

Sponsored in part by
DACOTAH BANK
Here for you.™

Dakotafire

WINTER 2014

Plus:
FESTIVALS
CREATE
COMMUNITY
IDENTITY
Page 22

COMEBACK KULM

Community investment keeps town's
Main Street lively Page 34

CAN ART SAVE SMALL TOWNS?

Some communities are banking on it. Page 6

📍 Galen Wallum gives a demonstration at the 2013 Plein Air event in De Smet.

\$3.95US



3 4 >

Dakotafire Media, LLC

SANFORD

Aberdeen

Sanford Aberdeen
Women's Specialty Care

PUTTING YOU FIRST

You put your family's needs before your own. But when it comes to your health, you should be the top priority. At Sanford Aberdeen we offer comprehensive women's specialty care from nephrology to obstetrics. Let our expert staff put you first.

Call (605) 725-1700 to schedule an appointment with a women's health expert at Sanford Aberdeen today.

sanfordaberdeen.org

Dr. Brown
Urology
Dr. Choudhary
Internal Medicine
Nephrology, Geriatrics
Dr. Hieb
OB/GYN
Dr. Stewart
OB/GYN
Dr. Mueller
OB/GYN
Dr. Rudder
Hematology & Oncology
Internal Medicine



Dakotafire
SPARKING RURAL REVIVAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Heidi Marttila-Losure, heidi@dakotafire.net

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Troy McQuillen, troy@dakotafire.net

DESIGNER Eliot Lucas

CONTRIBUTORS

Becky Froehlich, Kimberly Harrington, Sarah Gackle, Suzy Giovannetone Cope, Lana Bandoim, Robert Wuthnow, Garrick Moritz, Derek Helms, Jessica Giard, Keith Schumacher

AD SALES

Sheila Sandquist, sheila@dakotafire.net
Melanie Koehmoos, melanie@dakotafire.net

WEBMASTER Josh Latterell

EDITORIAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 603, Frederick, SD 57441

PARTNERING NEWSPAPERS

(Bowdle) Pride of the Prairie	Kulm Messenger
Britton Journal	LaMoure Chronicle
Clark County Courier	Langford Bugle
Edgeley Mail	The Litchville Bulletin
(Eureka) Northwest Blade	(Webster) Reporter and Farmer
Faulk County Record	Tri-County News
Groton Independent	
Ipswich Tribune	

DAKOTAFIRE IS SPONSORED BY



Here for you.™



SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ADVISER

Stephanie Judson

SUBSCRIPTION INFO

Dakotafire is published four times per year with the goal of sparking rural revival in the James River Valley area. One-year subscriptions are \$15, or two-year subscriptions are \$25 at www.dakotafire.net/subscribe/

Dakotafire is published quarterly and owned by Dakotafire Media, LLC. All content is copyright ©2014 Dakotafire Media. All rights reserved. Content in this magazine should not be copied in any way without written permission from the publisher. PRINTED IN THE USA.

CONTENTS

Volume 3, Number 1 WINTER 2014

[f](#) DakotafireMedia [t](#) @DakotafireMedia

- 2 From the Editor:**
In a Good Light
- 4 Meet a Newspaper:**
Ipswich Tribune
- 6 Land of 10,000 Art-**
Stopping Moments
- 10 Dakota-Rooted Art**
- 11 Prairie Upbringing Left**
its Mark on Painter
- 12 Artist Depicts a Small**
Town in Sketches
- 14 Kulm Artist Connects**
Families to Their Ancestors
- 15 A Passion for Beading**
- 16 Colorful Dreams Inspire Art**
- 17 Flyover County Finds**
a Way to the Public
Through Self-Publishing
- 18 Rosemaking Lessons Started**
in S.D., Continued in Norway
- 19 'Traveling Salesman'**
Finds Inspiration
Through a Windshield
- 20 Fiber Artist's Work Includes**
Livestock Chores
- 22 How Festivals Create**
Community Identity
- 24 Faulkton Art Council Makes**
Small Town an Arts Patron
- 25 De Smet Builds on**
Harvey Dunn's Tradition
in Painting Festival

◀ ON THE COVER: GALEN WALLUM GIVES A DEMONSTRATION AT THE 2013 PLEIN AIR EVENT IN DE SMET. PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN PURINTON.



26 Good Food, Good Music
Keep People Coming
to Schmeckfest

27 Wacipi Dancers, Musicians
Describe Coming
Together as One

28 Community Drives
Wessington Springs'
Shakespeare Connection

29 Granary Encourages
Reflection on Rural
Art and Culture

30 Snapshot

32 Five Quotes to Note from the
S.D. Housing Conference

34 Community Spotlight:
Comeback Kulm

40 Special Advertising
Section: Long-Term
Care Insurance

42 Postcard: A Hunting Story

44 Dakotafire.net Briefs



In a Good Light



by HEIDI MARTTILA-LOSURE

Editor Heidi Marttila-Losure can be reached at heidi@dakotafire.net.

One evening this fall, as my daughter and I were driving home from dropping my son off for just a little more time in the tractor with my husband, we just had to pull over.

The sky, which had been mottled shades of bluish gray on our way to the field, was suddenly alive with color. The setting sun had dropped below the level of the clouds and was breaking through a gap above the horizon, lighting those clouds with a vibrant yellow. I took photos with my iPhone camera as my daughter leaned out the car window, her hair blowing in waves that mimicked the clouds.

I was amazed at the pictures when I looked at them later. They were arrestingly beautiful images. I also knew they were not that unusual, though they were particularly good examples. I go walking often with my iPhone in my pocket, and I've taken dozens of stunning photos from that walking route along a gravel road. It's an iPhone camera; no special skill is required. I just regularly happen to be under the ever-changing tapestry that is the Dakota sky.

Something about the air and land here makes for particularly beautiful scenery—scenery that might otherwise be ordinary or monotonous becomes breath-taking. That something is the quality of light: light that

saturates all it touches with deep yellow, and as twilight descends, touches of orange, pink, red and purple.

I may appreciate this beautiful light more because I was away from the Dakotas for 12 years and missed it. No other place where I have spent enough time to fairly judge has the same quality: Not North Carolina, which has stunning beauty in other ways, but which has a hazy quality in the air (hence the name "Smoky Mountains") that mutes the light. Not Finland or northern Minnesota, where forests block the late or early sun and make vistas much shorter, except for lovely lake views. Not Iowa, as the air is most often hazy there also, perhaps in part because of all the corn transpiring moisture.

Something like our lovely light perhaps happens in some other places, but from my experiences at least, it is not commonplace.

I am not the only one who thinks so. Creative Director Troy McQuillen and I had strangely similar experiences: Both of us have had a visitor from the Los Angeles area come to South Dakota and notice the

beauty of the light here. Perhaps those who have lived here always are used to it. Those who are new here are often stopped in their tracks the first time they glimpse the light illuminating a haybale or an old barn.

Many artists, including a number of those featured in this issue, do see this beauty and let it inspire or illuminate their work. But I am not sure why our light doesn't have a starring role in more ways.

I wonder often why more architects don't plan buildings to take advantage of this exquisite light, working changing shadows into the design. Filmmakers could create a sense of drama just from the backdrop. Landscape photographers could get many beautiful shots here in one evening, and portrait photographers could make anyone beautiful in our morning or evening light. De Smet has built upon the heritage of Harvey Dunn's birthplace nearby to create an outdoor painting festival each August, but every community in the Dakotas could do the same.

Our Dakota light is a gift. We can use that gift to make our communities livelier and more beautiful, as such use shows our appreciation for the gift. After all, such a blessing should not go unappreciated.

I will suggest that pulling over once in a while to take it in might be a good place to start.

Changes Ahead

Many of you know that the DakotaFire project was started through the Knight Community Information Challenge, with funding provided by the Knight Foundation, the South Dakota Community Foundation, and corporate and individual sponsors. We are now in the third year of our three-year grant period and are making some changes as we move toward standing on our own.

