



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.



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VOL. 1 ISSUE 9

Sturgis, SD Thursday July 16, 2026

Live & Online

Lions Club Fishing Derby!



Photos A2

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS—The annual Lions Club Fishing Derby was a little hot but around 90 people showed up to try their hand at catching some fish.

Participants were given t-shirts and provided with poles and then gave it a try. Lions Club President Jennifer Ness says the improvements at the pond helped out.

“The city and Game Fish and Parks worked together to make some improvements to the pond on the South shore, three piers and lined the shore in rocks,” she said.

Improvements To Lions Club Pond Showcased At Fishing Derby

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— As was mentioned, Lions Club Pond played host to the fishing derby, and participants took advantage of improvements made possible by a partnership between the city of Sturgis and the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. Sturgis Public Works Director Rick Bush was happy with the results.

“Lions Club Pond has been a cherished part of the Sturgis community for generations. It’s a place where children catch

their first fish, families spend time together, and residents of all ages enjoy the outdoors. This project is about preserving that tradition while making the pond safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable for future generations.

The shoreline enhancement project includes the construction of three natural slate rock fishing piers along the south shoreline of the pond, similar to those found at Custer State Park. These piers will provide stable, dedicated fishing locations that encourage anglers

to move away from the narrow strip of land adjacent to Lazelle Street, improving safety while creating a more comfortable experience for families, children, and individuals with mobility challenges. The project will also enhance the shoreline’s appearance, improve access to the water, and create a more inviting recreational setting that blends naturally with the surrounding landscape.

This project simply would not have become a reality without the vision and persistence of former Mayor Kevin

Forrester. Kevin recognized the importance of investing in community spaces that bring people together and improve quality of life. He believed Lions Club Pond deserved to be enhanced and preserved, and he continued to champion this project because he understood what it meant to the residents of Sturgis. I’m grateful to have the opportunity to help carry that vision forward, and I believe this project will serve as a lasting reminder of his commitment to our community.

Lion’s Contd. A2

Music On Main Week Six!

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— It’s the Sixth Week of MOM and it’s Brandon Jones Band!

The start of the bike race was delayed due to Sturgis PoPo being called out on an

emergency. But Sheriff Pat West’s boys stepped up and the race went on!

The crew from First Interstate Bank served up root beer floats and the mist station to cool bikers down was provided by FIB! Way to go!



Hannan, Voigt Sworn In To Meade 46-1 School

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— New Meade 46-1 school board member Tami Hannan and Brian Voigt were sworn in by Business Manager Brett Burditt at the meeting July 13th.

Megan Snyder was unavailable for the ceremony.

Hannan and Voigt have four year terms and Snyder has a two year term.

In the first action of the new board, Terry Koontz nominated Justin Jutting as board president. Brian Voigt made the motion to

approve the nomination and Tim Amdahl seconded it.

The motion passed.

Then Koontz nominated Aaron Odegaard as vice president. She made the motion to approve and Lee Spring seconded it.

The motion passed.



Lion's Contd. from A-1

I also want to recognize the outstanding partnership that made this project possible. The City of Sturgis is proud to work alongside the Sturgis Lions Club and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. The Lions Club has been a dedicated steward of this pond for many years, helping maintain it as one of our community's premier outdoor destinations. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks continues to be an exceptional partner by supporting projects that expand fishing opportunities and improve public access to outdoor recreation.

Together with the generous support of an anonymous private donor, these partnerships have allowed us to leverage local and state resources to complete a project that will benefit the community for decades to come. This is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when community organizations, state agencies, private citizens, and local government work toward a common goal. I'm excited to see these improvements take shape and to know that future generations of Sturgis families will continue making memories at Lions Club Pond for many years to come," said Bush.



