

Gen. George C. Meade

Bear Butte

# Meade County News

PROVIDING NEWS FOR: Sturgis and Meade County, including Faith, Union Center, Red Owl, White Owl, Enning, Howes Corner, Mud Butte, Fairpoint, Plainview, Elm Springs, Box Elder, Piedmont, Summerset, Marcus and Maurine and everything in between.



Sturgis Scoopers

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VOL. 1 ISSUE 4

Sturgis, SD Thursday June 11, 2026

Live & Online

## The countdown To The 86th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Has Begun

Brandon Bennett

news@MeadeCountyNews.com  
STURGIS— The countdown is on as Sturgis prepares to welcome riders from around the world for a celebration of motorcycles, freedom, and America's 250th anniversary.

The 2026 Rally, set for Aug. 7-16, carries the theme "America 250," honoring the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It's a fitting theme for an event built on freedom, adventure, and the open road.

"This year's Rally is about celebrating what brings people to Sturgis year after year – freedom, friendship, patriotism and the chance to experience rides on some of the most beautiful roads in America," said Sturgis Mayor Rod Bradley. "As our Nation marks 250 years of independence, there's no better place to celebrate that spirit than right here in the Black Hills."

The festivities actually begin on Wednesday, Aug. 5, with the annual Police Chief's Ride, led by Sturgis Chief of Police Geody VanDewater.

The ride offers participants a chance to get Rally-ready while exploring some of the Chief's favorite highways and byways through the Black Hills. Along the way, riders will make several stops and enjoy opportunities to visit with Chief VanDewater and fellow officers, both past and present, who share a love of motorcycles and the camaraderie that comes with them.

"It's a relaxed ride and a chance to connect with people before the Rally really gets rolling," VanDewater said. "Whether you're a first-time visitor or someone who's been coming to Sturgis for decades, you quickly find out that the friendships made here are just as important



Governor Larry Rhoden and wife Sandy were on hand for the 2025 Sturgis Rally Mayor's Ride. Facebook Photo

as the ride itself."

The Rally officially begins with the Opening Ceremony on Friday, Aug. 7, where riders from across the country and around the world will gather to celebrate the start of another unforgettable Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and pay tribute to America's 250th birthday.

Then on Saturday, Aug. 8, riders can take part in one of the Rally's most cherished traditions – the 24th Annual Mayor's Ride.

Led by Mayor Bradley and 2026 Grand Marshal Tim Duffy, the ride showcases the beauty

of the Black Hills while raising funds for local Sturgis charities. For many participants, the Mayor's Ride has become an annual reunion, bringing together friends from across the nation who return year after year to share the experience.

"There's something special about riding through the Black Hills with people you've known for years and people you've just met," Bradley said. "That's the magic of Sturgis. It reminds us that motorcycles have a way of bringing people together, no matter where they're from."

This year's ride will feature

Duffy, a retired FDNY fire-fighter and 9/11 survivor whose life story reflects the resilience, courage and service that have long been part of the American story. Duffy's connection to the motorcycle community and his message of perseverance make him a fitting ambassador for a Rally celebrating America's 250th anniversary.

As riders gather in Sturgis this August, they'll not only celebrate another year of the world's greatest motorcycle rally, but also the enduring ideals that have shaped the Nation for two and a half centuries.

From the winding roads of the Black Hills to the friendships formed around campfires and Legendary Main Street conversations, the 86th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally promises to be a celebration of freedom, community and the American spirit.

Here are the links to Eventbrite registrations for the rides:

Police Chief's Ride: <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../2026-police-chiefs-ride...>

Mayor's Ride: <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../24th-annual-sturgis-mayors...>

## Sturgis Ambulance Director Aden Schillig Resigns

Brandon Bennett

news@MeadeCountyNews.com  
STURGIS – The City of Sturgis announces the resignation of Sturgis Ambulance Director Aden Schillig, effective June 12.

Schillig submitted his resignation to City Administrator Aaron Jordan on June 8 after accepting an opportunity that will allow him to continue advancing his career in emergency medical services.

In his resignation letter, Schillig expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Sturgis community and reflected on the progress made by the ambulance service during his tenure.

"Serving as the Ambulance Director for the City of Sturgis has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career," Schillig wrote in his letter of resignation. He noted significant improvements in billing processes, policies and procedures, clinical protocols, and education and training programs that have strengthened the department's ability to provide high-quality emergency medical care.

City Administrator Aaron Jordan thanked Schillig for his leadership and service to the community.

"We appreciate Aden's dedication to the Sturgis Ambulance Service and the positive impact he has had on the organization," Jordan said. "His efforts have helped position the service for continued success, and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

To ensure continuity of operations, the city has appointed Bryson Kool to serve as Interim

Ambulance Director.

Kool has been a dedicated member of the Sturgis Ambulance Service since October 2021 and has played an important role in managing the department's electronic patient care reporting system, scheduling and payroll functions, and daily operations.

As a paramedic and Shift Supervisor, he oversees daily operations, coordinates staffing, and helps ensure the highest level of patient care. Kool is skilled in Advanced Life Support interventions, including airway management, cardiac monitoring, IV therapy, and medication administration.

In addition to his frontline responsibilities, he plays a key role in training and mentoring new EMTs and paramedics and

serves as an instructor for CPR, ACLS, and PALS certification courses.

In his resignation letter, Schillig described Kool as a respected leader who has demonstrated professionalism, strong leadership, and a commitment to the service.

"Bryson has earned the respect of his colleagues and has already taken on significant responsibilities within the organization," Jordan said. "We are confident in his ability to provide steady leadership as we move through this transition."

The City will begin evaluating long-term leadership options for the ambulance service while working to ensure uninterrupted emergency medical services for the Sturgis community and surrounding area.



