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# Record Breaking Rain and Flood

# Sioux Valley

# NEWS

Volume 153,

Week 26

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Official newspaper for Lincoln County, Canton, Fairview, Harrisburg and the Canton and Harrisburg School Districts since 1872

USPS SECD 497460

## Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!

## Keepers of the Canton Asylum

## Upcoming Events:

August 15, 2024 (7 p.m.) Good Earth State Park at Blood Run. The presentation by Jerry Fogg and Ross Lothrop about the Asylum History.

August 24, 2024 (Noon) Hiawatha Golf Club for Honoring and Remembrance Ceremony. Gathering at the cemetery then potluck meal to follow at the Canton United Methodist Church.

## Senior Center Closed

Due to the recent flood the Canton Senior Center/Rocs dining will be closed until further notice. Meals on Wheels will NOT be available.

## News Items

Remember, you can email, phone, drop off or mail any news items to the Sioux Valley News. Reach the News at 605-764-2000, svn@midconetwork.com, PO Box 255, Canton, SD 57013 or 213 E. 5th in Canton. A drop box is available for use when the office is closed.

## Firefighters Wanted

The Canton Volunteer Fire Department needs firefighters.

- Free Training
- No Experience Required
- Community Involvement
- Must be 18 to apply

Apply at the City of Canton website or call 605-764-5126

## Weather



Thursday  
High 77  
Low 66  
Rain



Friday  
High 85  
Low 58  
Chance Rain



Saturday  
High 74  
Low 53  
Sunny



Sunday  
High 74  
Low 54  
Sunny



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## Flood Devastates Canton Community

By: Kala Hazelhoff

Canton was slammed with destruction from the recent flood. For comparison, the flood in 2014 poured out around thirteen inches of rain. The nineteen inches of rain in 48 hours this past weekend created a battle for many of the homeowners and businesses in the flood's path of destruction. Beaver Creek along with the Big Sioux River were overflowing and flooding in places from how much accumulated into them. Lake Lakota has even refilled from the rain. Roads and highways have flooded into places, others washed out, this creating detours for drivers.

The rain started on Thursday during the day, pelting the area again throughout the night into Friday when it continued to rain. The streets started to turn into rivers, with some streets flooding multiple times. One time on Friday, the sandbags north of town also had water break through them, which caused streets to flood once again. People watched as the water inched devastatingly close to their homes and started filling their basements. Early Saturday morning the rain finally relented, and the streets slowly

started receding. Saturday and Sunday were long days of cleanup for a sizable portion of Canton, hauling items out of basements, tearing up flooring, contemplating what was salvageable, trips to the dump, and catching up on much-needed rest.

Outsiders may have looked at our hometown from a distance on Saturday and note mixed emotions throughout the community. Grief, stress, exhaustion, anger, defeat, denial, or sadness were a variety they may have seen. However, if they looked closely, they would have also seen the community coming together during this nightmare they were thrust in together. Neighbors worked together (who may have never talked to each other before) friends and family members found ways to laugh together (because it's better than crying at that point) cleaning was getting done inside homes (that needed to happen anyway) and home improvement projects being forced to happen (say goodbye to that carpet in the basement from 1976 that you hate!).

Canton C-hawks were out helping others in any way they could, such as carrying things out



Matthew Baldwin makes the best of the flood waters to practice his casting and fishing skills.



Volunteers were out Thursday night with sandbags trying to block the water from coming into the basements.



of homes, helping get water out of basements, picking up loads to take to the dump from curbs, or filling sandbags. The Canton Fire Department and emergency crews were out at all hours of the day and night, tirelessly working throughout the weekend. County, State DOT, City, Game Fish and Parks, and many volunteers were out to help in anyway they could. Church groups and others donated food to the fire department and to feed anyone who needed a bite to eat. The community was blessed with being able to have a dumpsite set up in the parking lot west of the Performing Arts Center for people to bring their unsalvageable items. Restoration companies, electrical, and plumbing workers have also been working non-stop throughout the flood aftermath.

*continued on page 4*

## Important Flood Information

- The Canton rubble site will be accepting appliances (washers, dryers, fridges, freezers) at no charge during regularly scheduled hours (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5p.m.)

- Flood cleaning buckets will be available at Canton Fire Hall and watch for more places they will be available.

- Love INC Clothing Closet has clothes if that is what you are in need of. More donations will be coming in with other items.