Devan Gilstrap shows off his catch with Mom, **Jessica Rodriguez** *MCNews Photos*



Kids get ready to fish



Dani Carver does a little painting



Parents help out with preparations



Board Approves Electrical Assessment At SBHS

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— The Meade 46-1 school board approved a proposal from West Plains Engineering for an electrical assessment at Sturgis Brown High School at its meeting July 13. West Plains Engineering has submitted a proposal in the amount of \$6,500 to conduct an

electrical assessment at SBHS. The assessment will evaluate the building’s electrical service, emergency power systems, generators, automatic transfer switches (ATSS), and electrical distribution at the panelboard level to determine the facility’s ability to maintain essential heating systems during power outages. The proposal was approved.

Law Enforcement Rally Prep Moving Along

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS-- Preparations for the 86th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally from the law enforcement perspective are coming along. Even so, Meade County News sat down with Public Safety Director Geody VanDewater and Meade County Sheriff Pat West to get the lowdown on things. “Things are going good with the preparations, we’ve got extra deputies, extra corrections officers and dispatchers lined up, just tweaking the schedule, looking at what it’s going to be like early on with the rally starting later,” he said. “Were sitting pretty good, the status quo for us, we’re actually going to be short on some full time officers due to resignations that have affected us, we probably won’t have time to get someone hired between now and rally, said Director of Public Safety Geody VanDewater. Both agencies have contact with the “alphabet soup” of government law enforcement and haven’t heard anything

out of the ordinary but still are vigilant. There are a couple of factors that weigh in on their radar, like the price of gas and the fact that a growing number of visitors want to avoid the crowds and come early. “I don’t think we’re going to see the big influx of visitors but some venues will have bands and other events that attract people,” he said. VanDewater added there seems to be a trend of vacationing closer to home as opposed to taking a long trip. The Meade County Sheriff’s Office covers a lot of ground, out to Faith and the I-90 corridor going to Rapid City. Sheriff West said there’s more. “The Faith Stock is going on at the same time and so we’re going to be busier than normal,” he said. West also relies on part time deputy John Rhoden who helps out in central Meade County and helps at the jail too. Additionally, Meade County has contracts with Perkins and

School Meal Prices Set By School Board

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— The Meade 46-1 School Board approved the prices for meals at schools

for the 2026-27 school year at the request of Food Service Director Rhonda Ramsdell. Food Service Rates and Fees are:
Breakfast Lunch

KG - 8 Grade \$2.25 \$4.00
9 - 12 Grade \$2.50 \$4.30
Adult \$3.25 \$5.50
Students qualifying for reduced-price meals will now be at no charge.

Koontz, Voigt Selected To Serve As School Board Reps For Special Services

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS- The Meade 46-1 school board again chose Terry Koontz as representative to Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and Brian Voigt as alternate at the meeting July

13th. Koontz served as the primary representative and Voigt as the alternate during the 2025-26 school year for BHSSC. Additionally, the district each year enters into cooperative agreements with BHSSC

to provide services such as speech-language pathology, physical therapy, and vocational education/job development. The agreement for the upcoming year will be in effect from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Butte counties to house their inmates so opening up the original jail is necessary. On advantage for both officials is the close relationships they have with both police departments and sheriff’s offices in the region sharing intelligence and information. “We do a coordination meeting with all of our state and local and federal partners and we’ll start that this week, going over manpower, staffing issues and even from the standpoint of health and even weather,” said VanDewater. He added the South Dakota Highway Patrol is crucial in relieving pressure on other officers during an accident. Likewise the Department of Criminal Investigation conducts criminal inquiries, freeing up police officers. Both men stated they’ve relied on each other over the years and have developed a good relationship. When it comes to incarceration Sheriff West said they have agreements with ten different counties. Both officials stressed that if



Sturgis Director of Public Safety Geody VanDewater and Meade County Sheriff Pat West

Western South Dakota doesn’t get any rain the potential for fire is very real. “We’ve responded to a lot of fires already and we’ve been fortunate they were small. But we could be heading for disaster,” said Sheriff West. Chief VanDewater agreed that the heat can also compel

people to drink more. So... “So we’re having to deal with traffic violations and maybe DUI’s and then a fire? A smaller rally could actually create more issues for us.” There is a burn ban in Meade County during the rally so hopefully visitors won’t ignore that and cause problems.

