

# SIDNEY SUN-TELEGRAPH

## SIDNEY GOLD RUSH DAYS

### SPECIAL EDITION



TAKING YOU BACK TO THE 1870S JUNE 13TH, 14TH, 15TH - 2025

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, June 13th

5:00 pm Flag Ceremony with National Anthem by Kelsey Arrington (see page 3)  
 5:10 pm Calamity Jane (See page 7)  
 5:30 pm Gold Canyon Gun Fighters (see page 6)  
 6:00 pm Western Music and Cowboy Poetry Showcase presented by the Black Hills & Beyond Chapter of IWMA (See page 5)  
 6:10 pm S'mores (sponsored Sonny's Super Foods and BSA Troop 90)  
 6:30 pm 5K walk/run by Christian's Love: A Pregnancy Loss Support Foundation  
 7:00 pm Peter & Kathy Gibbs (See page 10)  
 7:30 pm Raffle drawings (cash prizes sponsored by Bill Benson)  
 8:00 pm Dancing with Trévon (See page 7)  
 9:00 pm Festival Closes Down for the Day

### Saturday, June 14th

10:00am - 3:00 pm Historic, guided Bus Tours to the Fort Sidney Museum, Camp Lookout, and Boot Hill Cemetery.  
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Petting Zoo (See page 7)  
 10:00 am - 4:30 pm Wagon Rides (See page 5)

8:00 am Flag ceremony with national anthem by Kelsey Arrington (see page 3)  
 8:10 am Breakfast (sponsored by Safeway and Sidney Elks Lodge)  
 8:30 am Calamity Jane  
 9:00 am Peter & Kathy Gibbs (See page 10)  
 9:30 am Gold Canyon Gun fighters (see page 6)  
 10:00 am Jerome Kills Small - Children Stories (see page 6)  
 11:00 am Buffalo Soldiers of the American West (see pages 8 & 9)  
 12:00 pm Western Music and Cowboy Poetry Showcase presented by the Black Hills & Beyond Chapter of IWMA (See page 5)  
 2:00 pm Egg Toss Tournament  
 2:00 pm Homemade Ice Cream - sponsored

by Sonny's Super Foods hand churned by BSA Troop 90  
 2:00 pm Grand Prize Raffle Drawing (cash prizes sponsored by Bill Benson)  
 2:15 pm Flag Day Ceremony by the Sidney Elks Lodge  
 3:00 pm Buffalo Soldiers of the American West (see pages 8 & 9)  
 4:00 pm Peter & Kathy Gibbs (See page 10)  
 4:00 pm Poker Tournament  
 4:30 pm Gold Canyon Gun Fighters  
 5:00 pm Western Music and Cowboy Poetry Showcase presented by the Black Hills & Beyond Chapter of IWMA (See page 5)  
 6:00 pm Calamity Jane  
 6:00 pm S'mores - sponsored by Sonny's Super Foods and BSA troop 90  
 6:30 pm Open Mic Night by Keep Sidney Beautiful  
 8:00 pm Gordy Wilkins (See page 3)  
 9:00 pm festival closes down for the day

### Sunday, June 15th

8:00 am Flag Ceremony with National Anthem by Kelsey Arrington (see page 3)  
 8:10 am breakfast available for \$6 (sponsored by Safeway and Sidney Elks Lodge)  
 8:30 am church service  
 9:00 am Calamity Jane (See page 7)  
 9:30 am Gold Canyon Gun Fighters (see page 6)  
 10:00 am Jerome Kills Small - Trade Between the Lakota Sioux and Early White Traders (see page 6)  
 11:00 am Buffalo Soldiers of the American West (see pages 8 & 9)  
 2:00 pm Western Music and Cowboy Poetry Showcase presented by the Black Hills & Beyond Chapter of IWMA (See page 5)  
 1:00 pm Peter & Kathy Gibbs (See page 10)  
 1:30 pm Raffle Drawings (cash prizes sponsored by Bill Benson)  
 2:00 pm CLOSING

### POKER TOURNAMENT

Back by popular demand! We are hosting a Texas Hold'em poker tournament. Lots of Prizes with no buy-in. Saturday, June 14th starting at 4:00 pm. See our website to register and for more information.

### NEW FOR 2025

EGG-TOSS TOURNAMENT. 2:00 PM SATURDAY. SEE PAGE 10 FOR DETAILS.

Putt & Jump On the Go, LLC mini golf and bounce house vendor will be at the festival. \$10 for a 1 day wrist band. \$25 for the entire festival. They will be located east of Memorial Gardens.

### ALL WEEKEND LONG:

- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND CRAFT PROJECTS
- FOOD VENDORS
- MERCHANDISE VENDORS
- FRONTIERSMEN & CRAFTSMEN
- FREE ENTERTAINMENT

### New for 2025

## PETTING ZOO

Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

FREE

Thanks to the support of

## SUTTON HOME GALLERY

New Children's Craft Project! Paint a special Sidney Gold Rush Days medallion. See page 7 for details



SCAN FOR SCHEDULE AND EVENT INFORMATION

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** PLAY 1800S CRICKET WITH TOM MELVILLE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH!

**5K RUN!** SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS!

Please visit our website for event information, register for Poker Run, or for any last-minute schedule changes by scanning our QR code (RIGHT), or by visiting [www.sidneygoldrushdays.org/schedule/](http://www.sidneygoldrushdays.org/schedule/)

# SUN-TELEGRAPH GOLD RUSH DAYS SPECIAL EDITION

SIDNEY GOLD RUSH DAYS HAS SO MANY VARIED SPONSORS THAT IT PROVES WHAT A GREAT COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN! WHEN DOING BUSINESS WITH, OR VISITING ANY OF THESE BUSINESSES, PLEASE BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU SAW THEM HERE AND THANK THEM FOR SUPPORTING SIDNEY GOLD RUSH DAYS!

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED THE WONDERFUL ITEMS FOR OUR RAFFLE! VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE GROWING LIST OF RAFFLE PRIZES. SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE FOOD AND MERCHANDISE VENDORS. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE GROWING LIST OF VENDORS WHO WILL BE AT THE FESTIVAL.**

**WE HAVE TRIED TO INCLUDE EVERYONE UP TO THE DATE OF PRINTING OF THIS NEWSPAPER BUT THERE MAY BE MORE BY THE FESTIVAL DATE AND WE APOLOGIZE IF WE HAVE MISSED ANYONE'S GENEROSITY.**



## CHEYENNE COUNTY VISITORS COMMITTEE

SIDNEY - DALTON - LODGEPOLE - GURLEY - POTTER

Sidney Gold Rush Days is Partially funded by a grant from Cheyenne County Visitors Committee.  
[www.visitsidneycnc.com](http://www.visitsidneycnc.com)

## Cheyenne County for a Cause

Sidney Gold Rush Days is a proud and thankful recipient of Cheyenne County for a Cause funds.