One change is that *DakotaFire* will become a bimonthly magazine instead of a quarterly. We'll publish six issues a year, though in 2014 we'll only have five issues because the production schedule for



↑ Sofia Losure, 7, looks out at the October evening sky near Frederick, S.D.
Photo by Heidi Marttila-Losure

this issue and a January/February issue would overlap. We hope you'll appreciate *DakotaFire's* more frequent appearance in your homes.

Second, starting with the March/April issue, we are going to try a new way of engaging with our readers and our communities. After each *DakotaFire* issue, we'll have an event in one community to discuss the magazine's featured topic. Details are still being worked out, so I won't say more, except that we are really looking forward to these conversation-starting events.

Third, we are asking you readers for your support. Our goal is "sparking rural revival one story at a time," and it's important as we strive for that goal to get as many people as possible involved in the conversation. Inserting in local newspapers helps us reach a large audience. But it also means that we don't have subscription revenue from people who are fans of what we do. If that describes you, there's now a way to show your support:

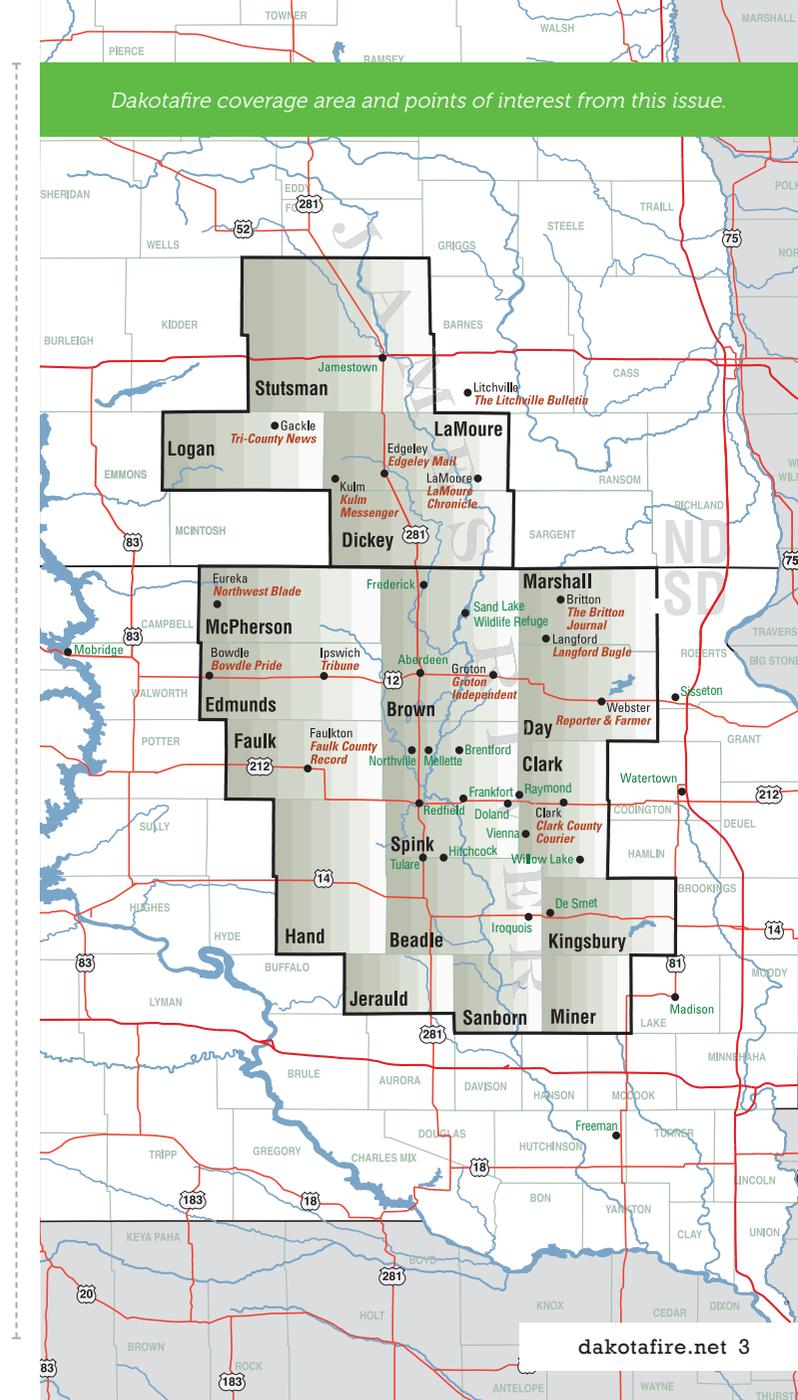
Give a donation of any amount and have your name published in the next issue of *DakotaFire* as one of our FiredUp readers (or those quiet givers among you can remain anonymous). Give a donation of \$25 or more and get a lovely *DakotaFire* travel mug to show off your support as you tote your morning coffee.

Those of you who get *DakotaFire* through a subscription (not through a newspaper insertion) can become a FiredUp subscriber by giving an amount above the regular cost of the subscription. See p. 5 for details.

As we also pursue additional advertising and sponsorship as sources of revenue, we know we'll also answer to FiredUp readers and subscribers who have invested in us.

We hope that over the past two years, we've started some good conversations in your homes and communities about how we can make our places better. We thank you in advance for your support as we continue those conversations. ✨

Dakotafire coverage area and points of interest from this issue.



MEET A DAKOTAFIRE NEWSPAPER



The newspapers participating in the Dakotafire project are spread across thousands of square miles, and so are our readers. But even if we are not next-door neighbors, we are all in this community-building effort together. To help you get to know your partners in rural revitalization a bit better, we introduce you to one of *Dakotafire's* participating newspapers each issue in this regular feature.

This time it's the *Ipswich Tribune*, which has a unique arrangement with Dakotafire: The writing for *Dakotafire* features from Ipswich is done by Laura Ptacek, community development director for the City of Ipswich. This is another creative solution that makes it work for a small-town newspaper to participate in *Dakotafire* where time and resource constraints wouldn't otherwise allow it. Thanks to Dwain and Tena Gibson and to Laura Ptacek for their participation!

Q: Tell us a little about your newspaper.

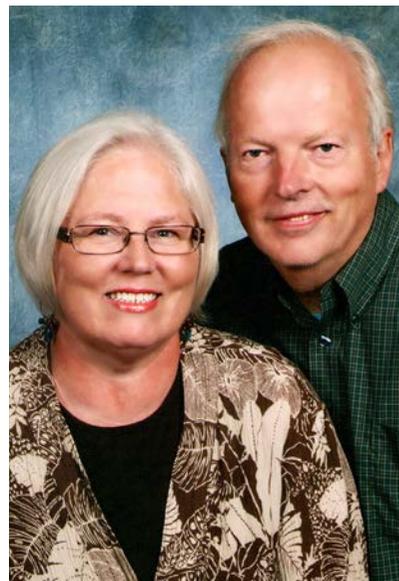
A: The *Dakota Tribune* began publication in 1883. There has been at least one newspaper in Ipswich since then, under a variety of names. The *Dakota Tribune* became the *Ipswich Tribune*. Ipswich also had the Edmunds County Democrat for several years. The publisher, Frank Tracy, was the uncle of actor Spencer Tracy. The newspapers merged in the 1920s. We also publish the *Roscoe-Hosmer Independent*. Gibson Publishing does printing jobs in the office for local businesses and individuals. A new addition to our printing business has been printing game booklets for fraternal organizations, like the Knights of Columbus, across the country—from Washington to North Carolina.

Q: What is the current circulation?

A: The current circulation is 650 for the *Ipswich Tribune* and 450 for the *Roscoe-Hosmer Independent*.

Q: How does your arrangement with Dakotafire work?

