



OFF TO THE RACES



Annual race benefits Hill City Lions Club

Hundreds of rubber ducks meandered down Spring Creek at Memorial Park in Hill City on Saturday during the fourth annual Hill City South Dakota Lions Club Rubber Duck Race.

They made a brave, but

leisurely journey down the creek. Some traveled upside down, others swam speckled with debris they collected from the grassy shoreline. Ultimately, #294 crossed the finish line victorious.

The race was a fundraiser

for the Lions Club. Ducks were \$10 a piece or three ducks for \$20. In total, the rubber waterfowl amassed to a flock of 365. In addition to the duck race, the event featured a bouncy house for kids, food and yard games.



SHALOM BAER GEE PHOTOS, JOURNAL STAFF



Feds reach settlement with MT, SD abuse victims

NORA MABIE
Montana Free Press

MISSOULA, Mont. — The federal government recently finalized an \$18 million settlement with a group of 12 people who were abused by an Indian Health Service doctor in Montana and South Dakota.

Indian Health Service (IHS) is the federal entity responsible for providing health care to members of federally recognized tribes. The agency is chronically underfunded and has long been criticized for the quality of care it provides.

Dr. Stanley Patrick Weber served as a physician on the Blackfeet Reservation from 1992 to 1995 and worked at IHS on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota from 1995 to 2016. In 2018, Weber was convicted of abusing young Native American boys in Montana, and in 2019 he was convicted of the same crimes against young boys in South Dakota. He's now serving multiple life sentences in federal prison.

Weber's abuse and IHS leaders' failure to stop it is well-documented. A 161-page independent report commissioned by IHS in 2020 revealed that several IHS leaders were aware of Weber's suspicious behaviors, yet failed to take action.

"As would happen throughout his career, Weber's accusers were targeted by management and his position protected," the report said.

Despite suspicions of pedophilia on the Blackfeet Reservation, Weber was transferred to an IHS facility on the Pine Ridge Reservation, where he worked for nearly 21 years, according to the report.

"Leadership failed because it wanted the warnings about Weber to be untrue because if they were true, they would have to take steps that would be awkward, arduous, inconvenient, messy and embarrassing," the report found.

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'The sky's not falling. We're going to be alright'

Rapid City Christian football falls to Canton in season opener, looking for bounce back

MATT WEINER
Journal staff

Rapid City Christian High School head coach Matt McIntosh massaged his temple and ran a hand through his short hair after the Comets' season-opening loss to Canton High School.

Lingering behind McIntosh was a scoreboard showing a 27-6 final score and the silhouette of the low slung prairie hills beyond the field. Not entirely evident, but still there.

It's akin to the message McIntosh relayed to his players after the game: The loss, plus next week's bout with vaunted Sioux Falls Christian High School, might make the playoffs seem out of reach, but their playoff ambitions remain intact.

Just look at what happened last season: The Comets lost to Canton, then lost to Sioux Falls Christian — plus another game — and went on a six-game winning streak to clinch a playoff spot. But that playoff run was largely a byproduct of the team's many seniors, which includes quarterback

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