

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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Sturgis Scoopers

Gen. George C. Meade
VOL. 1 ISSUE 7

Sturgis, SD Thursday July 2, 2026

Live & Online

Huzzah! Black Hills Renaissance Festival Takes Over!

Brandon Bennett

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STURGIS— The annual Black Hills Renaissance Festival has exploded in size out at Kickstands Campground with hundreds of vendors, food stands trucks and even an ATM. Founder and co-owner Shareece Tatum is happy with the growth of the event.

“I think everyone wants to have fun and have a turkey leg and watch jousting,” she said. She added there are two types of Renaissance festivals, historically accurate and fantasy based, which is the type here.

And... “We have things for all ages, for kids and adults to enjoy. We just try to make it o everyone has a good time.”

The line to get into the festival was long and some were coming for the first time, like Deena Piikkola and her family, husband Chaz, daughter Alyssa and son Chaz.

“We wanted this to be our first experience, we had passed the one in Larkspur up we saw things online and our oldest son came last year so...” she said.

And there are families that get involved like Alex Hoffman and Alex Weiss and their kids.

“The kids like seeing the fantasy stuff like fairies and we like seeing the costumes and related stuff,” said Hoffman.

The Renaissance Festival ran last Friday Saturday and Sunday at Kickstands Campground 13014 Pleasant Valley Rd, Sturgis, SD .



Knights have at it during the **Black Hills Renaissance Festival**. (Additional Photos on A5)

E-Bike safety a growing focus as ridership increases in Sturgis

STURGIS – As electric bicycles continue to grow in popularity across Sturgis, local law enforcement officials are encouraging riders and parents to learn the rules of the road and make safety a priority.

The Sturgis Police Department has seen a significant increase in e-bike use throughout the community this summer, particularly among younger riders. While e-bikes offer a fun and convenient way to travel, officers say the increase has also led to more reports of unsafe riding behavior.

“We’ve been seeing a large influx of kids on e-bikes around town,” said Sturgis Police Patrol Sgt. Teal Schmidt. “There are dozens of them riding around every day, and we’re getting several calls daily involving e-bikes,

electric scooters, mopeds, and electric motorcycles. Most of those calls involve younger riders.”

According to Schmidt, many of the complaints involve riders failing to stop at intersections, darting into traffic, or operating their bikes without understanding traffic laws.

“A lot of these kids are too young to know the rules of the road, and sometimes parents may not realize what their children are riding or what the laws require,” Schmidt said. “Our goal is education. We don’t want anyone getting hurt.”

South Dakota law defines an electric bicycle as a bicycle equipped with operable pedals, a seat, and an electric motor producing no more than 750 watts.

E-bikes are divided into three

classes based on speed and operation: Class I and II e-bikes can travel up to 20 mph, while Class III e-bikes can reach speeds up to 28 mph.

Vehicles that exceed those limits or do not have operable pedals may not qualify as e-bikes and could instead be classified as mopeds or electric motorcycles, requiring licensing, registration, and insurance.

Police officials remind riders that e-bikes are permitted on roads, streets, and sidewalks where bicycles are allowed. However, riders must obey all traffic signs and laws regardless of where they are riding.

“If you’re on a sidewalk, pedestrians always have the right-of-way,” Schmidt said. “If you’re approaching a group of people, you need to slow down

or stop and let them pass before continuing.”

The department is also encouraging parents to become familiar with their child’s e-bike classification, speed capabilities, and safety requirements.

Riders under the age of 18 operating a Class III e-bike are required to wear a helmet, and officers recommend helmets for all riders regardless of age or bike type.

While enforcement remains an option for dangerous behavior, Schmidt said officers are focusing first on education.

“I have e-bikes and my kids ride e-bikes too,” Schmidt said. “We don’t want to ruin anybody’s fun. We want people to enjoy them safely. If riders are following the rules, wearing helmets, watching for traffic, and being

respectful of others, we’re not out looking to write tickets.”

In many cases, officers stop young riders to explain safety rules and contacting parents when necessary.

Schmidt said most interactions have been positive, with many children quickly correcting unsafe behavior once they understand the expectations.

The Sturgis Police Department plans to continue educating the public through social media, community outreach, and safety reminders throughout the summer.

Officials are also exploring opportunities for future bicycle and e-bike safety classes similar to programs offered in neighboring communities.



