

The Intentional Tourist
by Jarrod McCartney
December 28th, 2022

I would like to take a break from my regular format and simply celebrate the community and express my gratitude to everyone who helps make it work. Many of you have been doing this work for decades and I fear we tend to start taking that effort and commitment for granted. I want to take some time and thank legacy businesses like Village Pharmacy, The Palace Lounge, the Gary Thompson Agency (now GTA Insurance Group), Williams Funeral Home, and lawyers David Garwood and Don Theobald for their consistent support of the community and their willingness to adapt to a changing rural economy. Without these cornerstone businesses and professionals there'd be nothing for Heritage Tourism to try to build on. And the same also needs to be said for the agricultural community and related businesses, without which the town would not exist.

I'm also thankful the City of Red Cloud and the services it provides. Being a Council member is often a thankless job, but they are vital stewards of the community's resources and ensure that all the voices they represent are heard. I'm also thankful for the City workers, R&M Disposal, the Red Cloud Fire Department and all first responders. They all provide the community with basics like clean water, trash removal, safety, electricity, beautiful parks, and the comfort of knowing that someone trustworthy will be there to help you during an emergency no matter the circumstances. I'm extremely grateful for the City and NDOT workers whose tireless efforts in grueling conditions ensure that we're inconvenienced as little as possible by snow covered roads or a power outage. Thank you to everyone who makes sure our cars run, our homes stay heated, our plumbing works, and that we have good things to eat. I'm also thankful for the caregivers and professionals at the hospital, local clinics, and assisted care facilities that help our families and loved ones in times of need. The same goes for the volunteers who ensure that kids get to have presents under their Christmas trees and a hot meal to eat and make sure that everyone who needs help can get some.

I'm thankful for Mike Goebel and Brad Frey. Seeing the energy they and others are bringing to reviving local veterans groups is inspiring as is their determination to honor the legacy of Donald Stratton. When I see what they're doing, what Todd & Lisa Mahin have been doing with their businesses, the work going on at Dennis & Sally Hansen's buildings, what Amy Springer is doing with her properties, what Dan and Amber Conway did to their building, and the thousand small battles each and everyone in this community is fighting through each day it reminds me that many hands make light work and that community development is so much more than what we're doing at Heritage Tourism. Thank you to everyone who makes this town what it is. I wish you nothing but success in 2023 and I am proud to be a small part of what makes Red Cloud work.