(L), Aden Schillig, Sturgis Ambulance Director who has resigned to take another position. (R) Bryson Kool, interim Ambulance Director

## City of Sturgis to Host Public Open House for Safety

STURGIS — The City of Sturgis invites the public to attend an open house for its Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan.

The meeting will be held at the Sturgis Community Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 11. Community members may stop by at any time during the event.

The Safety Action Plan focuses on reducing fatal and serious injury crashes across Sturgis for people walking, biking, and driving.

At the open house, attendees will be able to:

1. Review key findings from the project
2. See proposed safety improvements across the city
3. Share feedback

No formal presentation is planned. Attendees are encouraged to stop by at any time during the open house to review information, ask questions, and speak directly with project team members.

Over the past several months, the project team has

worked with the community to understand safety concerns and identify priorities.

This has included an online survey, pop-up events, and focus groups. Common themes included pedestrian safety, difficulty crossing major streets, sidewalk gaps, and concerns near schools

Crash data and community input have helped identify priority areas for improvement, including Lazelle Street, Junction Avenue, Ballpark Road, and the downtown area.

The draft Safety Action Plan was delivered in May, with final adoption anticipated this summer.

This open house provides an opportunity for the public to review the proposed recommendations and provide input before the plan is completed.

The SS4A program is a federal initiative through the U.S. Department of Transportation that provides funding to help communities improve roadway safety and reduce serious crashes.



SAFE STREETS FOR ALL

## The Meade 46-1 School Board held a Hearing on the 2026-2027 Budget at its Meeting June 8.

Brandon Bennett

news@MeadeCountyNews.com  
Business Manager Brett Burditt layed it all out.

"We've spent a lot of time over the last six months discussing numbers and budgets and there's some key factors and points influencing the numbers we've been sending to you," he said. Burditt said they would look at

the general fund, capital outlay, special education, debt service fund, enterprise fund and

proprietary funds. The general fund depends on state aid and enrollment to determine its revenue stream that

drives the budget. The district has taken a three year look at enrollment where in 2025 there

were 3,029 students and this year there's 2,948 and in 2027 it's projected the district could have 2,875.

"So with the property tax and state aid being less, we're receiving less to take care of these students," said Burditt. Property taxes play into the equation. The legislature

lowered owner occupied levies for home owners, the state will need to kick in more

funding in state aid for the general fund. This year the district will transfer \$450,000 from capital outlay to the general fund to balance the budget. General fund expenditures are projected

to be \$24,662,285 before attending. K-12 instruction takes 54%, operations and maintenance is 15% support and staff services is 20% and student transportation and

Budget Contd. A2

# Discussion Between Meade, Faith School Boards Continue On Reorganization

**Brandon Bennett**  
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STURGIS --During the Superintendent's report at the Meade 46-1 school board meeting June 8,

Superintendent Wayne Wormstadt told the board he's been in talks with the Faith 46-2 district about reorganizing so Faith could possibly assume control over some central Meade County schools.

"What we've discussed is that this proposal must benefit the Faith school district but also not harm what remains of the Meade school district if this were to take place", said Wormstadt.

He pointed out that the general fund revenue net needed to run the rural schools based on 2024-2025 numbers is actual expenditures minus the overhead from the district business and Superintendent's offices is about \$700,000 and capital outlay would need to be transferred to the general fund for all rural schools east of Sturgis to make that a break even point.

So they met with Faith's business manager and superintendent along with board members Justin Jutting and Lee Spring.

Additionally they talked with the South Dakota Department of Revenue how the tax base using agriculture valuations would be calculated for reorganization to take place. Owner-occupied and business valuations were not included because it's such a small percentage..

"The land valuations in order to do this would have to be 99 percent ag land. So then we found out from the Department of Revenue we have an interesting caveat. We thought this should be easy, we can look at this, figure it out, but.."

They had to go back to 2015-'16 when they changed the state aid formula and they take the valuation at that point and calculate the growth rate forward all the way to 2026 payable.

This gave the group about \$117 million in ag valuations

## Budget Contd. from A-1

co-curricular takes up the rest.

The purposes of capital outlay are maintaining facilities, purchasing curriculum and technology and serving debt obligations.

This year we will transfer from capital outlay to support the general fund and combined with moving property insurance to capital outlay fund.

These two items result in the finance committee and the business manager's once recommending increasing the capital outlay levy to the maximum determined by the South Dakota legislature.

"If you look at our capital outlay budget, 45% goes to debt and then we take another million and move it around. There isn't much left at the end of

which isn't the right number. They just gave the basis for the \$700,000 that had come up with. So they went back to the DOR and asked what would the number for 2026 need to be to generate that in ag valuations. So at 2.45 mills it's \$297 million in valuations and would generate \$730,000 in revenue to cross fund to make this work. Wormstadt added this was about equal to the \$700,000 used for the general fund in 2024 to make the rural schools whole.

The district then looked at owner-occupied and business valuations and decided that small amount didn't justify using those valuations.

Wormstadt stated the Faith school district had this information and will decide if they want to move forward as well as the Meade school board.

If both boards decide to move forward, they both have 180-270 days to come up with a plan that would then be submitted to the South Dakota Department of Education. The DOE has 60 or 90 days to approve the plan or give another plan. Given no kinks arise, the plan must be approved by voters of both districts.

The schools that would primarily be involved are Central Meade County School, Hereford, Elm Springs and Opal.

Board President Justin Jutting stated that there have been rumors about this and a couple rural patrons heard the district wanted to keep CMCS and Hereford and let Opal and Elm Springs go.

"Those discussions haven't happened yet, even though Mr. Wormstadt has had them. Lee and I went to Faith, and talked with them and we continue to have discussions with Mr. Wormstadt added what are we doing, where are we at, is this feasible. But at no time we there ever a discussion about getting rid of this and keeping that," he said.

