site, where students can take GED courses and tests. The school is open year-round and has a flexible schedule. School staff include an Education Director, a special education teacher, and four learning coaches.

Since the school’s opening, HOTR has seen tremendous success in the student’s academic achievements. In 2025, BLC had 65 students. These students passed 158 total classes for 79 academic credits. Some of the youth worked on their GEDs and passed 27 GED finals, with six students earning their GED diplomas. One hundred percent of students at BLC for 30 days or more, passed at least one class.

Laura Feldmann, HOTR Executive Director, stated, “We are so excited to see construction crews on campus. A year ago, we started talking about the addition and we had no idea how successful and well received it would be. People have really stepped forward and want to be involved. Our residents are excited about having bigger classrooms. It’s all been very exciting and rewarding. We appreciate all the support we have received.”

Construction will continue all summer and throughout the fall, with a tentative move-in date in January or February 2027. Progress photos and updates will be posted on HOTR’s facebook page, just search “Home On The Range.” If you would like to support our capital campaign, just send a personal check to Home On The Range with “school” in the memo line, or donate online at www.hotrnd.com.



HOTR Ranch Hand

Official Publication of
Home On The Range



Fr. Elwood Cassidy, Founder



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Financial Support

HOTR does not receive direct financial support from the Bismarck Catholic Diocese. Care rates charged for services cover approximately 75% of the actual cost. The remainder must be raised through gifts, grants, our agricultural operation, fundraising events, and investments.

Financial Statements Available

A copy of the most recent HOTR financial statement is available to persons or organizations upon request. Please contact our business office at (701) 872-3745.

Member:

Association of Children's
Residential & Community Services



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Meet Cooper!

Cooper is roughly 4/5 years old. He is an Italian Greyhound mix. He is up to date with his shots and is neutered. The kids at HOTR are working on crate and place training, the treadmill, healing and loose leash walking, sit, and down, along with a variety of other fun challenges to improve his confidence and focus. He spends some time also in our K9 staff's office during the week. Cooper is a happy dog, and is eager to train and work with the kids. He is great with people and kids, but would prefer to not live with cats, as his instincts kick in and he wants to chase them. He is available for adoption!

If you are interested, please contact Brittany Williams at 701-872-3745, ext. 7120 or by email at brittanyw@hotrnd.com



2026 Dakota Scramble golf tournament

Thank you to
our 2026 Dakota
Scramble
corporate sponsors!



Thank you to our 2026 Dakota Scramble
hole sponsors!



Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match Celebrates 70 years of Rodeo Action

The Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match is celebrating its 70th anniversary! This PRCA Xtreme Bronc event is expected to draw thousands of guests and fill the hillsides. The rodeo committee has been working hard to make the 70th anniversary a special celebration for guests, cowboys, and stock contractors alike.

The weekend kicks off with a rodeo Calcutta on Friday, July 31, at the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame's Alvin Nelson Memorial patio in Medora, ND. The event is free and open to the public. A meal will be served at 6:00pm, with the Calcutta following immediately after. This Calcutta auctions off the 32 names entered in the Champions Ride. If you can't make it Friday, a second Calcutta will be held Saturday during the intermission of the main event, auctioning the names of the top twelve cowboys who earned their way to the short-go.

Gather your friends and family and come have some fun!

Saturday's event begins at 11:00am, with live entertainment. The Grand Entry kicks off at 12:30pm. Special guests this year is President Theodore Roosevelt, portrayed by Joe Weigand. He will be speaking about his time living in North Dakota and his vision for preserving the western culture. The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard, along with Miss Rodeo North Dakota and her royalty, will salute and welcome everyone as we celebrate and honor the 250th anniversary of the United States.

New to the program this year is the Bill Smith "Excellence in Bronc Riding" award. A custom-made bronze trophy will be presented to the cowboy who earns the most money across four Xtreme Bronc matches: the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale, Jordan Xtreme Broncs, Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match, and the Brad Gjermundson Xtreme Bronc Riding. Bill Smith was a three-time World Champion Saddle Bronc rider and won the Champions Ride Match in 1968.