A: Laura Ptacek found out about *Dakotafire* and decided that Ipswich needed to be involved. She represents the *Ipswich Tribune* by attending meetings and phone conferences. She receives the story assignments and submits information for stories from time to time, and she also forwards shared stories to us for publication when time and space allow. We are happy to insert the magazine



📍 Dwain and Tena Gibson

into our newspaper—what a great way to get the word out about issues that affect our rural communities!

Q: What is interesting or great about your community?

A: Ipswich is rich in history, and played a critical role in the creation of Highway 12, which became known as the Yellowstone Trail. The community also has seven buildings that are listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, which adds to the historical charm of Ipswich. Almost everything you need is available in Ipswich—we have two clinics, a grocery store, chiropractor, dentist, auto body shops, sewing shop, flower shop, nursing home, hair salon...



📍 Laura Ptacek

the list of services that the community offers grows year by year. New managers recently took over the fitness center, offering residents high-quality gym services without having to leave town. Three new eating establishments opened this year as well. The schools are a great asset to our community too, giving kids a top-notch education while providing them with an abundance of extracurricular activities. Many businesses in town are showing their success by renovating or expanding—the public school, grocery store and elevator, just to name a few. We boast a safe, cozy community that is ideal to raise a family, spend your retirement, or just visit!

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: Being a voice for the community. Documenting the activities of the people as a permanent record of Ipswich. And I (Tena) love photography. ✨

ARE YOU FIRED UP?

If you love diving into the latest copy of *Dakotafire*...
 If you bookmark pages for your spouse or friends to read...
 If you think the topics *Dakotafire* covers are the kind of things that matter to you...
 Then you just might be **FIRED UP**.

We are looking for FiredUp readers and subscribers to support the work that *Dakotafire* is doing. Here's how:

- ➔ If you are on Facebook or Twitter, **friend or follow us** and share what interests you.
- ➔ Wherever you can—on *Dakotafire.net*, on Facebook, on Twitter, in the coffee shop, at the dinner table—**help keep the conversation going**. That's how information becomes action. And we want to hear from you! Use those communication paths back to us to enrich our reporting and keep us honest.
- ➔ **Consider a gift to Dakotafire Media**. Every reader who gives a monetary gift gets his or her name and one-line message (limit 30 characters: e.g., "Happy Birthday, Sara Jones!") in the next issue of the magazine. Give a gift of \$25 or more and get a fine *Dakotafire* travel mug as well. (We hunted down a really high-quality one for you!) Subscribers get their name in the magazine and the travel mug if they give amounts in addition to the cost of the subscription. **Want to donate?** Go here: www.dakotafire.net/getfiredup

OUR MISSION:

Dakotafire is sparking a revival in rural communities of the Dakotas and beyond by encouraging conversations that help rural residents rethink what's happening and what's possible. We bring together community journalists to do reporting that looks at how news fits into larger systems and highlights solutions that address the bigger picture. Those stories get people talking about how we can make our communities better, and we aim to bring people together to have those conversations, both online and in real life.

Dakotafire's work is done by *Dakotafire Media*, a limited liability corporation. Though we are a for-profit company, our ultimate goal is making change. Our profits support our goal of rural revival and help us do reporting and convening to make that happen. We ask for support from readers and subscribers because we want to be accountable to you as well as to advertisers and sponsors as we work toward more vibrant rural communities.

LET'S GET SPARKIN'!

📍 DakotafireMedia 📍 @DakotafireMedia





Land of 10,000 Art-Stopping Moments

Minnesotans set the standard on creating thriving rural communities through art *by* HEIDI MARTTILA-LOSURE

In the late 1990s, the small town of Lanesboro, Minn., had a plan to build an arts center. Visionary John Davis gave them a different idea: Let's turn the entire town into an arts campus so that art is all around, from poetry in a parking lot to sculptural medallions along the sidewalk. The poetry would include work by local artists, and residents would vote on what should be represented in the medallions, because art should involve and be rooted in the community, Davis says.

The Lanesboro project is progressing. And by the looks of the art activity going on across the Red River, the entire state of Minnesota could well be working toward the same goal: one big arts campus, from northern lakes to southern bluffs.

Our neighbor to the east is becoming a national leader in what's called creative placemaking, or using the power of art to redefine, reconnect and revitalize a community. Rural places especially are gaining new energy—and measurable economic activity—from art endeavors.

Lanesboro, which recently received an ArtPlace grant to work toward the arts campus vision, is just one example.

- New York Mills hosts artists-in-residence, developed a cultural center in a historic building, and annually hosts a philosophy contest called the Great American Think-Off.
- Western Minnesota communities hold an event called the Meander annually, which includes several days of rural studio tours and local food tasting.
- Granite Falls had a play this summer in which the audience paddled up to each riverbank scene in canoes.

In June, many players in this creative placemaking movement came together for the Rural Arts and Culture Summit in Morris, Minn. The conference, which brought together not just artists but economic development leaders from across the region, filled up six weeks early—even after they let in more people than were initially planned.

The enthusiasm for and success in rural creative placemaking in Minnesota were clear in the stories being told on stage and around the lunch tables. "Minnesota is the real deal," one national leader told summit organizer Michele Anderson.

So what is making Minnesota so successful?

Investing in Themselves

Let's start with the one that some Dakotans might find hard to fathom: In 2008, Minnesota voters agreed to tax themselves to support the arts.

The measure wasn't solely for the arts. The measure's full name was the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, and part of the money went into funds for clean water, outdoor heritage, and parks and trails. But 19.75 percent of money raised by what is commonly called the Legacy Amendment goes to the arts and culture heritage



Participants gather during the Rural Art and Culture Summit in June in Morris, Minn. Photos by Holly Diestler



☞ The Rural Art and Culture Summit in Morris, Minn., in June drew people from all over the region to discuss how the arts could be leveraged to create vibrant communities. Clockwise from top: One evening gathering took place outside, despite cool June temperatures. Signs welcomed participants to the event, held at the University of Minnesota-Morris campus. An art walk was part of the event. Springboard for the Arts' rural program staff, which organized the conference, are Bryce Barsness, Naomi Schliesman and Michele Anderson. Photos by Eric Santwire (center left photo) and Holly Diestler (all others)



fund. And in 2008, 56 percent of Minnesotans voted the tax into law.

The tax is not massive per person—it is three-eighths of a percent in sales tax. But statewide, the Legacy Amendment has meant tens of millions of dollars for projects.

“Based on current sales tax revenue, Minnesotans will invest more than \$1.2 billion in arts and cultural heritage fund projects and programs over the 25-year life of the tax,” according to the website Minnesota’s Legacy (www.legacy.leg.mn), which tracks the use of the funds.

Anderson, who helped to organize the Rural Arts and Culture Summit as part of her duties as rural program director for Springboard for the Arts, explained that the diverse interests who benefitted from the funding realized they had a stronger case in arguing for public support if they all worked together. The logo for the Legacy Amendment features the four different types of projects that will benefit from the funding.

“What that logo tells us is this is what we care about in Minnesota. This is what makes us Minnesota,” Anderson said. “These things all work together. They are all inter-related and interconnected. And so when the Legacy Amendment passed, it was this validation of the things we care about.”

This means that the effect of the

amendment goes far beyond the actual dollars handed out. With that validation of winning a public vote in support of things like clean water and the arts, people felt encouraged to be more involved in those things, to be “stewards of the things they value,” Anderson said. She added that it’s been amazing to her how much this policy has completely changed the narrative in the state.

The Legacy Amendment has added an exponential factor to a movement that was already growing. Many of the notable projects in the state started before the amendment passed, and not all of them have received Legacy funding, which is awarded through a competitive grant process.

Other sources of funding for the arts also provide significant impetus for creative projects.

“The philanthropy world is just really strong,” Anderson said, including the art-supporting traditions of the McKnight and Bush foundations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has also supported many projects.

Partnership Prowess

Anderson also stresses that Minnesotans have historically been good at working together—for example, in their strong history of co-ops.