Cheyenne County for a Cause was started in 1997 by the Ladies Division of the Cheyenne County Chamber. Originally called "Dress Down Days", it was designed by the Ladies Chamber to assist charitable projects within Cheyenne County. This program continues as part of the chamber and reflects the pride people have in our community and the giving spirit we have here. 'Together We Can Make a Difference.'

Go to [www.cheyennecountychamber.com/ccfc/](http://www.cheyennecountychamber.com/ccfc/) to donate to this worthy cause.

# AND THE SIDNEY SUN-TELEGRAPH

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## WHY SIDNEY GOLD RUSH DAYS?

Was gold ever found near Sidney, Nebraska? NO! Gold deposits in Nebraska are very sparse. In Western Nebraska, the only gold we have is very fine placer gold that has been carried long distances from the gold country mostly from Colorado with some coming from Wyoming. So, why do we commemorate Sidney Gold Rush Days? Because the Union Pacific Railroad was in Sidney. Miners and prospectors would ride the train to Sidney and then travel overland to the Black Hills via the Sidney Black Hills Stage Road. Competing with the Sidney Black Hills Stage Road was

the Cheyenne-Black Hills Stage Route than ran from Cheyenne, Wyoming to Deadwood, South Dakota. It wasn't until 1887 that the Black Hills were linked by rail to the rest of the country when the now abandoned Cowboy Line railroad in northern Nebraska was built. Not many miners or prospectors got rich on gold in the Black Hills, but outfitting them and supplying services to them was a much more lucrative business that helped Sidney grow.

### HIGHBY OUTDOORS

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Mon.- Fri. 8am to 6pm!  
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## RAFFLE

Lots of prizes

One \$100 cash and Three \$50 cash prizes donated by Bill Benson

Lots of gift certificates and merchandise (See our website for the current up-to-date list)

## 2025 Sidney Gold Rush Days commemorative hat pin

Gold Deal (Raffle, Saturday Breakfast, & Pin) **\$9**

Saturday Breakfast & Pin **\$7**

Raffle Entries only:

**\$1** plus a donation to Table of Grace

**\$3** for 1 entry

**\$5** for 2 entries

Breakfast sponsored by Safeway and prepared and served by Sidney Elks

## BREAKFAST

Sunday morning Breakfast **\$6**

Breakfast & pins only while supplies last  
Need not be present to win, but more prizes are available to you if you are.

[www.sidneygoldrushdays.org](http://www.sidneygoldrushdays.org)

## BLACKSMITHING



### BEN CAREY

Well, it all started when I was a kid, visiting my great grandparents farm in Zell SD. My great grandfather was a blacksmith and we would spend time with him in his shop on the farm gaining an interest in all things metal. From there I started taking metals and welding classes in school, that's when I started making steel roses and flowers. Then in 2018 my in-laws moved off of their farm and I inherited my anvil. That's when the hobby turned serious. I started collecting tools and materials, and in March of 2019 I opened my first blacksmith shop in an old out building. Since then I have been completely self-taught thanks to YouTube and the internet. That's what I like most about blacksmithing, the possibilities are near limitless and you can bring your imagination to life. If you need a tool, you can make it yourself. Since 2021 I have started doing demonstration and reenactment events.

This year will be my 5th year at Sidney Gold Rush Days, and I will have a selection of knives, keychains, trinkets, and decorations on display and for sale.

### GORDY WILKINS



I grew up listening to people talk about history and all events of the past! I've come to realize how important our heritage really is!

Being an American is a real blessing in life. Our past as Americans is so unique and very special! That is the spirit of the Gold Rush Days - we try to bring back the life of the late 1800's. So, come visit with me and enjoy Sidney Gold Rush Days.

### KELSEY ARRINGTON



A local and an alumni of Leyton Public Schools, Kelsey is a pro-

fessional vocalist having studied with the likes of Marnie Nixon, Rita Stinner, Diane Bolden-Taylor, and Michael McGill. She has spent her time traveling the world performing, starting young as an Ambassador of Music where she sang in many beautiful places such as Saint Mark's Basilica in Venice, Italy. Her musical adventures have landed her a spot singing in the historic concert venue Carnegie Hall in New York City, as well as the operatic Festival of the Aegean in Syros, Greece. She is an avid gardener in her free time, was a staff writer for the Sidney Sun-Telegraph, as well as an artist, photographer, and wanna-be chef. She loves enjoying nature and actively lives by the saying "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." She is the proud owner of C. Elliot Blooms, a one of a kind floral studio specializing in all occasions, located here in Sidney.

April 3, 1897

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### TRADITIONAL WOODCRAFT DEMONSTRATION

### KEN GEU

Ken has enjoyed woodworking and tinkering his entire life. One of his favorite TV shows starting in early 1980's was Roy Underhill's "The Woodwright's Shop" that was shown on PBS. While on vacation in Virginia in 1997, he got the opportunity to meet Roy Underhill in person. In 2010 Ken took at class on how to make coopering tools at Tiller's International in Michigan. In 2013 Ken took a week-long class from Roy at his home in North Carolina where Ken built his shaving horse. With these tools in his arsenal, he headed out to Sidney Gold Rush Days in 2014 with some old cedar fence posts to make his first wooden bucket. Roy Underhill offered a class on making a spring pole lathe; however, Ken was not able to attend, so based on drawings from one of Roy Underhill's numerous books he built his own version of a spring pole lathe which debuted at Sidney Gold Rush Days in 2018.

## MEDICINE AND MEDICAL PRACTICES IN THE 1870s

In the 1870s, Western medicine was still in a transitional period between traditional methods and more modern scientific practices. Many frontier settlers and Native Americans relied on herbal remedies, homeopathic treatments, and folk medicine. However, the influence of European and Eastern medical theories was growing, especially in larger settlements and cities.

Medical schools in America were still in their infancy and many medical practitioners did not have formal training. Most physicians practiced "heroic medicine," which included treatments like bloodletting, purging, and the use of a few, often dangerous, medications. Although doctors tried to heal people, their role often took the form of emotional support and caring rather than actually being able to supply effective treatments and heal their patients. They were simply powerless against most diseases. Infections were a very serious threat and killed many more people than the original injury. The 1870's were long before the discovery and use of antibiotics. Sulfonamide drugs were not discovered until 1935 and quickly became widely used within a few years. Penicillin was not discovered until 1928 and did not become widely available until the 1940's.

