



# 7 bold scenarios for the '25 season

SPORTS, 1B

# Argus Leader

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Students and teachers walk into the doors for the first day of school on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, at Marcella LeBeau Elementary School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LAUREY / ARGUS LEADER

# Marcella LeBeau Elementary School celebrates first day

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There were joyful reunions and tearful farewells the morning of Aug. 21 at the new Marcella LeBeau Elementary School as students hugged each other or waved goodbye to their parents before entering the building for the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.

While all the students were new to the school, many came from Renberg, Hawthorne or Hayward elementary schools due to a boundary change that Sioux Falls School District board members enacted in June 2024.

Estimates from last year indicate:

- about 31 students came to Marcella LeBeau Elementary School from the southwestern-most part of the Renberg boundary;
- about 48 students came from the westernmost part of the Hayward boundary;
- and, about 164 students came from the area of students who used to take the bus to Hawthorne Elementary, from the area closest to LeBeau.

About 250 students will attend the school this year, the latest to open in South Dakota's largest city.

While some students had experience in the school district, others were completely new, either just having moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota or the U.S. entirely, or starting their K-12 education for the first time ever in kindergarten.

Leading up to the day, a new principal, teachers and staff had to be hired; the school had to finish construction; be



Third grader Oliver Clarke poses with his dad Joseph for a photo during the first day of school on Aug. 21 at Marcella LeBeau Elementary School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

dusted, furnished and "topped off," the mascot and colors had to be chosen; there was a ribbon-cutting with LeBeau's family; and, there was an open house for families to meet their new teachers and tour the new school.

Principal Patrick Purdy said he got to school by 4:30 a.m. and got ready "as quietly as possible without waking the

dog up," ate a granola bar and got ready for a live TV interview at the school about his first day of the school year.

Purdy said he's been working every day for the last couple of months to get the new school ready, which has been a "team effort." He said the school team

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# SD to receive \$79M for addiction services

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South Dakota is expected to receive \$79 million during the next 18 years from National Opioid Settlement funds, as announced at an Aug. 20 press conference led by South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley, Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken and Rapid City Mayor Jason Salamun.

"As your attorney general, I have brought litigation against major opioid manufacturers and distributors for the public health crisis that has been a result of some of their conduct," Jackley said during the press conference.

Some of those offenders include CVS, Walgreens and Walmart, according to numbers shared during the event.

Jackley said the process to obtain the litigation funds includes a legislative committee of 22 individuals who will review the initiative.

The result will be incoming settlement payments, which Jackley wants to use to address addiction throughout South Dakota, especially in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, as the "major hubs" in both western and eastern South Dakota.

In addition, Jackley said that there are things, such as the men's prison in Sioux Falls and the women's prison in

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# Property manager announces run for City Council

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A Sioux Falls property manager is the latest person to announce candidacy for the Sioux Falls City Council, adding another person to the already-crowded race for the Central district seat.

Matthew McKinley, who filed to run Aug. 15, said in an interview that his goal as a councilor would be "building a safer Sioux Falls."

He said a major portion of that would be lowering the city's homeless population through things like transitional housing and an expansion of a "co-response" program that has paired

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