



Gen. George C. Meade



Bear Butte

Meade County News

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Live & Online

25 Years Later, 9/11 Still Remembered

Robbi Longbrake

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BELLE FOURCHE— Walking into Herrmann Park on the morning of September 11, you were met with the overwhelming sight of rows and rows of intricately arranged American flags—2,983 of them to be exact. Each represented one life lost in the horrific attacks on our homeland, with another six recognizing the lives lost in the February 26, 1993, bombing of the World Trade Center.

The Center of the Nation 9/11 Remembrance Weekend brought the events of 25 years ago to Belle Fourche’s doorstep by hosting two days of activities Sept. 11–12. The occasion was meant to honor and remember the lives lost on that fateful day as well as educate the public about the enormity of the tragedy in an attempt to unify the community.

Belle Fourche’s own Joe and Alicia Giaculli were the driving force behind the planning and execution of the memorial events. They built upon the Remembrance Walk that was started by the Belle Fourche Volunteer Fire Department to honor first responders and others lost in the attacks.

Joe was a first responder on



A memorial wreath honoring the victims of 9/11 stood at the front of the 9/11 Memorial Flag Tribute. Longbrake photo (Last weeks 9/11 photos should have been credited ti Julie B Photography)

the scene of the devastating attack on the World Trade Center 25 years ago. He worked on the recovery efforts for the following 13 months.

Beginning at 8 a.m. on the morning of September 11, the

opening ceremony took place. Jim Thompson served as the MC and greeted everyone in attendance and reminded them why we were all together on this unforgettable day. “This is the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, and today we gather

to remember a day that forever changed our country and changed our lives for so many of us. Remember those who were lost, those who responded, those who served in the years that followed, and the families, the survivors and communities

who continue to carry the impact of September 11th,” he said.

Thompson recognized all of the flags on display and explained their importance.

9/11 Contd. A3

Chamber Mixer: Ft. Meade Museum!

Brandon Bennett

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Bennett STURGIS— The September Mixer for the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor’s Bureau was at Ft. Meade Museum.

Visitors could see the static and diorama displays about life at the historic post.

Board members talked up the museum and its importance

in Sturgis’ history. Ft. Meade Museum Board President Bob Tesch said the two communities are tied together. “Ever since 1878 when the town was founded and the Fort was opened, they’re connected.

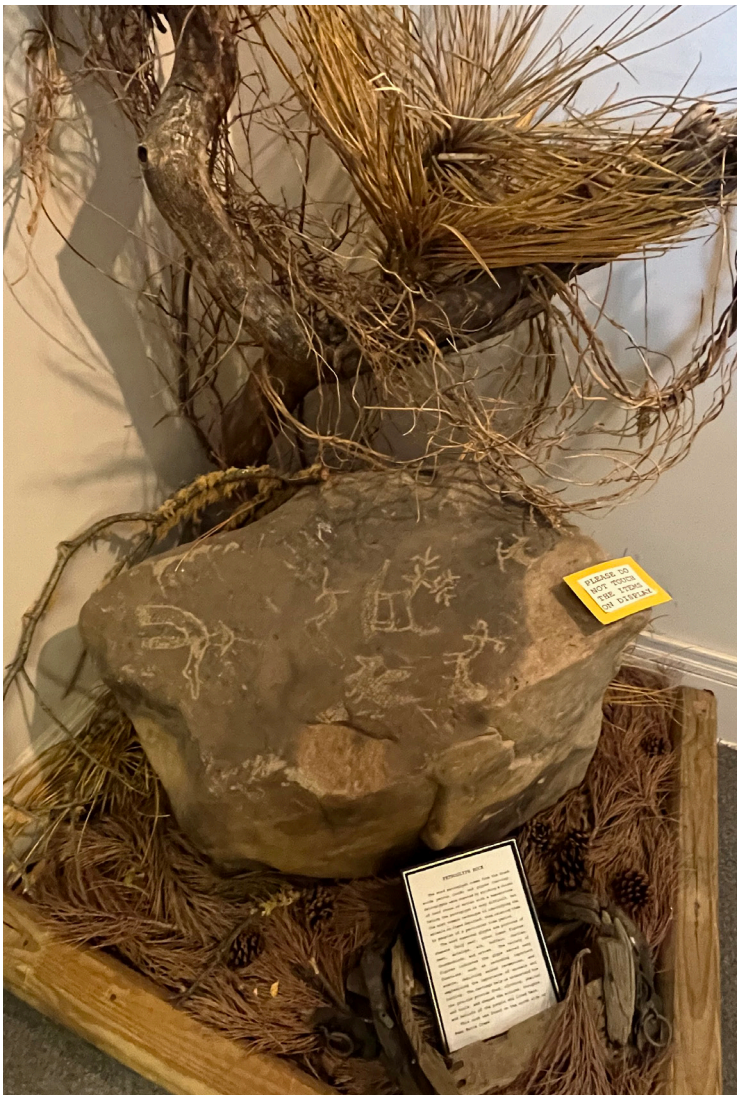
We’re the reason Sturgis is nicknamed Scooptown, since we scooped up the soldiers money,” he said.

The displays show how

things were from 1878 to 1944, when the last soldiers went to war.

The newest addition is the diorama of Custer’s 1874 expedition into the Black Hills. Hours of operation during the summer are from Monday through Saturday 10 am to 5 pm but will close at the end of September for the winter.

Additional photos. A3



Paint The Plow! Getting Ready For Homecoming!



Brandon Bennett

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STURGIS— One can tell Homecoming is approaching when SWMS teacher Kristi Cammack marshals her students to become Picassos and paint the plows on city plow trucks.

She tries to encourage free expression. “I don’t really have a theme per se, but I have the kids submit their designs and I choose 7 to use to paint the plows,” she said.

The subjects ranged from winter to tropical and floral. Lainee Karrels has three years of painting plows under her belt. “I love doing this for my school, I love helping Miss Cammack and being with my friends and I love seeing the plow go downtown and seeing my designs,” she said.

Homecoming is September 25th. Eight grade students from Sturgis Williams Middle School play art masters as they paint the plows.

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— The Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor’s Bureau hosted a ribbon cutting at Hilltop Blooms on Junction Avenue September 11th. Dana Keffeler owns the boutique which offers flower arrangements, gifts and apparel. It’s also the distributor for Dark Canyon

Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Hilltop Blooms

Coffee. Keffeler also owns Keffeler Creations in Faith and explained what drew her to Sturgis. “I was kind of excited to branch out, it’s definitely a different area, the size of Faith compared to here, so we decided to do it,” she said. She

did add floral arrangements for different occasions is what she likes to offer, including free delivery for funerals and similar events. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday 9 am to 3 pm. Phone number is 605-561-0138.



Hilltop Blooms cuts the ribbon at **Sturgis Chamber** event. MCNews Photo

Blessed Fest All About Cars, Trucks and People Who Love Them; Grounded Car Show! Another Chance to Ogle Someone Else’s Ride!