- If there are road closed signs or orange cones, please do not go past them as they are up for a reason. Many places are washed out and damaged.

- The rubble site is open again, please be sure to bring those items accepted at the Rubble Site out there rather than to the high school parking lot.

- Sioux Valley News is dedicating a whole page of thank you in next weeks edition. Please keep them short and sweet to all the people that helped you during the flood. Email them to SVN@midconetwork.com





# 2024 Record Flood Causes Lots of Damage

Canton has many cleanup days ahead. The south side of town (as of Sunday) is experiencing water in their basement due to the sewage backup. If possible, they are asking citizens to not use any excess water, such as for showering, doing dishes or laundry until the water levels are able to recede. The laundromat has been closed for the time being due to this issue.

The community members of Canton will get through this together. Tomorrow is a new day which may include a new normal for us all, but we will figure it out. Sometimes you can only take life one minute, hour, or day at a time.

## Silver Linings from Flood

"The willingness and generosity to help others, even if you didn't know them. My family could have been worse off if we didn't have the help we did. We were fortunate our damage was to a minimum, especially once it started again last night, we thought we were going to lose everything in our downstairs living space. We are thankful and hopeful are neighbors and community will be ok."

-Kristin Frank

"My son brought his tele handler at his own expense and helped move sandbags around all day. He sent his hired man to rent a pump and used that pump to help pump out people that couldn't keep up. In the night we had two sump pumps and a trash pump running. An alarm was set every hour to refill the fuel and fire it up again but even with that we were losing ground. I woke up to fuel the pump and there he was with his pump in the middle of the night pumping out the basement after working all day. I don't know if he slept or not. He's still out there helping where he can. So proud to be your mom, Michael Engel. MECA Construction."

-Jodi Engel

"Shout out to the four young guys looked to be around 12 to 14 that were going around Christmas Tree Lake area asking people if they needed help getting water out of their basements. It was like 1030 at night. They were soaking wet, cold, and out trying to help

anyone. Amazing!!"

-Amanda Laughlin-Sieps  
"My teenager, and several others selflessly laboring Thursday, Friday, today and probably tomorrow to help fill sandbags and help others in need. Blisters on her fingers, limited sleep - yet no complaints. I'm so proud of her and know there are other parents who are proud of theirs as well."

-Darcy Folkens

"I am thankful that we were spared, Rock Valley has it much worse. I will take water in the basement and the cleaning aftermath over losing my whole house."

-Danell Hammer

"I worked alongside the firefighters at the fire hall and to see them come and go without complaint to pull people out of cars, pump out water, and handle any other emergency that came through the last couple days was amazing and I just want to be thankful for these people. Some went without sleep for the duration of the event. If they did catch sleep, it was a hard stackable chair at the fire hall. Thank you, people, for feeding them and the community. They are still working hard today."

-Laurel Laubach

"Being somewhat new to the community it has been awesome to see everyone come together and for people to help us but also for us to pay it forward and help others in need!"

-Camron Groenke

"The way my neighbors and household all banded together into the little village we are and helped us all out! 6 houses of teamwork!"

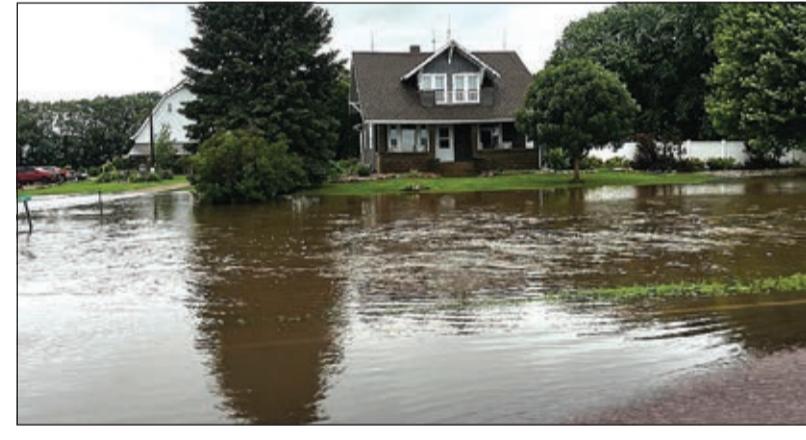
-Aleesha Duranceau

"I've gotten to know my neighbors more and have had a great reason to check on our friends consistently. The community in Canton is the best."