“There is really a spirit of interdisciplinary approaches to community

in general, not just the arts,” Anderson said. “Especially in small towns, leaders tend to wear a lot of different hats, so (they can be) connecting ideas and stepping to the edge of their field and finding common ground with other fields.”

And that is exactly the kind of networking that needs to happen to make projects successful, according to June Holley, a regional development pioneer and speaker at the Rural Arts and Culture Summit. She stressed that creative placemaking projects will not happen without broad networks.

“I would say one of our biggest problems is we do too much ourselves,” Holley said, “and don’t help other people do stuff that they would really like to do but they’re afraid to or they don’t know how. If we can spend more time helping others initiate and do, we’re going to have a lot better economies in our communities.”

Outcomes

One of the requirements of the Legacy Amendment was that projects need to generate economic activity, and University of Minnesota analyses show that they are. In the fiscal year 2012-13, for example, \$24 million in arts grants generated an additional \$19 million in economic activity and supported 410 full- and part-time jobs.

But perhaps the more significant achievements of creative placemaking are not monetary.

Having artists in a community means that the other products and efforts of the community are better designed and better marketed, according to Holley.

And community connections benefit. In New York Mills, for example, schoolchildren designed new banners to be hung from light posts in town. When the banners were installed, children and parents formed an impromptu parade, walking from post to post,

admiring the designs the children had created. For years afterward, children in the community can point out to every visitor which design was theirs.

These are the kind of connections that creative placemaking can bring about, Anderson said.

Anderson herself shows another result of having a flourishing arts scene in a community: Young people want to live in such communities. Anderson, originally from southwestern Minnesota, was living in Portland, Ore., when she found out about the job at Springboard for the Arts, and was thrilled she could come back to Minnesota and the lively arts scene in Fergus Falls.

Other towns in Minnesota are attracting young people “because they know they can get involved and make a difference in those communities,” Anderson said.

In Minnesota’s small communities, especially with the availability of resources like the Legacy Amendment, “we can do more than just talk about it,” Anderson said. “We can actually make things happen.”

Dakota Rural Revival Through Art?

Can the Dakotas create something like Minnesota’s rural art revival?

John Davis would say yes: “My two main points are, the arts have the power to transform a community, and anything is possible,” he said at the RAC Summit.

Instead of focusing on what is missing in the community, build on what the community does have. The pages that follow give a taste of some of the resources that are already building community and connectedness through art. They are not the only ones, by any means—there would be no way to include them all—so consider this a random sampling of inspiration for creative placemaking in the Dakotas.★

Decision-Makers Say Your Project Is Too Risky? Redefine Risk.

Nationally recognized rural development innovator John Davis told this story at the Rural Arts and Culture Summit about his strategy for developing convincing local leaders to support a project to develop an old building into a cultural center:

The New York Mills people on the city council were afraid of change.

In 1990, the economy wasn’t good. It was perceived as a risk going forward with an art project.

So I redefined the question: Let’s go forward with an economic development project. Investing \$35,000 in a cultural center, where’s the risk?

If you invest \$35,000 in this project, in this building, and it’s partially renovated and the project fails, it’s going to be worth far more than \$35,000. So if the project fails, you win.

If you invest \$35,000 and the project does what we say it’s going to do, be a national model for rural economic development and a beacon for the community to spark a revitalization through creativity—if that happens, you win. And the community wins.

So to recap: If the project fails, you win. If the project succeeds, you win.

Where’s the risk?

The risk is if you do nothing.

If you do nothing, the building goes back to back to the city. You’re going to have to tear it down. That’s going to cost \$35,000, and what do you get? A vacant lot. You lose the history of the community.

That’s the risk.

The council decided to give \$35,000 to the project, and the owner of the building not only donated it, he also donated \$12,000 to a capital campaign.

“Eliminate the risk,” Davis said. “Make it easier to say yes.”

DAKOTA ROOTED ART

9 ARTISTS CONNECTED TO THEIR PLACES

It may be impossible for an artist to be uninfluenced by his or her place. But not every artist puts down a taproot into a place and draws strength and purpose from it. These artists are among those who have found inspiration from their experiences in the rural Dakotas: Some in subject matter, some in their chosen medium, and some in method. All of them are Dakota in spirit.

Prairie Upbringing Left its Mark on Painter by BECKY FROELICH

D. George Prisbe-Przybysz's connection to the prairie is deep: He is a native South Dakotan and grew up in the James River Valley.

"Growing up on the prairie," he explained, "impacts the psyche. There is no way to escape the influence of land and sky. This relationship has formed in me, and many others, what I call a 'Midwestern aesthetic.' Because of this, and even though my art career has many twists and turns and varying forms of expression, I am moved to paint the landscape."

He did not always embrace this style. During his work as a painter and printmaker at Northern State University, he wanted to distance himself from this landscape movement. It was not until he received a postcard of Harvey Dunn's work while in graduate school at Ohio University that he was brought back to his prairie roots.

Inspired by the 19th-century tonalism movement, Prisbe-Przybysz seeks to capture the quiet beauty of the South Dakota landscape in all its depth and subtlety.

Eastern South Dakota is an especially important subject to him. "Because of my familiarity with the eastern South Dakota landscape and because of the similarities to American and European tonalism

paintings, it has been more comfortable to work with these images."

Since he now lives in near Hanna, he is now painting more scenes from the Black Hills. His newest works depict the sacred Bear Butte region.

His inspiration comes from a place much deeper than simply his surroundings.

"Like most artists, I am just compelled to create," he said. "The idea of making something that never existed before is fulfilling. Art not only satisfies my desire to create, but it gives meaning to life."

Working and living in South Dakota has brought unique experiences and challenges for Prisbe-Przybysz. As a child growing up in a rural area, his small school did not have an art program. He credits his mother for giving him the opportunity to grow.

"She first recognized my interest in art, and at a very early age supported and encouraged my interest in drawing, painting and molding figures in clay," he said.

Working now in a less populous area also has its benefits and drawbacks. "Making art is, by nature, primarily a solitary experience, but this



Top left: George Prisbe-Przybysz. Above: "Dakota Tonalism Series – Opus 78 – Athena." Scene from Haakon County. Right: "Dakota Tonalism Series – Opus 51 – Pathétique." Scene of Bear Butte, Meade County. Photos courtesy George Prisbe-Przybysz

reality can be a bit amplified for someone creating in this state or region, where we tend to be a bit more isolated and insulated from other artists and opportunities," he said.

However, that very isolation can be beneficial: "One is free to find one's own unique voice, and when that reality is combined with the work aesthetic I have inherited, as a native South Dakotan, it makes for what I call 'honest' art."

Prisbe-Przybysz has worked to spread awareness of art through the Artists-in-the-Schools program, reaching everyone from elementary schoolchildren to community college students to people in correctional facilities.

"I believe art to be vitally important to all facets of life," he says. "It encourages creative thought, inspires the imagination, and nourishes the soul. This is true not just for the creators of art, but more significantly, for the viewer. Art challenges. Art asks questions. Art invites participation. Art offers alternatives. These are all important learning and life tools." ✨

This South Dakota artist's work can be seen at www.prisbe-przybysz.com.

Artist Depicts a Small Town— All 63 Residents—in Sketches

by BECKY FROELICH
additional reporting by
KIMBERLY HARRINGTON/CLARK COUNTY COURIER



1 Artist Joan Putman took five years sketching the community of Raymond. She had an exhibition of her work in October. Photos by Becky Froehlich



There are lots of ball caps in Raymond. Some beards. Lots of eyeglasses. And, for many, smiles that show right up to the crinkles of the eyes. These are some of the things a person can learn from looking at the 63 sketches that artist Joan Putman drew of every resident of the town of Raymond, located just north of the road between Redfield and Clark. The artwork was on display in Clark for a weekend exhibition in October.

Putman's work was met with much enthusiasm from residents of Raymond and Clark.

Ralph Hurlbert and his wife, Carol, had their portraits drawn and posed next to them at the exhibition, as did many of the visitors.