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— If you saw cars, trucks and smoke out at Thunderdome on Highway 34 it was just Bless Fest, celebrating BIG trucks and a few drift cars.

Dagon Kahl is the organizer and said... “This is our third year so we decided to move to Sturgis at the Thunderdome and management has even great to work with and we had drag racing yesterday,” said Kahl.

Saturday featured drift cars and will see burnouts with the trucks. There are food and drink vendors and both bars are open.

Blessed Performance and National Hot Rod Diesel Association are sponsors of the festival and the trucks they work with are part of the event that includes local truck owners.

People are coming from all over due to Blessed Performance and NHRDA’s social media presence.

So what’s a rig like these at

the festival go for? “You can easily go over \$200,000 for a truck that has 1,000 horsepower and the wheels alone can be \$4,000 a set,” said Kahl. Even with that much money into a rig, drivers have to show what they have by burning a little rubber. Same with the drift cars.

Sometimes drivers like have passengers who want to experience the same thing as the driver. Around 6 or so Saturday the burnouts begin and drifting will go on until midnight. Also

a DJ will provide music for a party going in the Dome.

* * *

STURGIS—The first annual Grounded car show September 12th on Main Street is another chance to see custom cars, pickups and bikes.

There were food vendors and even a video game vendor.

Ian Zook is the organizer and gave a simple reason for the show.

“ I just like cars and think we could use another big annual

event so that’s what started this show. I wanted to get people together,” he said.

People came from all over and the farthest some drove was from Denver.

Zook was able to wrangle his friends in the car circles to help with parking and logistics.

Ian is pleased with the support from the people of Sturgis and is grateful.

He’s already thinking of next year and how big it could be.



Ian Zook, founder of the *Grounded Car Show*. MCNews Photos







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Sturgis American Legion Post Riders presented the flags to open the 9/11 program in Belle Fourche's Herrmann Park. *Photo Courtesy of Susie B Photography*
9/11 From A1

"Here in Herrmann Park, nearly 3,000 American flags have been placed in remembrance of the individuals' lives that were lost on September 11th; each one represents a person, represents a life that was being lived, people who loved them, and a story that did not begin or end with that day," he said.

The Sturgis American Legion Riders color guard presented the colors and Austey Stiefvater sang the national anthem.

Mark Leverington read a poem he wrote to commemorate the 25th anniversary. Before he started, he shared the dedication. "It's a poem to commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, and I would dedicate it to all the men, women and children that died that day. I would also dedicate it to our first responders that climbed the stairs that day, trying to save one person, maybe two persons, but gave their lives up to do that today," he said. "I would like to dedicate it to the men and the women that sit in the front row today—some of us see them in action, protecting us, serving us and defending us. And I would like to also dedicate it to the man sitting to the right of me, my new friend Joe, who served as detective of the New York City Police Department—a good man."

The Center of the Nation 9/11 Remembrance presented the city of Belle Fourche with an American flag that was flown over the 9/11 Memorial in New York City. Joe and Alicia presented it to the mayor of Belle Fourche, Randy Schmidt. "Good morning, everyone. My name is Detective Joseph Giaculli, Organized Crime Manhattan, and this is a flag that we flew at Ground Zero in Manhattan in June. We're going to present this flag to the city today," he said.

Schmidt accepted the gift on behalf of the city and said it would be on display at the Tri-State Museum. "As we mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, we are reminded that while the years pass, our responsibilities to remember does not.

We also recognize the spirit that emerged in the days and the months that followed. Americans came together with compassion, resolve and willingness to help one another. Communities put aside differences and focused on what united us—love of country, service to others and hope for the future—those values remain just as important today as they were 25 years ago," shared Schmidt. "I would also like to thank the many volunteers, businesses, organizations, veterans, first responders, community leaders and the citizens of Belle Fourche who helped make

this Remembrance Weekend possible. Your commitment ensures that the stories, sacrifices and lessons of September 11th continue to be shared with our future generation."

United States Senator Mike Rounds spoke about how the tragedy hit close to home. "It touched every community within our state...think for a minute about what happened right here in your local community as young men who were part of the National Guard, as their families start to wonder about what would happen to them because they were being called to duty. We called up over 5,000 young men and women in South Dakota alone. They left their families. They left their communities. They left their jobs," he said.

Kayla Grams, owner of Belle Fourche Counseling, spent time talking about the trauma first responders endure while they are helping others. "...while thousands of people were desperately trying to get away from danger. Firefighters, police officers, paramedics and other first responders were moving toward danger. And 25 years later, that is still what first responders do every single day," she said.

Grams reflected on the way Americans supported one another following the attacks and encouraged the community to approach mental health with that same sense of preparedness and care, rather than waiting until someone is in crisis. "Strength isn't carrying everything by yourself. Sometimes strength is recognizing what you're carrying has become too heavy and reaching out your hand. Strength is noticing that someone's hands are full and helping them carry it," she explained. "That responsibility belongs to all of us. It belongs to departments and leadership. It belongs to mental health professionals. It belongs to families, friends, neighbors, churches, schools, businesses and communities like ours. If we are going to ask men and women to show up for us on the worst days of our lives, we must show up for them on theirs."

Joe stood alongside his wife, Alicia, as she shared stories of some of the people who lost their lives in the 9/11 tragedy, reminding those gathered that each of the 2,977 flags represented a person with a name and a story. "Ultimately Joe and I and the rest of our team, our family, our friends wanted to thank you all who have showed up to help us create this space for our community to all be together and remember victims from September 11th. Thank you very much," she said.

At precisely 8:46 a.m., the church bells tolled and the large crowd gathered in the park went silent together to remember the exact moment that Flight 11 hit

the North Tower.

Stephen Carson, pastor of Connection Church, led prayer. As he finished, Brenda Schnieder, standing in the field of flags, played Taps. Barry Pitt performed his rendition of Alan Jackson's "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)."

MC Thompson closed out the ceremony by recognizing those in attendance who have dedicated their lives to serving others and officially opening the 9/11 Memorial Flag Tribute to the public.

"Each flag before you represents a life, a family and a story worthy of being remembered," he said. "On behalf of the Center of the Nation 9/11 Remembrance and the many people who made this possible, we now invite you to enter the 9/11 Memorial Flag Tribute to walk among the flags, learn the stories, remember, reflect and never forget."

The event was well thought out and every aspect of the weekend was thoroughly planned. Spectators were encouraged to enter the Flag Tribute through the picnic shelter, which had been transformed into a tunnel with displays lining both sides. At the entrance was a display of bald eagles created by Dahl's Chainsaw Art. Inside, you could find a TV broadcasting the 9/11 reading of the names of those who perished in the attacks.