The Champions Ride Bronc Match takes place on Saturday, August 1, at the Open A Angus arena at Home On The Range, near the town of Sentinel Butte, North Dakota. There is plenty of hillside seating on both sides of the arena, but bring your lawn chairs and come early to get a good seat. Concessions will be available. Tickets can be purchased at Home On The Range or online at hotrnd.com. Gates open at 11:00am MDT.

70th Annual Home On The Range

CHAMPIONS RIDE

Saddle Bronc Match
at the Open A Angus Arena

★★★★★ ★★★★★

AUGUST 1 ~ 1:00 PM MDT

GATES OPEN AT
11:00AM
GRAND ENTRY AT
12:30PM

CONCESSIONS
AVAILABLE

FESTIVAL-STYLE SEATING
LIMITED HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
PARKING



2025 Champion
Zac Dallas
on J Bar J's
Hell on Hooves
90 pts

16351 I-94
SENTINEL BUTTE
INTERSTATE 94, EXIT 7

LIVE CALCUTTA
JULY 31 AT 6:00PM
ND COWBOY HALL OF FAME
IN MEDORA
AND DURING AUGUST 1
PERFORMANCE AT HOTR

FOR MORE INFO OR TICKETS, CALL 701-872-3745 OR GO TO:

HOTRND.COM

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John-Michael Lander visits Home On The Range

Laura Feldmann, Executive Director, shared this letter from John-Michael Lander, a nationally known speaker, survivor and advocate for trafficked victims, who visited Home On The Range in May.

“I am not able to find the words to even begin to say thank you for the opportunity to visit Home On The Range. Please share my gratitude to everyone I had the chance to meet. On my way home, I kept thinking how my life could have been altered if I had such loving and supportive people like your staff.”

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with deep respect, admiration, and gratitude that I offer my wholehearted support for Home On The Range and the extraordinary work they are doing to transform the lives of children and families who have experienced profound trauma and hardship. I had the honor of visiting Home On The Range and sharing part of my personal story as a survivor. I can honestly say the experience changed me. What I witnessed on that campus was not simply a program or facility, it was healing in action. I saw compassion woven into every interaction with the use of horses and dogs, dignity restored through every act of care, and hope rekindled in young people who desperately needed to know they mattered.

Home On The Range does not treat children as cases to manage; they treat each child as a human being worthy of love, safety, healing, and opportunity. Their commitment to individualized care and emotional restoration is both inspiring and life changing.

Under the guidance of the Catholic Church, Home On The Range provides a safe home for youth who have experienced physical or emotional trauma, where every act is done with love to help them discover the dignity of the human person and learn the skills to manage life's challenges. Their philosophy is rooted in service to children and families, leadership in childcare, and the conviction to help create a healthier and stronger world.

What deeply moved me was their unwavering belief that healing is possible. Through compassion, truth, justice, forgiveness, mercy, and faith, they help young people rebuild trust, develop self-worth, and prepare for a successful future. Their innovative therapeutic programs, commitment to professional excellence, and stewardship of every resource demonstrate an organization fully devoted to restoring lives.

Home On The Range also serves children and families regardless of race, color, creed, religion, or national origin, reflecting the belief that every child deserves dignity, protection, and the opportunity to heal. Home On The Range is desperately needed in our world today. They are not simply changing individual lives; they are changing generations. But this vital work cannot continue without the support of compassionate donors, organizations, and communities willing to invest in healing and hope.

I wholeheartedly encourage individuals, businesses, faith communities, and organizations to support Home On The Range through donations, partnerships, and advocacy. Your support directly impacts children and helps provide the safety, care and guidance they need to reclaim their future.

Home On The Range is a place where brokenness meets compassion, where wounded children rediscover hope, and where lives are forever changed. I am honored to stand in support of this remarkable organization and all those who make its mission possible.