Three More Youths Going To Tournament

Brandon Bennett

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STURGIS—Meade County News has found out three more kids are going to the Junior Gold Bowling Tournament in Minneapolis later this month. **Jayce Joyce, Iria Baker and Livionna Harms** all qualified for the event so we sat down with them and their mothers, Misty Joyce, Amanda Baker and Jericha Harms.

Why did they get their kids involved in bowling?

“I was enrolling my other son in bowling so said why not get Jayce involved too?” said Misty.

Amanda Baker is a bowler and figured it was a good fit for Iria.

“She has the knack for it and enjoys it,” she said.

Jericha Harms has bowling in her blood as her father Max owns Sturgis Strikers bowling alley.

“I’m a third generation bowler so that makes her fourth generation,” said Jericha.

The mothers spend a lot of

time traveling but it pays off with good competition and qualifications for the bigger tournaments like Junior Gold.

The kids spend time practicing and Jayce and Iria use the two handed method which takes practice since a dominant hand is necessary.

Livionna uses the one hand method and it works for her.

Max Harms of Sturgis Strikers is pleased with the performance of the bowlers.

We have two that are serious players and one who is nonchalant but they’re all ready to go when they need to be,” he said.

He added he hopes the next generation can keep the sport alive, as it’s a lifetime commitment for many.

“We’ve got senior bowlers who are approaching 70, 80 years of age. They help keep it alive,”



Iria Baker two-hands the ball as Jayce Joyce looks on. MC News Photo

Rowan Grace Band Comes To Sturgis

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS—Four years after appearing on NBC’s “The Voice, Rowan Grace performed at Music On Main July 1st.

She had her band, Bryce Job, Rueben Rodriguez and Matt Green with her and.

She was on the show at 16 and is now 20. She’s been playing in the area to stay close to home for now. Her bandmates are from east river so they’re not far from home either.

She has a wide variety of tastes when it comes to her music.

“I write some pop music and maybe some folk with some R&B influences but we write all kinds of stuff she said.



From left, Rowan Grace, Bryce Job, Rueben Rodriguez and Matt Green (Top) Rowan Grace performing with nice crowd on hand enjoying (Below) MC News Photos

SBHS, Post 33 Baseball Selling Fireworks As Fundraiser

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS—Sturgis Brown High School and Post 33 Baseball are selling fireworks in the lot adjacent to Lynn’s Dakotamart as a fundraiser for things they need.

R.J. Royer said the teams are working together since one board oversees both programs.

“The fireworks company Bellino reached out to a bunch of athletic programs in the area, and asked if they wanted to run the stand as a fundraiser, so they supply all the fireworks, set up the tents and the permits and we get 15 percent of everything we

sell,” said Royer.

Sales started on June 27 and will continue until July 5, the last day fireworks can legally be sold in South Dakota.

Sales are a little behind last year, when they raised \$100,000.

Team members and their parents are required to work together at the stand which is open from 8 am to 10 pm and 8 am to 11 pm Friday and Saturday.

“Parents man the registers and the kids stock tables and bag purchases, so it’s a team effort,” said Royer.