In the 1870's the list of "modern" medicines included:

- Quinine: Malaria treatment;
- Digitalis: Heart conditions;
- Cocaine: Local anesthetic and pain reliever;
- Morphine: Pain reliever and sedative;
- Opium: Pain relief

and to treat diarrhea and coughs;

- Willow Bark: (precursor to aspirin) Fever reducer;
- Meadowsweet: Fever reducer.
- Camphor: Sooth itchy skin.
- Arsenic: Syphilis treatment (quite toxic).
- Mercury: Syphilis treatment (quite toxic).
- Carbolic acid: Disinfectant.
- Chlorine: Disinfectant.
- Ether: Anesthesia.
- Chloroform: Anesthesia.

Because of the limited capabilities of doctors and sparse access to medical treatment, this time saw lots of traveling healers or "quacks" selling various tonics and elixirs that promised cures for almost every ailment. Although many were ineffective and often dangerous. At this point in history, there was no FDA or anyone oversetting these "medications" so for the most part, anyone could sell anything based on any claims regardless of its safety or effectiveness. Even into the early 1900's when regulations started coming into existence about the only restriction was that the product packaging itself could not be mislabeled or contain false claims. However, anything could be claimed in other forms of advertising. The burden of proof to their effectiveness was placed on the regulators to prove that they did not work or were unsafe as opposed to the producers being required to prove that they did work and were in fact not harmful. Surgical techniques in

the 1870s were rudimentary by modern standards. Surgery was a last resort, as it was often performed without anesthesia, and antiseptic techniques were not widely known. Although the discovery of

makeshift clinics. Doctors carried limited medical supplies, often consisting of a small set of tools for basic procedures, medicines, and bandages. The first hospital in western Nebraska was not built

**OPEN MIC NIGHT**  
 Saturday, June 14, 6:30 pm.  
 Brought to you by Keep Sidney Beautiful. Register to be a performer call Michelle at 308-249-3609.

antiseptic procedures by Joseph Lister in the 1860s had been influential in Europe, it was only slowly making its way into the United States. In the 1870's many doctors had not yet even accepted the fact that hand washing or cleaning instruments between patients was a good idea. The use of anesthesia (ether and chloroform) had also been introduced in the 1840s but was not universally available, especially in the frontier areas. As a result, surgeries were often done quickly and with little regard for infection control.

Amputations were common in the treatment of injuries, particularly for those involved in accidents or violence, which were frequent on the frontier. Infection was a major risk, and many people died from sepsis following surgery.

Hospitals were rare in the Western U.S. in the 1870s. Medical care was often delivered in private homes or

until 1924 in Scottsbluff. The nearest hospital to Sidney was in Cheyenne, WY where, in 1867, the Union Pacific established a tent hospital to treat workers injured while building the transcontinental railroad. In 1868, the City of Cheyenne purchased the hospital and its supplies for \$125 but the first actual hospital building was not constructed until 1883.

Disease was a constant threat in the 1870s, as there were few effective treatments or vaccines, and medical knowledge was limited. Several diseases were common and devastating, particularly in the frontier regions.

### Infectious Diseases:

**Smallpox:** Smallpox was one of the most feared diseases of the era, and outbreaks were devastating. The disease spread rapidly through the populations of both Native Americans and European settlers. Although vaccination against

smallpox was developed by Edward Jenner in the late 18th century, it was not widely implemented in the West during the 1870s. Native American populations, in particular, had little immunity to the disease, leading to high mortality rates.

**Tuberculosis (TB):** TB was widespread in the 19th century and was known as "consumption." It primarily affected the lungs and was highly contagious. The disease spread through close contact, and its symptoms included coughing, weight loss, and fever. In the crowded mining camps and growing cities, TB spread rapidly, leading to significant public health challenges.

**Cholera:** Cholera was another deadly disease in the Western U.S. during the 1870s, particularly in cities near rivers and other water sources. The disease, spread through contaminated water, caused severe dehydration and often death within hours. Cholera outbreaks were common in mining towns and frontier settlements where sanitation was poor.

**Diphtheria:** Diphtheria was common in the 19th century and spread through respiratory droplets. The disease led to difficulty breathing and death from suffocation. It was particularly deadly for children and was often fatal without modern medical interventions.

**Malaria:** Malaria was also prevalent in the Western U.S., especially in areas with standing water, such as the river valleys and wetlands of the region. The disease, spread by mosqui-

toes, caused fever, chills, and, in severe cases, death.

**Influenza:** Influenza (the flu) was a recurring seasonal disease in the 1870s, but the major pandemics that would become a global concern in the 20th century had not yet occurred. Nonetheless, it still caused widespread illness.


**Typhoid Fever:** Typhoid fever, often linked to contaminated food or water, was another common affliction in the West. It caused fever, abdominal pain, and sometimes death, particularly in unsanitary conditions.

### Native American Health

The health of Native American populations was severely impacted by diseases introduced by European settlers, such as smallpox, measles, and influenza. Native American communities had little immunity to these diseases, leading to devastating epidemics. In addition to infectious diseases, the forced relocation of Native peoples to reservations, loss of traditional lifestyles, and exposure to inadequate healthcare led to significant suffering.


### Life Expectancy in the 1870s

The life expectancy in the 1870s was significantly lower than today. On average, life expectancy in the U.S. was around 40-45 years, but this figure was heavily skewed by high infant mortality rates and the frequency of death from infectious diseases. Many people, especially those living in remote areas, had short lifespans due to accidents, infections, and lack of proper medical care.



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# SUN-TELEGRAPH GOLD RUSH DAYS SPECIAL EDITION



## International Western Music Association

The International Western Music Association is an organization that encourages and supports the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The West. Members are from the United States, Australia, Canada, England, Spain and Switzerland.

Western Music is the folk music of the Western life style and vista. Some Western Music originates from roots in English, Scottish, Irish, and Welsh ballads, as well as musical influences from the European countries of immigrants who "went west" and some carries jazz and blues origins. While "Cowboy" music is an important

part of the history of Western Music, the stories and lifestyles of the larger populations of Western culture are equally important: settlers, farmers, ranchers, horsemen and women, soldiers and the women who accompanied them into the west, miners, opportunists, gamblers, saloon keepers, school teachers, and other town folk who populated the great American West are all subjects of modern day Western Music.

For more information, go to [iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org) or contact Phil Wilig, Nebraska State Representative at 816-591-9060



## CHRIS GUTIERREZ

Chris Gutierrez was born and raised in Sidney Nebraska.

He attended Berkeley College of Music and Musicians Institute and has degrees in Music Education, accounting and is currently in the final stages of a third degree in Marketing. He has performed all over the country, on television and even worked on background music for movies. He has been an announcer and performer for the Gold Rush Days for many years and thoroughly enjoys being a part of Sidney tradition!