-Sarah Pearson

"Our friend, Doug Tinklenberg, brought sump pumps to our house for residents to purchase. He delayed his trip to do this. Kind, caring man."

-Kalli Blackstone



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**All are welcome!** **CELEBRATION AT MOE PARISH PARK**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024**  
47998 292nd St - Hudson, SD • South of Canton on Hwy 11-

5:30 pm RAISING OF THE FLAG - National Anthem  
6:00 pm OLD FASHIONED PICNIC - FREE-WILL  
Pork loin sandwich, grilled hot dogs & brats, Cowboy beans & chips. Served with a beverage.  
6:30 pm MOE PARISH WOMEN'S DESSERT STAND  
7:00 pm - ON STAGE - Sonny Sundstrom, Walt Peterson, Scott Griffith and Brad Larwick  
Fun & games for the kids, train rides for the little ones; cartoons & ice cream treats.  
FINALE - FIREWORKS AT DUSK!!  
-Please bring your lawn chairs!-

# Clean-Up Started with Help of Volunteers



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Step 2. Confirm (reply to confirmation email)  
Step 3. Start saving!

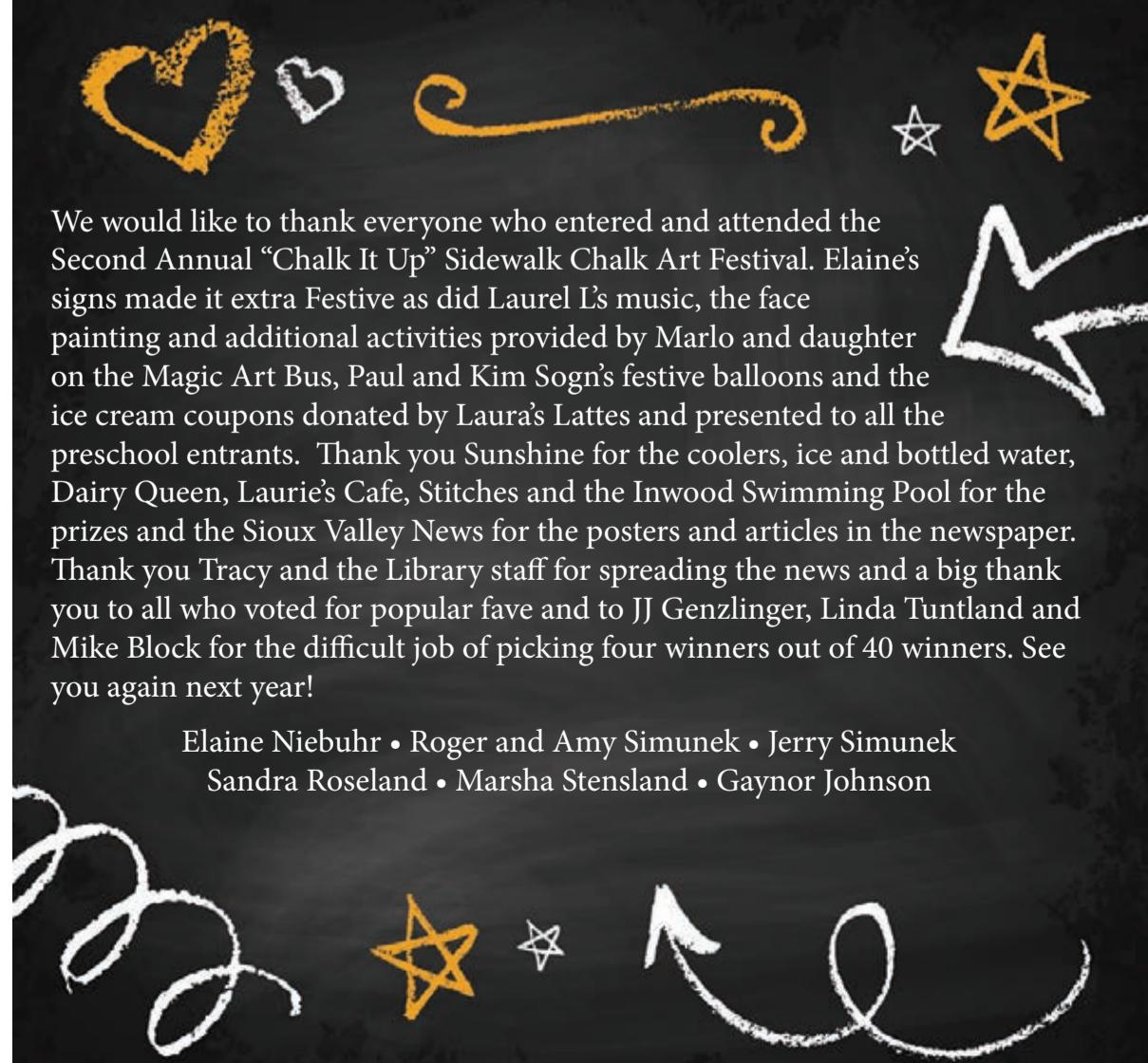
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*Thank you to all who have volunteered countless hours to help throughout the flood. We all are truly blessed to live in such a great community.*