Memorabilia and recognitions stemming from the terrorist attack were on display. A table held framed newspapers from the days following the 9/11 attack. Nine freestanding informational panels detailed each event of the day and the days following, beginning with the exact moment the North Tower was hit by the first plane and continuing through each tragic event.

On the other side of the tunnel was a Remembrance Wall for people to share their thoughts and a Survivor Tree filled with leaves.

At 6 p.m. on the same day was the Remembrance Walk. Local firefighters came in full gear to lead the one-mile route (four laps) around Herrmann Park. One mile is approximately 2,200 steps, the number used to symbolize climbing the 110 stories of one of the World Trade Center towers. Participants could walk one mile in honor of one tower or two miles in honor of both.

The Flag Tribute was available for the public to visit on both September 11 and 12. Beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 12, was the 9/11 Never Forget Blood Drive. The blood drive ended the day with 44 blood donations. "[We] just missed our goal, but there is always next year," shared Alicia. "We were so pleased with the turnout!"

Ft. Meade Photos by MCNews



(L) Meade County **Sheriff Pat West** shakes hands with New York native **Joe Giaculli** who was a Manhattan Detective in New York during 9/11; (R) From left Belle Fourche Police Chief **Ryan Chervany**, Sheriff West, and Butte County Sheriff **Fred Lamphere** applaud Sen. Mike Rounds 9/11 commemorative address. *Photos Courtesy Susie B. Photography*

Central Meade County News

By Sandy Rhoden, September 13, 2026

There is a distinct coolness in the air these days as we now enjoy a cooling off at night when the sun sets. However, we still could use some rain. There is quite extreme drought in some areas of South Dakota.

Central MeadeCounty has been fortunate that it's had enough moisture to stay ahead of the drought to get some hay

main service will be at 11:00 am. There will be a pot luck dinner after the morning service for all attendees.

On the baby front, Caden and Jori Smiley are awaiting their 4th child that is due in October. The young couples attending church in Union Center are doing a nice job of growing the church family.

There were multiple birth-days acknowledge at church on Sunday and we found that the September 13 birth date is shared by Jim McQuown, Deb Vig and Ninu Spring. A song was sung for all September birthdays.

A Sunshine Bible Academy class reunion is coming up this next weekend. It will be John Rhoden's class celebrating and all other classes are invited to attend. Lorie Rhoden will be attending a portion of it with friends as well. They will attend a church service after that on Sunday as guests of Larry and Sandy Rhoden.

Larry and Sandy Rhoden had meetings in Pierre last week and spent Saturday at the Sanford Golf Classic in Sioux Falls. It's always interesting to see what professional golfers show up. They made their annual stop to

see Les Shaw and the cooks who provide the burgers and food for the Veterans each year from Beef Logic Inc.

Larry joined the crew to serve burgers to the long line of veterans there to enjoy the beef. Later they attended the President's Bowl where high school football teams from Lincoln and Jefferson went head to head.

Larry flipped the coin to start the game. Jefferson wound up with a big win that night. Both teams had sons of friends either playing football or in the band of both teams. We cheered for both.

By John Newby

“Building Main Street, not Wall Street”

“Spending Local, United We Stand, Divided We Fall!”

Nearly half of America’s rural counties lost population between 2020 and 2025, a combined loss of almost 460,000 people. I have driven through hundreds of small and midsize towns over the years, and I can tell you which ones are shrinking before the census numbers ever confirm it. You can feel it in the empty storefronts and in leaders who talk about survival instead of growth.

This is not a slow drift. It is a choice. Every community sits at a fork in the road, and most of them quietly pick the path of least resistance. They settle for maintaining what they already have instead, living in the past or of building what they could have. That choice, repeated year after year, is what turns a town into a statistic.

A few years ago my wife and I returning from a business trip drove through Keene, New Hampshire, a small town tucked into the state’s rolling hills. Keene refused to settle. The Keene Sentinel newspaper partnered with the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship to build Radically Rural; a summit built entirely around the idea that small towns can produce extraordinary impact. That summit now pulls roughly five hundred people from forty states into Keene every single year. A newspaper and a non-profit looked at their town and refused to accept small thinking. They built a stage for big ideas, and now the rest of the country shows up to stand on it.

Later on that same trip, we passed through Canton, Ohio, home of the Pro Football

Hall of Fame. Ask yourself how a museum built around the National Football League ended up in Canton instead of one of the dozens of larger cities sitting closer to NFL teams. The answer is not luck. Canton’s leaders wanted that Hall of Fame badly enough to chase it, and their local media stood beside them to promote it, sell it and refuse to let the dream quietly die. Today that decision brings tens of millions of dollars into Canton every year, money that would have landed somewhere else entirely if Canton’s leaders had played it safe.

Here is the part communities do not want to hear. Thinking small and clinging to the past is not a neutral choice. It is a slow death sentence. The towns that settle for mild, safe successes are the same towns showing up in the population decline numbers a decade later. Meanwhile, communities that invested in their downtowns, growing tourism, building a future, instead of quietly managing decline are seeing real returns. The Main Street America network generated 7.65 billion dollars in local reinvestment and more than 23,000 net new jobs last year

alone. Georgia’s Main Street communities alone delivered 824 million dollars in economic impact in a single year. Dreaming big is not a nice extra sitting on top of good management. It is the only strategy that has ever actually worked.

Your community does not need a Pro Football Hall of Fame or a national conference to prove this point. What it needs is leaders, in your media, your chamber, your city & county halls, and your local businesses, who stop asking whether a big idea is realistic and start asking what it would take to make it real. Every excuse your town makes for staying small today is a reason someone will cite for its decline tomorrow. Communities do not fall behind overnight. They fall behind one safe, timid decision at a time; until one day the factory closes, young people leave, small businesses shrink, and nobody can explain exactly when it happened.

I am convinced the biggest obstacle facing most communities is not money. It is imagination. Leaders settle for mild successes on the road most traveled because it is safe and has few obstacles in the way. It is the leaders willing to travel the harder road, fully expecting obstacles, who end up winning

the biggest prizes. Dreaming big does not guarantee you will win every time. It guarantees you will be tested; you will be sharpened and ready for the next big idea instead of standing still and watching your community die.

So here is what I am asking you to do, and I mean this week, not someday. Show up at your next city council or county commission meeting and ask one question out loud: what is the biggest idea this community has been too afraid to chase? If you cannot make the meeting, call your mayor or a commissioner today and ask that same question directly. Communities do not die because they lack resources. They die because nobody in the room was willing to dream bigger than their fear. Be the one who finally is. Your town’s odds of winning depend on it.

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

PRESSED BETWEEN THE PAGES #50

by DeAnn (Wolkow) Kruempel

“Donald Saves the Drive”



Rollin’, rollin’, keep them dogies rollin’...” The theme song from Rawhide lured Delmer and me into our living room on Friday nights. The 1960s TV series spotlighted trail boss Gil Faver and ramrod Rowdy Yates as they led cattle drives from Texas to Missouri. The drovers had to wrangle stampedes, raging rivers, treacherous mountain passes, anthrax and bandits on the dusty trail.