## Sidney Gold Rush Days 5K

LEGACY OF LOVE  
SOME TREASURES ARE BURIED IN OUR HEARTS



Christian's Love  
5K Run/Walk  
GOLD RUSH DAYS 2025  
SIDNEY, NE

This year's 5K is sponsored by and proceeds will go to Christian's Love: A Pregnancy Loss Support Foundation

Friday, June 13th  
5K begins at 6:30 pm  
1 mile run begins at 7:00 pm

Registration Fees:  
\$30 (Run & T-shirt)  
\$15 (5K only)  
\$10 (1 mile only)

Register on-line at [www.sidneygoldrushdays.org](http://www.sidneygoldrushdays.org)  
Register by Monday, June 2nd to guarantee a T-shirt

"Christian's Love: A Pregnancy Loss Support Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families during one of life's most challenging experiences—miscarriage and pregnancy loss. Our mission is to create a safe space for grieving families by offering physical tokens of care and practical (local) resources through our miscarriage boxes. Each box is designed to provide comfort, validate grief, offer keepsakes, and connect recipients to helpful support networks. By addressing the often-overlooked emotional and physical needs of those experiencing loss, we aim to foster healing and create a culture where miscarriage is met with empathy, understanding, and acknowledgment."

[christianslovepls@gmail.com](mailto:christianslovepls@gmail.com)

Or look us up on Facebook

## FREE WAGON RIDES SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH, 2025 10:00 AM - 4:00PM



**Godfather's Pizza Express**

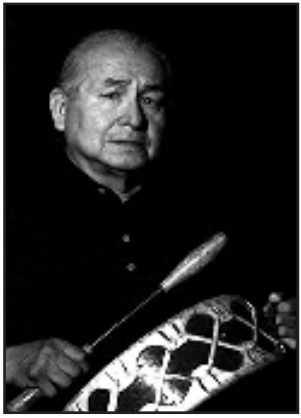
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## JEROME KILLS SMALL

Jerome Kills Small is an Oglala Lakota from Porcupine, South Dakota, on

the Pine Ridge Reservation. A 1997 graduate from the University of South Dakota, with an M.A. in Selected Studies, and retired after 20 years at USD. He taught Lakota Language, American Indian Thought, Siouan Tribal Culture, Early Native American History. He is featured in the book, Wounded Warriors: A Time for Healing, and has a story

in the Silver Anniversary Anthology published by the SD Humanities Council. Mr. Kills Small has parts in the videos: Sucker Punched, Nagi Kicopi (Calling Back the Spirit), Lost Landscapes, and Bones of Contention: Repatriation and Reburial (BBC.) Jerome is a storyteller for public schools, museums, and colleges. Jerome translates, explains, and sings

Lakota ceremonial, sweatlodge, powwow, rabbit, round dance, warrior, vision quest, and sundance songs. He sings with the Iron Wing Singers of Wagner, SD. He is a powwow organizer, announcer, arena director, and helps in conducting Lakota ceremonies. He portrayed Tecumseh, a Shawnee Chief and British General. He also portrayed Dr. Charles Alex-

ander Eastman, the first Dakota Medical Doctor. Mr. Kills Small is on the board of Directors for the Native American Advocacy Program, [www.lakotanaap.org](http://www.lakotanaap.org).



**HUMANITIES NEBRASKA**

FUNDING WAS PROVIDED BY HUMANITIES NEBRASKA AND THE NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT.

## PEDALERS CORNER SIDNEY GOLD RUSH DAYS HISTORIC SCAVENGER HUNT ON BICYCLES

Join us on Saturday, June 14th, at 10:00 a.m., at the Pedalers Corner gazebo. Located at the corner of Illinois and 9th for a historic scavenger hunt bicycle ride. Autograph cards with instructions and tour information will be available. The ride will end in Legion Park at the Sidney Gold Rush Days festival. Prizes will be drawn from completed autograph cards received. Fun for the entire family. Don't have a bicycle to ride? Loaner bicycles will be available on a first come, first served basis. Preregister on-line at [www.sidneygoldrushdays.org](http://www.sidneygoldrushdays.org).



## GOLD CANYON GUNFIGHTERS

The Gold Canyon gunfighters Incorporated is a non-profit Old West Reenactment group based in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is made up of people who love the lore of the old west. The club has been performing for over 50 years at public and private events throughout the area. The club was originally started in 1968. Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the old west and who would enjoy playing cowboys with us. Our performances are intended for the general audiences. You can bring the kids along without fear of what they may see or hear. Some of our skits are based on actual historic events, but most are fictional and are humorous. Our goal is to entertain and we have fun doing it.

912 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD  
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GLEANER, BEAUTIFIES

# SUN-TELEGRAPH GOLD RUSH DAYS SPECIAL EDITION

## TRÉVON NEWMANN



Originally from the Bay Area of California, Trévon Newmann is a professionally trained dancer, choreographer, and instructor. With a bachelor's degree in dance from Colorado College, Tré now owns his own small business in Sidney, Nebraska. At Modern Moves Studio, Tré offers personal training in fitness and dance while also partnering with other businesses to

put on dance and fitness activities for the local community. Tré believes that dance is for everyone no matter your skills, talents, or abilities. It's a way to express, challenge, and improve yourself while strengthening your community.

Modern Moves Studio is located at 1900 Illinois Street, Sidney, NE. You can contact Tré for more information at [modernmovesstudio@gmail.com](mailto:modernmovesstudio@gmail.com)

## JENA SIERKS

as the legendary

*Calamity Jane*

Martha Jane Cannary

Calamity Jane...what a character! I try to put a bit of comedy into my



shows. History can be pretty heavy. I want it to be true and accurate while keeping it light and making people laugh."

As Calamity Jane, she was performing in gunfights on the streets of Deadwood from 2012-2021, Jena walking 10 miles a day, talking to visitors, dancing,

howling and singing with 3,000 tourists daily. There was some mingling with senators at the state capitol & performing for many events, which helped with making friends from all across the nation and world. She stays in contact with quite a few "tourist" friends to this day. Jena not only infused history with entertainment, but with plenty of her own personality and sass.

When the pandemic showed up, Jena... like Calamity in the smallpox epidemic, hung up the rifle and bullwhip in exchange for nursing at the Rapid City/covid/heart and vascular unit. Calamity might have approved?

Presently, Jena does a few special events like documentary filmings and museum presentations, mostly pertaining to history and entertainment, with Sidney Gold Rush days being the highlight of the year!

"It's fun to teach history in a way, so people can put themselves back in that timeframe," she said. "Calamity Jane was unapologetically herself and it made her a legend.

She had a saying:

"I figure if a girl wants to be a legend, she should go ahead and be one."

