

## Tribal Summit to host

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peaceful demonstrations and leadership that are founded in prayer," said Leander "Russ" McDonald, United Tribes Technical College president. "Our mission as an educational community within the city of Bismarck is to help our students recognize the importance of tribal sovereignty and leadership. We have an historic learning opportunity taking place right before us."

Discussions at the Tribal Leaders Summit will result in the formation and adoption of resolutions that guide Indian policy-making in the region and throughout the country, according to McDonald.

"One of the main purposes of the tribal summit is for leaders to arrive at consensus about policies and remedies for addressing issues," McDonald said. "Those raised by the pipeline — such as protection of water resources for all people, preservation of cultural sites and working fairly and equitably with tribal governments — are vitally important issues in Indian Country and throughout the nation."

The evening pipeline discussion is open to the public at no charge. The public is also invited to an entertainment show featuring Native comedians James and Ernie at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 7 and to the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony at 5 p.m. Sept. 8 at the North Dakota Heritage Center.



WILL KINCAID, TRIBUNE

Lottie Lutgen, center, protests across the street from the state Capitol in Bismarck earlier last month. Lutgen and others were rallying in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline crossing under the Missouri River north of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

# Divide County preparing for a youth movement

Over the past decade, Divide County, like many Bakken communities, has experienced an evolution. New businesses,



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For Bakken Breakout Weekly

homes and public infrastructure are a sure sign of the change happening in the county's towns.

"Our populated area in Divide County is Crosby," KayCee Lindsey, Community Development Director, Divide County, said. "We also include the communities of Noonan, Ambrose, Fort Tuna and all of rural Divide County."

During \$100 oil, it was very difficult to drive down Main Street, especially if one wanted to cross traffic, according to Lindsey.

"There were a lot of trucks, extended cabs so it was almost single lane traffic down Main Street," Lindsey said.

In addition to the heavy traffic, Divide County experienced a full RV park, which temporarily increased the population resulting in a need for more services.

"We had a group of investors put up a new motel and within the next year after they built it they did a 24 unit addition on to that," Lindsey said.

In addition, the local Blue Line hockey group put together a community center project that was focused on accommodating conferences or large groups of people, but also would serve as a new ice and curling facility.

"The existing facility was over 50 years old and becoming very dilapidated," Lindsey said.

The city even got into the entrepreneur game and purchased some land across from Highway 5 for future development purposes. They have since subdivided the land and put it up for sale.

"We still have a lot of that acreage still for sale for commercial purposes and for future residential," Lindsey said. "Right now Farm Credit Services is the only business in that development by the highway, but there is a lot more to come."

Downtown Crosby saw some commerce construction recently with the local hardware store expanding. Lindsey

said the hardware store built a new facility about twice as large as his existing facility.

"Then we had Napa come into the hardware store's former facility. So we gained a new business," Lindsey said. "We've just kinda been growing, it has been happening on its own with a little guidance and it has been nice."

Now Divide County has slowed down and is experiencing a slower, steadier pace — which is a mixed bag. Some are enjoying the slower pace, while others long for the steady stream of consumers and roustabouts.

"I think we are more stable now in a holding pattern," Lindsey said. "I know a lot of the businesses are seeing that in their finances and it is hurting them a little bit, but they are still open and are doing what they can to progress."

Currently the city is undergoing a huge infrastructure project replacing sewers and repaving streets and sidewalks in town, Lindsey said. The majority of this spending is due to the Surge Funding the state of North Dakota allocated to the oil and gas producing counties.

"It has been huge for the community. It has been a bit of a disaster this summer but it will be well worth it," Lindsey said. "They've gotten the sidewalks done on Main Street and they just starting paving, so it will be really nice when it is all done. It's been a work in progress for sure."

Another municipal project underway is the courthouse, which is expanding. Lindsey said the reason for the expansion is largely due to the growth of the departments and services that have been needed and are required by the county.

"We had to displace the health unit out of the courthouse and into another building temporarily while we are building the addition," Lindsey said. "They'll come back after that addition is up and running. Sounds like the walls will be going up for that in September."

She added the county also has hired a full time state's attorney.

One addition to the community that certainly made a splash was their new water attraction. Lindsey said the new splash pad has been a boon and the city and park board should be commended for opening the splash pad this past spring.

"It's right next to our swimming pool and reuses the water with a state of the art filtration unit, so it doesn't waste water," Lindsey said.

According to Lindsey Divide County's school enrollment has increased over the

past five years and seems to go up every year. However, this year the enrollment seem to have stabilized.

"The kids that the school has lost have been replaced and seem to be around that 200 mark for the elementary students," Lindsey said. "But it looks as if they are not losing any students, which is a good thing."

Crosby and Divide County are certainly looking towards a future with young families, according to Lindsey. She said the area believes focusing on the future generations and attracting and retaining the young families will be the secret to their long term success.

"You can see by the school enrollment that it has gone up substantially and stayed stable that there is a need for daycare," Lindsey said.

The past few years the county has tried some different avenues with day care projects attempting to build a center, but those have come and gone. Finally the Economic Development council worked with the Crosby Kids Day Care board and they are working towards building a 7,200 square foot facility that will be able to house 92 children.

"They are still fundraising on the day care project. They have about \$250,000 they are still working towards out of a \$1 million dollar project," Lindsey said. "That project has been a huge public-private partnership. The city has agreed to put in about \$400,000 into that project and there are some state grants and other area grants."

Lindsey added the groundwork is already done and the steel walls are up. The project is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year and they will try to occupy it by the beginning of 2017.

"We have a lot of young families in the area and they continue to have children," Lindsey said. "To have an opportunity for them to have a place for their children to be cared for is phenomenal."

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