"It's really neat. It adds a lot of excitement to a tiny town like Raymond," Ralph Hurlbert said.

"She's done a great job. I can recognize all of them!" said Clark County resident Mary Lou Hallberg.

Putman said some drawings were more difficult than others. "The people I didn't know personally, I had a much harder time capturing," Putman said. "It's easy to make a friend look like a friend. One thing I learned in this process was how important good reference material is!"

She embraces such challenges, however. The project was born out of her desire to set

goals for herself and meet them. "My husband actually suggested the idea," she said. "I liked it. He went to the coffee shop with his camera in tow and got me names and pictures. Then I sketched them." She said she finally decided to finish her project this past winter after five years of dabbling. The passage of time adds to the poignancy of her project. Six of the Raymond residents she sketched have passed on. She frames their pictures in black, in contrast to the white frames on the rest.

Putman is not a native of the town whose spirit she captures so well. Her husband was born and raised in Raymond, and she was born in Colorado. She raised her children in the Midwest.

"All of Raymond" is just one example of her making an impact on rural South Dakota through her love of art.

She started by painting a series of murals in the windows of the Raymond Legion



1 Carol and Ralph Hurlbert pose with their sketches at the October exhibition.

dent Tom LaBrie.

She has created several murals in both Raymond and Clark, and has also started a mural project in Clark for local high school students.

Her love of art began in high school, when two other classmates and her showed inter-

"All of Raymond' provided me a great opportunity to focus on individualism, challenging me to capture their likeness along with communicating their emotions. Viewing an exhibit like this, one discovers our common humanity. There is an African proverb that I like that reads, 'The sun does not forget a village just because it is small.'"

Hall, later recruiting the help of others. All windows depict the Raymond community as it was in the 1920s.

Other murals followed: A Coca-Cola mural in Willow Lake with the help of high school kids, murals in Doland, Sioux Falls and Bryant; The Little Fellow mural in Clark and more.

"She leaves her fingerprint everywhere she goes," said Clark Dacotah Bank presi-

est in art and were given advanced work to build their skills. Now it's her turn to promote the arts for young people.

"I want to encourage the kids who are interested in something other than sports," Putman said. ★

Putman's work can be enjoyed through the purchase of a "scrapbook," a printed collection of the 63 portraits. Contact Putman at jputman@itctel.com.

Kulm Artist Connects Families to Their Ancestors

by SARAH GACKLE

Woodworking has always been part of Jeffrey Malm's life.

His father and grandfather were wood and metal workers. When they needed something around the house, they made it. Likewise, anything broken was fixed or reused.

"It used to be that's just the way things were. You didn't get rid of anything," Malm said.

And so, in the early 1990s, when Malm started to see farmhouses around him get run down and discarded, he thought it might be worth going through to see what woodwork was left inside that could be used for other projects.

So began what is now a very large collection of old woodwork, representing the heritage of most current Kulm families, some that have moved away, as well as an impressive

history of Kulm itself. One of the first homes on his list to visit was Anton Lindgren's farmstead, built in 1886. Fate was on his side; only shortly after, local farmers were burning land, the fire got out of control, and the house was burned down. "I'm so glad I was able to get in before it burned," Malm said. "Now I have a door from the first house ever constructed in Swede Township (the first settlement in Kulm)."

Malm said at one time he had more than 80 doors, and he has literally whittled them down to 60. But he salvages more than just doors; his barn full of materials includes baseboards, flooring, end caps, door frames, and anything that he feels could be useful. He marks every



Jeff Malm thinks he has wood from more than 20 homes in his workshop. Photo by Sarah Gackle

piece of wood he takes with the homeowner's name so he can ensure the pieces he creates can get back to the decedents at their request.

That's how most of his work is generated: A family member approaches Malm, asking for a custom item. Malm searches his archive of supplies and transforms an ancestor's old door into a lasting heirloom. Malm has made Christmas ornaments, nativity sets, shelving, mantles, picture and mirror frames, and sometimes people just bring a picture or an idea of what they want.

I learned of Malm's work as a recipient of one of these invaluable heirlooms. Years ago when I lived in Texas, my grandmother, who grew up in Kulm, gave each of the grandkids an ornament made from wood taken from a Kulm farmhouse. The

house she lived was long gone, but I felt grateful to have something that tied me to her childhood place in such a tangible way.

In 2003, Malm received a grant to apprentice under master craftsman Herman Kraft and learn to make traditional iron crosses, often used as grave markers. Most of his work is now in that area, but he says that regardless of the medium, it is the personal connection that makes his work so enjoyable for him and so meaningful for the recipient.

"It gives people a connection to their place and history," Malm said, "and that's as strong as the wood or iron I use to make it." ✨

Contact Jeff Malm at 701-647-2729 or at jucyleff@drtel.net.

A Passion for Beading

by SUZY GIOVANNETTONE COPE

Liz Anderson of Sisseton, S.D., has an addiction and loves to share it. She expresses her creativity through Native American beaded jewelry. Wanting to pass the tradition down, Anderson's grandmother taught her how to create beadwork after she lost much of her family at a very young age.

Anderson's roots are in the Dakotas. "This is my ancestral home," she said. The symbols she uses in her art signify who her family is and where they came from. She uses symbols from the Ojibwa and Dakota people to represent her father and mother.

The pieces Anderson creates for her children show who they are from her perspective. She mixes light and dark colors to depict that one of her children has struggled and, as he has searched for who he is, he has begun to come to terms with who he is as a person. Her daughter has a connection with animals, specifically horses. Anderson creates bright horse designs to represent how she sees her daughter from a mother's perspective.

She doesn't always work on such intricate patterns, however.

"Creating beaded clothing is time consuming," she said as she continued to bead traditional Native American leg warmers. "I like the instant gratification of making earrings and jewelry."

Anderson is trying to open her own store next year where she will feature her beaded traditional dance accessories and jewelry. She also makes natural soaps, lotions and candles in a variety of scents. The most popular scents include sweet grass, wild rose and choke cherry.

Anderson travels between the Dakotas to find beads and other materials that inspire her designs, but insists on keeping her products affordable.

She likes to let her own creativity speak through her designs and avoids doing too many special orders, which could, potentially, limit her vision for her products.

"Everyone has a passion, and I love to share mine with others," Anderson said. ✨



Liz Anderson works on a beading project. Photo by Suzy Giovannettone Cope

DISCOVER Great Deals & The Region's **BEST NEW WAY** to Buy & Sell Locally!

www.vtcads.com



- Operated by a local company you know and trust
- Local buyers and sellers
- Scanned for scams for your security
- Easy to use
- And...it's **FREE!**

Check Out www.vtcads.com today!



The Home Team Advantage.

102 Main St S - Herreid SD 57632 - Ph: 605.437.2615

USED 5TH WHEELS
COMING OUT OUR EARS!

- 15** Non Slides Units
- 3** Small Single Slide
- 14** Large Single Slide
- 3** Large Double Slide
- 1** Quad "4" Slide
- 4** Triple Slide Units
- 1** Bunk Bed Models

PRICED
\$2,500 - \$50,000



+25
Travel Trailers

US Hwy 12 West • Aberdeen SD 57401 • 605.225.8400

Colorful Dreams Inspire Art

by SUZY GIOVANNETTONE COPE

Vic Runnels of Aberdeen, S.D., is a nationally known Lakota painter, sculptor and building designer. His latest achievement is designing the Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Headquarters in Agency Village, S.D. He has also designed the Pine Ridge Hospital, the Health Center in Kyle, S.D., and the Four Drummers building on the Sisseton Wahpeton College campus.