On our South Dakota farm, we had a couple cattle drives every year. Though

our drives were nothing to sing about around the campfire, (Gil and Rowdy would have branded us tenderfeet.) almost every year we rounded up an adventure to remember. Pressed between the pages of my brother Delmer’s mind is one particular drive when Donald saved the day.

Our herd, consisting mostly of Herefords, spent the summer at the south pasture grazing on lush prairie grasses while the young calves grew sleek and strong. In the fall, the bovines needed to come back to the farm, close to hay stacks, the water tank and the barnyard where they would be safe in the winter.

Dad lassoed the

whole family into becoming drovers for the day. Though the distance was less than a mile, there were plenty of places a cow or calf could get off track. Mom and one of the older girls took the car to the place where two gravel roads crossed.

They rounded up a couple of branches from the ditch and stood on both sides trying to look scary so the cows didn’t turn the wrong way. One of the other girls waited in the neighbor’s driveway to prevent the critters from grazing their garden. Delmer and I covered the open gate to the oat field as well as the unfenced area beyond. Dad and Donald rounded up the cattle with the pickup and got them

started on the dirt road that led home. Donald rode in the back, quick to hop out to open and shut gates and be on the lookout for trouble.

This particular fall, all was going well. (Wishbone was ready to park the chuckwagon in the yard and celebrate with good old salt pork and beans!) The lead cow remembered the way home. Her friends hoofed it right behind her. She turned into the yard and headed for the barn.

Every one of us heaved a sigh of relief when the cattle passed our station. Maybe this year would go on record as the perfect drive. But, as most wranglers know, life is never perfect. Seems one lonesome calf decided the grass was greener on the other side of the ditch. He veered off into the field, teenage rebellion kicking in. Dad spotted the

wayward calf right away. He checked to make sure his older son wouldn’t be bucked off the pickup and steered into the field. As the rest of the family looked on, we were probably thinking of handy horses and lariats. What would Rowdy do? At last Dad maneuvered around right next to that ornery calf. Suddenly, quicker than you can say “bronc buster,” my brother leaped off the pickup onto the back of the dogged dogie, bulldogging him and pinning him to the ground.

With the thrill of victory, Don lifted his head and brandished his signature smirk.

Yep, I reckon even Rowdy would have been proud!

Read another of Kruempel’s cattle drive stories in “Once Upon a Midwest Sunset,” her sixth book. Available at Amazon.





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Jonathan Ellis & Joe Sneve

Council Authorizes City Attorney to Proceed with MH-1 Phase 2 Planning Review

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS— The Sturgis City Council fielded a request by city attorney Eric Davis to go ahead with phase 2 of the MH-1 planning review at its meeting September 8th.

Background:

Under the City’s zoning code, manufactured homes and mobile homes are the permitted principal residential uses in areas zoned MH-1. The City’s current zoning map depicts two areas as MH-1.

A number of conventional site-built homes exist within those areas and are treated under the zoning code as legal nonconforming residential structures, because site-built homes are not otherwise a permitted residential use within MH-1. Those existing homes, and the limitations associated with their nonconforming status, gave rise to two issues Council began addressing earlier this year.

First, certain owners attempting to sell their homes

reported financing and appraisal issues arising from changes in lending and appraisal practices affecting legal nonconforming residential structures, particularly where the City’s zoning code limited reconstruction following substantial casualty. The City’s nonconforming-use rules are not unusual or irrational; they reflect the traditional zoning principle that lawful existing uses may continue while future development moves toward conformity with the current district.

The practical problem arose from the interaction between those longstanding zoning rules and changing financing and appraisal practices for certain kinds of loans, rather than from the zoning rule itself.

The second concern was broader, with several owners asking the City to consider greater rights to improve or enlarge existing site-built homes and, potentially, to allow site-built homes generally within MH-1. In response, the Council divided the work into two phases:

- Phase 1 addressed the immediate rebuildability problem. Ordinance 2026-02 allowed qualifying existing site-built homes to be reconstructed following a substantial casualty, and a subsequent amendment updated related MH-1 terminology and provisions.
- Phase 2 was intentionally reserved for the larger land-use policy question: whether and under what conditions existing site-built homes should be allowed to expand, whether new site-built homes should be permitted, and whether the underlying purpose or development standards of MH-1 should otherwise change.

The requests prompting Phase 2 came from individual owners, and it should not be assumed at this point that all or a majority of property owners in either MH-1 area favor the same outcome.

Planning, Zoning, and the Process for Change

The Sturgis City Council has substantial authority to reconsider the City’s zoning policy; zoning is not permanent simply

because a district was created or applied decades ago. Land-use needs, infrastructure, housing markets, neighborhoods, and community priorities change over time, and a useful zoning code should evolve with the community.

That being said, city attorney Eric Davis brought them all up to speed.

“The council reserved working on Phase Two of the ordinance and now it’s fall so the mayor asked me to put together a little legal memo.

I can’t take all the credit for this memo, it was tackled by Jayne Watson, our planning consultant and me,” said Davis. He further explained the memo would outline a state law procedural overlook on what the city’s planning and zoning authority is.

