

SIoux FALLS HOME EXPO

FREE ADMISSION!

SCAN ME!

APR 17-19

SIoux FALLS ARENA
1201 N W Ave,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

FRI: 12PM-6PM
SAT: 10AM-5PM
SUN: 11AM-4PM

SiouxFallsHomeExpo.com

Argus Leader **WEEKEND**

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 | ARGUSLEADER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THE PALISADES



Overlooking Split Rock Creek at Palisades State Park on July 23, 2022. PROVIDED BY ANNIE TODD

Primordial rock formations a climber's delight

Angela George Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

It's an ominous, enchanting scene right in the middle of farmland: 50-foot, gothic rock formations with a clear-water creek running through it. • Maybe it's just another campground in South Dakota, but if you kayak in the canyon, scale the spires or cross the legendary bridges of Palisades State Park, you've made it to another era indeed.

As part of a USA Today Network project exploring places across America with historical and cultural significance, and a celebration of the nation's 250th birthday, here's a look at an ideal outdoor destination for a family day trip.

Location

48422 256th Street in Garretson, South Dakota.

Why it matters

It's been celebrated as a state park for over 50 years now, but old Indian legends here date back centuries, and the quartzite rock chasms are over a billion years old.

History lessons really hold up at the Palisades, remembered for its 19th-century silver rush and that one time Minnesota bandit Jesse James allegedly jumped an 18-foot gap on horseback nearby the park after a botched bank robbery in 1876 – and made it, managing as a fugitive for five more years before his assassination.

In 1924, then Garretson newspaper reporter W.W. Sanders wrote, "It was across the Devil's Gulch, as pedigree legend has it, that Jesse James jumped."

Devil's Gulch, actually its own city-managed



Reflections in the water at Palisades State Park. PROVIDED BY DALE OLSON

park a couple miles north of the Palisades, still maintains intrigue for the Palisades.

What to see today

Many come to see the migrant birds, who flock along the 1.5-mile-long creek, but the park is wooded enough to spot Great Horned Owls or even white-tailed deer.

See **FORMATIONS**, Page 3A

GOP governor debate: Key takeaways and voter reaction

Alexander Rifaat

South Dakota News Watch

The four candidates vying for the Republican nomination for South Dakota governor met for a second time Monday in a relatively well-tempered debate in Sioux Falls.

The debate, co-moderated by South Dakota Public Broadcasting and South Dakota News Watch, saw little in terms of major clashes, with the candidates instead mostly focusing on staking out their policy positions and seeking to differentiate themselves in a crowded field.

Gov. Larry Rhoden, who replaced former Gov. Kristi Noem in January 2025 after her appointment as secretary for Homeland Security, argued recent legislative accomplishments showed he should be given his own mandate to keep his job while U.S. House Rep. Dusty Johnson, state House Speaker Jon Hansen and Aberdeen businessman Toby Doeden offered their own visions for running the Mount Rushmore state.

If no candidate receives at least 35% of the vote on the June 2 ballot, a runoff between the top two finishers will take place July 28. The winner of the contest will meet Democrat Dan Ahlers in the Nov. 3 general election.

Key takeaways

Here are some key takeaways from the debate:

- Johnson announced a plan to appoint a state surgeon general that would, among other things, assist in the managing of the state's **Medicaid** program in an effort to combat rising maternal and infant mortality rates. "We don't do a very good job of managing the Medicaid program today," he said. "We're going to get our arms around this."

- Hansen pledged to break up the South Dakota **Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources**. "I believe the South Dakota Department of Agriculture deserves its own department away from the people in the Department of Natural Resources," Hansen said. The two departments merged as a result of an executive order Noem issued in 2021.

- Doeden reiterated his plan to phase out **property taxes** completely, saying he will fill the budget hole by implementing policies that boost economic development, bringing in "external revenue sources" and cutting discretionary spending. He didn't specify the sources of revenue. "We don't need new taxes, we don't need higher taxes, we need more tax revenue," Doeden said.

See **DEBATE**, Page 2A



addressUSA

Find Out What Your Home Is Worth

Call Today for an Expert Valuation and Make Your Next Move

888-438-0750

Mon-Sun: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM



Discover more at addressUSA.com

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to argusleader.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 139 | No. 92
Subscribe 800-952-0127
©2026 \$4.00



0 40901 08577 5