## OFF The Road With Jerry

### 4th of July Celebration Moe Parish Park, Rural Hudson

- Flag raising & Color Guard - 5:30 p.m.
- 5:30 p.m. - Close - Old Fashioned Picnic - grilled hot dogs, brats & burgers with trimmings, homemade pie, ice cream, pop & treats.

• 8:00 p.m.  
Entertainment  
featuring The Brown  
Family of LeMars, IA



- Koch's Train & The Balloon Man for the children
- Cartoons at dusk followed by a Spectacular fireworks display.

Fireworks sponsored by the Canton Fire Dept.

#### Everyone is Welcome!

\*Matching funds provided by Lincoln C. #30595  
Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

This big ad was in the 2007 Sioux Valley News showing a picture of a singing group called "Brown Family" of LeMars, Iowa. Matching funds were provided by the Lincoln County #30595 Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Canton Fire Department sponsored the fireworks.

## Windmill Of My Mind

by Margaret Schultz



Here I sit. I have sharpened all the pencils, and cleaned up the erasers with an emery board (it works – you should try it), and now I am ready to type – I hope.

It's strange how this windmill of my mind works. Sometimes the ideas just come rushing down, like a water fall. Other times it is more like rainfall; sometimes a sprinkle and other times, it's an outright downpour.

Occasionally, an idea hits me like a lightning strike, thundering out a "must share"!

It is fun to write when the thoughts come rushing at you, much like raging waters, leaving you breathless while you stare in amazement. "This is going to be huge, like nothing I have ever seen

before! I must sit down and write before it all dries up", but I think it will take a long while for that to happen. The relentless rushing of ideas drowns out the ideas that were planted in my brain prior to the downpour. It's sad, because I had high hopes for those ideas, and now they are gone, pushed out by the deluge. I just hope that my brain will keep on pumping out ideas, once this moment in life has passed.

Friends and neighbors help me out by their willing contributions and hard work. They will never know how deeply I appreciate and love them. They keep me motivated. You can always count on community and I hope that I can help them, by word and deed,

if they ever need the occasional debris of life hauled away.

So, while searching around for calmer waters in my mind – for my thoughts to stop swirling – I take a deep breath and look forward to the day when my mind is calm and I am no longer stranded in my thoughts.

There is the temptation to just write about what is going on in my daily life, but I'd rather not do that because I might have to rescue my readers from boredom. And I would hate for that to happen. The muddy waters of my humdrum life....well, I think you know what I am trying to say.

May God bless you all.

person outside the family.

Finally, here's one more mistake: going it alone. Estate planning is not a do-it-yourself activity. To help ensure your estate plan addresses all the issues involved, you'll need to work with a legal advisor, and possibly your tax and financial professionals, too.

Devoting the necessary time and effort can help you avoid many of the mistakes that threaten the effectiveness of estate plans — and the fewer mistakes you make, the better off your beneficiaries can be.

*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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**Sioux Valley NEWS**

Published weekly on Thursday

Page 4

Teresa Zomer

Publisher

Phone 605-764-2000 • Fax: 605-764-NEWS

213 East Fifth Street • Canton, South Dakota

email: [SVN@midconetwork.com](mailto:SVN@midconetwork.com)

Kala Hazelhoff ..... Canton Writer  
Rollie Steck ..... Reporter  
Richard Beitzel ..... Sports Reporter  
Molly Larsgaard ..... Advertising  
Tiffany Baldwin ..... Composition  
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## Fourth of July

### BLAST

#### Big Bargain Burst For The July 4th Holiday! 3 BIG DAYS FRI.-SAT.-MON.

June 30-July 1 and 3 - Watch the ads next week!

**CANTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

This big ad from the Canton Chamber of Commerce was over half a page of the Sioux Valley News. Special prices were to be had in town from June 30th thru the 4th of July.

This was a Lennox advertisement for the big 4th of July Celebration. This was Lennox's 11th Annual Celebration, there was a car show, American Legion baseball, a Fire-Cracker road race sponsored by the Lions Club. There was a big parade, lots of floats and band music, chunk tanks and a lot of good food.

I think many more people went to Inwood and still do, since it's only half the distance. This ad was for the Town and Country Drive-Inn on the southwest edge of town. This place had the greatest food this area ever had. Today this building and lots are Koedam Auto Sales.

# Canton City Commission Discuss Next Ash Tree Clean Up

The Canton City Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 17 at 7 p.m. at the Depot. Commissioner Jackie Pigors was not present at the time of roll call.

Under Visitors to be Heard, Citizen Chad Skiles took to the podium to speak about the use of City equipment on private property that involved Commissioner Paul Garbers and Commissioner Kris York. Garbers said that he did ask a City Employee to use City equipment on private property because he was tired of things not getting done in this town. Garbers noted that they used City equipment to help a citizen speed up a project because he is trying to make this town a better place. York mentioned that the property owner told him that they did not need to get the City involved but York wanted to help get the project completed.

With no other Visitors to be Heard and no Old Business, the first item under New Business was the Domestic Ducks within City Limits. Citizen Becky Tews will be present to discuss the keeping of Domestic Ducks within City limits. Currently, the Ordinances only allow chickens with no roosters. Due to a work emergency, Tews was unable to attend. Motion table until the first meeting in July by Garbers. Seconded by Commissioner Tyler Larson. Unanimous approval.

Advertise for the Open Utilities Operator Position vacated by William Winter was next on the agenda. Motion to advertise by York. Seconded by Larson. Unanimous approval.

Next under New Business

was the Notice of Award - Phase 2 Canton Industrial Park Improvements, Utilities, & Surfacing along Innovation Street Project. Bids were opened on May 22 for the project and JSA recommends awarding the bid to Metro Construction in the amount of \$674,422.67. Metro Construction has successfully completed other projects in Canton. JSA has also worked with Metro Construction on numerous projects over the years and they are familiar with their office and construction personnel. Metro Construction's bid for the work was approximately 15% below their estimated construction costs. JSA has reviewed the bids and found no irregularities. Motion to award the bid by Garbers. Seconded by Larson. Unanimous approval.

A Closure Request was next under New Business. The Wheel Public House & the Canton Car Show are requesting to close the parking lot behind The Wheel from the backdoor to the end of the front row of the parking lot on July 27 from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Clean-up and security arrangements have been made. Canton Chamber of Commerce Lisa Hinkler was in attendance to answer any questions. Motion to approve by Garbers. Seconded by York. Unanimous approval.

Next on the agenda was the Board of Economic Development Grant Agreement. The South Dakota Board of Economic Development has awarded a Local Infrastructure Improvement grant to the City of Canton in an amount not to exceed \$423,000

or 50% of the total project cost. Motion to approve the agreement by Larson. Seconded by York. Unanimous approval.

The Municipal Resolution for Economic Development Grant was next on the agenda. A resolution is required for the Economic Development Grant for the Infrastructure Project on Innovation Street to name designated officers to execute documents on the behalf of the City. Motion to approve by Garbers. Seconded by Larson. Unanimous approval.

The final item under New Business was the Local Infrastructure Improvement Program (LIIP) Award Policy. As part of the agreement for the LIIP, the award policy must be approved. The award policy outlines the process needed to be reimbursed for grant fund expenditures. Motion to approve by Larson. Seconded by York. Unanimous approval.

During Commissioner Dialogue, York noted that received numerous calls regarding the water discoloration and that he is looking at a legal route for compensation. Garbers thanked the volunteers for the tree cleanup weekend. Mayor Sandra Lundstrom mentioned that she has been asked about another clean up day and noted that nothing has been scheduled. She also mentioned that the next City meeting will be on July 1 at 7 p.m.

With no further discussion, motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. by Larson. Seconded by York. Unanimous approval.

## Southtown Commentary

By Pastor Jerry Miller



### Prayer Should be Easy

Have you ever wondered how to pray? Jesus gave us a simple prayer to give us a framework for how to pray and what to pray about. "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (Matthew 6:9-13)

Sadly too many people have been taught that they need to have long prayers with flashy words. Jesus did not teach that and Jesus is God. The rest of the Bible doesn't teach that either. In fact, Ecclesiastes 5:2 says, "Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few." You do not have to rush through your prayers, but you do not need many words either. Remember he already knows what you need.