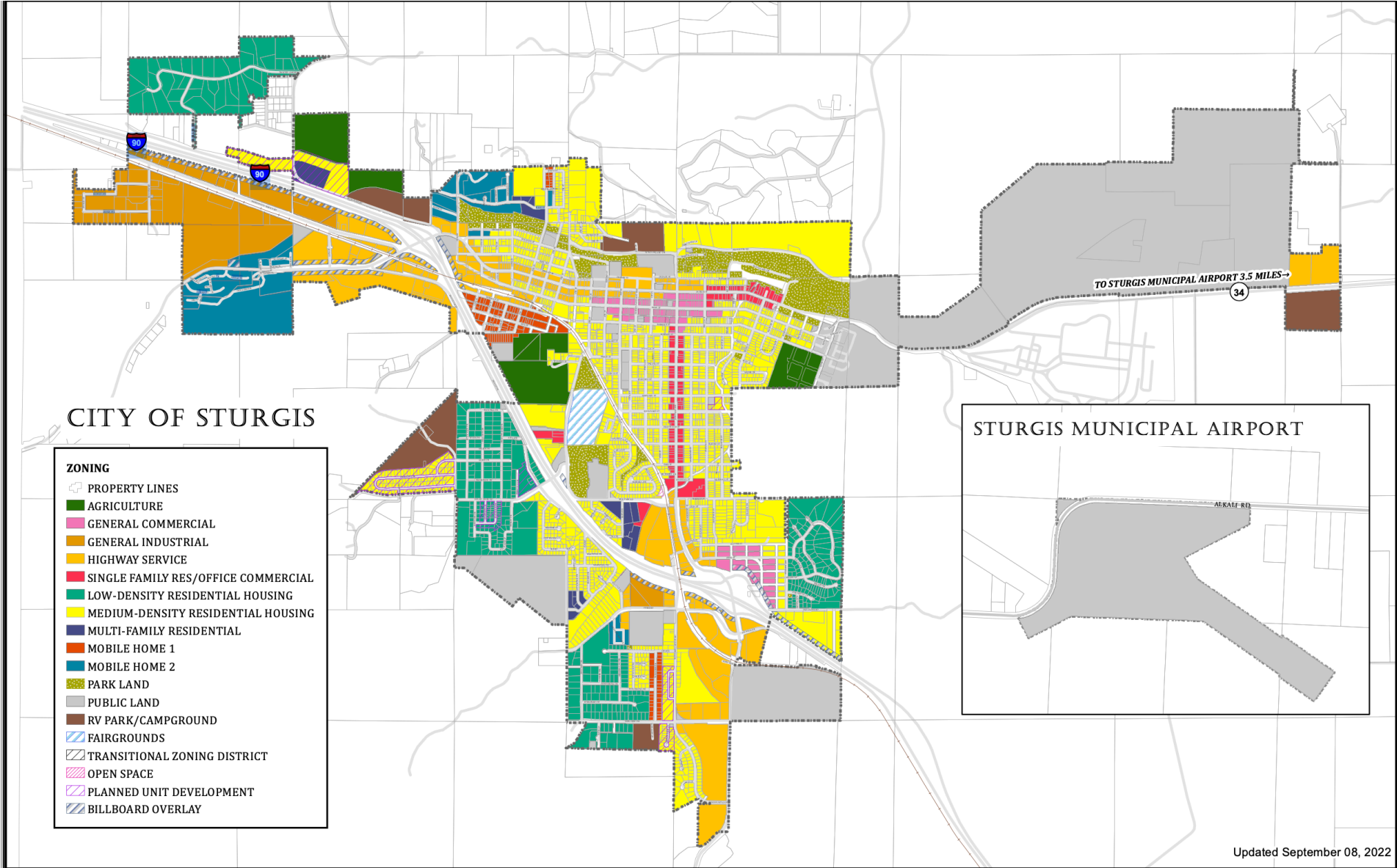
“This is it something we’ve invented by ourselves, its authority granted to the city of Sturgis by state law and if it’s an authority the city wants to enact, there are certain processes we need to follow,” he said.

The goal of the memo is to

lay out what those processes are with regard to state law and our ordinances and create an intersection between the council, the planning and permitting department with regard to working up an analysis to present to the planning commission and then to the council and then dealing with all the statutory requirements that go with land use planning and zoning authority under South Dakota codified law.

In a nutshell Davis and Watson tried to apply all these factors, requirements and procedures to MH-1 and do a report will be forthcoming from the planning department as Jayne Watson will be working with the planning department on what exists now, what exists by right, history, infrastructure, and what potential land use changes are and what future development in that area would mean for the city moving forward.

Ward 1 councilor Alex Usera made the motion to approve the memo and Ward 3 councilor Mark Chaplin seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.



District Approves Creating Foundation

Brandon Bennett
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STURGIS — The Meade School District 46-1 Board of Education has approved moving forward with a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) under a 501(c)(3) foundation to administer funds donated by parents under a new federal tax credit program.

Superintendent Wayne Wormstadt will work with the district’s school attorney to review the program’s requirements, eligibility rules and legal considerations, and to determine the appropriate path forward for the district.

The foundation would operate as a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), allowing it to accept a new \$1,700 federal tax credit created by federal legislation in 2025. Taxpayers would be essentially directing up to \$1,700 to Meade 46-1 to benefit student programming instead of the IRS.

The U.S. Treasury Department is expected to publish guidelines soon on how the

funds may be used.

To qualify, families must have an income at or below 300% of the Meade County Median Family Income. With that figure set at \$98,000, the eligibility threshold works out to \$294,000 or less.

As the district considers moving forward, board members have been asked to begin identifying community members who might be willing to serve on the Foundation/SGO board. Ideal candidates would:

- Support public education and the mission of Meade School District 46-1
- Be committed to the success of 46-1 students.
- Have time to actively participate.
- Have community connections that could help with fundraising and outreach about the new tax credit.

Wormstadt briefed the board on the details, cautioning that many aspects remain unsettled. He said, “The Treasury Department and IRS have not laid out the full rules and guidelines around things

like tuition and transportation costs for field trips.”

Possible uses for the funds include academic tutoring — potentially restoring after-school tutoring programs at the middle and high schools — as well possible funding for college-level coursework in the high school and other areas to be considered when rules and guidelines are released.

Wormstadt said he doesn’t expect eligibility to be a hurdle. “At a \$294,000 income limit, that’s going to cover almost all of our students,” he said. “The issue is going to be how and what we can distribute the funds for.”

Wormstadt said the district has begun talking with the National Association of Education Foundations as a possibility, which manages the Sioux Falls foundation along with similar foundations across the country. “They’re set up with a 501(c)(3) to administer and the SGO can be run locally,” he said.

The SGO would be separate from the school district and set a mission and focus on funding the Meade School District within the federal guidelines. Under the program, 10% of funds collected may go toward administering it.

Wormstadt estimated that if the SGO raised roughly \$200,000 — meaning about \$20,000, or 10%, could be used to run the SGO and \$180,000 spent on supporting students and student programming.

He estimated the donations could begin in January 2027, with disbursements to student programming starting that fall.

Attorney General’s Office, Division of Criminal Investigation Mourn Death of Special Agent Quincy Kjerstad

PIERRE-- The South Dakota Attorney General’s Office and the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) mourn the death of Special Agent Quincy Kjerstad.

He passed away Sept. 14 after suffering a medical event on Sept. 11 while on duty. “Special Agent Quincy Kjerstad dedicated his life to serving this agency and protecting the people of South Dakota,” said Attorney General Marty Jackley.

“Special Agent Kjerstad was a valued colleague, a devoted public servant, and a person whose courage and commitment left a lasting mark on everyone who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Our thoughts are with his family, loved ones, friends, and fellow agents during this difficult time.”

Quincy Kjerstad began his service at the Attorney General’s Office in June 2017.

He was appointed an Assistant Attorney General and worked in both the Appellate and Civil Litigation Divisions.

Special Agent Kjerstad was appointed as a Special Agent with DCI in March 2023.

Dakota.

Division of Criminal Investigation - Today

Today the Division of Criminal Investigation employs 130 personnel in a variety of career paths, including Agents, Special Investigators, Analysts, Forensic Scientists, Law Enforcement trainers, Identification specialists, Sex Offender Registration, Victims advocates, Information Technology specialists and Administrative Support Staff.

