



Stevens girls soccer remains 'humble', hungry leading up to playoffs

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Educators must rethink cheating because of AI

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Thursday, September 18, 2025

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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## FAITH, HOPE, STURGIS



ii FILMS MINISTRIES

Comedian Jeff Allen is shown filming a scene for the new faith-based movie, "My 7 Grandmas." Former Sturgis resident Scott A. Peterson wrote the screenplay and produced the movie through his nonprofit ii Films Ministries.

### Filmmaker screening movie Sept. 20 he wrote, produced

TANYA MANUS  
Journal staff

Former Sturgis resident Scott A. Peterson weaves faith, hope and affectionate nods to western South Dakota into his original, heartfelt movies. He'll host a screening of his newest film, "My 7 Grandmas," this weekend in Spearfish.

Peterson is the founder of the nonprofit company ii Films Ministries. The company produced "My 7 Grandmas" and is dedicated to making faith-based movies. The screening of "My 7 Grandmas" will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at Northern Hills Cinema in Spearfish. Tickets are \$8 for this matinee show and can be purchased at nhcinema.com.

The story follows a teenage girl, Gigi, and her mother, who relocate from California to Minnesota to care for the teen's widowed grandfather, played by comedian Jeff Allen. Gigi befriends a group of older women at the local library and sets out to find a new wife for her grandfather. Gigi's plan leads to unexpected twists, laughs, and heartfelt discoveries about family and faith.

Peterson wrote the screenplay, which is loosely inspired by real life. He said a friend's teenage daughter began volunteering at a local library, but found herself opposed by

several older women who didn't want her there. The girl persisted. The basic idea became part of the plot of "My 7 Grandmas."

"It's a good family-friendly movie," Peterson said. "It's also about the teenage girl. She's struggling with boyfriends and missing them because she moved, and it's dealing with intergenerational friendships between the girl and the 'old ladies at the library.' It should appeal to every age group."

Astute viewers can be on the lookout for subtle references to Sturgis, including street names (Junction, Lazelle) and grocery stores (Piggly Wiggly, Sooper Dooper). Peterson names some of movie's characters in honor of Sturgis residents who meant a lot to him — especially his grandfather, Dr. Lawrence Massa, for whom the Massa Berry Clinic was named.

Peterson also slips in references to a former boss, local faith leaders, his best friends while he was growing up and more as a "tip of the hat" to his hometown.

After the movie, Peterson will host a Q&A session to discuss the making of "My 7 Grandmas." He describes the movie as a heart-warming story about family, friendship and second chances.

Please see **FILM**, Page A6

## City council approves \$337 million 2026 budget

FRANK ESPINOZA  
Journal staff

The Rapid City Council, after making minimal changes to the plan the mayor presented in July, passed the \$337 million city budget for 2026.

At the council meeting on Monday, Sept. 15, Councilman Rod Pettigrew (Ward 5) motioned to make a change to the mayor's \$250,000 funding for the celebration of the country's 250th birthday. Pettigrew motioned to move the funding from the mayor's budget to the community investments budget for Visit Rapid City.

Finance Director Daniel Ainslie told the Journal the funds would be directed by the America 250 Steering Committee.

Councilwoman Callie Meyer (Ward 5), who works for Visit Rapid City, abstained from voting.

Councilman Bill Evans (Ward 2) previously created a motion at the Sept. 2 council meeting to take the celebration funds from the mayor's budget and move them to a committee to oversee spending. The motion was made and failed in that council meeting. Evans had contention with this as it allowed Mayor Jason Salamun to spend up to \$50,000 without needing approval from the council.

Please see **BUDGET**, Page A4

## Trump basks in pageantry

DANICA KIRKA, JILL LAWLESS,  
MICHELLE L. PRICE AND WILL WEISSERT  
Associated Press

WINDSOR, England — President Donald Trump relished the glow of a British royal spectacle as he opened a two-day state visit Wednesday, calling the hours of pageantry with King Charles III "one of the highest honors of my life" while also making time for a tribute at Queen Elizabeth II's tomb.

The grandeur-loving president soaked up all the revelry, from the largest guard of honor in living memory — with 120 horses and 1,300 troops — to carriage rides, an air show and a Windsor Castle state dinner.

After the pomp comes the real work Thursday, when Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer meet to talk trade, technology and geopolitical issues.

No U.S. president, or any other world leader, has had the honor of a second

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A5

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