



Wall-Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce

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August 2024
Volume 24: Issue 8

August Schedule of Events

Aug 1
City Council Mtg
6:30PM, WCC

Aug 2
WBACC Board Mtg
7AM, WCC

Aug 4
Pancake Feed
7-10AM, 112 S Blvd

Aug 7
Satellite Office
Wall, SD

Aug 9
NGVC Ribbon Cutting
11AM, 708 Main St

Aug 12
Feeding SD
1PM, 504 Norris

Aug 15
City Council Mtg
6:30 PM, WCC

Aug 21
Prayer & Praise at Wall
7PM, WCC

Aug 28
WEDC Board Mtg
6PM, WCC



Rally Rush 2024

The state of South Dakota has launched a new program to welcome riders from across the world for the 2024 rally.

They have provided us with posters and window clings to display in your businesses to welcome rally visitors. I have taken these out to members in town and if you were missed please let me know.

I will be at the pancake feed on Sunday, August 4th from 7-10 am handing out more Rally Rush items so make sure you stop by!



Free Breakfast Feed
Pancakes and Sausage

JOIN US DURING THE BIKE RALLY

Date: August 4, 2024
Time: 7 AM - 10 AM
Location: Intersection of Main Street and South Blvd, Wall, SD



COME OVER AND SUPPORT YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS

- Free Will Donations Accepted
- All proceeds go to Wall Ambulance Service and Wall VFD



THANK YOU GOLD SPONSORS



West River Electric Association, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

"Powering You For A Brighter Future"



Upgrade your Chamber Membership to a Gold Sponsor and be featured HERE!

Wall-Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2024

Noon Luncheon

Wall Community Center

Wall-Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce Board President Gina Kraut called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Amanda Kjerstad, second by Jody Bielmaier to approve meeting minutes from the June luncheon. Motion carried. Motion by Carol Hodges to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by Jodi Bielmaier. Motion carried.

Wall-Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce: Katie Bruce: It's Celebration week and this year's theme is "Red Solo Cup: We Lift You Up". This is in honor and in memory of Dale Sawvell who was a huge help to Celebration committee every year. There are events at the rodeo arena all 3 nights and Slamabama will play Friday night at the tent. Saturday morning there will be a 5k run/walk with registration at 6:30AM under the tent. Line up for the parade will be at 9AM at the south end of main street. The parade starts at 10AM. Ice cream social at the Lutheran church after the parade and kids' inflatables and dunk tank will be from 11-2. Registration for the cornhole tournament is at noon and starts at 1pm. The Chamber and WEDC sponsored the hoop dancers and drum group performing Saturday night before the rodeo and Flannel will be playing under the tent Saturday night. 2025 budget requests for sponsorship have been sent out and are due back to me by 7/31. The Chamber will be sponsoring and helping with the Rally pancake feed the ambulance service is putting on. There will be a ribbon cutting August 9th at 11AM at the National Grasslands Visitor Center. This was rescheduled from 7/12 as their renovations were not completed yet.

City of Wall: Mary Williams: Puffy's came to the last council meeting to discuss their marijuana license. They are wanting to move forward now that litigation with Loves is finished. They would still like to be located south of the interstate if that area is allowed to be re-zoned. They do have an alternate location and if that happens, we will have to open the application process back up again and there are 3 other interested parties. Recreational marijuana will be on the ballot in November. Cedar Creek gardens is located out by Hansen's storage units. There is a new Airbnb in town and John Luke McGriff opened a new car detailing business. The city changed garbage service over to Sander sanitation. Please call law enforcement if loose dogs are being aggressive so there is a record and they can be taken in. They need to be licensed and kept on a leash.

Wall Economic Development: Dawn Hilgenkamp: Dani Herring resigned as director as she received a job offer she could not refuse in Rapid City. Pass the word they are hiring. An agreement was signed with Cheyenne McGriff for her to market the industrial park lots. She will be taking drone photos/videos for advertising purposes.

National Grasslands Visitor Center: Kelsey Bean: Flyers are here for junior ranger days and the Pinnacles programs on Friday night. Grand re-opening will be 8/9 and this coincides with Smokey's 80th birthday. There will be snacks and cookies. They will potentially be opening July 19th as the exterior renovations will be mostly completed at this time with some landscaping still being worked on. Monday night programs at the park are still going strong, last night there were over 200 people in attendance. The Pinnacle programs on Friday nights are averaging about 40 people. They have several programs planned throughout the summer.