While criminal investigation is still our primary mission we also offer many services and run many statewide programs such as the State Forensic Laboratory, Law Enforcement Training Academy, Missing Persons Clearinghouse, Sex Offender Registration, 24/7 program, SAVIN, NIBRS and Statistical Analysis Center, Electronic Crimes, Elder Abuse, Polygraphs and process criminal and civilian background checks.

We proudly partner with other agencies across the state in drug task forces, drug asset forfeiture program, the FUSION Center, Amber Alert and Endangered Missing Advisory and Special Victims Unit Multi-disciplinary Team.

As we move forward we honor and carry on the traditions of those that went before us while continuing to build upon and provide new services to the citizens of South Dakota..



STURGIS PUBLIC LIBRARY'S

SAT. SEPT 19TH @ 10AM

CITY PARK WOODLAND SHELTER

FAMILY AUTUMN EQUINOX HIKE

He estimated the donations could begin in January 2027, with disbursements to student programming starting that fall.



2026 Sturgis Brown HighSchool Homecoming Royalty

Meade School District 46-1
September 14, 2026

The crown is ready, the school spirit is in full swing, and it's time to celebrate our 2026 SBHS Homecoming Royalty!

We are excited to celebrate these outstanding students and all they bring to our school and community.

Congratulations, Homecoming Royalty!



Back from left: Jack Jolley, Zhoel Irion, Gage West, Dion Reece and Tripp Burgoerfer. Front from left: Olivia Vliem, Taya Uherka, Leigha Long, Lilyana Aga, and Danica Dschaak. Photo by Tim Potts

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK EXPLORATION

Meade School District 46-1
September 15, 2026
Meade School District 46-1 invites the public to attend any one of the upcoming presentations as we continue exploring the possibility of a 4-day school week.

The presentations will include:

- An overview of the work completed to date
- Known results from the parent/community surveys

- A sample 4-day school week schedule
 - Answers to questions available at that time
- We encourage families, staff, and community members to attend, learn more, and share their thoughts.
- Please note, the October 13 public presentation takes place during the regularly scheduled School Board Meeting so seating will be limited.

2nd Annual FIB Food Truck/Food Drive will take place on Homecoming Day, Friday, September 25! Help out the Scooper and Stallion Closets by giving donations!

SCOOPER & STALLION CLOSET FOOD DRIVE



FOOD TRUCKS FOOD DRIVE

HOMECOMING DAY

**SINGLE SERVE ITEMS
THAT ARE EASY TO HANDLE:**

GRANOLA BARS

PROTEIN SHAKES

JERKY

EZ MAC

FRUIT CUPS, ETC

CASH DONATION ACCEPTED

Grab a bag and help us give back!

- Grab a First Interstate tote bag
- Fill it with food items from the grocery store or your home pantry
- Drop the filled bag off at the Sturgis First Interstate branch and we will take care of the rest!



PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

on the 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK EXPLORATION



OCTOBER 13, 2026



Williams Administrative Building - Board Room

5:30 PM



OCTOBER 14, 2026



Stagebarn Middle School

6:00 PM



OCTOBER 19, 2026



Sturgis Williams Middle School Grunwald Gym

6:00 PM

The STEM Lab at SWMS

The STEM Lab at SWMS has officially leveled up.

A HUGE thank you to Richter Tire & Exhaust for donating THREE Bambu Lab P1 3D printers to our classroom!

These printers will give our students the opportunity to turn their own designs and ideas into real creations while learning about engineering, design, problem-solving, and 3D printing.

And because 3D printers need something to print with...

another big thank you to Mindless Kreationz for donating filament to get our program up and running!

Our community continues to show up for our students, and we cannot wait to see what they create with these amazing new tools.

There will be learning. There will be creativity. And there will definitely be a whole lot of fun happening in the STEM Lab!



Photo from Meade 46-1 Website



Roots #76 Hideous, Hideous Plaid

Meg English
news@bellefourchebeacon.com



I did not attend my 50th high school graduation reunion from Watertown High School. From what I understand, reunion turnout was impressive and the gathering that took place over several days was a great success.

Although it would have been nice to be present personally, I enjoyed the plethora of commemorative photographs posted on our Watertown High School Class of 76 Facebook page by various classmates. The photographs brought back a host of fun, happy high school memories. That is, all but one.

As I recall, I have introduced my maternal grandmother Edith in previous commentaries. Grandma Edith was

the purveyor of perfect Thanksgiving celebrations. In addition to being a quintessential homemaker, she was always impeccably well-dressed. Her clothing was expensive; her accessory configurations were well-matched. Her graying hair, always neatly coiffed.

Grandma Edith was attractive and striking in and away from the kitchen.

Grandma Edith knew what she liked to wear and perhaps thought she knew what I would like to wear.

So, for my 16th birthday, Grandma Edith sent me a gift, handsomely wrapped, in a flat box from Daytons, a trendy, upscale Minneapolis department store. Clothing of some sort. I was apprehensive as I peeled back the layers of tissue paper with mounting dread.

“Aren’t those nice. And oh look! 100% wool!” My mother said when she saw the brown, yellow and orange plaid ‘trousers’.

Trousers was Grandma Edith’s word for pants.

Incidentally, Grandma Edith herself wore trousers on only two occasions.

She owned an ordinary pair of denim ‘grubbies’ appropriate for intense house cleaning, and a high fashion pair of denim ‘grubbies’ for outings to the rustic family cabin in the boundary waters of Northern Minnesota.

While in the kitchen Grandma Edith protected her classy Pendleton skirts with one of a dozen pretty aprons.

“You should call Grandma now, to thank her.” I heard my mother say. “And it’s a perfect day to wear them to school. It’s below zero and these pants will be just the thing. And they are so cute!”

As it was my birthday, I allowed myself to wait a few days. When I could put it off no longer, I forced myself to wear them to school on another freezing cold day.

As expected, the hideous trousers were scratchy, unflattering, ugly and potentially soul-

destroying.

Fortunately, I survived most of the day, until sometime after lunch, when the speech and debate team was summoned to the school basement stairway for a high school yearbook group photo. There was no warning and no time to escape.

Lingering behind the group to escape the photo shoot didn’t work. I only ended up bringing up the rear and being unavoidably visible for eternity in the yearbook photo and social media shares.

That’s us, me and the hideous plaid pants, in the photo at the top upper left-hand corner of the yearbook photograph.

I remember the day and the photo clearly. Had I known that I would be sharing this story over 50 years later might have provided me with some helpful context at the time.

Now 50 years later, pants are not important. Memories of shared experiences with friends and family are important.

For many years as an adult, I enjoyed a close friendship with Grandma Edith. Until the high school reunion photo reappeared recently, I had forgotten about the photograph of me and the trousers.

I never told Grandma Edith what I really thought of my 16th birthday gift. I did say thank you to her. I did wear them. And I have the proof.

However, in reflection, Grandma Edith would probably have enjoyed hearing the story. She would have appreciated the irony.