He concluded by saying they're all just looking for a fit for rural students and whether it's with the Faith school district or the Meade schools remains to be seen.

the day when we actually start looking at facility improvements, curriculum, updating technologies and transportation costs" he said.

The special services budget is 90% personnel related with \$6.8 million being the number.

Recruitment and retention is going to require the district to be competitive in the job market when it comes to hires without impacting the budget. The district levies the minimum amount in this fund.

Bottom line, Burditt told the board it's crucial that cost control be a practice.

The budget outline is on the Meade 46-1 school board website.

<https://docs.google.com/.../19UqhScyVsy3.../edit...>

Thank you to Superintendent Wayne Wormstadt for his assistance.

# Meade 46-1 District Reveals Facilities Plan

**Brandon Bennett**  
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The Meade 46-1 school board heard of the Master Facility Plan for the fiscal years 2027-2029

The Meade School District 46-1 is dedicated to maintaining facilities that support and enhance an effective learning environment for our students. This plan provides a three-year outlook at the projects and improvements that the Meade School District 46-1 will be preparing to implement in the Capital Outlay Budget.

Please note that these numbers are estimates and may change with time and economic variables.

Sturgis Brown High School Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost 2026-2027 West gym doors, East gym locker-room & training room, electrical system A&E 143,000

2027-2028 Roofing, Electrical system upgrade, HVAC \$900,000

2028-2029 LED lighting, Roofing, windows \$700,000 SBHS CTE Addition Project \$25,000,000

Sturgis Williams Middle School South/Williams North Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2026-2027 Electrical systems upgrade \$240,000

2027-2028 Roofing \$235,000

2028-2029 Interior improvements \$75,000

Stagebarn Middle School Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2026-2027 interior improvements \$20,000

2027-2028 Multi-purpose room door \$60,000

2028-2029 Parking lot addition \$350,000

Sturgis Elementary Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2026-2027 Phase III roof replacement, playground improvements \$419,000

2027-2028 Replace gutter, Interior improvements \$100,000

2028-2029 Replace East fence, interior improvements \$105,000

Whitewood Elementary Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2026-2027 Security fence playground \$35,000

2027-2028 Playground improvements \$TBD

2028-2029 HVAC, Interior improvements \$TBD

Piedmont Valley Elementary Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2026-2027 Roof replacement \$550,000

2027-2028 Playground improvements \$325,000

2028-2029 HVAC, Interior improvements \$105,000

Woodlee Field Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2026-2027 Field improvements \$1,300,000

2027-2028 Bleacher addition \$TBD

2028-2029 TBD \$TBD Building & Grounds/ Central Copy

Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2027-2028 Roof replacement central copy \$65,000

2028-2029 Facility upgrade/ vehicle storage TBD

Rural Facilities Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2026-2027 Exterior improvements/CMCS playground \$35,000

2027-2028 Water filtration CMCS, playground improvements, interior improvements \$100,000

2028-2029 TBD \$TBD School Security Improvements

Fiscal Year Project Description Estimated Cost

2026-2027 District wide improvements \$125,000

2027-2028 District wide improvements \$125,000

2028-2029 District wide improvements \$125,000

The general fund depends on state aid and enrollment to determine its revenue stream that drives the budget. The district has taken a three year look at enrollment where in 2025 there were 3,029 students and this year there's 2,948 and in 2027 it's projected the district could have 2,875. "So with the property tax and state aid being less, we're receiving less to take care of these students," said Burditt. Property taxes play into the equation. The legislature lowered owner occupied levies for home owners, the state will need to kick in more funding in state aid for the general fund. This year the district will transfer \$450,000 from capital outlay to the general fund to balance the budget. General fund expenditures are projected to be \$24,662,285 before amending. K-12 instruction takes 54%, operations and maintenance is 15% support and staff services is 20% and student transportation and co-curricular takes up the rest.

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## Wanting to Advertise in the Meade County News?

The Meade County News is up and running; open to serve you and is inviting business to participate.

You can help support providing truly local news in the county and community by become an advertiser. Tell the readers about your products and services and the News will help you sell.

Ad rates are \$8 per column inch.

Each printed page is 10" wide and 20" tall, or 5 columns X 20" tall (a full page is 100 col. inch) and a full page ad would cost \$800; 1/2 page \$400; 1/4 page can be 5 col.x 5" tall or 3 col. x 8.33 inch tall) any total of 25 col. inch.

1/8 page would be 25 column inch for \$100; 1/4 page \$50; and business card size ads 2 column wide by 2" tall 4 col. inch for \$32

\$8 is starting price and discounts available.

## Roy Thomas Shaw, 76

Roy T Shaw of Sturgis, South Dakota, passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 3, 2026 at his home. He was born on June 12, 1949 in Sturgis, SD to David J and Zola M Shaw. Growing up in the small town of Red Owl, SD, he was known as Roy Thomas to all.

Roy Thomas started his education in a one room school house in Red Owl. When it was time to attend high school, he had room and board in Sturgis during the week and home to Red Owl on the weekends, where he learned about mechanics from his dad by taking "gines" apart and putting them back together!

His Dad, David said he was a genius! His pet raccoon, Molly, was a helper by stealing nuts and bolts and hiding them. His pal, Old Pup, was always by his side or riding his Vespa with him. He might have been out after dark hunting rabbits too! RT graduated from Sturgis High School in 1967. He attended Black Hills State University in Spearfish.

Immediately after high school graduation, RT married Sheila McVay and they ventured to Covina, California where RT worked at DateX/Conrac Corp for 3 years. South Dakota was calling them home so they came back to Red Owl/Sturgis.

