

Starship succeeds in 10th test flight

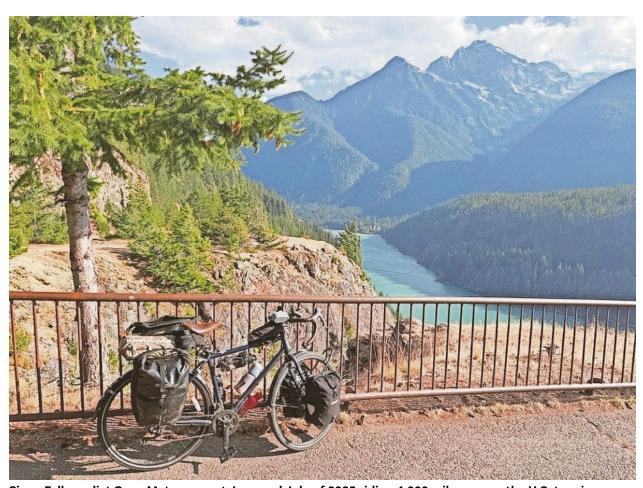
INSIDE, 6A

Argus Leader

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025 | ARGUSLEADER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Sioux Falls man rides bike across the U.S.



Sioux Falls cyclist Gage Matzen spent June and July of 2025 riding 4,000 miles across the U.S. to raise \$14,000 for the Veterans Community Project. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GAGE MATZEN

Gage Matzen cycles 4,000 miles to support veterans

Angela George Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

age Matzen rode his bike from coast to coast this past summer, but oddly one of his biggest takeaways? The baguettes in Mazama, Washington. ● With a two-monthlong diet of instant oatmeal, honey banana wraps and protein bars, you got to take the splurge where you can get it. • Matzen is a 27-year-old Sioux Falls cyclist who always had the life goal of biking across the country. When he began volunteering for the Veterans Community Project (VCP), a transitional home support service for homeless vets, he wanted to make his dream worth every mile.

Eighty-two days, 4,000 miles and \$14,288 later, the all-volunteer-based local VCP chapter has more to give, and Matzen's legs are tired.

"I kind of miss it," Matzen said.

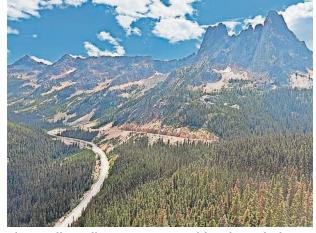
He began May 4 on a rainy day in Norfolk, Virginia, and finished July 26 in Anacortes, Washington, celebrating with champagne and a bubble machine on the shores of the Puget Sound.

"I had my routine down, tearing down camp every morning, repacking the bike and planning the day out," he said. "You really get comfortable with yourself while being alone."

How family followed along

There was wind in Kansas, hills in Kentucky, 100 miles of a 7,000-foot vertical gain through the Appalachian Mountains, "a battle up" Togwotee Pass in

See BICYCLE, Page 2A



Sioux Falls cyclist Gage Matzen rides through the North Cascades National Park while trekking 4,000 miles across the U.S. to raise \$14,000 for the **Veterans Community Project.**

Legal experts talk Cook allegations

Fed governor the third rival or official Trump has accused in 2025

Andrea Riquier and Kathryn Palmer

USA TODAY

The announcement from President Donald Trump on Aug. 25 that he was firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook amounts to an extraordinary weaponization of the housing finance system that depends on private, deeply personal data from millions of Americans, experts said the following day.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump claimed "sufficient cause" to remove Cook immediately, pointing to accusations that she had made false statements on mortgage applications, and bringing the president one step closer to shaping the balance of the Fed's seven-member board in his favor, as he's attempted to do for months.

That step "is nothing more than one person's inference from documents," said Karen Petrou, cofounder of Federal Financial Analytics Inc. and longtime Fed-watcher. "It's not what the law calls sufficient cause suitable for firing a Federal Reserve governor. It's just an assault on the independence of the

And the president's mortgage fraud accusations against Cook mark the third time this year he has blamed a political rival, or official he has publicly sparred with, of the crime.

The president's firing of Cook was based on allegations by Bill Pulte, the Trump-appointed director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the entity that regulates mortgage guarantors Fannie Mae and

See COOK, Page 3A

Former DTSF head announces run for Sioux Falls mayor

Trevor J. Mitchell

Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

Joe Batcheller, the former president of Downtown Sioux Falls, announced his candidacy for the mayor of Sioux Falls at an Aug. 26 event, saying that "Sioux Falls needs a mayor who knows just how special this

Speaking before a crowd assembled at the Cherapa Place plaza, Batcheller was introduced by both Susan Simko and Allison Weiland, the latter of whom praised Batcheller for his assistance in her role as the executive director of the Sioux Falls State Theatre.

Then Batcheller spoke, pitching his experience as an urban planner and DTSF president as clear evidence that he was the right choice to lead Sioux Falls.

"We can develop and grow a smarter city," he

What that means to him, Batcheller said, includes improved transit and more housing, with a focus on

See MAYOR, Page 3A