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## PAINT A CERAMIC MEDALLION

to give to your dad for Father's Day, keep for yourself, or give it to anyone you like.



Actual medallion shapes will vary

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

The 10th Cavalry was formed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and recruited soldiers from the northern states. Colonel Benjamin Grierson was selected to command the 10th Cavalry. Colonel Edward Hatch was selected to command the 9th cavalry, and he recruited soldiers from the south and set up his headquarters in Greenville, Louisiana. The troops were led by white officers. Many officers, including George Armstrong Custer, refused to command black regiments and accepted a lower rank rather than do so. The black regiments could only serve west of the Mississippi River because of the prevailing attitudes following the Civil War.

African Americans have served proudly in every great American war. Over two hundred thousand African American servicemen fought bravely during the Civil War. In 1866, through an act of Congress, legislation was adopted

to create six all-African-American army units. The units were identified as the 9th and 10th cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st infantry regiments. The four infantry units were reorganized in 1868 as the 24th and the 25th infantry. Black soldiers enlisted for five years and received \$13.00 a month, far more than they could have earned in civilian life.

The Buffalo Soldier's main charge was to protect settlers as they moved west and to support the westward expansion by building the infrastructure needed for new settlements to flourish.

The name "Buffalo Soldiers" has become interesting lore in itself. There seem to be three possible reasons for the name. One is that the curly hair of the soldiers reminded them of the Buffalo. Two, they were given the name because their fierce, brave nature reminded them of the way buffalos fought. Third, it may have been because they wore thick coats made from buffalo hide during winter. Whatever the reason, the term was used respectfully and with honor.

The 10th Cavalry mounted units were deactivated in North Africa in 1944.

## BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN SIDNEY?

The Buffalo Soldiers were never stationed at Fort Sidney, but based on a few news articles in the Sidney Telegraph, we know that they were indeed in Sidney if for no other reason than passing through on their way to Fort Robinson where they were stationed.

June 30, 1977

Lt Gasmann, of the 10th Cavalry, colored, and who has been visiting his brother J G Gasmann of this city, is now at Ogallala visiting his parents and relatives, and desirous of corralling more health.

November 7, 1903:

The eight troops of the 10th Cavalry arrived in Sidney from Ft. Riley, Kas., Tuesday evening about six o'clock. The horses were unloaded but the soldiers slept in the cars over night. They departed the next morning overland for Ft. Robinson.

November 21, 1903:

Patrick Rowlan went to Bridgeport last week to see the boys of the 10th Cavalry, and brought back and load of building material.

Mrs Pat Rowland and children and Miss May Ryan were among a number who went to Bridgeport to see the gallant 10th Cavalry. The music by the band was a rare treat indeed.

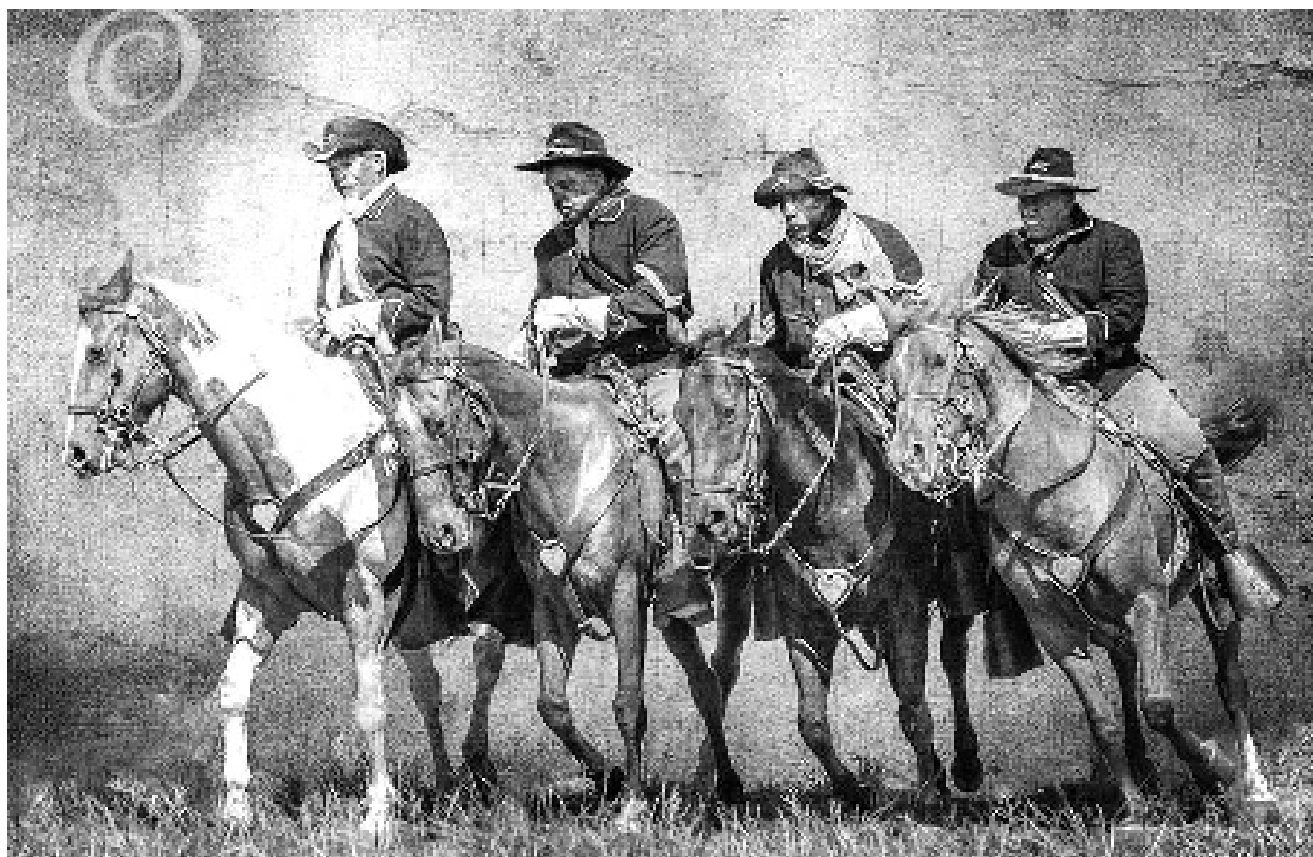
## BUFFALO SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN WEST INC

The mission and purpose of the Buffalo Soldiers of the American West are to educate the public about the existence of the Ninth and Tenth United States Cavalry, regiments made up of African-Americans. The organization fulfills its mission by making historical and drill team presentations at schools, to civic organizations and businesses, and participating in other community celebrations of the

American West. Authenticity is the goal of all presentations.