RT and Sheila recently celebrated 59 years of marriage. Together they raised two daughters, Michelle Tech and Stephanie Musilek. Three grandsons were added to the family, David Musilek, Grayson Tech and Jonah Musilek. RT loved his grandsons more than anything! He taught a strong work ethic, sense of humor, compassion, and many other life lessons.

The best way to describe RT's work life was entrepreneur. He was self-employed much of his career and was a risk taker who found success in nearly every endeavor. His occupations included owning a TV & Appliance store, selling insurance and real estate, teaching at Vo-Tech, managing and owning campgrounds.

RT played an important role in the growth and development of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally over several decades. Alongside Gary Lippold, he designed, built and operated the Sturgis Dragway.



He ran the All Harley Drags for several years, attracting some of the fastest, biggest names in the motorcycle race world. He managed Glencoe Camp Resort and owned and operated Hog Heaven Campground. He was involved in short track and half mile races with the Jackpine Gypsies Motorcycle Club, helped establish the National Motorcycle Museum and served in numerous volunteer and leadership roles that supported both the rally and the Sturgis Community.

RT was a Past Master of the Olive Branch Masonic Lodge in Sturgis, Naja Shriner and a member of the Scottish rite. He loved to hunt, fish and camp with family and friends, including fishing trips with buddies to Canada, pheasant hunting, and catching fish on the Missouri River from his boat.

He loved cars, motorcycles- basically anything that had an engine. His prize possessions over the years were a '55 Chevy, '64 Chevy Malibu, 442 Olds, '46 Plymouth street rod that he rescued from a hay field and Single Jim's Harley.

RT was a "people person" who loved to laugh, tease and work hard. He was also very active in the community, serving on several boards and mentoring young people, in which he found much satisfaction.

Survivors include his wife, Sheila (McVay) Shaw, daughters, Michelle Tech and Stephanie Musilek, son-in-law Tony Musilek, grandsons David Musilek, Grayson Tech and Jonah Musilek, sister Connie (Chuck) Braden, sister-in-law Janet Mattern, brother-in-law Don (Rita) McVay, several nieces and nephews and many treasured friends.

RT was preceded in death by his parents, David and Zola Shaw, his in-laws, Leonard and Alta McVay, and maternal and paternal grandparents.

Visitation was from 5:00 until 7:00pm Wednesday June 10 at Kinkade Funeral Chapel in Sturgis. Funeral Services will be 1:00 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Sturgis. Burial will follow at the Piedmont Cemetery.

Please join the family for a celebration of RT's life at the Sturgis Brewing Company immediately following the committal service.

You may sign his online guestbook at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

**MEADE COUNTY YOUTH SOFTBALL**  
**100 ALL STARS**

<b>PAISLEY BARR</b>	<b>KINLEY SCHMID</b>	<b>RILEY PIKE</b>
<b>EVERLEE WHELAN</b>	<b>JOSIE HAGER</b>	<b>KENDYL MILLING</b>
<b>BELLE LAWSON</b>	<b>CHANDLER HURT</b>	<b>ADLEY SCHMID</b>
<b>ELLIOT PROCTOR</b>	<b>PAIGE ROBINSON</b>	<b>KINLEY JARRELL</b>

**COACH: ERIC WHELAN**  
**ASSISTANT COACH: JASON SCHMID**

**Kinkade FUNERAL CHAPEL**

ABOUT US - OBITUARIES - FUNERAL PLANNING - SERVICES - RESOURCES - CONTACT - LIVE STREAM

Welcome To

**Kinkade Funeral Chapel**

Providing funeral services to Western South Dakota and the greater Black Hills Region.

Kinkade Funeral Chapel has been a South Dakota Corporation since 1992 and joined with an employee-owned group of South Dakota and Wyoming funeral directors called Pioneer Enterprises at the end of 2020. We are proud to serve Sturgis and the surrounding Black Hills Area since 1967.

Marlowe and Helen Kinkade purchased the Kinkade Funeral Chapel from Harold Anderson and John Stingley in 1967. Before that time, the chapel was operated as the Anderson-Stingley Funeral Home since the early 1900s.

## Attorney General Jackley Honors Those Graduating Friday From Basic Telecommunicator Certification Course

PIERRE— South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley congratulates the 16 students who graduate Friday from the state Basic Telecommunicator Certification Course held in Pierre.

“Every day, 911 telecommunicators are the calm voice in the moments of emergency situations,” said Attorney General Jackley.

“Without them, law enforcement and first responders could not do their jobs.”

Graduation completes the two-week course for the students who represent 11 different law enforcement or communication centers statewide.

The course includes training and hands-on exercises on issues such as public safety telecommunications, how to respond to questions from the caller, how to handle both emergency and non-emergency calls for service, and how to prioritize multiple incidents happening at one time.

Instructors are staff from the State Division of Criminal

Investigation’s Office of Law Enforcement Training, which is part of the Attorney General’s Office; experienced 911 telecommunicators from across the state, and public safety stakeholders.

Friday’s graduation starts at 3:30 p.m. CDT in the George S. Mickelson Criminal Justice Center in Pierre. Chief Deputy Attorney General Brent Kempe is the keynote speaker.

Members of the 81st session of the Basic Telecommunicator Certification Course and their law enforcement organization are:

- Addison Besler, Meade County Sheriff’s Office
- Macie Black, Metro Communications
- Jasmine Burch, Fall River County Sheriff’s Office
- Grace Campbell, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office
- Kaylen Crandall, Roberts County Sheriff’s Office
- Eric Elsberry, Bon Homme County Sheriff’s Office
- Amy Fleischhacker, Huron Department of Public Safety/



- State Radio
- Mathew Fritsch, Clay Area Emergency Communications
- Kerrigan Hoelsing, Clay Area Emergency Communications
- Carissa Oien, Roberts County Sheriff’s Office

- Sheriff’s Office
- Sidney Overbay, Huron Police Department
- Sidney Robinson, University of South Dakota Police Department
- Kayla Scholl, Lake County

- 9-1-1 Communications
- Jewelia Siegler, Roberts County Sheriff’s Office
- Amity Wilde, Meade County Sheriff’s Office
- Christopher Williams, Brookings Police Department

## Meet Casey Baldwin, New Planning and Permitting Officer

**Brandon Bennett**  
news@MeadeCoNews.com

STURGIS— The city of Sturgis finally has a new Planning and Permitting Officer, Sturgis resident Casey Baldwin.