With gratitude and highest regard,

John-Michael Lander

Survivor | Author | Speaker | Advocate | Founder, An Athlete's Silence

www.anathletessilence.com



Spiritual Program update

Here at Home On The Range, we continue to be committed to sharing the truth of the Gospel and leading the youth here to Christ. Recently, we had a bible camp that consisted of several fun activities for our youth to participate in. We also brought in guest speakers to lead worship and minister to the youth. One of these speakers spoke about David and the challenges he had to overcome as a youth and a young man so he could accomplish what God was preparing him to do. The speaker encouraged the youth in overcoming their own addictions and turning to Christ and walking through life as men of God. As a result, some of the youth made the decision for the first time, that they wanted to follow Christ. Other youth responded by seeking prayer for their own addiction, generational addiction, and other unique struggles they are currently going through. Would you please join us in prayer as we continue to share the love of Christ with the youth at Home On The Range.

Dear God,

Thank you for being a mighty God, who is greater than any addiction or struggle. Please be with the youth at Home On The Range and bless them. Help them to overcome their own addictions and be the key to breaking generational addiction in their families. Please also help them work through and overcome any other challenges they are facing and help them to recognize You and to desire a personal relationship with You.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.



2026 Shamrock Project is a big success!

Thank you to the North Dakota Knights of Columbus, councils and families for the generous donation from the 2026 Shamrock Project. They raised more than \$26,000 for our programs and services!



Home on the Range was honored to serve as the charity of choice for Eagles Dakota State Madam President Janine during her term as President. Through her dedicated efforts, she visited numerous Eagle clubs across the state to raise both funds and awareness for our mission. Her travels and fundraising efforts resulted in a \$5,000 grant and raised more than \$25,000 for the youth we serve.

Pictured at left: Laura Feldmann, HOTR Executive Director, DSMP Janine Anderson, and Jolene Obrigewitch, Development Director

Thrivent Choice® Support

In 2025, Home On The Range received \$1,970 through the Thrivent Choice® program — and that's worth celebrating! Thrivent Choice Dollars strengthens communities, and we're grateful for the impact it has made for our children. Be sure to direct your 2026 Thrivent Choice Dollars® before March 31, 2027. And, please keep Home On The Range in mind—we are so thankful for your support.

For more info or to direct Choice Dollars®, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." or visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

thrivent®



HOTR Ranch Hand
Home On The Range
16351 I-94
Sentinel Butte, ND 58654
(701) 872-3745
<https://hotrnd.com/>

***Our website has a new look!
Check it out at:***

www.hotrnd.com

Upcoming Events

Champions Ride Calcutta

Friday, July 31, 2026 at 6:00pm

ND Cowboy Hall of Fame in Medora, ND

70th Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match

Saturday, August 1, 2026

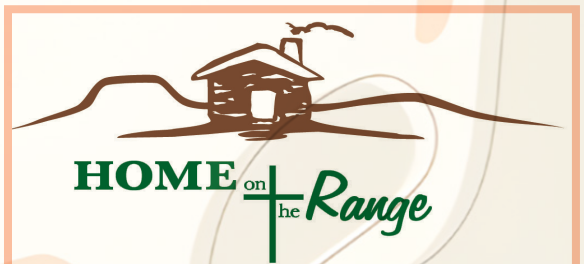
Open A Angus arena at Home On The Range

Interstate 94, Exit #7

Grand Entry starts at 12:30pm

Rodeo starts at 1:00pm

Home On The Range is on Facebook and Instagram! Become a fan by searching for “Home On The Range” and “Home on the Range Champions Ride Match” and stay informed of our events and activities.



Our organization provides a therapeutic ranch environment for boys and girls who are disadvantaged, neglected, problematic, predelinquent and delinquent. Children of all races, creeds, and colors are served at our facility located in Sentinel Butte, North Dakota.