



Rally sees 10% decrease in attendance compared to 5-year average

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Stevens tennis player Potvin off to strong start in Flight 1 singles

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Thursday, August 20, 2026

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CENTRAL STATES FAIR

COUNTRY, POLKA AND MORE AT FAIR



COURTESY PHOTO VIA CSF

Jo Dee Messina will open the Black Hills Energy Concert Series at the Central States Fair on Thursday, Aug. 27.

TANYA MANUS
Journal staff

Country stars, local favorites and German-style dance tunes are coming to the Central States Fair. Live music is part of the fair's lineup every night Aug. 21 through 29.

Black Hills Energy Concert Series at the LEI Arena

Award-winning country star **Jo Dee Messina** is bringing her Bridges Tour: Celebrating 30 Years of Jo Dee Messina to the fair with a concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27. Tickets are \$75.

Messina's recently released "Bridges" is her first new album in 12 years, and her tour has been packing venues all summer. Over

the past decade, Messina has encountered loss, struggle, and sicknesses that might have wrecked someone without glimmers of light to hold onto. Her music, her children and her faith are all woven into "Bridges."

Known for her powerful vocals, nine number one hits and 16 Top 40 singles, Messina has earned accolades and nominations from Grammys, Billboard, the ACM Awards, CMA Awards, and AMAs. Fans can look forward to a night of road trip anthems, country hits and singalong favorites with Messina at the fair.

Billy Currington returns to the Central States Fair for a night of hits at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28. Tickets are \$75.

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Watering restrictions extended

What to know as Rapid City elevates to 'alert status'

MIKE BROWNLEE
Journal staff

Watering restrictions already in place for Rapid City residents and businesses will continue throughout the year.

The city has elevated the storage condition status for Pactola Reservoir from "concern status" to "alert status," meaning restrictions already in place will continue past the original end date of Sept. 30.

Per the city, no watering is allowed between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. Odd-numbered addresses are allowed to water on odd-numbered calendar days. Even-numbered addresses are allowed to water on even-numbered calendar days. No outside watering is allowed on the 31st day of any month.

Manual watering with a handheld hose or with a bucket, sprinkling can or other similar container is allowed.

"The change from the 'concern' to the 'alert' status has no immediate impact to customers at the present moment," Rapid City Water Superintendent Eric Boyda said during a press conference on Wednesday, Aug. 19, at Sioux Park, next to Rapid Creek.

The upgrade to "alert" status comes because of low inflows to Pactola Reservoir, not because of the storage level at the reservoir. The mean monthly inflows this summer have been "dramatically" lower than average, the city said. Boyda said the August mean monthly inflow is 50.05 cubic feet per second (cfs), but inflows were at 18.5 cfs as of Wednesday morning and were as low as 12.2 cfs earlier in the month.

"Even though we got some record-breaking precipitation here in Rapid City, those storms didn't occur in the upper watershed," Boyda said.

He noted all of Pennington County is in a drought. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the western half of Pennington County is in extreme drought, while the eastern half is in either severe or moderate drought.

"The upper watershed is under extreme drought conditions," Boyda said.

Water levels at Pactola Reservoir — also referred to as storage levels — are over 40,000 acre feet, according to the city. Boyda noted Pactola is a 73.6% of its storage level and Deerfield Reservoir is at 92%.

"So we still have multiple years of surface water storage in both of these reservoirs, and remember that the whole point of reservoirs is to have multiple years of storage so that we can weather through droughts like we're going through right now," he said.

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Weather
Mostly sunny
High: 91 Low: 62
Forecast: A12

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