In addition to a dedicated commitment to style and propriety She had a fine sense of humor. For whatever reason, she liked me and despite her direction to improve my sartorial appearance even into my adulthood.

I don’t think she would have taken offense. She might even agree that the pants were kind of hideous after all. Grandma Edith passed away in 1995 at the age of 91, a good age but never long enough.



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Screened Print Flower Top

STYLE 40412 — BLOOM WITH BEAUTY — Garden-fresh double knit pantuit covers you with flowers, "tee" them with party bows. Top has soft — or neck flaring. Solid-tone pants h & s 9 1/2 x 6 1/2 s-k-n-e-t-c-h waistband. 100% new miracle acrylic knit fully washable. Colors: white top with red/blue print, red pants; or white top with red/blue screened print, blue pants. Sizes 8 to 18. \$9.98. 14 1/2 to 24 1/2, only \$9.98.

STYLE 40412 SIZES 8-18 HALF SIZES \$8.98 \$9.98

Screened Print Sunburst Top

STYLE 40218 — SLICK SLACKS AND STARBURST PRINT TOP — Fashioned from 100% machine washable, bonded cotton makes supercool carefree knit pantsuit. Comfy elastic pant waist; top is front buttoned. In Navy or Forest Green. Sizes: 8 to 18. \$8.98. 14 1/2 to 24 1/2, only \$9.98.

STYLE 40218 SIZES 8-18 HALF SIZES \$8.98 \$9.98

STYLE 40378 — "PEEK-A-BOO" DOUBLE KNIT PANTSUIT. Bonded solid-tone on-lon vest opens gloriously, reveals sweep of sweater! Slim self-roppe ties with pretty bow thru 2 bright, bold golden metal rings. Color-coordinated bonded acrylic plaid pants has graceful new fullness, and comfort elastic waistband. Colors: blue vest with blue plaid pants; Sizes 10 to 18. \$12.98. 14 1/2 to 22 1/2, only \$9.98.

STYLE 40380 — VARIETY IS FASHION. Statement of stunning 2-pc. double knit "cool fear" pantsuit. Short-sleeve top is wonderful new bonded print on brilliant solid jewel-tone. Pretty collar, sham pockets, golden button. Sluggery flared, elastic-waist pants; double acrylic knit, in color-match diamond print. Colors: red top with plaid pants; or blue top with blue plaid pants. Sizes 10 to 18. \$12.98. 14 1/2 to 22 1/2, only \$9.98.

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437 PROJECT

A RUN ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

PRESENTED BY

Avera

Nathan Harmon

"You Can Do Hard Things" encourages people to face life's challenges with courage, responsibility, and determination.

GET INVOLVED

To donate, volunteer, or simply learn more, visit us here:

LEARN MORE AT
THE437PROJECT.ORG

COMPASS POINT

1807 Williams St | STURGIS, SD | FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Sturgis
THURSDAY, SEPT. 17
4-5:30 PM MST

Join us at Compass Point as The 437 Project comes to town on their journey across the state!

Hear from special guest Nathan Harmon as he shares his powerful story. Bring your crew to enjoy an evening filled with community and conversation.

Nathan Harmon is known for his raw transparency, relatable storytelling, and unwavering passion for helping others find purpose, healing, and direction in life. After facing addiction, loss, and incarceration, Nathan chose to transform his pain into purpose. His story inspires others to take ownership of their choices, embrace their potential, and rise above adversity. Nathan empowers others to live a life that speaks — a life of integrity, purpose, and impact.

ABOUT US

The 437 Project was born of a passion for bolstering both physical and mental wellness and the often overlooked connection between the two. In 2026, the 5th annual 437 Project will run 437 miles across the state of South Dakota, raising funds to support Mental Health Awareness in our state.



THE DAKOTA SCOUT

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!

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



Yankton Bucks Dismantle Sturgis Scoopers

Gary Mathews

KBHB Radio News

STURGIS— The #4 Yankton Bucks came into Woodle Field and beat the Sturgis Scoopers 41-9 on Friday night.

It was Military Appreciation Night and Youth Football Night at Woodle Field, commemorating the Sept. 11 attacks on New York City and our Nation’s Capital. The first half was competitive, as the Scoopers took a 3-0 lead on a 51-yard field goal by Izaac Smith with 1:58 left in the first quarter. The 51-yarder is a Sturgis Scooper football record.

The Sturgis lead was short-lived as all-purpose back Tegan LaCroix took a direct snap and weaved his way through the Sturgis defense for a 33-yard touchdown run with 9:34 left before the half. The kick was good and Yankton took a 7-3 lead.

Just two minutes later, Buck quarterback Jackson Kudera found Miles Drotzmann on a post pattern down the middle for a 52-yard touchdown strike, beating the Scooper defense to the end zone.

The kick split the uprights and Yankton took a quick 14-3

lead. The Buck defense forced a three-and-out by the Sturgis offense and started their next drive at their own 30-yard line. Yankton put together a six minute drive that culminated in a 1-yard touchdown run by LaCroix to give the Bucks a 21-3 lead at the half.

The Scoopers brought in sophomore quarterback Tate Johnson in the second half which rejuvenated the Sturgis offense. Johnson used his legs and his strong right arm to move the ball from the Scooper 18-yard line into the red zone but Sturgis couldn’t get the ball into the end zone. Smith attempted a 31-yard field goal but missed to the left and the Scooper offense came up empty on the drive.

Yankton kept their foot on the gas pedal with another touchdown pass from Kudera to Drotzmann with :37 seconds left in the third, giving the Bucks a 28-3 advantage. Yankton added scores from Emmett Hirschman and Jax Gause in the fourth quarter to take a 41-3 lead.

The Scoopers added a late score on a 5-yard touchdown pass from Johnson to Gage

West with 5:15 left in the game. The extra point kick was no good and the final score was Yankton 41, Sturgis 9. The Bucks (2-1) rolled up 344 yards of total offense, 266 through the air and 78 on the ground. LaCroix finished with two rushing scores of 33-yards and 1-yard and Drotzmann caught two touchdowns of 52 and 12-yards. Yankton had no turnovers and five penalties for 35 yards.

Sturgis (1-2) finished with 241 total yards of offense. The Scoopers had 31 carries for 112 yards and were led by Tate Johnson, who rushed for 57 yards on 11 carries. Sturgis was 13-of-23 passing for 129 yards. Wyatt Marler caught four passes for 46 yards and West snagged three passes for 17 yards and one touchdown. Shea Deering had two receptions for 40 yards.

The Scoopers had three turnovers, two fumbles and an interception and four penalties for 40 yards. The Scoopers hit the road next Friday, traveling to Titan Stadium to take on Tea Area. Kickoff is scheduled for 5pm Mountain time.

Thank you to Gary Mathews and KBHB News.



