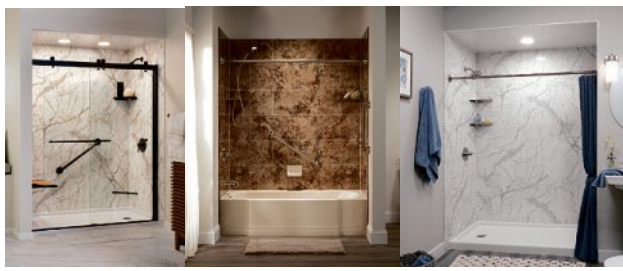


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‘A great community event’



Despite the weather, children still got an opportunity to enjoy the Cookin' on Kameska activities. Snow Princess Katie Leadabrand, left, painted Everly Olson a dinosaur mask as they waited for the rain to stop on July 18, 2022. PUBLIC OPINION PHOTO BY KERRY KULKARNI

Cookin' on Kameska adds music and family fun to annual summer festival

A.J. Kaufman Special to the Watertown Public Opinion | USA TODAY NETWORK

Just over three months ago, the Watertown Chamber announced that the 12th annual Cookin' on Kameska — the ultimate summer party on the lake — is introducing a new format without the barbecue competitions, but instead involves a “bigger, more vibrant, music-first festival experience to the community.”

Among a variety of new activities at Stokes-Thomas Lake City Park on July 16-18, there will be Bingo by the lake; cooking and barbecue demonstrations and events; arts, crafts and retail vendors; a pedal tractor pull for kids and adults; and touch-a-truck experiences, including boats and UTVs, as well as a larger focus on live music.

“Cookin' on Kameska has always been a

great community event, but over the years it has needed to evolve to remain relevant and successful,” Ashley Johnson, director of community engagement for the Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce, told the *Public Opinion*. “Our goal was to build an event that gives individuals and families more reasons to come out, stay longer and experience everything Lake Kameska and Watertown has to offer at a budget-friendly cost. The reimagined format places a greater emphasis on live entertainment, family activities, food and interactive experiences while still maintaining the fun, casual atmosphere people have come to expect.”

See **FESTIVAL, Page 2A**



Lake Kameska will host the annual Cookin' on Kameska festival July 16-18.

PROVIDED BY WATERTOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mayor backs Rhoden as runoff with Doeden heats up

Angela George

Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

As the runoff for the South Dakota governor's race heats up, endorsements are swirling around.

On July 28, South Dakota Republicans will choose between Gov. Larry Rhoden and Toby Doeden to be on the November ticket. Many high-profile politicians have endorsed the current governor.

Doeden, a businessman from Aberdeen and a newcomer in politics, says he is continuing to bring his message to the people. Doeden garnered 31% of votes during the primary to Rhoden's 25%.

Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken endorses Rhoden

Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken has remained productive as his tenure continues to stretch into the summer.

On Monday, July 6, the community's outgoing leader endorsed Rhoden for the runoff.

“It's easy to make promises on how you would lead a state,” Mayor TenHaken said at Rhoden's downtown campaign office in Sioux Falls. “But just look at his resume. I have never heard anyone question his morals, his ethics, his faith or his character. Those are things that matter.”

In the 18 months that TenHaken worked with Rhoden during his GOP administration, and the five years prior when Rhoden served as lieutenant

See **RUNOFF, Page 2A**

Councilman Barranco, who left auditor race amid illness, dies at 53

Angela George

Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

Sioux Falls City Councilor David Barranco, who last month announced he would step down from his campaign for state auditor after a recent intestinal cancer diagnosis, died Monday, July 6, at the age of 53.

According to the City of Sioux Falls, he “passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family,” with whom a private funeral service will soon be held. A public celebration of life is expected for later this summer so the larger community can “gather and honor his memory,” a statement from the city said.

“The most incredible man I've ever known has gone home,” said David's wife, Catherine Barranco.

They shared two sons, 14-year-old Christopher and 11-year-old William.

“God gave me the gift of wonderful memories with David,” she stated as part of the city's press release. “Even during his illness, his warmth, wisdom and commitment to service remained an inspiration to all who knew him.”

David Barranco's time in office

David was elected to the City Council in 2022, serving the southeast district, and for the next three years chaired the city's audit committee. With his term coming to an end this July, he announced last year that he was going to run for the South Dakota state auditor position as the lone GOP candidate on the ticket. He was identified then as a “fiscally conservative problem solver.”

See **BARRANCO, Page 2A**

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