Hot Enough Fer Ya? Well Here’s Some Tips To Avoid Starting Fires

Brandon Bennett
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Thanks To the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department and Mark Bruch

1. We are currently in a fire ban so obviously no open fires, campfires or slash pile burning are permitted.
2. Be careful not to park any vehicle in the tall grass. Be careful with four-wheelers and side-by-sides as they can gather debris around the engine and exhaust which causes fires.
3. Please ensure that safety chains and any chains in general are not dragging from a trailer. Also checking wheels and brakes on trailers to make sure

everything is working properly and bearings are in good shape. 4. A big one for rural folks is please cut hay in the very early mornings before 10 or 11 am while the humidity is slightly higher and winds are generally light so if a fire does start it can quickly and hopefully more easily be extinguished. Have a water tank with a pump available to quickly attack a small fire. This also applies to mowing drier grass in yards or around properties. 5. Overall, just be very aware that with very high temperatures and very low humidity, even a small spark can start a fire.



Drug War: The Next Big Thing

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS—Editor’s Note: I was told that if I discussed the war on illegal drugs in Sturgis it would put the community in a bad light. I submit to you that not talking about it will not magically make it go away. So here we go.

Meade County News was interviewing Sturgis Director of Public Safety Geody Vandewater and Meade County Sheriff Pat West about rally prep. Then the topic changed to the battle with Meth. The response to the question how’s it going surprised even me. “This battle is ongoing, and now we’re dealing with Fentanyl. It’s been rearing its head for a few years and I think we’re seeing the same thing everyone else is seeing,” said Vandewater. He added it appears the same people bringing it are using it and it’s getting out of hand. Sheriff West stated, “With Fentanyl it touches other drugs too. Whatever drug

is used is tainted with Fentanyl and it’s intentional. What you think are prescription pills are laced with the drug,” he said. Additionally, authorities in Rapid City have seen marijuana cigarettes with Fentanyl added. Both officials stated that first responders are at risk too since the drug is so deadly. “In the last ten years I’ve had two officers exposed to Fentanyl during arrests or searches. I had one officer who began to feel funny so he was taken to the hospital and it took two doses of Narcan before he began to come out of it,” said Vandewater. Fentanyl comes from China and is shipped to Mexico where it’s processed, but... “What they’ll do is take hundreds of pills and put them in a table and spray the Fentanyl on the pills. You don’t know how much is on the pills. It’s dangerous,” said Sheriff West. Both officials agree authorities can reduce the amount coming into the country but there will always be demand. Even here.

2026 STURGIS

MUSIC ON MAIN

RACE & CONCERT SERIES

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JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

AUGUST 26

SEPTEMBER 2

Sturgis

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU

WAR ON DRUGS

Central Meade County News



By Sandy Rhoden, July 8, 2026

Well, needless to say the ‘dog days of summer’ are here for a while. Over the week-end temperatures topped 100 degrees and the breeze was quick to begin the drying out process of what moisture we did have. As of Sunday, fields were still showing green but not the lovely colors we were seeing a couple of weeks ago or less. It is definitely time to pray for rain as we continue getting to the hay and some nice stands of crops are still green.

Hopefully, animals have access to shade and water to get through this hot spell.

After church services, some of the Union Center church regulars had lunch at Nellie’s of Enning on Sunday. Harold Delbridge and his wife along

with their Stoneville church crew had lunch there as well. Janice Arends and Neoma Richter, Darrell Wilcox and Jack Seller, Jim and JoDee Shaw and sons and daughter in law, all decided to grab lunch at Nellie’s as well. The air conditioning started struggling to keep up with the extreme heat, but it was still comfortable.

Yesterday’s Kids took place at Cedar Canyon Bible Camp on Monday. The kids camps are starting up as well so please pray for safety from the heat and other weather related events that may crop up. Thank you to all who help cook, counsel and help during those days of camping in tents and working with the many activities throughout the week. The camp is in the

Maurine area north of Hwy. 212.

There will be a Lady’s Prayer breakfast this coming Saturday at the church in Union Center at 8:30 am. All ladies are welcome. This would be a great time for young dads to spend some quality time with their children to free up moms in the area.