The Buffalo Soldiers of the American West began as the result of an oversight in the history of the West. John Bell, an aficionado of Western history, participated in reenactments in Colorado and noticed a lack of representation of the Buffalo Soldiers. He wondered whether there were Buffalo Soldier organizations in Colorado and found that there were none. After much research and more deliberation, John decided to start an organization of Buffalo Soldiers in Colorado in 1986.

**SEE PAGE 9**



# SUN-TELEGRAPH GOLD RUSH DAYS SPECIAL EDITION

CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE 8

John needed to answer the following questions before he began:

Would the unit be cavalry or infantry?

Where could authentic equipment and uniforms be found?

What would be the cost?

How much travel would be involved in researching the history of the Buffalo Soldiers?

Who would be interested in becoming members and portraying the soldiers?

Which time period would the unit represent?

Finally, John decided that the organization would be cavalry and represent the time period between 1870 and 1890.

John sent letters and phoned prospective members. The first meeting was held in Westminster, Colorado in 1992. The official name of the organization became The Buffalo Soldiers of the American West. The group regis-

tered with the State of Colorado as a non-profit organization in 1994 and received its tax-exempt status (501) (C) (3) from the Internal Revenue Service in 1995.

The Buffalo Soldiers of the American West represent members of the 10th Cavalry M Company, organized in 1867 under Commanding Officer Capt. Alvord. Troopers of the M Company rode mix colored horses—black, brown, bay, gray, chestnut, and, at times, other color combinations. Company M, therefore, is known as the Calico Company.

website: <https://thebuffalosoldiersoftheamericanwest.org>



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ENDOWMENT.

## GUNSLINGERS, GOLD, AND GLORY: SIDNEY'S WILD PAST COMES ALIVE

Sidney, Nebraska, was a hotspot for famous figures of the Old West during the height of the Gold Rush, attracting gunslingers, outlaws, and performers alike. The town's rough-and-tumble reputation earned it the nickname "Sinful Sidney" and made it a magnet for both fortune seekers and those looking to make a name for themselves. Before gold was discovered in the Black Hills in 1875, Sidney had a modest population of 500. By the following year, that number had doubled, and during the peak of the rush, as many as 1,500 travelers passed through daily.

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Calamity Jane, one of the most infamous women of the frontier, also had strong ties to Sidney. Known as a scout, performer, and storyteller, she was said to have spent time living in the town, with the Sidney Telegraph reporting her arrival on August 4, 1877. Her connection to Sidney deepened when she recruited ten dance-hall girls for a saloon in Deadwood, spinning tales of wealth and opportunity. Some rumors suggest she had a

child in Sidney, fathered by a soldier from Fort Sidney, though historians debate the truth of this claim. Later in life, she was laid to rest beside Wild Bill in Deadwood, forever linking their legends.

Buffalo Bill Cody, one of the most famous showmen of the Old West, was a frequent visitor to Sidney. In 1877, he met in town with Pawnee scout leader Frank North, whose Pawnee Battalion of scouts was famous on the frontier. The two men may have first crossed paths five years earlier in 1872 during the infamous Canadian Niagara Falls Buffalo Hunt, where they helped gather buffalo for a dramatic public spectacle. In May 1883, Cody visited his ranch near Sidney, where he previewed his now-legendary Wild West show. The Sidney Plaindealer-Telegraph described the ranch... "as having tents pitched for the men, buffalo grazing in a pasture, and elk expected to arrive." Buffalo Bill was also said to have attended church at Christ Episcopal Church in downtown Sidney, where he reportedly carved his name into a pew—though years later, a parishioner sanded it down. Both Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane performed in Buffalo Bill's world-famous Wild West show, further cementing Sidney's role in frontier history.

Outlaw "Doc" Middleton also left his mark on Sidney, spending a significant amount of time behind bars there. A notorious horse thief and gunslinger, he reportedly killed a soldier in a saloon fight after being punched to the ground twice. In an act of cold precision, Middleton calmly reached for his revolver and shot the soldier dead. Arrested and locked in Sidney's small log jail in 1877, he was nearly lynched by an angry mob, but the sheriff allowed him to escape rather than see him hanged. Middleton resumed his criminal ways, organizing a gang and stealing dozens of horses before authorities finally caught up with him. Eventually, he served time in prison and later operated saloons in Nebraska and South Dakota before fading into obscurity.

Sidney was a true crossroads of the Wild West, where infamous figures clashed, fortunes were won and lost, and history was written in gunpowder and grit. Today, the echoes of that lawless era still linger in Sidney's historic buildings, Boot Hill Cemetery, and the whispered tales passed from generation to generation. Its saloons, dance halls, and rough frontier spirit made it a place where legends roamed—and their stories continue to echo through time.

# SUN-TELEGRAPH GOLD RUSH DAYS SPECIAL EDITION

## PETER AND KATHY GIBBS

Peter and Kathy Gibbs have become regulars at Sidney Gold Rush Days. They come to us from their home in the Grass Mountain Community of the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Kathy is a fully registered member of the Sicangu (Rosebud)



Lakota and has taught and is very much active in all aspects of her traditional culture,

history, language, and spirituality. Peter was born in England where he studied Native American culture, art, history, and lifeways and was the head of the Native American Art Department of the British Museum. After coming to the United States, he was an instructor at the Sinte Gleska University and developed a university course for the study of the Lakota Tipi (Tipestola). He is now an independent consultant on topics of Lakota history, culture, and Indigenous issues. With the vast combined knowledge and experiences of this couple, anyone

who speaks with them can come away with a greatly expanded view of our world. Peter and bring with them their completely furnished 18' Lakota Tipestola containing buffalo robes, parfleche containers, clothing, weapons, cooking utensils, riding equipment, games, and other items used by the Lakota people I the course of their lives in the late 1800's. Most all of these items can be handled and experienced while learning how the items were used along with proper etiquette within and around the Tipestola. Although Sidney Gold Rush Days concentrates on the late 1870's, Peter and Kathy also welcome modern-day topics affecting Native Americans in the current century.

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## EGG TOSS TOURNAMENT

2:00 PM SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH.

- Two person teams.
- \$10 per team entry fee
- Entry fees will help cover the cost of the eggs, prizes, and a little extra for Sidney Gold Rush Days.
- No pre-registration required, just show up and be ready for some fun.

### THREE DIVISIONS:

- 1) Age 10 and under
- 2) Father's Day Special (Dad and a child).
- 3) Everyone else.

### HOW DOES AN EGG TOSS TOURNAMENT WORK?

1. Two starting spots are marked for each team member, about one yard apart
2. Each division lines up and across from their partner and throws the egg back and forth.
3. Each time the Egg is caught, each team member takes a step back.
4. If you drop the Egg, you are Out!
5. The farthest remaining team is the Winner!