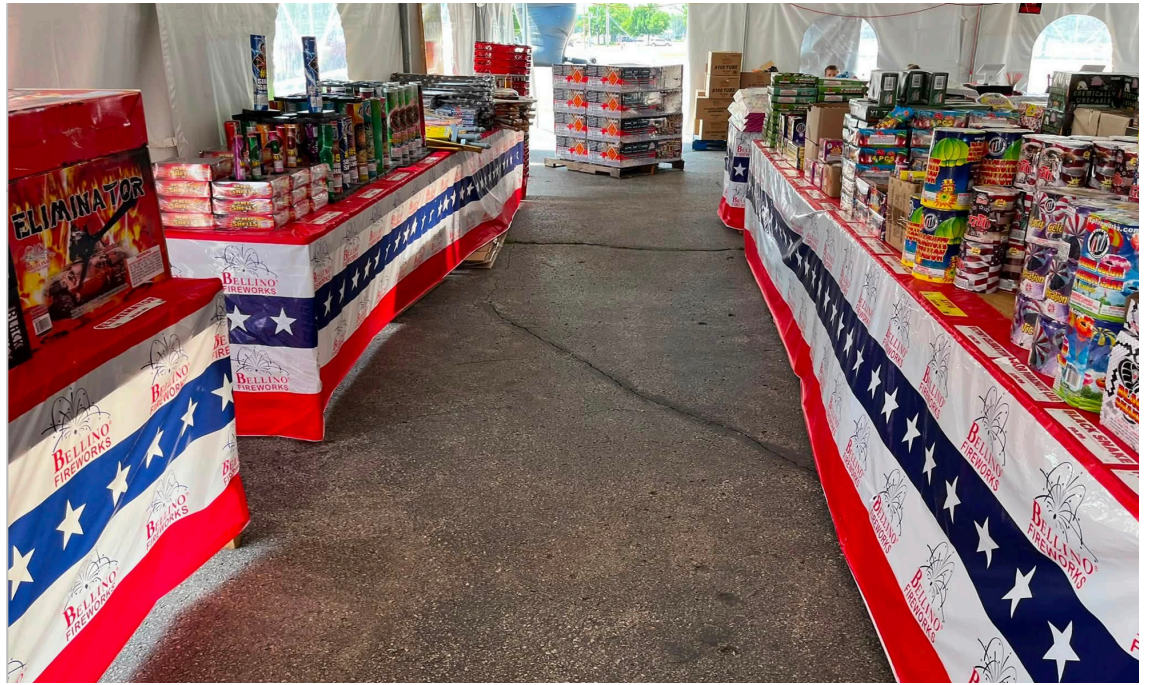
“Stop on by and tell your friends.”



Mallory Strang and Nolan Lyons are in charge of this vast enterprise this afternoon. MC News Photos



(Above) Someone is going to have a great 4th; (Below) 3. How long do you think it would take for 16,000 firecrackers to go off? Hmmm?!?!?



Wide aisles make for good shopping; (Below) Bellino Fireworks wide selection and specials too!



Grocery 'Art and Hot Dogs! Drool, Drool!

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— Every year at Music On Main Grocery 'Art (inside joke) provides hot dogs, pop, water and popsicles

to those attending Music On Main. People could make donations for the hot dogs to cystic fibrosis. Ryan Meyer and crew served the crowd and sponsored the evening's event along with the usual supporters.



Local Gals Work To Help Organizations

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— We told you about the fundraiser Saturday at the Iron Horse Saloon for Ricky Miller; well the two gals who ran the Bingo are Misty Meyer and Renee Coots.

They are also running Bingo to raise money for the Sturgis Animal Shelter. "We've been looking for a place to host Bingo for a while and thought we had a place but no, so the Iron Horse stepped up and we've been having Bingo since April," said Meyer. They've raised \$1900 and almost 200 pounds of pet food. They plan to run until fall with two weeks off for the rally. The ladies are grateful that many Sturgis residents like playing Bingo since it benefits nonprofit organizations as a side effect. But... "The shelter needs more room so now they're not taking

any more animals, dogs or cats," she said. After the rally they will raise money for Shirley Speaks, a domestic violence organization. Meyer and Coots want people to know they make no money on the Bingo or does the Iron Horse and Rushmore Office Supply donates the Bingo cards.



From left, Misty Meyer and Renee Coots MC News Photos

Attorney General Jackley's 2026 Legislative Bills Become Law July 1

PIERRE— All 10 of South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley's bills that he proposed during the 2026 legislative session officially become law Wednesday, July 1. The measures were approved by legislators and signed by the Governor.

"These bills protect our citizens from online predators, scammers, and illegal drugs, while they strengthen transparency within state government," said Attorney General Jackley. "Thank you to all who testified on behalf of these bills and the support we received from legislators and the Governor." "In South Dakota, we protect our people, and we stand for what's right," said Gov. Larry Rhoden. "I am grateful for Attorney General Jackley's efforts to promote public safety, and I was proud to sign these important pieces of legislation into law."

The 10 bills are: Senate Bill 17: Prohibits a candidate or political committee from accepting contributions or loans made by a foreign national. It unanimously passed both the House and Senate.

Senate Bill 41: Revise a provision related to criminal invasions of privacy, prohibit the creation and distribution of

digitally fabricated material of an identifiable individual, and provide penalties therefor.

Senate Bill 42: Enhance the penalties for ingestion, possession with intent to deliver, and delivery of a controlled substance in a state correctional facility.

Senate Bill 43: Address search and seizure provisions applicable to digital currency.