We were saddened to hear about the passing of David Baranco of Sioux Falls who was a candidate for State Auditor. That position is being held by Rich Sattgast currently. He leaves behind his wife, Catherine, and two young sons. Sandy Rhoden is a friend of Catherine’s and was able to pay her a visit the evening of his passing. They will do a private family funeral and a Celebration of Life for the public on or around July 29 in Sioux Falls.



Sturgis United Methodist Church
1755 Ballpark Rd, Sturgis

FREE SACK LUNCH
Open to elementary and middle school students

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June 3, 10, 17 & 24
July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

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STURGIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
1040 HARLEY-DAVIDSON WAY, STURGIS



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

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Open to Elementary and Middle School students

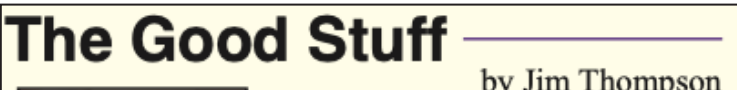
When: 11:30am - 12:30pm | Mondays
JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29 | JULY 6, 13, 20, 27

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



Sturgis

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU



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.

This is a short story, with a long lesson. I love this for its simplicity and application to the way we live our lives and share our talent. Enjoy

There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it and suck up their thirsty roots to sip of its healing waters. The River Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. So it laughs in the sunshine. And men build their houses near to it, and birds their nests; and every kind of life is happier because it is there. The River Jordan flows on out into another sea. Here there is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaf, no song of birds, no children’s laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs heavy above its water, and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink. What makes this mighty difference in these neighbor seas? Not the River Jordan. It empties the same good water into both. Not the soil in which they lie; not in the country round about. This is the difference. The Sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan. For every drop that flows into it another drop flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal measure. The other sea is shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. It will not be tempted into any generous impulse. Every drop it gets, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. This other sea gives nothing. It is named Dead. There are two kinds of people in this world. There are two seas in Palestine.

By John Newby

“Potential Tourism’s Headaches Are Worth the Money!”

On any given summer weekend, one can stand on the banks of their local stretch of river or lakes and watch a line of coolers, canoes and lawn chairs stretch further downstream than one can see. While most are well-behaved, somewhere in that crowd a deputy was breaking up an argument, a mother was hunting for a missing child, and a business owner was smiling all the way to the bank. That is tourism in a nutshell. It can be loud, it can be messy, and it is one of the best things that can happen to a small community or county.

To be Fair, tourism can have drawbacks. Water sports bring real safety concerns; alcohol is involved in up to seventy percent of deaths tied to water recreation. Missouri recorded fourteen deaths and seventy-two injuries in recreational water sports alone in 2024 alone. Cycling events/rides like one’s tourism partners across the state promote can have safety concerns, slow down farm trucks, create bottlenecks along routes, and cause complaints from neighbors who just wanted to get to church on time. Add to those, exploring caves, hiking, fishing, hunting, and a host of other tourism attractions are cumbersome on local towns and infrastructure.

Traffic is the third headache, and it is the one most visible to residents who never set foot in a canoe. More cars on two lane roads means more near misses, more wear on pavement our county did not budget for, and more frustration for people whose daily errands now compete with out of state license plates or cyclists. We can learn from some larger cities that have

learned this lesson the hard way. Barcelona drew nearly eleven million visitors in August of 2024 alone, and the strain on housing and neighborhoods sparked street protests under the banner “tourists go home.” Amsterdam went so far as to launch a marketing campaign asking travelers to simply stay away. Those are large market cases, but they are a great example that show growth without planning creates resentment, not prosperity.

Here is where the math changes the conversation. In my home state of Missouri, outdoor tourism generated 1.7 billion dollars and supports more than 95,000 jobs each year. The Missouri park system ran on a budget of \$68 million dollars; however, it returns as much as 18-24 dollars in economic activity for every dollar spent and drives roughly 1.5 billion dollars in total sales for Missouri businesses.