Rodeo Booster Club: Dawn Hilgenkamp: This Thursday is broncs, burgers, and beers along with slack. Friday and Saturday they will start at 6pm with mutton busting. Be there at 5:30 to register and there are limited spots. The PRCA performance will start at 7PM. Saturday night the hoop dancer performance will be after the mutton busting and before the rodeo. Tickets are \$20 online or \$25 at the gate. Justin Rumford and the Misfit Cowboy will be part of the rodeo act.

High School Rodeo: Dawn Hilgenkamp: 4 kids are headed to Nationals this week.



Wall School District: Dr Crowser – There are things happening all over the school right now. New flooring went into the entry and offices. The CT wing is going up quickly and water is getting hooked up. A \$250,000 grant was approved for CTE equipment and the new instructor has been helping with what they need and where to get it from. They are using local suppliers.

Wall Ambulance District: Liliya Stone – In June there were 11 calls, 3 of these were refusals and 8 were transports. They were on standby at 4 rodeos. Calls are down overall for the summer. July 13th is the dunk tank fundraiser and Linda Eisenbraun is putting it together. 8/4 is the Rally pancake feed which will be on the lot by the coffee shop. All proceeds will go to the ambulance and fire department. They are trying to raise money to breach a gap in their budget so that is why there are so many fundraising efforts.

Wall Community Library: Linda Hiltner – Flyers were passed out for 7/17 board meeting. The state library director will be here as a guest to talk about house bill 1197 which is a policy about restricting access to minors on obscene materials. The Wall library already has this in place.

Golden West: Jody Bielmaier: Golden West is looking forward to participating in the 2024 Wall Celebration parade and helping to sponsor the PRCA Rodeo at the Wall Rodeo Arena on July 11-13. Our upcoming Horizons newsletter, mailed later this month, will preview the candidates for the Golden West board of director terms set to expire at the 2024 Annual Meeting. We are also excited to expand options for members to participate in voting at this year's annual meeting, including online, request for a mail-in ballot, or in-person voting at the annual meeting on September 28, 2024.

West River Electric: Dawn Hilgenkamp: They will have board elections this year and more information was in the June newsletter. Applications are open and close August 13 at 5pm. Applications will close July 10th for their CEO position.

Conservation Office: Orey Fricke: They had some staff changes in their office and Jed Kammerer is the new DC. Soil conservationist position will be open in about a month. Pheasants Forever has a program for a certificate for 1-2 years of college students to later get jobs with Pheasants Forever and if anyone is interested in more information, he can get the name of who to contact.

Wall Drug: Amanda Frink – They are fully staffed with 110 people and the Prairie Parlor is open every day. They are hiring for an administrative assistant.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

**2025 CHAMBER SPONSORSHIP
BUDGET REQUESTS WERE DUE
JULY 31, 2024. PLEASE
CALL 605-279-2665 IF YOU
MISSED THE DEADLINE**



Community Picnic
Sunday August 4th
12:00 pm
Wall City Park
Games, Food, and Fun!

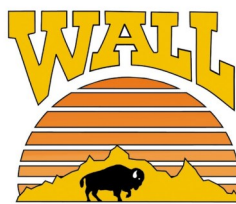


Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Drinks provided
Side dishes and desserts appreciated



Wall Satellite Office

OPEN: Aug 7
9 AM– 11:30 AM &
12:30 PM– 3:30 PM



August City Council Meetings

August 1 at
6:30PM

August 15 at
6:30PM

Country Cupboard Food Pantry Summer Hours June - August

Third Wednesday
June 19, July 17, August 21
9-11 a.m. & 5-7 p.m.

Third Saturday
June 15, July 20, August 17
9:00-11:00 a.m.

For assistance call 515-1289, 454-2185,
279-2453, or 279-1045 and leave a message.
We are an equal opportunity establishment.

Happy Retirement!

OPEN HOUSE

Please join everyone at First Interstate Bank for an open house celebrating Pam's retirement on August 23rd from 1-4 pm.

PAM JOHNSON
Retail Manager



August 23, 1-4 PM

'WHEELIN' TO WALL'



"Bike the Best of the Badlands"

September 28th & 29th, 2024

Pavement Courses & Gravel Courses

Family Friendly & Rider Support

[BikeReg.com/wheelintowall](https://www.bikereg.com/wheelintowall)



This event operates under permit with USFS and Badlands National Park

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT AT
THE 4TH ANNUAL

PEDAL PARADE

BRING YOUR BIKES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS,
STROLLERS, WHATEVER YOU HAVE!