## SHARE YOUR OPINIONS WITH US!

Please take the time to fill out our on-line survey at [www.sidneygoldrushdays.org](http://www.sidneygoldrushdays.org)

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## COME PLAY CRICKET



### About Tom Melville:

Tom is an historic cricket interpreter who has spent many years introducing hundreds of Americans to cricket at festivals, fairs, and reenactments in over a dozen states and Canada. He's also the author of "Cricket For Americans" and "The Tented Field: A History of Cricket in America." A native of Wisconsin, he learned cricket while studying at the University of Wales. In his books, Tom presents a well-documented history of cricket playing in America, focusing on its period

of growth in the 1840s and its periodic revivals. Cricket had considerable appeal both as a sport and as an activity that fostered sportsmanship, control, public manners, and decorum. Cricket mainly found acceptance with the upper classes but was also popular with working-class people. With the rise of baseball, and cricket's inability to establish an American identity, the game went into decline after the Civil War.

### VERY BASIC SUMMARY OF CRICKET:

In a nutshell, cricket's a bat and ball game that has no foul territory, no balls or strikes, and where the batter can get as many as six runs with a single swing of the bat. Cricket's the supreme batting game, where team scores can easily reach triple figures. As a 100% non-contact sport, it can be enjoyed by participants of all ages and athletic abilities.

### FROM THE TELEGRAPH - JANUARY 1, 1876

THE PARTIES THAT BORROW COAL FROM US AFTER DARK, ARE REQUESTED TO RETURN THE SAME AND THEREBY SAVE THEMSELVES FROM BEING SHOWN UP TO THE COMMUNITY AS "COAL THIEVES." WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE.



## BLACKSMITHING - SHANE JONES

When I started blacksmithing, I was 15 or so. I became enamored with Robin Hood and all things medieval/fantasy. I inherited my grandfather's forge, blower and anvil and I decided then to learn all I could about smithing in order to keep part of my heritage alive. Not sure what part I enjoy the most. The "magic" of convincing iron to conform to what I want is definitely one of the best things.

## SUSAN B. ANTHONY VISITS SIDNEY

by Dawn Graves  
sidneystagecoach.com

SUSAN B. ANTHONY, FAMED SOCIAL REFORMER AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST, MADE TWO VISITS TO SIDNEY IN THE 1870s, WHEN IT WAS KNOWN AS A ONE OF THE TOUGHEST TOWNS OF VICE AND WICKEDNESS ON THE FRONTIER.

SIDNEY'S NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF HER PRESENCE DESCRIBED HER WITH GREAT RESPECT. IN ANTICIPATION OF HER ARRIVAL, ONE ARTICLE IN THE SIDNEY TELEGRAPH STATED THAT "... THERE ARE NO ABLER LECTURERS ON THE AMERICAN PLATFORM THAN [SU-


SAN B. ANTHONY AND ELIZABETH CADY STANTON]. THEY ARE GRAND IN THAT THEY ARE BEYOND REPROACH, ARE CONSISTENT AND TRUE AND EITHER OF THEM WILL RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME IN SIDNEY."

THOSE ARE GLOWING REMARKS, GIVEN THAT WOMEN WERE NOT YET EVEN ALLOWED TO VOTE AND WERE STILL VIEWED AS SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS.

AFTER HER VISIT IN OCTOBER OF 1877, ANTHONY'S SPEECH WAS PRINTED IN ITS ENTIRETY IN THE PAPER AND TOUCHED UPON MANY OF THE SUBJECTS THAT WERE PART OF SIDNEY'S DAY-TO-DAY LIFE, INCLUDING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, BLACKS, THE DEHUMANIZATION OF PROSTITUTION AND THE AFFLICTIONS OF WHISKEY.

IN HER SIDNEY SPEECH, SHE SAID, "BECAUSE A WOMAN CANNOT VOTE SHE HAS TO TAKE LOWER WAGES THAN A MAN, AND BY EVERY RIGHT, IF SHE CAN DO THE WORK AS WELL AS A MAN, SHE OUGHT TO RECEIVE A MAN'S FULL PAY."

AFTERWARD, THE SIDNEY TELEGRAPH STATED THAT, WHILE THEY QUESTIONED SOME OF HER STATEMENTS AND DIDN'T AGREE WITH ALL OF HER CONCLUSIONS, THEY COULDN'T HELP BUT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SHE MADE A WITTY, ELOQUENT AND LOGICAL APPEAL IN BEHALF OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, THAT SHE HAD DONE "NOBLE, UNSELFISH WORK," AND THAT HER CONSCIENTIOUSNESS AND HONESTY WERE UNDOUBTED AND "DESERVING OF ALL PRAISE."



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SEE PAGE 13



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**CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE 12**

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## WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE 1870S?

- The telephone was invented by Alexan-

der Graham Bell in 1876.

- Thomas Edison invented the first commercially viable incandescent light bulb in 1879.
- The first practical four-stroke internal combustion engine was invented by Nicolaus August Otto in 1876.
- Joseph Glidden patented barbed wire in 1873, which was crucial for fencing the American West.
- The first mail-order catalog was created by A.M. Ward in 1872.
- Eadweard Muybridge invented moving pictures in 1878 through his experiments with a series of cameras.
- The National

Rifle Association was granted a charter in New York in 1871.

- Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, the world's first national park.
- Swiss chocolatier Daniel Peter working with Henri Nestlé's company perfects a method of manufacturing milk chocolate using condensed milk in 1875.
- Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis receive a United States patent for blue denim jeans with copper rivets in 1873.
- Popular Science magazine was first published in 1872.
- Adolph Kussmaul first describes dyslexia as "word-blindness" in 1877.



## Visit Our New, Modernized Website!

[www.sidneygoldrushdays.org](http://www.sidneygoldrushdays.org)

Over the past year we have worked hard to expand, update, and modernize our website. Some of the things you can do on our website:

- Register for the Poker Tournament
- View many years of festival photos
- Follow links to many topics of historical significance
- View list of festival vendors
- See over 20 years' worth of news content about Sidney Gold Rush Days
- View a list of raffle prizes
- Register to be a vendor at our festival.
- See the list of activities
- See our most current schedule.



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## NIGHT OF FRIGHT, FIGHT AND FLIGHT

BY DAWN GRAVES  
[sidneystagecoach.com](http://sidneystagecoach.com)

Back when Sidney was known as a wicked town, it was generally run by the criminal element – gamblers, outlaws, and those modeling themselves after the Molly Maguires, or the Irish mafia.