Casey grew up in eastern South Dakota and attended Southeast Technical Institute where she received an associate’s degree in architectural engineering.

She spent some time designing sprinkler systems and moved West River about 12 years ago doing the same type of work. She and her family have lived here since then.

When the Planning Department opening became available she decided to try it for something different.

She will need to receive certifications to completely qualify for the position but she’s up to the task.

“I’ll be taking some online courses and in-person training for testing, and just learning the ropes. But having a pretty broad construction background, working with my dad, I was drawing house plans when I was four years old,” she said.

She’s hitting the books to learn ordinances and building

codes.

Baldwin is excited for the changes for herself and the city with regard to the next development coming. Public Works Director Rick Bush is looking forward to Baldwin working alongside him as he prepares her for her role.

“Casey brings a lot to the position since she has experience drawing up plans and

managing projects and people so I think it’s a great fit,” he said.

Bush added it will 12 to 16 months to get her qualifications taken care of and in the meantime she will go out in the field with him.

Part of the department equation is working with people, P&Z and inspections and she’ll keep working on the book aspect as well.



Casey Baldwin

## Hey Sturgis! Mark Your Calendars!

STURGIS—

We are less than two weeks from our annual History Days event. This year’s theme is “The History of Schools in Meade County.”

It is part of an ongoing research project on all the schools, country and town, in Meade County.

There will be a couple of days full of booths, programming and country school tours.

Please check out the link and schedule below.  
<https://sturgishistory.com/history-days-2026/>

### Schedule of Activities

Friday, June 12, 2026

- 5:00 pm – Event Booths Open – Gymnasium, Sturgis Community Center
- 6:30 pm – Round Table Discussion: “Memories of Education in Meade County” – Meade Room, Sturgis Community Center
- 8:00 pm – Round Table Concludes

Saturday, June 13, 2026

- 9:00 am – Booths Open – Gymnasium, Sturgis Community Center
- 10:30 am – First Speaker, Betsey DeLoache: “Country Schools: Past and Present – Meade County” – Theater, Sturgis Community Center
- 11:25 am – Presentation of Friend of History Award – Theater, Sturgis Community Center
- 11:30 am – Second Presentation, Jim Holland & Mark Rambow: “A Timeline of Sturgis School” – Theater, Sturgis Community Center
- 12:30 pm – Boxed Meals Available – Meade Room, Sturgis Community Center

Special Off-Site School Tours

- 1:00 pm – First Schoolhouse Visit: Spring Creek School (West of Bear Butte, directions provided)
- 2:00 pm – Second Schoolhouse Visit: Alkali School (Threshing Bee Grounds, directions provided)
- 13380 Alkali Rd, Sturgis, SD

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vAuwGMqMABqZ3u4dA>

- 3:00 pm – Third Schoolhouse Visit: Pleasant Valley School (East of Exit 37, directions provided)

13097 Pleasant Valley Rd, Sturgis, SD

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/c1QZsyCR7ootgSZQ9>

- 3:30 pm – Ice Cream Social at Pleasant Valley Schoolhouse

Your support of the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society is important. It helps us preserve, protect, and promote the history of Sturgis, Meade County and the surrounding region.

Our membership levels are:

- Individual Membership: Cost is \$25 per year.
- Family Membership: Cost is \$35 per year.
- Student Membership: Cost is \$15 per year. (18-under)
- Business Sponsorship: Cost is \$250 per year.
- Life Membership: Cost is \$1,000 as a one-time payment.
- Sustainer Membership: Cost is \$5,000 as a one-time payment.

**Richard Moeller**

Membership Chair

[sturgishistory.org@gmail.com](mailto:sturgishistory.org@gmail.com)  
605-939-3789 (Text or Leave Voicemail)  
<https://sturgishistory.org/membership/>

# BINGO FOR BOWLING

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR BINGO AS A LOCAL BOWLER IS TRAVELING FOR JUNIOR GOLD NATIONALS ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT ARIANNA’S TRIP TO MINNEAPOLIS**

**JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>. & JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> 5-8PM**

**STURGIS VETS CLUB 868 MAIN STREET STURGIS SD, 57785**

Cash prizes will be given each game 50/50 tickets

Photo credit: Hockenbary Photos

# KIDS Summer MEALS

**Where: First Presbyterian Church 1319 Junction Ave, Sturgis, SD 57785 (North Parking Lot)**

**Free Sack Lunch**

Open to Elementary and Middle School students

**When: 11:30am - 12:30pm | Mondays JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29 | JULY 6, 13, 20, 27**

MEALS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT: Sturgis Public Library - 1040 Harley-Davidson Way

## WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

The City of Sturgis needs your feedback as part of its Safety Action Plan Initiative.

Take the online survey to share your street safety feedback, concerns, and priorities as the City develops the Safety Action Plan.

Scan the QR code with your smart phone’s camera to access the survey or visit: [forms.office.com/f/V5juULFWP2](https://forms.office.com/f/V5juULFWP2)

**CITY OF STURGIS SOUTH DAKOTA**

The City of Sturgis Safety Action Plan is a community driven initiative aiming to eliminate all roadway fatalities and reduce serious injury traffic crashes.