WE PROVIDE THE GLOW STICKS, YOU
PROVIDE THE FUN

****PLEASE WEAR HELMETS****

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2024

BIKE TUNE UP STATION AVAILABLE BY THE LIBRARY

6:45 PM: DECORATE BIKES AT POWER HOUSE

7:15 PM: PARADE START AT POWER HOUSE

SPONSORED BY: WHEELIN' TO WALL & BLACK HILLS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



Forest Service News Release

Contact: Kelsey Bean

(605) 279-2125

Kelsey.Bean@usda.gov

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/nebraska>

National Grasslands Visitor Center Celebrates 30 Years with Grand Reopening

NGVC Celebrating 30 Years; GAOA Renovation; Interpretive Programs

WALL, S.D. (July 25, 2024)— The National Grasslands Visitor Center (NGVC) will be celebrating its 30 year anniversary in a big way this summer. For the past three decades the NGVC has been inspiring visitors by telling the story of America's Grasslands. The NGVC plans to celebrate this milestone by hosting a Grand Re-opening on Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday, August 9th. There will be a ribbon cutting event with members from the City of Wall and the Wall Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce, desserts, special activities, and a cake provided by Black Hills Parks and Forests Association for Smokey's Birthday. Throughout the day Smokey Bear will be making appearances. The ribbon cutting event will occur on August 9th, at 11 AM. Immediately following the ribbon cutting there will be cake for guests.

The Grand Re-opening comes after renovations closed the NGVC temporarily. The most recent renovation occurred after the NGVC received funding from the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). GAOA was established to help with improvements to existing infrastructure on federal public lands. The exterior improvements include a small shaded amphitheater, animal trackway in the walkways leading up to the NGVC, a fossil exhibit wall, new interpretive signage, picnic table area, and native plants added to the landscaping. Most of the work is set to be completed this month with some of the exhibits and signage still in the development phase. The NGVC is set to be open to the public starting Monday, July 22nd.



Photo 1: The NGVC after most of the exterior renovation has been completed. This photo shows the new shaded amphitheater, landscaping, flagpole, and kiosk.

In addition to the Grand Reopening the NGVC has programs and special events planned throughout the remainder of the summer. Jr. Ranger Days are one of the events planned, each

Jr. Ranger Day will highlight a specialist field found within the US Forest Service. There will be special guests, activities for kids of all ages, Interpretive Ranger Programs, and a Jr. Ranger Badge to be earned. The dates for the Jr. Ranger Days are on the following Saturdays:

- July 27th – Jr. Archaeologist Day
- August 3rd – Jr. Botanist Day
- August 10th – Jr. Wildlife Firefighter Day
- August 17th – Jr. Wildlife Biologist Day
- August 24th – Jr. Paleontologist Day

Throughout the summer the NGVC Interpretive Rangers have been hosting an Atlatl Program at Pinnacles Designated Dispersed Camping Area on Buffalo Gap National Grassland. Through this ranger led program participants learn about survival on the Grasslands and how an ancient hunting tool evolved. After the program participants have an opportunity to try their hand at using an atlatl, a spear throwing device. This program occurs every Friday night at 7 PM with the last program being on September 6th. Pinnacles Dispersed Camping Area is located approximately 7 miles south of Wall, SD off of Highway 240. The location of the presentation is near the communication towers at the intersection of Forest System Road (FSR) 7170 and FSR 7158. GPS coordinates: 43.893234, -102.229143



Photo 2: NGVC Interpretive Ranger shows an Atlatl Program participants how to throw an atlatl. Photo courtesy of Nickie Wheeler

The NGVC continues to have a strong partnership with Badlands National Park and provides an interpretive program every Monday night for their Evening Program series at Cedar Pass Amphitheater. Interpretive Programs presented by NGVC's Interpretive Rangers range in topics, some of the program topics covered this year have been about how cloning efforts are helping restore the Black-footed ferret populations, how native grassland plants helped people survive, the life of a bison within the Great Plains ecosystem, and how night skies connect us to our past and present. The start time of the Evening Program varies throughout the summer to accommodate the changing time of sunset, but typically starts around 9:00 PM (May-July) or 8:30 PM (August-September) in the summer season. Cedar Pass Amphitheater is located within

Badlands National Park. It is approximately 29 miles from Wall, SD, and approximately ¼ mile from the Ben Reifel Visitor Center within Badlands National Park.



Photo 3: NGVC Manager Kelsey Bean presents an interpretive program at Badlands National Park's Summer Evening Program series.