Things became so bad that the Union Pacific railroad, the lifeblood of Sidney, threatened to pull out of the town and leave it high and dry if things didn't improve.

This announcement, coupled with recent shootings by Jack "Red" McDonald and Tom Ryan, brought the citizens' anger to a head.

The law-abiding people of the town formed an armed vigilante group, overcoming and arresting 15 of the baddest figures in Sidney ... with the intent to hang them all.

The event, which came to be known as the Night of Fright, Fight and Flight, was reported in newspapers all around the region, with such headlines as

"CITIZENS OF SIDNEY DETERMINED TO CLEAN OUT THE CUT-THROATS AND DESPERADOES IF IT TAKES ALL THE ROPE IN THE STATE!"

And, "SIDNEY'S SINFULNESS, THE RIGHTEOUS RISE UP IN THEIR WRATH AND DEAL OUT JUSTICE."

A notice was crafted and signed by 64 of Sidney's leading businessmen which made clear that any and all other individuals

who chose not to follow the law would be dealt swift punishment, as demonstrated by their lynching of "Red" McDonald the night prior.

"Thus the peaceable and law abiding people have been driven to the necessity of organizing for self-protection and are united and determined," the document stated. "All murderers, thieves, pimps and slick-fingered gentlemen ... must go."

Some 200 people left Sidney immediately as a result, and the town must have breathed a sigh of relief.

JUNE 12, 1897

### You need Exercise

"If business men knew how much they need out-door exercise there would not be enough Columbia bicycles to go round"

**Columbia Bicycles**  
 Standard of the World.  
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July 1, 1876

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Of all sizes, and superior workmanship. Portable Grinding Mills, upper or under runners, for Farm or Merchant work.  
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SIDNEY NEBRASKA

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Buy 1 Pizza Get 1 FREE  
(Of equal or lesser value)

Delivery  
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610 Clover Road #1, Sidney, NE • order online [www.dominos.com](http://www.dominos.com)

January 1, 1876

## \$15 SHOT GUN

A double-barrel gun, bar or front action locks; warranted genuine twist barrels and a good shooter, or NO SALE; with Flask, Pouch and Wad-Cutter, for \$15. Can be sent C.O.D. with privilege to examine before paying bill. Send stamp for circular to

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 Cleveland, O.

# SUN-TELEGRAPH GOLD RUSH DAYS SPECIAL EDITION

WE ASKED CHAT GPT SEVERAL TIMES TO WRITE A POEM ABOUT SIDNEY, NE IN THE 1870'S AND BELOW ARE 3 OF THE VERSIONS IT CAME UP WITH. COME TO THE INFORMATION BOOTH AT THE FESTIVAL TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE ONE OR GO TO: [WWW.SIDNEYGOLDRUSHDAYS.ORG](http://WWW.SIDNEYGOLDRUSHDAYS.ORG) TO VOTE ON-LINE.

## #1: SIDNEY'S GATEWAY TO GOLD

The Union Pacific came roaring in,  
Bringing fortune seekers and next of kin.  
A cloud of dust, a whistle's wail,  
Marked the start of the Deadwood Trail.  
Sidney bustled, loud and bold,  
A town built fast on dreams of gold.  
From dawn to dusk, the streets ran thick  
With miners rushing, eager, quick.  
At Capital Saloon, they spent their pay,  
On whiskey shots and cards to play.  
Some won big, but most lost fast,  
And drank away their fortunes past.  
At Joe Lane's Centennial, lights burned bright,  
With music spilling into the night.  
Dancers swayed in dresses fine,  
While hopeful men bought rounds of wine.  
Yet danger lurked in alley's shade,  
Where outlaws watched the plans men made.  
Stagecoach robbers, gunmen cruel,  
Stalked the trail like wolves that rule.  
Still, west they rode through dust and stone,  
Through prairie lands so wild, unknown.  
To Deadwood's gulch where gold lay deep,  
And some found riches they could keep.  
Sidney stood as a frontier gate,  
A town of luck, of chance, of fate.  
Some struck it rich, some lost it all,  
But every man had heard the call.  
So tip your hat and raise a glass,  
To Sidney's past of grit and brass.  
For those who sought the Black Hills' prize,  
And vanished 'neath Dakota skies.

## #2: SIDNEY IN THE SAVAGE WEST

Through dust and sage on the Platte so wide,  
Lay Sidney town with a lawless pride.

A railhead stop, a gambler's dream,  
Where gold-lust flowed like a whiskey stream.  
The Capital Saloon stood bright and bold,  
A haven for drifters with pockets of gold.  
Cards hit the tables, the whiskey poured,  
While pistols whispered of debts ignored.  
Just up the street in a red-lit glow,  
Stood Joe Lane's Centennial, stealing the show.  
The dance girls twirled, the fiddles cried,  
As cowboys cheered and outlaws lied.  
The miners passed with dreams so grand,  
Bound for the Black Hills' golden land.  
But many found, by fate's cruel hand,  
A shallow grave in this lawless sand.  
For gunmen stalked with eyes so keen,  
Quick to shoot and leave unseen.  
A card gone wrong, a word too loud,  
And Boot Hill claimed another shroud.  
The Sidney Barracks, standing near,  
Held blue-clad men with watchful leer.  
Yet law and order, weak and thin,  
Could barely hold the chaos in.  
The brothels thrived, the rustlers ran,  
And bounty hunters hatched their plan.  
Some found fortune, some found lead,  
And some rode out, while some lay dead.  
So raise a glass, if you dare,  
To Sidney town and those who stare  
From Boot Hill's ridge, where silence stays—  
Ghosts of the West in endless haze.

## #3: SIDNEY'S GOLD RUSH DAYS

In seventy-six, the trains rolled in,  
Through dust and wind so fierce and thin.  
The whistle screamed, the iron roared,  
And Sidney's streets with miners poured.  
With pockets light but dreams held tight,  
They came to chase the gold so bright.  
The Black Hills called, a siren's song,  
A land where riches might belong.  
Before the trail, they'd stop a spell,

And Sidney served their needs quite well.  
The stores sold picks, the stables steeds,  
The town supplied their hopeful needs.  
The Capital Saloon poured the rye,  
Where whiskey flowed and tales ran high.  
Joe Lane's Centennial had floors that swayed,  
Where painted ladies danced and played.  
Gun smoke curled where deals went south,  
A careless word, a reckless mouth.  
For outlaws lurked and law ran thin,  
A gambler's trick could do you in.  
To Deadwood then, they rode away,  
Through lonely hills where dangers lay.  
Sioux and bandits lined the track,  
Few who left would all come back.  
Yet still they came, the brave, the bold,  
Chasing whispers turned to gold.  
And Sidney stood, both rough and grand,  
A gateway to that fabled land.

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