Scoopers QB hands off for short yardage against stingy Yankton defense. *Courtesy Photo*

School Board Hears 4 Day School Week Update

Brandon Bennett

news@MeadeCoNews.com

STURGIS— The Meade 46-1 school board heard an update on the proposed 4 day school week at its meeting September 14th.

The Committee reviewed the latest parent survey results, prepared draft four-day calendars for upcoming school years, and discussed in small groups potential questions to include in a second parent survey.

Board President Justin Jutting brought the board up to speed about public meetings coming up.

“It’s not going to be an answering session, we’re going to talk about what we’ve found so far, from parent and community surveys, we’ll also talk about what we’ve researched and learned on impacts of the 4 day school week,” he said.

Jutting added an initial survey was sent out to determine if patrons even wanted to go to a 4 day week.

They were so the committee

proceeded with looking into it.

The calendar for a 4 day school week needs to be confirmed by January or February according to state statute.

Superintendent Wayne Wormstadt said he’s crafted a multiple year calendar of a 4 day school year with the first year being filled in for committee members to peruse.

In the meantime Human Resources will be looking at employee hours, what the day looks like, what are the budgetary constraints and whether there will be savings or not.

The Committee confirmed the following dates, locations, and time for Public Presentations:

October 10, the committee will present its findings so far to the school board.

* Then, Stagebarn Middle School Gymnasium

* October 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

* SWMS Grunwald Gymnasium on October 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

School Board Discusses Reorganization

Brandon Bennett

news@MeadeCoNews.com

STURGIS—The Meade 46-1 school board talked a little about reorganization at its meeting September 14th after the Faith school district decided not to work with the Meade school district but Wall and New Underwood expressed interest.

The Board Committee of Justin Jutting, Tim Amdahl, Lee Spring along with Business Manager Brett Burditt and Superintendent Wayne Wormstadt met with New Underwood and Wall.

The committee discussed the following areas: Process and timeline:

Boards must initiate action OR a petition signed by 15% of registered voters in Meade 46-1

from the last general election.

The board must have voter approval from current Meade 46-1 school district registered voters.

Valuation and Revenue based on Department of Revenue figures.

There were questions from New Underwood and Wall on: Student Programming

Enrollment

Transportation

Staffing

Expenses

Board President Justin Jutting outlined some other aspects.

“We’re looking at about a \$300 million valuation that would transfer out with that reorganization,” he said.

There were other questions from wall and New Underwood about student programming,

staffing, enrollment trends, transportation and expenses.

Jutting was asked if the discussions were productive and he replied yes but that all three districts, Wall, Faith and New Underwood are beginning to understand the valuation is a big obligation.

Therefore, discussion turned to possibly dividing the valuation up but the districts need to decide whether they want the whole valuation and if it is divided up who gets what.

Additionally everyone needs to let the South Dakota Department of Revenue to make its valuation.

Finally, both those who want to leave the district and those who want to stay have to approve by voting for the option they want.

Now You’ve Done It! Lol Murder at Gatsby Manor 2nd night!

Brandon Bennett

news@MeadeCoNews.com

STURGIS—There was such an overwhelming response for Murder at Gatsby Manor that we have scheduled a second night. Come with us to the 1920s as the Sturgis Public Library is transformed into the Gatsby Manor on Friday, October 2nd at 7pm. Slip into your finest flapper fringe or dapper pinstripes and join us for an evening of jazz, mystery, and glamour. Sip mocktails at the speakeasy bar as the dazzling soiree unfolds; the festivities take a much darker turn. Fitzgerald’s body is discovered amidst all the glamour, and it’s clear he didn’t die of natural causes. Can you discover which New York socialite is to blame?

Tickets are available now at the library. Tickets are \$25 each cash or check only. No refunds, but if you’re unable to make it, please let us know so we can find someone else to play that role. We must sell a minimum number of tickets to host the mystery. If there is insufficient interest, the event will be canceled and all tickets will be fully refunded. First come, first served. Wine and small bites served. 21+ only. Sturgis Public Library 1040 Harley-Davidson Way | Sturgis, SD 57785 (605) 347-2624 Library Services Curbside Pick Up: Monday - Saturday Home Delivery: Monday - Thursday

Brandon Bennett

news@MeadeCoNews.com

STURGIS— The Sturgis Brown High School Class of 1971 held a dedication ceremony for the new plaques and lighted flag at Sturgis Williams Middle School September 12th.

The ceremony honored classmates who have passed and Marshall Williams who taught in the Meade school district. Doug Miller and Sheila Limbo served as emcees for the event. “How do you define worthy for your classmates who are no longer with you? How do you define something fitting to honor them?” Miller asked.

In 2011 and 2016, the class had fundraisers and raised almost \$4,000. A committee began looking at ways to create a project that would be well thought of. Finally, Shiela Limbo overheard a conversation about Marshall and Sharon Williams and asked if she should approach Williams Middle School Principal Chad Hedderman about a project honoring Williams and her late classmates. And it was approved.

“We’re so glad that Marshall and Sharon’s children and grandchildren are here, along with Principal Chad Hedderman and his wife,” said Limbo.

Both families were presented with framed photos of the lighted flag and then Robin Baldwin, Cindy Begley, Dwight Schiller and Susan Sweeden read the names of all the classmates who have passed and Deb Looby rang a bell after each name.

Bob Bender gave the invocation.

Members of the SBHS class of 1971 gathered to dedicate the plaques and lighted flag at Williams Middle School

2.The plaques honor Marshall Williams who taught at the school 3.Class president Doug Miller makes remarks during the ceremony

4. Sheila Limbo thanks the Williams and Hedderman families

5.The class presented the Williams and Hedderman families framed photos of the lighted flag In attendance were: Deb Looby, Robin Baldwin,Dwight Schipke, Cindy Begley and Susan

Sweeden read the names of classmates lost and Deb Looby rang the bell after each name

Like You Some Country Music? The Western Troubadours Are Coming!

Brandon Bennett

news@MeadeCoNews.com

STURGIS—The Sturgis Public Library will be hosting “The Western Troubadours” on Tuesday, September 29th at 5:30pm. Kerry Grombacher and Aspen Black are “The Western Troubadours”.

Kerry’s 50+ years of experi-

ence performing as a folk and Western singer/songwriter and Aspen’s 30+ years performing as a western country/Americana singer/songwriter will bring you an authentic perspective on people and places in the American west, and a show you won’t want to miss.

Sturgis Public Library 1040 Harley-Davidson Way |

Sturgis, SD 57785 (605) 347-2624 Library Services Curbside Pick Up: Monday - Saturday Home Delivery: Monday - Thursday Library Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 7:00pm | Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm | Saturday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



Class of ‘71 Honors Classmates, Williams



From left, Deb Looby, Robin Baldwin,Dwight Schipke, Cindy Begley and Susan Sweeden read the names of classmates lost and Deb Looby rang the bell after each name.