NGVC Interpretive Rangers will offer daily programs at the center. These programs include a formal interpretive presentation in the theater room, patio talks in the Living Landscape, and programs in the amphitheater just outside the building. All programs occurring outdoors are weather dependent and may be cancelled due to inclement weather. For more information on the National Grasslands Visitor Center, interpretive programs, and special events please contact them at 605-279-2125 or visit them at 708 Main Street, Wall, SD 57790.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

You're Invited!

**NATIONAL GRASSLANDS
VISITOR CENTER
RE-OPENING RIBBON CUTTING**

**AUGUST 9TH, 2024
11:00 AM**

**SMOKEY
80
BIRTHDAY**

708 Main Street, Wall, SD 57790

WALL-BADLANDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gina Kraut
Vice Pres.: Liliya Stone
Tres: Pam Johnson

Amanda Kjerstad
Ashley Kier
Molly Lytle

Wayne Shull
Lex Heathershaw
Savannah Williamson

Chamber Luncheon:
September 10 at 12 PM
Wall Community Center
Lunch Provided!

2024 Wall-Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce Membership

4th Ave. Floral & Gifts
AimHigh Mobile Detail
Aflac- Kayla Schad
American Legion Post 246
Americas Best Value Inn
America's National Park Stores
Anderson Investments
Arneson Auction Services
Ascend Ag, Inc.
Badlands & Company
Badlands Automotive
Badlands Bodega
Badlands Frontier Cabins
Badlands Harley-Davidson
Badlands National Park
Badlands National Park Conservancy
Badlands Natural History Association
Badlands Observatory
Badlands Quilters
Badlands Saloon & Grille
Badlands Trading Post
Best Western Plains Motel
Bev Dartt
Bin2Quinn
Black Hills & Badlands Tourism Assoc.
Black Hills Federal Credit Union
Black Hills Parks & Forests
Buffalo Gift Shop
Candee Kitterman
Circle View Guest Ranch
Common Cents
Community Education of the Black Hills
Cornerstone Industries
Country Cupboard Food Pantry
Crazy Horse Memorial
Crew Agency
Crown Oil
Cutting Edge Salon
Dahls Chainsaw Art
Dan Hauk
Dakota Mill & Grain
Dakota Sky Stone
Dawn Hilgenkamp
Days Inn
Donna & Al Crown
East Pennington County Ambulance
East Pennington Co. Conservation Dist.
East Pennington County Transit
EconoLodge

EDWARD JONES/Hal Bailey
Evangelical Free Bible Church
Evergreen Office Solutions
Farm Bureau Financial Services
Freedom & Flash Fireworks
First Interstate Bank
First Lutheran Church
Golden West Telecommunications
Hansen's Inn
Harlan & Lori Walker
Hub International Insurance
Hustead Law Office, P.C.
Juanita Schroeder
Judy Goldhammer
Jonny Creighton Winn
Karen Soderquist Team/ ReMax Results
Kari Welsh
Larry Eisenbraun
Linda Hiltner
Lindsay Reagle
M & M Sales
Mama Law Photography
Mary Williams
Meals on Wheels
Melanie Shull
Minuteman Missile NHS
Monument Health Wall Clinic
Naja Shriners/ 4 Rivers Shrine Club
Nanna's Mercantile
Nohr Wortmann Engineering
Out West Quilts & Fabric
Pat Hustead
Pennington County Commissioners
Pennington County Courant
Prairie Homestead
Quinn VFW
Rick Hustead
Robert Sharp & Associates
Ron Dinger
Rush Funeral Home
Salty Steer
Sander Sanitation Service
Sarah Hustead
Shearer's Western Dakota Ranch Vac.
Singing Horse Trading Post
Sleepy Hollow RV Park
Small Town Glo
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Sue's Avon

Sunshine Inn
Super 8
SWIFTEC Inc.
The Little Outpost
Travelodge
Triangle B&B
Treat U Boutique
USDA Forest Service/Natl. Grasslands
Wakin Bacon
Wall Auto Livery
Wall Auto Repair & Glass
Wall Booster Club
Wall Building Center & Construction
Wall Community Library
Wall Dairy Queen
Wall Drug Store
Wall Economic Development
Wall Food Center
Wall Golf Association
Wall Rodeo Booster Club
Wall School District #51-5
Wall United Methodist Church
Wasta VFD
Wayne Shull
Welsh's Motel
West River Electric Association
Western Dakota Tech
Wheelin' to Wall
Zoe's Creationz