I am comforted knowing I can pray to God- knowing he is all powerful and that he will do what he deems best. I am also comforted knowing that he already knows what I need and that I do not have to come up with a lot of words.

The scripture says to pray without ceasing, but we do not have to use many words. As we pray we should listen by thinking about the word of God more than we talk. "Guard your steps as you go to the house of God, and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil." (Ecclesiastes 5:1)

The longest prayer recorded in the Bible is found in Nehemiah 9 and it takes less than 7 minutes to read it out loud. Much of the prayer in Nehemiah 9 is a review of Bible history. Before you pray, make sure you have been listening to God through his holy Bible and then think of that while you pray. Then as you pray, be more concerned about avoiding sin in your life than you are about how long you pray or about what words you use. Just talk to God about his greatness, your sin, and your needs- then trust whatever his will is for your situation in life. www.southtownchurch.com



## Inwood's Annual July 4th Celebration



**www.Inwood4thofJuly.com**

**SECURITY SAVINGS BANK Community Appreciation Picnic • Tuesday, June 25th from 5-7:30pm in the park**

**Wednesday, June 26th • Car Show & Shine**

6-9pm - burn outs @ 7:30pm (South Main Street)

• A Night of Food, Music, Cool Cars and Burn Outs!  
For More Info Contact Steve: 712-541-3503

• Golf Cart Decorating Contest By The Pool From 6-7pm

**Fire & Rescue Fun Night**

**Wednesday, July 3rd In The Park**

Serving food from 5:30-8:00pm (Free Will Donation)

Hamburgers & Pork Loin Sandwiches, Ice Cream

Fire Truck Rides • Many Games for the Kids • Raffle • Pickle Ball Tournament

**Community Worship Service**  
**Inwood City Park**  
**June 30th at 6pm**



**Thursday, July 4th, 2024**

**7:00-9:00am**

**7:30am**

**9:00am-2:00pm**

**10:00am**

**10:15am**

**ALL DAY**

**Noon**

**1:00-3:00pm**

**2:00-4:00pm**

**- KIWANIS BREAKFAST** @ Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**- ROAD RACE** Inwood Firecracker 5K & 1 Mile run. Starts at Community Center. For More Info Becca 303-941-8838

registration is live and can be found at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IA/Inwood/InwoodFirecracker5kand1MileFunRun>

**- VENDOR FAIR** Inwood park. For details call 605-366-4109

**- KIDDIE PARADE** registration at 9:30am at Fellowship Village parking lot

**- PARADE** registration at 8:30-10:00am at First Reformed Church (no Semi-Trailers) - Pre-Register Online by July 1st at [www.inwood4thofjuly.com](http://www.inwood4thofjuly.com)

**- FOOD & REFRESHMENTS** in the park after the Parade and at the Derby

**- 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNEY** 4 age groups - Pre-Register by June 25th

Contact: Clint @ 712-470-1305

**- ACTIVITIES IN THE PARK**

• Inflatables • Games

**Handicapped Parking Available**

**North of Park on Church Street**

**FOR DETAILED INFO, RULES & ENTRY FORMS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES GO TO**

**[www.Inwood4thofJuly.com](http://www.Inwood4thofJuly.com)**

**and FOLLOW us on FACEBOOK: Inwood 4th of July Spectacular**

**DEMOLITION DERBY - 6:00 p.m.** - Gates Open @ 4:30pm

Derby goes on  
RAIN or SHINE  
(no refunds)

Advanced Ticket Sales: June 26th from 6:30-8pm on Main Street & in

the Park on July 3rd from 6-8pm. Tickets available @ the Gate July 4th @ 4:30pm

For rules & entry form visit: [R&R Total Destruction.com](http://R&R Total Destruction.com) or Rob @ 515-971-1328 or

Facebook: Inwood 4th of July Spectacular

Tickets: \$15/person • 6 & under FREE • \$25 Pit Passes

**FREE GIANT FIRE WORKS DISPLAY AFTER THE DERBY**

Not for profit. Proceeds go back into the community!

**ATTENTION**

Canton residents can shoot fireworks

**July 3 - July 7, 2024**

Fireworks can be shot off in town this year from July 3rd until 11:00 pm; July 4th until 10:00 pm; July 5th and 6th until 11:00 pm and July 7th until 9:00 pm.