The Katy Trail alone generated 24.6 million dollars in direct visitor spending and supported 260 jobs, with day trippers spending about \$45 daily, mostly at local restaurants, and overnight guests spending closer to one \$148 a day on lodging, food and gas. Academic researchers studying rural counties have found the same pattern repeats itself. Tourism policy reliably boosts per capita income, new business registration and land investment, and the environmental costs, while real, run far below the economic gains.

Yes, rural communities ask their law enforcement to work overtime. Yes, we ask farmers to be patient with slow moving traf-

fic. Yes, we ask our road crews to repaint faded shoulder lines more often than we would like. In exchange, our cafes fill up on a Tuesday, our gas stations sell out of ice, our campgrounds book solid, and dollars that would never have found your community land in local cash registers of businesses that call this place home. River floating for a few months out of the year or a cycling event that is inconvenient for a few hours a couple times a year does not just move people through our towns, it moves their money into them.

The lesson for any rural community is not to avoid tourism because it is inconvenient. It is to manage it honestly, funding the safety patrols, the signage and the road maintenance that growth demands, while keeping our eyes on the far larger return that growth delivers. Communities that plan for the mess tend to keep the money. Communities that pretend the mess does not exist or fight the trends tend to lose both the visitors and the goodwill of their own residents.

If you live in a community that welcomes visitors, take 24 hours to do one simple thing. Call your local leaders and ask how visitor spending is being reinvested in the roads, safety services and small businesses that carry the load. Then thank a local business owner for putting up with the crowded parking lot. Rural communities growing pains are worth it, but only if we keep asking the hard questions that make sure they stay worth it.

John A. Newby, a Chamber President, past Publisher & Media Executive, Business Owner, Consultant, and International Speaker is the author of the “Building Main Street, Not Wall Street” column dedicated to helping local communities combine their synergies allowing them to thrive in a world where truly-local is being lost to Wall Street interests. His email is john@truly-local.org

“Building Main Street, not Wall Street” sponsored in part by:



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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

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

Coffee With A Cop: Chance To Meet Area Law Enforcement

Brandon Bennett
news@MeadeCoNews.com

STURGIS—We’re used to seeing law enforcement officers only when things have gone wrong, but turns out they’re just like us. Coffee With A Cop at 5:8 Espresso inside Sturgis Strikers gave people a chance to experience that. Sturgis Police Department officers and Meade County Sheriff’s deputies enjoyed some Joe and cop food!(donuts)! Heheh. Seriously though, Assistant Police Chief Bryan Paulson and Meade County Sheriff Pat West said interaction with the community this way makes contact in the public easier. “It’s super important to engage with the public, let them know what’s going on, what we’re doing, remind them we’re just like everybody else and we’re trying

to keep the peace for the people in the county and that engagement makes it easier down the road,” said Sheriff Pat West. “The other side of that coin is we’re also listening to their complaints and that engagement is a two way street. When we’re initiating a traffic stop or investigating something it’s one way but here it’s relaxed and people come in and say he I’ve got speeders in my neighborhood and things like that,” said Paulson. Jericha Harms hosted the event and echoed what was said. “We offered to do this, we saw somebody else was doing it and wanted to get in on this, let’s get Sturgis’ finest in here and it’s important so the community understands that they’re here to help us, they’re here to be a part of this community,” she said.



*** JULY 28TH ***

GUBERNATORIAL
RUNOFF ELECTION

POLLING LOCATION CHANGE

The polling location for the following precincts
has been changed from **STURGIS COMMUNITY CENTER**

➡➡➡ to ➡➡➡

AFFECTED PRECINCTS:

- 1 East Sturgis 1
- 2 Fort Meade 1A
- 3 Northeast Sturgis 1-A
- 4 Southeast Sturgis 2
- 5 South Sturgis 2A
- 6 Central Sturgis 3
- 7 West Sturgis 4
- 8 Southwest Sturgis 4A
- 9 Northwest Sturgis 5
- 10 Sturgis 5A
- 11 Tifford 6
- 12 Rural Sturgis 7
- 13 Harmony 8
- 14 Bear Butte 9

 **TO THE NEW LOCATION:**
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TUESDAY, JULY 28TH**

 **ABSENTEE VOTING IS
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 **YOUR VOTE MATTERS.
PLEASE PLAN AHEAD!**

 **VOTE**

 **QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE MEADE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

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Attorney General Jackley Announces Pierre Woman Pleads Guilty to Defrauding S. Dakota Medicaid Program

PIERRE – South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley announces that a Pierre woman has pleaded guilty to one felony count of Grand Theft after earlier being charged with defrauding the South Dakota Medicaid Program of more than \$588,000 in federal and state funds.