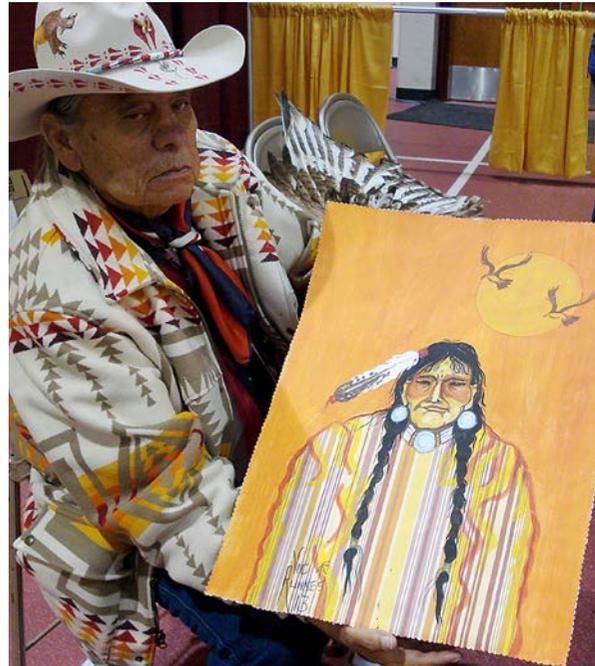
Vic has been practicing a variety of artistic mediums for more than 65 years. His art depicts Native American people and landscapes in a moderately abstract fashion. Runnels incorporates watercolors, acrylics, oil pastels and cloth into his paintings.

Runnels grew up near Batesland, S.D., on the Pine Ridge Reservation and first got the urge to paint when he was 13 years old. "I have found that right brain thinking is most active when I am painting. Most artists are right brained."

He explained that the Lakota language follows this method of right brain thinking. "In Lakota, one word can express the equivalent of a whole sentence in English. The Lakota language is an intuitive and creative art itself."

"South Dakota is our homeland and spiritual base," he said. "Lakota's believe that everything has a spirit and a soul ... the earth, grass, dirt, everything."

Runnels' paintings are inspired by his dreams and visions. The vibrant colors from his dreams are put onto canvas. But there was a time when his dreams were comprised of darker colors. A few years ago he experienced



Vick Runnels displays one of his latest paintings. Photo by Suzy Giovannettone Cope

complications from a kidney transplant and a case of E. coli. He sunk into a depression, but regained his health with the help of his painting.

"I would start painting at 5 a.m. and still be going at 9 p.m.," Runnels said. "My body started healing when I began painting again."*

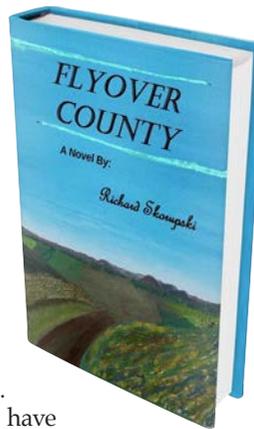
Flyover County Finds a Way to the Public Through Self-Publishing by HEIDI MARTTILA-LOSURE

The book *Flyover County* starts with a middle-aged real estate agent stuck in traffic in an East Coast city. He and his wife are mired in urban worries: the safety of their children, increasing property taxes, an economy that means more work for less money. Then they hear about another urban dweller who has found a way out by moving to his family's old homestead in South Dakota. They realize that this might just be the answer for them, too.

The book is written by Spink County resident Richard Skorupski, who was inspired to write it based on his and his wife's experience in moving to South Dakota from New Jersey.

"I would never have had the material to write *Flyover County* if I had not moved here in 2004," Skorupski said. Many of the experiences are mine. Some are stories that I have heard from others. Some are purely fiction."

Skorupski is one of an increasing number of writers who have



chosen to self-publish instead trying to gain acceptance through traditional publishers. According to Bowker, the company that issues identification numbers for books, the number of self-published titles increased 59 percent in 2012 to more than 390,000.

Self-publishing gives many more authors a way to get their work in front of the public, instead of the select few chosen by traditional publishing houses.

"The explosion of e-books is a godsend for the independent writer,"

Skorupski said. "Traditional publishers will almost never take a chance on an unknown author. Self-publishing through outfits like Amazon gives us the avenue we need for success."

The self-publishing avenue provided by Amazon.com is a big part of self-publishing's growth. Authors can publish e-books that can be read on the Kindle or Kindle apps, or they can produce on-demand copies of print books through CreateSpace. Other companies like Barnes & Noble, Apple (through iTunes) and Smashbooks also offer self-publishing options.

Authors benefit by keeping much more of the profit than they would through a publishing house: 70 percent for e-books, for example, com-

pared to 10 percent through a publisher. But the downside is the author has to be a jack-of-all-trades, or hire people to do what he or she can't.

"You are solely responsible for all the work," Skorupski said. "You have not only to write, you have to edit, format, re-edit, design a cover, promote and sell your story."

Skorupski, whose move to South Dakota provided the story structure he needed to make a book work, said the key to success in writing is finding the right subject.

"Write about what you love," he said. "The love will shine through and make for better reading."*

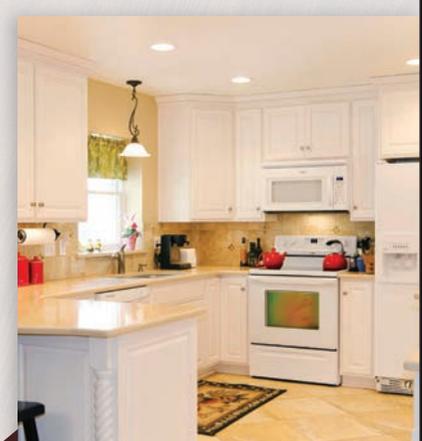
Learn more about the book at www.flyovercounty.com.

BUILT TO LAST. BUILT FOR YOU.

Whether your building a new house or remodeling an existing space. Talk to us about your cabinets and closets. We make the process easy, affordable and fun. Let us give you a quote.



14097 436th Ave // Webster, SD 57274
voglswoodworking.com
605.345.2408



CUSTOM BUILT SINCE 1993

QUALITY CUSTOM CABINETS // EFFICIENT CLOSET SYSTEMS

Rosemaling Lessons Started in South Dakota, Continued in Norway

by KIMBERLY HARRINGTON, CLARK COUNTY COURIER

When Sandy Syvertson, of Clark, saw a woman demonstrating rosemaling at the South Dakota State Fair 40 years ago, she decided she needed to learn how to do it.

"It is the art of Norwegian painting, usually done on wood," Syvertson said. "She had two colors of paint on one brush, and the strokes used gave an effect unlike other painting techniques."

Classes with that demonstrator, Sunhild Muldbakken, got her started. From there Syvertson took classes at the Vesterheim museum in Decorah, Iowa, and then traveled to Norway to continue her education with Sigrud Midjos, one of the Vesterheim's teachers. Midjos lived in a little house on her parents' farm so high up on a mountain that there was 10 days' difference in harvesting from the mountaintop to the valley, Syvertson said.

Each region of Norway has its own technique, rooted in its history and tradition. Syvertson's favorite is Telemark, the free style practiced by Muldbakken and Midjos.

The art is centuries old in Norway. In the United States, the practice was revived in the 1930s by a Norwegian immigrant, Per Lisne, who painted rosemaling on wagons and other items to make a living. Earlier pioneers had not kept up the tradition, likely because

they didn't have time. They were probably too busy trying to stay warm, Syvertson said.

The technique of rosemaling is very important: It requires a free circle of motion with which to paint, so the hand used to paint rests on the opposite wrist to allow more freedom of movement. The 'S,' 'C' and circle strokes all come from a main root in the design, creating the scrolls, flowers, leaves and shells. Line work and teardrops are done last. Each color includes a light, midtone and dark version, often with more than one tone on the brush at a time.

"Different teachers would teach their own way," Syvertson said. "It was a struggle for me at first, then after a while you learn to do your own thing." ✨

➡ Sandy Syvertson of Clark has been painting with the colors and techniques of Rosemaling since she took her first class after seeing a demonstration at the state fair. Photo by Kimberly Harrington



'Traveling Salesman' Finds Inspiration Through a Windshield

by LANA BANDOIM

Artist Jamie Voigt has his work featured in Sioux Falls, but rural South Dakota inspires his art.