**CITY OF STURGIS SOUTH DAKOTA**

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT:

Rick Bush | City of Sturgis [RBush@sturgis.gov](mailto:RBush@sturgis.gov) or [605-939-3789](tel:6059393789)

Kristen Ohnoutka | JEO Consulting Group [kohnoutka@jeo.com](mailto:kohnoutka@jeo.com)

To learn more about this project, scan the QR code with your smart phone’s camera, or visit: [www.sturgis-sd.gov/](http://www.sturgis-sd.gov/)

TOGETHER WE GO SAFELY

Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden, June 7, 2026



Meade County was thrilled with the moisture we had received last week. But on Saturday, the hot winds picked up enough to make one wonder how quickly things would dry up. Crops seem to be planted and will hopefully flourish with enough moisture here and there.

While elections for the primary are over for most every race, the run off race continues for another 7 weeks. Of the four candidates for Governor, the two with the most votes wound up being in a run off. None of the four candidates achieved 35% of the votes, so the top two vote getters wind up running again. Larry Rhoden and Toby Doden will go

head to head on July 28. The deadline to register to vote is July 13th. One needs to be registered as a Republican to vote in this primary election. Early voting begins June 12, 2026.

Meade County replaced all three legislators for District 29. Gary Deering, Gary Cammack and Bill Meirose will replace John Carley, Terri Jorgenson and Cathy Rice. We thank the former legislators for their service. Glen Haines won a seat on the

Meade County Commission. There was a pot luck dinner after church in Union Center this past Sunday. A birthday cake was served as church family celebrated with Jack Seller as he is turning 90 years old.

Also on Sunday, a special birthday celebration was held for Darlene Simons at the White Owl Hall.

June Mickelson will celebrate her 99th birthday on Saturday, June 13th from 2-4 pm at the White Owl Hall.

We wish all three of these wonderful Meade County Residents a very happy birthday!

VBS in Union Center and Cedar Canyon Bible Camp registrations are something to plan for right now. Cedar Canyon fills up early so you'll want to get registered soon. The last I knew registration for camp was only \$10. It provides memories and good decisions that can last a lifetime.

By John Newby

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

"Fresh Arrivals Make Communities Stronger"

There is an old and antiquated saying in many small communities that goes something like this: "You haven't earned the right to have an opinion yet." It is usually not stated that bluntly, but the message gets delivered just the same, sometimes through a cold shoulder at a chamber meeting, sometimes through an eye roll when a new resident raises a hand at city council. As I have worked with many communities around the Country, I have seen this destructive attitude in community after community, and I will tell you plainly: that attitude is costing your community in a big way.

The truth is that the person who just moved to your town can be a valuable tool. Think about what it takes to deliberately choose a new community. People who relocate, whether across the country or just one county over, did not land there by accident. They evaluated options, weighed quality of life, considered their family's future, and made an intentional decision to locate to your community. That intentionality matters. When someone picks your town on purpose, they arrive with energy the longtime resident can no longer generate, not because they love the place any less, but because familiarity has a way of making the ordinary invisible.

A newcomer sees the broken sidewalk downtown. A newcomer notices that the coffee shop closes at two in the afternoon and wonders why. A newcomer asks why there is no weekend farmers market when the surrounding region has three. Those are not criticisms. Those are gifts. They are the observations that only fresh eyes can produce, and they are the seeds of every revitalization effort that has ever worked. The question is not whether to value those observations. The question is whether

we are willing to put the people making them in a position to act on them.

Many of the most effective communities already understand this. They do not just tolerate newcomers in leadership roles. They recruit them specifically because of their outsider perspective. Consider how Main Street America programs across the country hire their local directors. Communities in Texas, Missouri, North Carolina, and dozens of other states regularly conduct national searches for Main Street directors rather than defaulting to a local hire. They do this because they know that someone who built revitalization results in another town can see possibilities in their community that a lifelong resident may not. I should add, when you get outsiders working with locals, the combined results can be dramatic.

That same logic applies to nonprofit leaders, economic development, chamber of commerce executives, and other organizations. Leadership and organizational development experts have noted that new leadership can bring a fresh perspective and critical missing voices that are imperative for the future success of an organization, and that relying solely on those already embedded in a single environment is often a losing strategy. Communities that act on that wisdom tend to move faster and farther than those that do not.

The same principle holds for everyday newcomers, not just professional hires. The Tulsa Remote program welcomed thousands of remote workers by pairing relocation grants with direct connections to volunteer opportunities, community organizations, and local businesses. An independent analysis by the Economic Innovation Group found the program generated

nearly 600 new jobs in a single year, with projections showing it would add approximately \$500 million in new earnings to the regional economy by 2025. Tulsa did not simply attract new bodies. It activated new citizens.

Dozens of communities across the country are now following the same playbook. States like Indiana, Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma are offering relocation incentive packages that go well beyond a cash payment. The best programs include memberships to coworking spaces, introductions to small business networks, and access to local events, all deliberately designed to plug new arrivals into civic life from the moment they arrive. As one relocation research firm put it, newcomers contribute to civic life by volunteering, buying homes, and enrolling children in local schools. That is not a side effect. That is the strategy.

Here is what I want your community to take from all of this. Newcomers do not need a waiting period. They need an invitation. If your chamber, your Main Street program, your economic development office, or your city council is not actively identifying and placing new residents in leadership roles, you are leaving your best ideas in the parking lot. Set up a formal new resident welcoming process. Create a pathway from newcomer to committee member. Ask the person who just moved here what they see. Then, and this is the hard part, actually listen.

It need not always be a formal program, although that is good. Just ask your local community how you are currently welcoming and activating new residents in your community. The answer to that question may tell you more about your community's future than any strategic plan ever could.