Sharon Laraye Monson, 49, entered the guilty plea Thursday in Hughes County Circuit Court. She faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison when sentenced Aug. 25.

As part of a plea agreement, she has agreed to pay \$500,000 in restitution to the South Dakota Department of Social Services.

Monson stole the money when she was the owner of At Home Nursing in Pierre. The charges occurred from May 1, 2018 to Jan. 1, 2024.

The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud, Abuse and Neglect Services Unit.

This release is provided in compliance with the federal Stevens Amendment: The South Dakota Medicaid Fraud Control Unit receives 75% of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award totaling approximately \$1,033,972 for Federal Fiscal Year 2026.

The remaining 25%, totaling approximately \$334,656 for Federal Fiscal Year 2026, was funded by the State of South Dakota.

Attorney General Jackley Announces South Dakota to Receive \$149,399 in Bankruptcy Settlement with 23andMe

PIERRE— Attorney General Marty Jackley announces South Dakota will receive \$149,399 from the bankruptcy trustee for 23andMe, resolving allegations stemming from a 2023 data breach that compromised the genetic data of 6.9 million customers worldwide.

The settlement includes \$150 million in allowed claims for states.

Due to the finite amount of funds in the bankruptcy estate and numerous other claims, recovery is limited to \$18 million but will be paid out immediately from available bankruptcy funds.

These funds are in addition to the \$46.75 million class-action settlement 23andMe agreed to in the bankruptcy case. That settlement provides relief to affected U.S. consumers who submitted claims by Feb. 17, 2026.

“This settlement still allows South Dakotans who submitted claims by Feb. 17, 2026 to be compensated,” said Attorney General Jackley. “The filing for bankruptcy by 23andMe should not negatively impact those consumers whose personal genetic data was compromised by this company.”

In October 2023, direct-to-consumer genetic testing company 23andMe announced that it had discovered a data breach in which 6.9 million consumers were affected, including 11,027 in South Dakota.

This data breach exposed a wide range of data about 23andMe customers, including in some cases genetic ancestry information, and subsets of this data were subsequently published for sale on the dark web. South Dakota’s share will fund consumer protection efforts through the Attorney General’s

Consumer Protection Division.

23andMe learned about the breach months after impacted personal information was publicly available. 23andMe first denied a breach and then, once it confirmed the breach, blamed consumers for how their accounts were set up or how passwords were used.

23andMe initially accepted no responsibility for the credential stuffing breach, which was particularly egregious considering 23andMe’s partnership with MyHeritage, which itself was compromised years prior to the breach, exposing thousands of credentials shared between the websites.

In the immediate aftermath of the data breach Attorney General Jackley and other Attorneys General formed a multistate investigation and found that 23andMe engaged in unreasonable data security practices,

including, but not limited to:

- Failing to employ safeguards against credential stuffing attacks, including comparing passwords against blocklists of known breached passwords or requiring multifactor authentication;
- Failing to implement appropriate rate limiting or intrusion prevention;
- Failing to implement logging and monitoring or other tools likely to detect a data breach;
- Failing to appropriately investigate and/or address unusual login in patterns, including, for example, a massive spike in login attempts;
- Failing to remediate known vulnerabilities; and
- Failing to properly review and test design features.

As part of his efforts to protect consumers, Attorney General Jackley also proposed during the 2026 legislative

session Senate Bill 49, which safeguards the integrity, privacy, and security of genetic data and provides a civil penalty.