Clean up is the owners responsibility.

Any debris left in the street may be subject to a fine.

We appreciate your continued cooperation.

**Have a safe holiday!**

**210 N Dakota • 987-2881**

**Canton**  
Can Live. Can Dream. Can Do.





**EMPLOYMENT**  
**CITY ATTORNEY** - SPEARFISH, SD. Responsible for providing legal representation to city government. \$119,100.80 - \$145,121.60. www.cityofspearfish.com

**DENTAL ASSISTANT:** Delta Dental of South Dakota Mobile Program is seeking a Dental Assistant for helping underserved children. Responsibilities: chair side assistance, x-rays, patient charting, equipment sterilization, greeting patients, preparing for treatment, and providing back-up support to staff when needed. Based in Pierre, SD with extensive travel required. Certificate from an accredited dental assisting education program or equivalent training is required. \$28/hr to start, plus incentive bonus and benefits package. Email cover letter, resume and professional references to summer.sporrer@deltadentalsd.com; for more information contact 605-494-2569; www.deltadentalsd.com.

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
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# City of Canton Now Hiring!

## Utility Operator

The Utility Operator position performs a variety of duties involving general operations of water treatment and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, storm sewer maintenance, and overall system construction and repair. This individual also responds to emergency situations involving disruptions in City services, snow and ice removal, etc.

- Must have or be able to obtain Class 1 Water and Wastewater Certifications within 2 years; and Class 2 certifications within 4 years. Preference given to those with certifications.
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HOURS BY APPOINTMENT 28199 West Ave.  
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 Dr. Kirk Henderson DC  
 113 S. Broadway 605-764-7246  
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 e-mail:  
[info@hilltopcustom.com](mailto:info@hilltopcustom.com)

## ATTORNEYS

**MYRABO LAW OFFICE**  
 Lloyd K. Myrabo (1922-2006)  
 Vance S. Myrabo  
 110 S. Broadway - Canton, SD  
 Tel: 987-3318 • Fax: 987-3319  
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# Sons of Norway Held Event for Meet and Greet

The Sons of Norway Kong Olav V Lodge of Canton was invited to attend the meet and greet event for Anniken Krutnes, our Norwegian Ambassador to the U.S. on Monday evening, June 3rd at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. The event was hosted by the Sons of Norway Gjoa Lodge of Sioux Falls. Those attending were Dave & Kathy Holter, Ron and Jennifer Lunde, Dorothy Knutson, and Char Rodway representing the Kong Olav Lodge.

The Ambassador Krutnes requested an opportunity to meet and share remarks with our Sons of Norway members in South Dakota. She is a career diplomat, expert in security issues, law of the sea, Arctic affairs, and renewable energy. With 27 years behind her in the Norwegian foreign service,



she is eminently qualified for her position. Her warm and winning personality is without a doubt one of her greatest assets as one of the world's top diplomats.

Krutnes stated, "In Norway, we have capitalism with a heart, with universal health care and open access to education". We have decades of experience with the Nordic model. Krutnes sees that a balance between work and home life is important, and she believes that Norway has much to share

about its family-friendly system. She is very anxious to get out and meet the American people. "A lot of the work of a diplomat is to get to know people and listen. There is not always a special agenda."

On September 17, 2020, Krutnes presented her credentials to President Donald J. Trump, making her Norway's 15th ambassador to the United States. Her appointment as Norway's first woman ambassador to the U.S. was historic.



By Jim Speirs  
Executive Director



## Creating A Place For Arts Connections

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

The biennial State Arts Conference earlier this month in Sioux Falls brought together champions of the arts from across South Dakota for two days of meaningful workshops, dynamic speakers and the exchange of creative ideas. But the most important aspect of the conference was creating a place where person-to-person arts connections could happen.

This year's conference had a strong focus on advocacy, reminding participants that they are the frontline activists for the arts and creativity in

South Dakota—and that advocacy can be as simple as sharing the message that the arts matter! Representatives of the state's Community Arts Councils flocked to Sioux Falls, as 30 leaders from 19 communities traveled a combined total of 8,000 miles to share their stories of success and their passion for our cultural environment. They joined over 100 other conference attendees. The local integration of creative programming into the everyday lives of South Dakota residents was another powerful theme of the conference, shared by city leaders

from Yankton to Hill City. For a more comprehensive review of this year's State Arts Conference, just check out the postings at ArtsSouthDakota.org.