John Newby, Pineville, MO., is a nationally recognized publisher, community, business and media consultant, & speaker. His column appears in communities nationwide. He is currently the CEO of the McDonald County Chamber and the founder of Truly-Local, dedicated to helping communities create excitement, energy, and capture the synergies needed to thrive in

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street" sponsored in part by:

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Attorney General Jackley Secures Settlement with GS Labs Regarding Overpriced and Delayed COVID-19 Tests

Brandon Bennett

news@meadecountynews.com  
PIERRE—South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley announces that South Dakota consumers will receive \$50,380.00 as part of a \$4.87 million 18-state settlement with GS Labs that resolves claims that the testing company overcharged patients, unlawfully charged administrative fees, and failed to deliver timely COVID-19 test results.

"South Dakota consumers were misled by GS Lab's promises that were never kept," said Attorney General Jackley. "This settlement negotiated by South Dakota and the other states means our consumers will receive restitution."

The multistate coalition investigated problems with GS Labs's nationwide testing practices from 2020 through 2022, that included:

GS Labs intentionally advertised inflated "cash prices" for COVID-19 tests, sometimes as high as \$380 per test or nearly \$1,000 for multi-panel tests, that were used to justify overcharging patients with insurance coverage. And while GS Labs offered a "discount" from these "cash prices" to actual cash-paying patients, almost 30,000 patients still paid much more than market rate for their COVID-19 tests. For hundreds of thousands of patients, GS Labs guaranteed test results within three days and failed to deliver on its promise, sometimes taking a week or longer to get test results to patients. Despite advertising that patients with insurance would have no out-of-pocket costs, the company charged administrative fees as high as \$49 per test to about 70,000 patients.

Under the terms of the

settlement, GS Labs will pay \$3,628,718.34 in restitution to patients, including \$1,843,375.99 for cash-paying patients that were overcharged for tests, \$1,749,568.35 for patients that were charged administrative fees, and \$33,692 for cash-paying patients that did not receive test results within three days. South Dakotans that were harmed by GS Labs's testing practices will receive \$50,380.00 in restitution through the settlement.

GS Labs will also pay \$1.25 million to the multistate group, which includes a payment of \$16,669.99 to the State of South Dakota. The state's share will go to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

The settlement was negotiated by the Attorneys General of Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Washington. Other Attorneys Generals involved in the settlement are from the states of Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.

South Dakotans who believe they are eligible for restitution can contact GS Labs.

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**The Good Stuff**  
—by Jim Thompson

Jim Thompson takes motivational stories that listeners and readers send him and incorporates them into the program. It has been on the air for more than 10 years.

For those of you who've followed my radio commercials over the years, you may recall the ads for DeSmet Farm Mutual Insurance. The original ads started "You know my dad was really quite a guy"... I established those ads in 1976 and they still run on radio in eastern South Dakota. A few years ago my son sent me a poem for Fathers Day; you'll understand the tears it caused.

**For Dad from Kyle**  
For Fathers Day

It was playing nerf basketball before supper was served and letting me win just a few.  
It was when you read us Narnia before going to bed  
That my imagination grew..

It was waking up getting ready for school hearing your show at the start of the day  
it was being at a rodeo, football or other events with your voice booming through the PA.

It was driving long distances to Lord knows where  
But enjoying the sounds of AM  
It was traveling from this side of the state to the next to find everyone was your friend.

It was when strangers said, "oh, you're Jims son"  
"I always listen to his show"  
It was hearing Paul Harvey saying your name and quoting your words on the radio.

It so much more than all of these things  
I could go on if I tried.  
But its best described by your own word;  
"My Dad is really quite a guy"

*I love you Dad...Happy Fathers Day from Kyle...*

\* \* \*

And to close: a classic that I first heard Bill Gaither recite on an LP. Not sure who the author is.

**A Little Fellows Dad**

There are certain dreams I'd cherish that I'd like to see come true.  
There are things I would accomplish ere my working time is through.  
But the task my heart is set on is to guide a little lad--  
To make myself successful as that little fellow's dad.  
It's the one job that I dream of; it's the task I think of most.  
For if I fail that little fellow, I have nothing else to boast.  
For the wealth and fame I'd gather, all my fortune would be sad,  
If I fail to be successful as that little fellow's dad.  
I may never be as clever as my neighbor down the street.  
I may never be as wealthy as some other men I meet.  
But if he who follows after is a Christian, I'll be glad,  
For I'll know I've been successful as that little fellow's dad.  
-Have a Wonderful Summer!

**KIDS Summer MEALS**

Sturgis United Methodist Church  
1755 Ballpark Rd, Sturgis

**FREE SACK LUNCH**  
Open to elementary and middle school students

**WEDNESDAYS, 11 A.M. TO NOON**  
June 3, 10, 17 & 24  
July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

MEALS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT:  
**STURGIS PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
1040 HARLEY-DAVIDSON WAY, STURGIS

**THE DAKOTA SCOUT**

The **Dakota Scout**, a journal of South Dakota politics, government and culture that features journalism from veteran reporters Jonathan Ellis and Joe Sneve. Newsletters can be sent directly to your inbox and you can receive the state's top political podcast - *The Scouting Report*. Look it up today.

The **Dakota Scout** is a South Dakota owned, sourced and printed independent operation co-founded by Ellis and Sneve. Together, they have more than 30 years of combined experience in South Dakota journalism that have earned them reputations as dogged reporters who've not lost touch with their neighbors' sensibilities. Be in the Know!