Senate Bill 44: Establish investigative subpoena authority to gather business records in certain investigations.

Senate Bill 45: Revise a provision regulating delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol, THC-O acetate, and hexahydrocannabinol for persons under the age of under the age of twenty-one and to provide a penalty therefor.

Senate Bill 46: Modify the requirements for open meeting agendas and provide a penalty therefor.

Senate Bill 47: Revise the requirements for executive sessions and closed meetings.

Senate Bill 48: Clarify that an official open meeting agenda must be posted online at least seventy-two hours before the scheduled start of the meeting.

Senate Bill 49: Safeguards the integrity, privacy, and security of genetic data and provides a civil penalty therefor.

Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden, June 30 2026



After a nice week of 70 some degree temperatures, the summer weather invited itself to come in mostly on Saturday over the weekend. Some areas like the Hope community received 1.6 inches of rain around Thursday night while others received only one or two tenths of an inch. Needless to say, this time of year approaching July is a good time to pray for an abundance of moisture.

Last weekend I was able to attend some of the 2026 Special Olympics in Minneapolis. It was my first time attending as well as my sister, Trish Murphy and Deb Schnell. Besides walking in with the team for the Parade of Athletes, we attended several tours and events with 7 other First Ladies who were also in attendance. It was so great spending time at a cookie social with the team and getting to know so many of them. It was a great experience that I attended as the First Lady of South Dakota. We were guests of the Governor and First lady of Minnesota. That is where I got to know Mariah Shriever and her brother Tim, who is the CEO of Special Olympics. So many great folks are involved in Special Olympics and I intend to spend more time advocating for them in the future.

Union Center celebrated its 100 birthday on Saturday which started off with a parade. Larry and Sandy were parade marshals followed by Anders Trucking, Yesterday's Kids, and many other entities. Floyd Cammack drove his car as did others that were entered

into the car show that day. There was great participation for that. There were bouncy houses of different sorts and turtle races after the parade. Tru Spring was the winner of the turtle race and it was fun watching that activity. Tru's turtle was the smallest and was adorned in a red bow, which may or may not possibly have been compliments of one of his 4 sisters. After the ice cream social, the audience was treated to a slide show that gave the history of surrounding communities and then focused on Union Center. It covered business, schools and much more. Sylvia Rhoden was the author of the many portions of the history narrated by Larry Rhoden, Kenny Rhoden, and other friends and relatives. Jenny Tiff and her son put the many pictures, recordings and video together for the presentation. It was estimated that about 600 folks from our communities and out of state attended. It was great to see Sandy and Becky Hale there from their home near Minneapolis. The CMC Community Center BOD did a great job of handling the crowd with a supper of brats & burgers. It was a great time of reconnecting with folks we haven't seen for months, years and decades. The day ended with a dance on the east side of the building. It was certainly a day to remember.

Union Center is a community made up of the families of homesteaders that had to work hard and endure many hardships in order to survive. Only the toughest were able to stay here. The offspring of

families with names that are familiar to our area are those descendants of these homesteaders. That is what makes our community strong and innovative while still holding to character traits passed down like humility, respect, and the desire to reach out to our neighbors in need. It is ingrained in those who have grown up here and acquired by those who have lived here for decades. Faith plays a large part of the character as when hard times like drought, blizzards, sinking cattle prices and more come knocking on our doors, our only hope is in our prayers to God almighty. A big thank you to all who planned for months to help make this 100 year celebration happen.

VBS is happening this week at the church in Union Center. It will go from June 29 - July 2. Cedar Canyon Bible Camp is right around the corner as well.

Our state and country are upon one of the largest celebration in history this week, our 250th birthday as a country. As many know now, President Trump will be making his way to Mt. Rushmore on July 3 for an evening of celebration of our 250th birthday and fireworks. Parades will take place in western South Dakota and all around the state. I hope you all celebrate to your hearts content as you treasure living in the wonderful USA in the best state, SD, in the nation! We continue to be free and we do things the right way here in South Dakota. And especially to residents, former and current, of Union Center and nearby, may you be blessed beyond measure and Happy 100th Birthday!

