



‘Lake Michigan Triangle’ stirs intrigue

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Nikki Gronli announces bid for Congress seat

Makenzie Huber
South Dakota Searchlight | USA TODAY NETWORK

Former U.S. Department of Agriculture appointee Nikki Gronli announced her candidacy for South Dakota’s lone U.S. House seat Monday morning, potentially setting up the first Democratic primary race for the seat in over a decade.

The House seat will be up for grabs in next year’s election because Republican U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson is running for governor.

Gronli filed her Federal Election Commission statement of candidacy Monday morning and will launch her campaign at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Holiday Inn City Centre in downtown Sioux Falls. Sioux Falls non-

profit executive Billy Mawhiney announced last month he is running for the Democratic nomination as well.

South Dakota’s 2026 election

If both stay in the race until next June’s primary, it’ll be the party’s first U.S. House primary race in South Dakota since 2012. The party did not have U.S. House candidates in the 2020 and 2022 elections.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley has announced his intention to seek the Republican nomination for the seat. Republican state Sen. Casey Crabtree, of Madison, filed his statement of candidacy with

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Where are the best places to see fall colors in South Dakota?

Chris Mueller
Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

As the season changes, trees across the country will once again turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red.

When will those fall colors reach their peak in South Dakota? Here’s what experts are saying as autumn arrives.

When is the first day of fall?

The autumnal equinox marks the astronomical start of fall in the Northern Hemisphere. The date varies by year, and in 2025, it’s Sept. 22.

However, the meteorological start of fall runs from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, which makes it easier to “calculate seasonal statistics from the monthly statistics,” according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

When will leaves change color in South Dakota?

The Weather Channel says the potential for peak fall colors should start to arrive in the Midwest, including much of South Dakota, by mid- to late October. AccuWeather also predicts fall colors will peak in the region around mid-October.

The Old Farmer’s Almanac forecasts that leaves will start to change color in the Midwest by late September.

“Typically, the second and third weeks of October are the peak times, but prime foliage schedules will shift depending on where you live and your local weather conditions,” the almanac says.

ExploreFall.com predicts that fall colors will peak in South Dakota by mid- to late October, although high-elevation regions like the Black Hills reach their fall peak earlier, Travel South Dakota says.

Why do leaves change colors in the fall?

As the days get shorter and the nights grow longer and cooler, leaves slow – and eventually stop – production of chlorophyll, which gives leaves their green color, allowing other colors to reveal themselves, The Weather Channel says. A combination of warm, sunny days and cool nights will produce the most vivid colors.

Where are the best places to see fall colors in South Dakota?

These are some of the best places in South Dakota to see fall colors at their peak, according to Travel South Dakota.

- Spearfish Canyon
- Peter Norbeck National Scenic Byway
- Vanocker Canyon
- Palisades State Park
- Sica Hollow State Park
- Newton Hills State Park
- Lewis and Clark Recreation Area



Fading colors of fall leaves early Monday morning, Nov. 25, 2024, near Stowe Park in Belmont. MIKE HENSILL/USA TODAY NETWORK



Learn how to make quilts in downtown Aberdeen. JEFF FAUGHENDER/COURIER JOURNAL

Sander’s Sew-N-Vac celebrates 80 years

A.J. Kaufman
Special to the Aberdeen | News USA TODAY NETWORK

The name “Sander’s Sew N Vac” in this region goes back exactly 80 years to when Al Sander opened the company just after World War II, selling Electrolux vacuums.

Greg Sander purchased the downtown store from his father in 1976 and expanded the business by selling fabric. About a quarter-century ago, the younger Sander opened The Fabric Bin. The store holds hundreds of bolts of fabric, as he continues his father’s dreams of the Sander name in self-proprietorship.

The Aberdeen News recently spoke with Store Manager Shirelle Stadel, who has been with the company for 14 years.

She is excited to share that the store now has an app — The Fabric Bin — which involved a lot of work and went live about a year ago. Stadel says the app has helped the store’s online market, although the majority of sales still come from in person purchases.

The store works within two industries that occasionally cross over, per Stadel.

The Fabric Bin services, fixes and does warranty work on vacuums — often high end Necchi and Janome — along with Sebo, which she says is the No. 1 best-selling vacuum worldwide.

The Sewing Bin also sells all things around quilting supplies and fabrics, including fabric in one yard

increments.

In addition, the store offers classes, too, at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels in quilting, bag making, t-shirt quilts, machine embroidery and punch needle. Quilting classes can be anything from a baby quilt to a king-size quilt.

“We do lots of bag making,” she said.

The classes are most popular during the winter, more specifically from October through April.

Sander and Stadel are both originally from Aberdeen. They have four total employees, including themselves.

It is a unique venue, being the only one of its kind within a few hundred miles, per Stadel, with perhaps the next closest similar store sitting in Sioux Falls.

“We appreciate our local businesses that utilize our product and come to us for warranty work and other service work that’s needed,” Stadel said. “And the local customers that support us with purchases of any items from our store...and there is a crossover. They understand the importance of having a really good sewing machine and the importance of having a really good vacuum.”

The Fabric Bin, located at 111 S. Main St. in Aberdeen, is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturdays and also by appointment. The store can be reached at 605-225-4203.