We were reminded that the arts drive our local and state economies with jobs, ticket sales and tax revenues. People came away from the conference energized to share their advocacy, re-educated on the sheer power of cultural connections and convinced that ours is a culture rich in history, potential, legacy and creativity. Most of all, those of us who attended were linked in the knowledge that all of us—and everyone who shares our belief in the arts as vital to modern life—are the future of cultural growth in South Dakota.

To learn more about the 2024 State Arts Conference and discover ways in which you can be an advocate for the arts, visit ArtsSouthDakota.org.



## Keeping South Dakota Ag on Offense

June 21, 2024

Farmers are some of the biggest gamblers I know. They go to a bank, borrow money to buy land – borrow more money to buy equipment. Then they go back and get an operating note so they can buy seed, fertilizer, and chemical. And then they bury it all in the dirt. They pray that it might rain, that something might grow, and that they'll have something to sell so that they can pay back those loans.

But if we didn't have people willing to make that gamble, then families across the country and around the world wouldn't have food to put on the table.

Their work is not easy – and we have so much appreciation for our ag producers.

Agriculture is South Dakota's most important industry for good reason. We feed the world. We have more cows-per-person than any state. I am tremendously proud of that fact. About 95% of South Dakota farms are still family-owned and operated. Ag contributes more than \$32 billion to our state's economy – about 30% of our economic output.

When ag prospers, South Dakota prospers; when droughts hit or markets slide, everyone feels that, too.

Thankfully, South Dakota's economy is booming. But we are not leaving ag behind in all this growth. My Governor's Office of Economic Development has identified Precision Ag and Value-Added Ag as key sectors of our economy to grow and develop. Our Dairy industry is one of South Dakota's fastest-growing economic engines. And with new food production coming in, like the state-of-the-art Asian food production plant that Schwan's is building in Sioux Falls, we are not slowing down.

With all the growth we have

seen, it is vital that we keep farmers farming. My team is constantly focusing on ag's growth – asking questions like what's the next opportunity, the next innovation, the next risk to take?

We want to keep South Dakota ag on offense. And to do that, I'm happy to play defense wherever necessary.

Attacks on Ag are coming from both within and from outside of our nation. The Biden Administration seems determined to put as much red tape and regulations in our producers' way as possible. I have testified against such regulations in front of Congress, and I am working to challenge whatever unconstitutional regulations the Biden Administration puts in our way.

We decided a long time ago that it is important that we grow our own food in this country – that we have a diverse, safe food supply that provides for our people without undue foreign interference. So we are defending South Dakota ag from undue foreign influence.

This past legislative session, I signed legislation to protect South Dakota ag land from being purchased by six "Evil Foreign Governments" and their agents. The Chinese Communist Party has increased their holdings of American ag land by more than 5000% in the last 10 years. These Communist dictators are not our friends. They are not our allies. They should not be our neighbors.

My dad always told me, "Kristi, God's not making any more land." In a lot of ways, our land is our most precious asset, and we should encourage one another to be visionary about protecting our farms. We shouldn't be selling that asset to nations that hate us – and now we have the laws in place to stop that from happening.

Ag is so important to our economy, and it's also important to the future of our nation. South Dakota will continue to focus on how to keep ag growing and thriving for the future.

## Thank You

As facilitator of the Keepers of the Canton Asylum Story, I extend our thanks to the Sioux Valley News and Hiawatha Golf Club. Over the years the generosity publicized the annual Honoring Ceremony and allow for a safe event at the golf course.

I especially want to thank the Sioux Valley News for the June 13 article explaining the mission of our committee and the current cemetery fencing project. If people would like to donate to this project, they may do so at First Bank and Trust. Checks may be made out to Ross Lothrop and on the memo line write Keepers Asylum story.

For more information please contact me at 605-261-6717 or email [keepersstory121@gmail.com](mailto:keepersstory121@gmail.com)

With Faith and Respect

Ross Lothrop

### Upcoming Events:

August 15, 2024 (7 p.m.) Good Earth State Park at Blood Run. The presentation by Jerry Fogg and Ross Lothrop about the Asylum History.

August 24, 2024 (Noon) Hiawatha Golf Club for Honoring and Remembrance Ceremony. Gathering at the cemetery then potluck meal to follow at the Canton United Methodist Church.



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