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

# Kevin Forrester Day! A Day To Remember A Sturgis Original

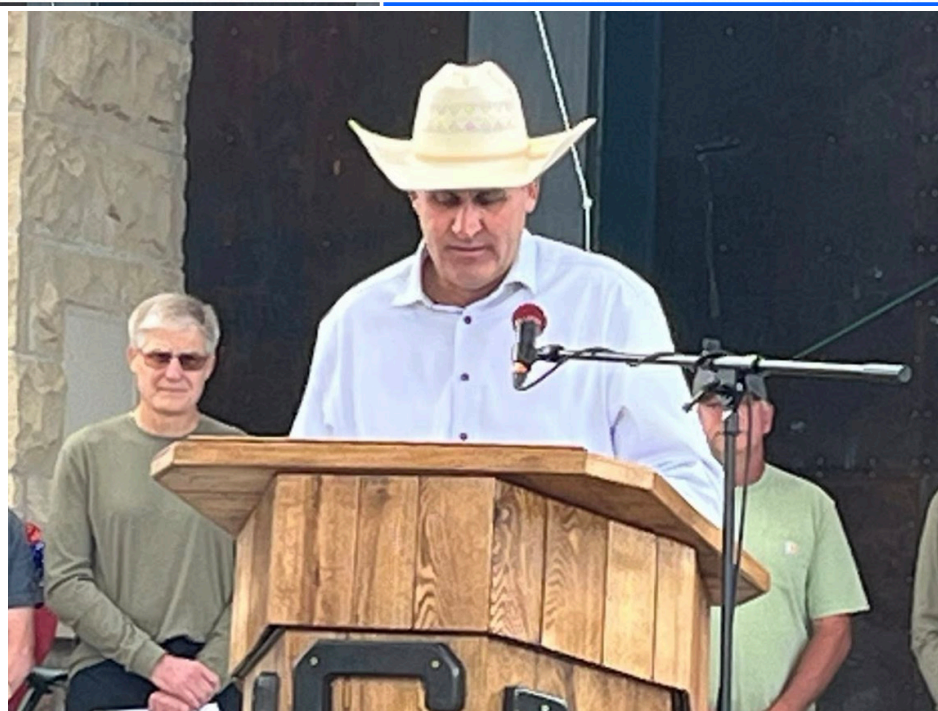
**Brandon Bennett**  
news@MeadeCoNews.com  
STURGIS— City of Sturgis leaders and residents alike turned out at Harley Davidson Rally Point Plaza June 10 to honor the late Mayor and city councilor Kevin Forrester.

er. Meade County Executive Director Rhea Crane served as emcee. Ward 2 councilor Tony Dargatz, Meade County Commission chairman Gary Deering, new Mayor Rod Bradley said Greater Sturgis Foundation

President Brett Lynass all talked of Forrester's leadership on Black Hills Trails as well as years working for Meade County and then city leadership. Dargatz read a proclamation drafted in March when

he was mayor pro tempore that declared June 10 Kevin Forrester Day. First, Rhea Crane served as emcee for the ceremony. Then Ward 2 councilor Tony Dargatz read the proclamation of Kevin Forrester Day.

Meade County Commission Chairman Gary Deering spoke next, followed by Brett Lynass of the Greater Sturgis Foundation. Finally Mayor Rod Bradley remembered his friend Kevin Forrester.



## Sturgis Art Walk

During the annual Sturgis Art Festival on Saturday, June 6, the Downtown Sturgis Foundation hosted a Sturgis ArtWalk Unveiling Ceremony. This year, six new sculptures will be added to city street corners. Mark Bruch, President of the Downtown Sturgis Foundation will lead the ArtWalk and share information about each artist and artwork during the unveiling. The Unveiling Ceremony began at 11 a.m. on Saturday under the main stage at Harley-Davidson Rally Point.

The Sturgis ArtWalk is comprised of 30+ original statues, sculptures, murals and monuments located across town, created by various artists with a wide array of styles. Viewers can walk or drive from piece to piece on a self-guided art tour and explore the variety of art and culture on display in Sturgis. Tour maps are available year-round at the Sturgis Welcome Center.

The event is organized by the Downtown Sturgis Foundation, a nonprofit managed by local city and business leaders. Their goal is to preserve current businesses and support new downtown developments to build a strong, lively, and engaged community. This year, the Foundation will unveil artworks by Christine Knapp, Tom Ford, Bobbie Carlyle and Lorri Acott. All sculptures are available for sale. The 2026 Sturgis ArtWalk sponsors include: Downtown Sturgis Foundation, Greater Sturgis Foundation, Sturgis Area Arts Council and the City of Sturgis. The event is made possible by the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce.

This year's added sculptures are listed below:  
**"Let's Play"** by Christine Knapp. Knapp is a sculptor based in Lyon, CO. She primarily works with bronze to create ultra-realistic pieces, often featuring animals or people.  
**"Ghost of the Sage"** by Tom Ford. Gillette, WY artist Tom Ford (working under the name Untamed Design LLC) specializes in bronze sculptures, metalwork, and memorial monuments. His works frequently feature iconic Western images and motifs.  
**"Can You Hear Me Now?"** by Bobbie Carlyle. Loveland, CO-based Carlyle has worked on a wide variety of subjects and sizes over the past 30 years, with a particular appreciation for classical sculpture.  
**"Arc of Peace"** by Lorri Acott. Also of Loveland, Acott creates stylized sculptures with exaggerated proportions. This sculpture has won four awards since 2008.  
**"In a Mystic Forest"** by Bobbie Carlyle. Another piece by Carlyle, this sculpture includes both human and animal forms, pairing well with Sturgis' Black Hills backdrop.  
**"So Proud"** by Christine Knapp. Knapp's second artwork unveiled this year, also showcasing extreme attention-to-detail and craftsmanship.  
 Learn more about the Downtown Sturgis Foundation initiatives at [www.DowntownSturgisFoundation.org](http://www.DowntownSturgisFoundation.org). Contributions given to the Foundation are used to continue their efforts of promoting the growth of Legendary Downtown Sturgis. Any sculpture purchase inquiries can be directed to (605) 838-8102.