Voigt is a regional vice president of sales at Centennial Homes, and the frequent travel required for his job allows him to find inspiration while driving. He spends 150 days a year on the road.

"Driving north and west of Sioux Falls every other week means I am constantly seeing things that I feel need to be captured as I see the rural landscape disappear. I see the old farmsteads get bulldozed and barns blown over in storms, and it seems like every day those treasures disappear," Voigt said.

Jamie Voigt is using his paintings to capture the disappearing and changing rural landscape in South Dakota. He finds inspiration can come from many scenes.

"I truly love the duck ponds, cornfields and wheat fields of the east along with the James River Valley before the trees were lost to flooding. The West River has inspired my native American scenes and buffalo and cattle ranch scenes," Voigt said.

Voigt often tries to create stories around the rural images in his paintings.

"The Road Home is a picture and



➡ "The Road Home" by Jamie Voigt. Photo courtesy Jamie Voigt

story of a farmstead found along the Jim River. I imagine the life of the first generation farmers that developed the land and built this once grand home. I think of the farmer's wife hanging sheets on the clothes line next to the lilacs, the kids playing in the barn and the farmer mending the fences and hoping for a wet year but not too wet that the river floods," Voigt said.

Jamie Voigt refuses to do prints, instead preferring to provide the public with original artwork. He plans to continue to feature rural South Dakota in his art. ✨

Learn more about Voigt's artwork at www.jamievoigt.com.

HOME OF

100%

Finance Approval

Don't wait...Call Today!
We can make it happen!



www.piersonford.com

701 Auto Plaza Drive

605-225-3720 or 1-800-627-1237

How Festivals Create Community Identity

by ROBERT WUTHNOW

Robert Wuthnow interviewed residents of small towns across the country as he put together his new book, *Small-Town America: Finding Community, Shaping the Future*. In this excerpt from the book, Wuthnow shares his findings on the festivals that bring communities together.



1 Robert Wuthnow. Photo courtesy of Frank Wojciechowski

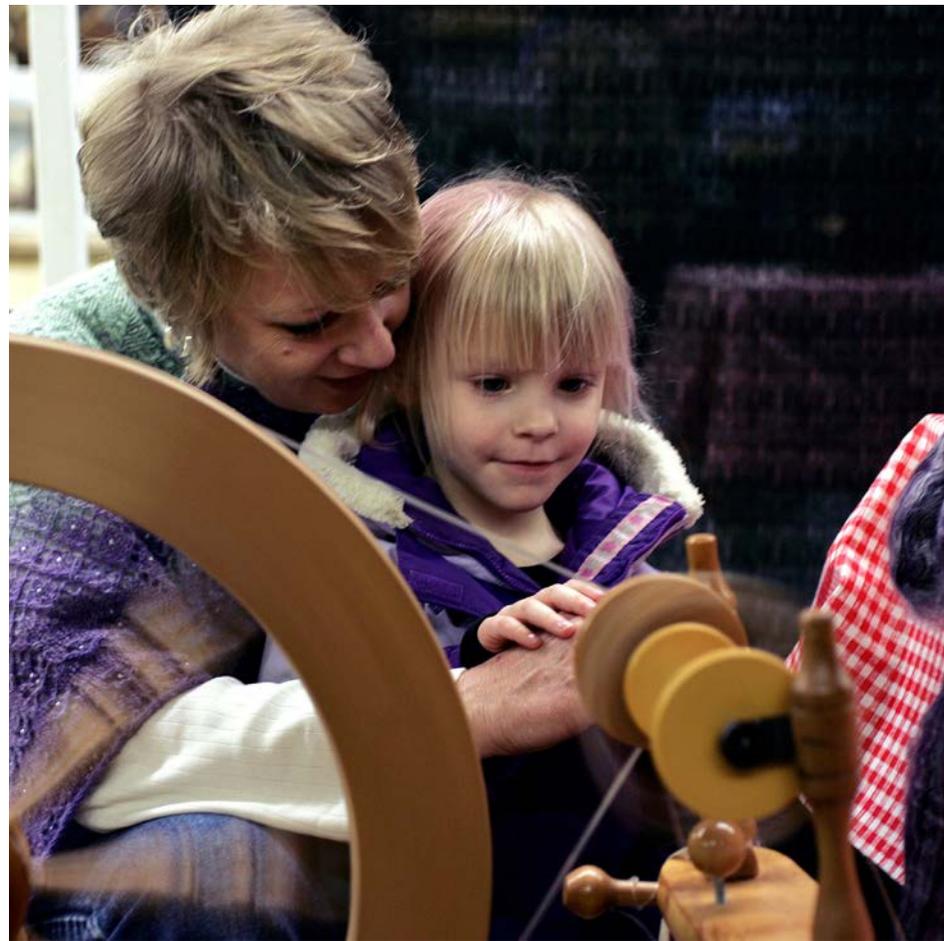
One of the most popular events in small towns is an annual festival, usually held in conjunction with the homecoming weekend, or at another time when residents and former residents gather to promote community spirit plus remind themselves of the community's traditions. These events are seldom evident in towns of fewer than a thousand residents, but were nearly universal in the towns we studied that had populations of at least two thousand.

Fall harvest celebrations, county festivals, and rodeos are common

examples. In most instances the festival celebrates something distinctive about the community, whether that consists of commemorating its founding or drawing visitors from the region because of its ethnic traditions.

Residents spoke glowingly of these events. The people we talked to in one small town boasted of having the best Mardi Gras festival anywhere—that is, anywhere that celebrates Mardi Gras in the fall. A leader in another community said his town was the inspiration for the famous American Gothic painting. Indeed, nearly every community in which we conducted interviews considered itself special in some way.

A community leader in another town agreed that something like this was important enough that a festival just might save a dying town. "The only way you're going to survive is to make the community unique, different, even odd," he observed. "Make it an antique capital. Restore the old opera house. Offer the best fried chicken. Have an Oktoberfest." That view was generally shared, although



1 Participants at Schmeckfest watch a demonstration of a spinning wheel. Photo courtesy the Freeman Courier

occasionally we heard mixed opinions. These came from town leaders who worried that festivals were taking the place of more serious discussions about their community's future. It was good that the festivals were happening, they said, because organizing them brought people together and sparked conversations about the town's history. But coming up with a comprehensive plan for the future, including something about historical preservation along with applying for grants or raising money locally were much more difficult. As one town manager noted, "Those are great things to talk about, and everybody feels good doing it, but implementing things becomes very hard."

Small-town festivals are largely organized and staffed by local volunteers, which means that the meetings during the year at which planning occurs provide occasions for sharing information about other community developments and exchanging gossip with neighbors. As is true of other aspects of small-town life, festivals are changing as a result of demographic shifts and different means of communication. The towns we studied with declining populations were finding it more difficult to organize festivals, but other communities were attracting visitors by advertising on the Internet and in state tourism magazines, and were supplementing local traditions by hosting antique car displays, tractor pulls, and craft fairs. Small towns are

also benefiting from regional celebrations in which they can participate, such as festivals that combine events up and down a river, or commemorations of an early expedition or along a pioneer trail.

At their best, festivals spark community spirit because emotions run differently than on other days, and because people physically come together and participate in common activities. The lightheartedness plays an important role. Men sport top hats and beards, and women don prairie dresses or wear Victorian-era jewelry. Children wear costumes, much like they would in any community on Halloween. The difference is that the town is symbolized as the focus of the event. Beneath the fun is a layer of serious commemoration. These are our war heroes, first settlers, volunteer fire company, teachers, or youths.

Just as national holidays do, small-town festivals provide opportunities to define and redefine the community. In emphasizing the town's first settlers and early citizens, residents who have lived there for generations can imagine that the community especially values its old-timers—and perhaps feel that it should pay more attention to preserving its past.