The measure was approved by the legislators and signed by the Governor. It became law July 1.

Other Attorneys Generals part of the settlement are from the states of: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

Roots #61 “Our South Dakota”

Meg English
news@bellefourchebeacon.com



I’m a bit chuffed. One of my poems has been selected to appear in a recently released

poetry anthology, Our South Dakota published by Scurfpea Publishing in Sioux Falls.

It’s available on Amazon and affordably priced at \$15. Scurfpea Publishing founded by poet Steve Boint. Since its founding in 2010, Scurfpea Publishing has supported regional poets through the publication of an annual volume of poetry. They publish other works as well.

Although I’m very proud to be among a cadre of accomplished poets statewide whose work has been chosen for inclusion in Our South Dakota, I’m especially proud that seven of these poets are active members of the Belle Fourche Writers

Congratulations (in alphabetical order) Margaret Bolte, Lynda Edwards, Meg English (ME, myself), Jean Helmer, Angela Hastings, Holly Mosely and Bruce Roseland.

The Our South Dakota project was initiated by Bruce Roseland, who is also the current Poet Laureate of our state

Our South Dakota is a collection of poetic impressions inspired by poets with South Dakota connection. Editors were Steve Boint, Bruce Roseland, and Geri Gutwein.

In this collection, memories, paradoxically mundane and sublime, are presented before a backdrop of timeless South Dakota weather and landscapes.

Belle Fourche is well represented by poets in the Our South Dakota collection and to some extent subject matter. My contribution to Our South Dakota is a poem titled ‘Stalking Wild Asparagus’. The poem is very specifically a Belle Fourche story about a friendship, culinary

appreciation, foraging for wild foods, and horticulture prowess, all along the Belle Fourche River.

The poem is about how my friend Nancy Wesseling and I shared our interest in foraging for wild edibles by stalking the banks of the Belle Fourche River for wild asparagus in May and June every spring over a period of several seasons. We had many favorite hunting grounds.

Forging for wild food is a favorite pastime for me inspired by my grandmother Nellie when I was small enough to have be at eye level with tall prairie grass. Walking thorough the grass in spring with my grandmother I was amazed to discover the coveted and camouflaged thin green asparagus tips.

It was easier to find them then when I was closer to the ground and did not rely on bifocals. Searching for wild asparagus with my grandmother was an experience that inspired a lifelong appreciation of cuisine and nature. As it is, my dedication to the discovery of wild edibles has only become more pronounced.

Hunting for wild asparagus is a celebration of spring, and I want to remind my friend Nancy that the season of stalking wild asparagus time in Belle Fourche is upon us. The season begins sometime in May, possibly April, given global warming and extends through June.

Wild asparagus season is upon on in South Dakota. Little shoots are springing up along fence lines, roadside ditches under cottonwoods and along the banks of the Belle Fourche River.

Asparagus is common in western South Dakota. The tender stalks are nutritious and

often considered a delicacy.

Wild asparagus can be found by searching for dried stalk remnants of last year’s stalks. New stalks are likely to be sprouting from the base of the old stalks.

There is some varying advice on how to cut the stalks. The stalks are said to grow back throughout the season if harvested with a knife cutting close to the base rather than snapping them off. Nancy tried hard to teach me this technique.

There is, of course some competition among stalkers of asparagus and it’s advisable to go early, and to follow the protocol for harvesting. Be kind, thoughtful, and respectful of fellow stalkers. The walking path along the Belle Fourche riverfront at the Beautiful Fork is especially timely for connoisseurs of wild asparagus. I miss my friend, Nancy Wesseling and our annual asparagus hunting ritual. Sometimes a poem says it all.