By John Newby

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

"Data Centers Deserve Facts, Not Fear"

Most conversations I have had about data centers follows the same script. Someone comments on social media or raises a hand at a planning meeting warning about water being stolen, power grids collapsing, and companies strip-mining rural land. People nod, fear spreads and ignorance grow. A facility that can bring economic benefit to a struggling town gets voted down on the back of misinformation disguised as civic concern.



power rather than drawing entirely from the public grid. About 30 percent of planned U.S. data center capacity is already shifting toward what the industry calls "bring your own power" strategies, with facilities building on-site solar, wind, battery storage, and natural gas generation. In Virginia, Vantage Data Centers has operated its own on-site power plant since September 2025 after being told the local utility could not connect them for years. Rather than burden the grid or wait out a bureaucratic backlog, they built their own solution.

And when data centers do connect to the grid, many are funding the upgrades themselves rather than passing costs to rate-payers. In Minnesota, Google signed a deal with Xcel Energy to fully fund 1,900 megawatts of new wind, solar, and battery storage, covering grid infrastructure costs as well. In Louisiana, Meta funded seven natural gas plants, more than 200 miles of transmission lines, and battery systems for regional infrastructure. In March 2026, seven major technology companies including Amazon, Google, Meta, and Microsoft signed a White House agreement committing to fund all necessary grid infrastructure improvements tied to their data centers.

Now, let's be fair and discuss legitimate concerns. Grid stress is real where oversight is weak. In PJM, the grid operator covering 13 northeastern states, data center demand contributed to a capacity price increase of 833 percent between the 2024 and 2025 delivery years. Communities that fail to negotiate proper infrastructure agreements before a facility opens may find themselves absorbing costs they never agreed to carry. That is preventable. More than 30 states have now enacted or proposed large-load tariffs requiring data centers to pay for the grid infrastructure their demand creates, rather than spreading those costs to residen-

tial customers. Permanent staffing at large facilities can also be modest once construction crews leave, sometimes only several dozen full-time workers, and that should factor into any economic development agreement.

On water, critics are working from outdated information. Modern data centers increasingly use recycled and reclaimed water rather than potable freshwater. Microsoft built a system in Quincy, Washington that cuts potable water use by 97 percent and returns 1.5 million cubic meters annually for community drinking needs. Closed-loop cooling systems can reduce freshwater use by up to 70 percent compared to older evaporative methods. Communities should still ask exactly which source a facility plans to use and what recycling commitments will be binding. That is responsible engagement, not opposition.

The bottom line is this. When you swipe your debit card at Main Street's hardware store, a data center processes that transaction. When the local hospital retrieves a patient record, a data center makes that possible. When your child logs into school software, a data center is behind it. We are not debating whether to allow something foreign into our communities. We are deciding whether our communities will benefit from the expansion of something we already rely on every day.

Come informed. Ask about power sourcing, grid investment commitments, water recycling plans, permanent employment numbers, and tax agreements. Insist on binding language, not press release promises. Before your community's next data center vote, visit your state's economic development office to review published frameworks for negotiating large industrial agreements. The facts are on your side when you know them.

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

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

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

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.

With the Black Hills Roundup celebrating its 100th rodeo this year, here's an appropriate bit of poetry by my old friend Rod Nichols. Rod died way too young, but left the world with great cowboy poetry. You can find others by Rod at www.Cowboypoetry.com (used by permission from Rod's wife)

A Cowboy 4th of July

In the life of an early-day cowboy,
The only two days he could rest,
Were Christmas that came in the winter
And July the Fourth which was best.

Cause no one could ever out-holler
Or let his whole spirit soar high
As a just-off-the-range happy cowboy
When it came to the Fourth of July.

Independence was more than a "Day" boys,
Twas his way of life, don't you see,
And he weren't about to miss showin'
Just how much it meant to be free.

The cow towns knew that much about him;
They plum went all out for the Fourth.
They opened the town to the trailhands,
Who'd come in by wagon or horse.

Tweren't nuthin' could dampen their spirits,
Or keep any trailhand away,
And no one could hold back a cowboy
From kickin' his heels up that day.

There was music and dancin' and fireworks,
Declarations, and not just a few.
A free-for-all town celebration,
All decked out in red, white and blue.

They were proud of this land and this nation,
And showed it for any to see.
Today we might bolster our own pride
Rememberin' our own history.

In the life of an early-day cowboy
The only two days he could rest
Were Christmas that came in the winter
And July the Fourth which was best.