Stalking Wild Asparagus
At the very center of the

*nation.
in early summer
Nancy and I
graze the river path
Beside the Beautiful Fork
seeking sweet shoots of
wild asparagus.
Asparagus is elusive,
We search carefully
Watch closely
part the brom grass, the thistle
A serious occupation.
Stalkers
Stalking stalks
With a plastic knife
I snap the stalk, make a jagged
break
Nancy is more methodical.
the plastic knife must slice the
stalk
cleanly level with the earth.
Nancy’s way is better;
I agree, shrug but go back to
my old ways.
Larry will have fresh
asparagus for supper either
way
Treasured stalks and stalkers
We carry a bundle home
Stalkers of stalks
With a plastic knife
Richer and nourished too.*

ALL ABOUT ASPARAGUS



HEALTH BENEFITS OF ASPARAGUS

Asparagus is full of vitamins A, C, and K. It contains Fiber and Potassium.

Nutrition Facts	
Portion Size	134 g
Amount Per Portion	
Calories	27
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 0.2g	0 %
Saturated Fat 0.1g	0 %
Sodium 2.7mg	0 %
Total Carbohydrate 5.2g	2 %
Dietary Fiber 2.8g	10 %
Sugar 2.5g	
Protein 3g	6 %
Vitamin D 0mcg	0 %
Calcium 32mg	2 %
Iron 2.9mg	16 %
Potassium 271mg	6 %

*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



HOW DO YOU KNOW IF ASPARAGUS IS HAVING A GOOD DAY?
IT'S ALL SMILES AND SPEAR-ITY!

tasty



Our South Dakota

an anthology of verse



edited by
Bruce Roseland
Geri Mendoza Gutwein
Steve Boint

BrewBerry Bistro

Ask about the Local Option (Travis' Creation) \$12.00
Wednesday through Saturday

Drinks

Perked Coffee ~ Free
Americano~\$3.50 (Espresso and Water)
Latte ~ Hot/Iced (Milk and Espresso)
12 oz (2 shots)~\$4.00
16 oz (2 shots)~\$5.00
20 oz (4 shots)~\$7.00
Frappuccino 20oz~\$7.00
Matcha 16oz~\$5.25
Cold Brew 16oz~\$3.50
Golden Milk 12oz \$3.75~16oz \$4.75
20oz \$6.75 (Turmeric Mix with Honey)
Chai Latte 12oz \$5.00~16oz \$6.00
20oz \$7.00 (Housemade Chai with Milk)
Hot/Iced Tea 16oz \$3.25~20oz \$4.00
Fresh Squeezed Orange Juice 12oz \$6.50
Fresh Squeezed Lemonade 16oz \$3.50
20oz \$4.25 (Simple Syrup w/ Filtered Water)
Add Flavor ~ \$.50
Kombucha \$6.50
Local Beer 16oz \$7.00
Glass of Wine \$8.00 or Mimosa \$12.00

Drinks

Smoothie 16oz \$7.00 (Berry Blast~Green Protein~ Smoothie of the Month)
Refreshers 16oz \$2.25~20oz \$3.00 (Mint~Lemon~Raspberry~Orange)
Add plant based energy~\$2.00

Chick's Offerings

King's Breakfast Pastie \$11.75 (Ham~Cheese~Egg~Potato Filled Pastry)
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Avocado Toast \$10.25
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Quiche \$10.25 (All Meat~All Veggie~Ham w/ Veggies)
Acai Bowl \$11.00
King's Pastie \$11.75 (Steak & Potato~Sausage n' Kraut~Pepperoni~Mushrooms~Olive Pizza)
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Ham & Cheese Panini \$12.00
Black Hills Mushroom Panini \$12.00

Sides

Berry Bowl
Caesar Salad
Garden Salad
Chicken Salad
Quinoa Salad
Soup (seasonal)
Extra Side \$5.00

Salads

Caesar \$5.00
Garden \$5.00
Power Salad \$11.75 (Local Green~Chicken Salad~Quinoa Salad)

Ice Cream

Leone's Ice Cream \$5
Pastries
Ask Us

BrewBerry Bistro# 605-206-4844

Brew Berry Bistro

The BrewBerry Bistro is located at the entrance of the MassBerry Building... we are called a bistro because we have more food than a coffee shop! We are working with local farms and bakeries around the Sturgis area to help supply us with the freshest, tastiest, local flavors. We are open year-round so stop by in the summer and enjoy our outdoor seating or cozying up to our fireplace in the winter months!