© 2004, Rod Nichols

The Good Stuff was developed for radio by Jim Thompson nearly 2 decades ago. The Beacon is the only newspaper that it appears in. You can hear The Good Stuff in the Northern Black Hills on KBHB Sturgis, 810AM each weekday morning at 9:30. Or go online to KNKL.org each Monday through Saturday morning at 9:00

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Stay on top of what's happening at the state Capitol in Pierre and around the state with breaking news, investigative reporting and a constant drumbeat of information about the world around you.

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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve



(Above) Crowds wait for the sword fight between knights at the *Black Hills Renaissance Festival*. (Below L) Fire breather demonstrates her power over fire. (BR) Michelle Langemeire of *The Kiln* paints a sculpture. (Below) • Hundreds of vendors sold everything from crystals to leather goods. *Meade County News Photos*



Howard Ugland: Balloon Sculptor

Brandon Bennett
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Sturgis—For the last three or four years, Howard Ugland has set up his booth at Music On Main to create balloon sculptures for the kids.

He can turn any piece of latex into animals or anything else.

Ugland doesn't just do it to make money. He does it to help children in other countries who have needs they couldn't normally afford.

"My first trip was in 2004 to Romania for health care for the kids and I realized I needed to learn how to create balloon art so took a crash course and learned a little," he said.

He later took an advanced class in Las Vegas and learned a lot. So he put it to use.

He now has an expanded line that includes Mylar spaceship, dinosaur and princess scepter balloons.

He comes every week to Music On Main even though he had knee replacement surgery last winter.



South Dakota Selected to Lead National Law Enforcement Information Network

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota has been selected to help lead one of the nation's most important public safety information networks following the election of South Dakota Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (SDLETS) Director Kelli Erickson as President of NLETS, the International Justice and Public Safety Network.

Erickson was elected by the organization's governing body during its annual business meeting June 23-25 in Manchester, New Hampshire. Her election places a South Dakota leader at the helm of the organization responsible for the secure exchange of criminal justice and public safety information among law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and internationally.

As director of SDLETS, Erickson oversees South Dakota's secure law enforcement telecommunications network, ensuring local, state and federal public safety agencies can quickly and securely exchange the critical information they need every day. Her election recognizes both her leadership and South Dakota's longstanding commitment to excellence in public safety communications.

"I am honored and humbled by the confidence my colleagues have placed in me," Erickson said. "NLETS plays a vital role in public safety by securely connecting law enforcement and public safety agencies across the nation. I look forward to working with our partners to continue building

partnerships and strengthening the secure exchange of critical public safety information."

Erickson has served NLETS in numerous leadership roles, including on the Training Committee and Bylaws Committee. She most recently served as Second Vice President and First Vice President, while also serving as an ex officio member of the Technical Operations Committee and the Finance and Management Committee.

"Kelli's election reflects the respect she has earned among her peers nationwide and highlights the expertise South Dakota brings to public safety communications," said Frank Minice, Chief Executive Officer of NLETS. "We look forward to seeing her leadership guide NLETS forward."

NLETS is the International Justice and Public Safety Network, providing the secure infrastructure that enables law enforcement, criminal justice and public safety agencies to exchange information across jurisdictions in all 50 states, U.S. territories and international partners. The network supports everything from driver's license and vehicle registration inquiries to criminal history information and other mission-critical public safety data.

For South Dakota, Erickson's election means the state will help shape the future of the secure information-sharing systems that law enforcement officers and public safety professionals rely on every day.

SDLETS is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

★★★ JULY 28TH ★★★ GUBERNATORIAL RUNOFF ELECTION

POLLING LOCATION CHANGE

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



- 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 Tilford 6
 - 12 Rural Sturgis 7
 - 13 Harmony 8
 - 14 Bear Butte 9

TO THE NEW LOCATION:
STURGIS BROWN HIGH SCHOOL

★
12930 E Hwy 34
Sturgis, SD 57785

ELECTION DAY:
TUESDAY, JULY 28TH

ABSENTEE VOTING IS AVAILABLE AT THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE THROUGH JULY 27TH.



Season 6, Episode 9: South Dakota's First 4th of July

Ben and Braeden did some digging to find out when the first time an Independence Day was celebrated in what is now South Dakota. Turns out it's quite a story that involves an amazing variety of people, many of whom have since become important in the state's history for things they've done since that Independence Day in 1825.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD! **VOTE**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE MEADE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE
605-347-2360 | auditor@meade.sdcounty.gov