For better or worse, community festivals selectively emphasize some aspects of reality and neglect others. Just as weddings and funerals do in families, they present the community in its most favorable light. Acrimony

Cultural Events



2 Doris Armstrong of Watertown paints on the Homestead Prairie during the De Smet Plein Air event in August 2012. Photo by Susan Purinton



OUR REGION'S LEADER IN HEALTH CARE

Our Region's ONLY Verified Level III
TRAUMA CENTER

MORE LOCAL **SPECIALISTS**—
MORE **SERVICES**—
MORE YEARS OF **EXPERIENCE.**

Avera 
St. Luke's Hospital

Hospital • Long-Term Care • Clinics

Sponsored by the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters

605-622-5000 ■ AveraStLukes.org



Children work on a pumpkin painting project at the Faulkton Art and Craft Festival. Photo by Garrick Moritz/Faulk County Record

is temporarily set aside. Festivals are not the time to worry that the town's population is diminishing or be reminded that growth is significantly altering its ethnic composition. Whole sections of the community—minorities, the poor, and newcomers—may be left out. Celebrations work because they are clearly demarcated from everyday life. They punctuate time with levity, lifting spirits above the ordinary humdrum, adding color, drawing people loosely together, and perhaps most important, giving them something to talk about. This is why festivals so often commemorate the town's history. In collective memory, the festivals both retell and become part of that history. *

→ **Robert Wuthnow** is the Gerhard R. Andlinger '52 Professor of Social Sciences at Princeton University.

This article is excerpted from *Small-Town America: Finding Community, Shaping the Future* by Robert Wuthnow. ©2013 by Princeton University Press. Reprinted by permission. A version of this excerpt first appeared on www.dailyonder.com.

Faulkton Area Art Council Makes Small Town an Arts Patron

by GARRICK MORITZ, FAULK COUNTY RECORD

Living in a small town doesn't have to mean giving up on art and culture, as Faulkton residents can attest.

"There was a newspaper article in the Aberdeen American News once upon a time that said, 'Faulkton is a little town with a lot of art,'" said Linda Bartholomew, one of the founding members of the Faulkton Area Arts Council. "And though art means a lot of different things to a lot of different people, I like to think that's pretty true."

Founded in 1975 by a group of area residents who were looking to mount a production of the musical "South Pacific," the council's scope and scale has broadened considerably since then. Annually there is an Arts and Crafts Festival that kicks off on the opening day of pheasant season. Those who aren't out hunting birds flock in for the craft expo.

"We host a very large variety of vendors, though we always insist that all the items up for sale are homemade," said council member and event organizer Beverly King. "It's our biggest event of the year. Locally we have a lot of creative people who do a lot of creative things, and it's attracted a following from all

over the state. We started out just in the school's gym, then we expanded to the stage and the wrestling room and now expanded into the new gym and spilling over into the community center, and we need every inch of that space. With a themed meal every year, it generates most of the revenue we use throughout the year to fund other programs."

One of those programs is the Artists in the Schools program, which fills a need since the school no longer has its own arts program, Bartholomew said.

"We try to bring at least three artists to the school per year, from visual arts to musicians," she said. "We also proudly sponsor the Children's Theater Company of South Dakota. These things bring depth to our young people's education that is truly priceless, and is many times the first or only exposure that some children have to the theatrical arts. Though we don't mount regular musicals anymore, recently we've begun mounting bi-annual dinner theater productions that have been a lot of fun and very popular."

Cultural Events



The Faulkton school auditorium was full for the community's annual Arts and Crafts Festival in October. Photo by Garrick Moritz



Heather's Bistro and More

Print your own 4x6 or 5x7 pictures. Fast and easy. Only 35¢ a print.

Serving breakfast, lunch and specialty coffee drinks daily Mon - Fri: 6:30 am - 9:00 pm and Sat: 6:30 am - 1:00 pm

101 N. COMMERCIAL ST • CLARK, SD 57225 • PH: 605-532-5255

Specialty Drinks
Smoothies, Blended Coffees, Iced Coffees, Latte's, Chai Teas, Coffee of the day

Sandwiches and Sides
Bread, Hoagie, Wraps, Bagels, Croissants, Potato Chips, Potato and Macaroni Salads, Chicken Strips, Hot Dogs, Burgers, Chicken, Ham and Seafood Salads

Any sandwich can be made hot by toasting it on the Panini Press.

Try our Specialty Sandwich
The Bistro Bagel
Turkey, Bacon, Swiss with lettuce, tomato and your choice of cream cheese or honey mustard

Come in as a Patient,
Leave as a Friend.



Dentistry affects every smile, every kiss, every meal for the rest of your life.

When you visit our office, your smile is our top priority. Our entire team is dedicated to providing you with the personalized, gentle care that you deserve.

Part of our commitment to serving our patients includes providing information that helps them to make more informed decisions about their oral health needs. This website is a resource we hope you'll find both useful and interesting. Contact us today!

Dental Center
David Lee Merxbauer, DDS

1021 Circle Drive
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-725-0800



www.thebestdentalcenter.com



1 Proudly displaying their newly forged puppets are, from left to right, Leah Grabinski, August Kopecky, Garret Cramer, Addison Melius, Miranda Waterbury, Michael Demery and Micah Martinmaas. The kids made these puppets from a Faulkton Area Arts Council-sponsored visit of Markie Scholz of *Dragons Are Too Seldom Puppet Productions*. The kids later rehearsed a show with their new friends. Photo by Garrick Moritz/Faulk County Record

And in the visual arts they are no slouches either. The annual Hat's Off to The Artists Show has also become a cornerstone event in the community. Local artist Bonnie Wuger was part of the driving force of its creation.

"Back in 1991 we didn't have anything like it around here," she said. "I went over to Mobridge to their art show with my items, and I thought... if they can do it, why can't we? So, I went to the Arts Council and with their help we got it started. Our first show was in the city hall meeting room. As I recall we had to prop up paintings on the backs

and seats of folding chairs. It's all come a long, long way since then."

The Faulkton Area Arts Council will often partner with the Faulk County Historical Society or the Faulk County Library to bring cultural and educational events to the community as well.

"Our goal with the Faulkton Area Arts Council is simply to enrich the lives of the people who live in our community," Bartholomew said. ✨

For more information, contact Beverly King at info@kinginsurancesd.com or 605-598-6763.

De Smet Builds on Harvey Dunn's Tradition in Painting Festival

by DEREK HELMS

The wide open spaces and big skies of the South Dakota plains inspired artist Harvey Dunn, the Manchester native who made his name painting scenes of the prairie life in the early 1900s. The Harvey Dunn Society used that inspiration to develop the Harvey Dunn Plein Air Event in 2008.

During the high season of early to mid-summer, De Smet welcomes thousands of tourists to tour their Laura Ingalls Wilder attractions. The visitors are a clear boon to both the local economy and public perception. Five years ago a plan was hatched to create an event to celebrate the area's other artistic luminary.

"(The board was) trying to find something for the end of summer to both bring attention to Harvey Dunn's work and attract people to town," said Susan Purinton, Harvey Dunn Society board member. "Doc and Phyllis Bell and a handful of other folks really deserve the credit."

Because Dunn's most well-known pieces depict fields and skies of South Dakota, the idea of a Plein Air art show was suggested. En plein air is a French expression that means "in the open air" and is particularly used to describe the act of painting outdoors. The 2013 event was the fifth annual.

"We have been thrilled with the response from artists and the community," Purinton said. "It is so fun to see what these artists can do in such a short amount of time. We're really proud to host this event and help showcase these artists and work to increase appreciation for Harvey Dunn."

The Harvey Dunn Society Plein Air Event is held the second weekend in August and includes an opening reception, two days of painting and a wet sale. The first event hosted almost 20 artists. This year, more than 50 people submitted paintings for judging and sale. Throughout the weekend artists are spotted in fields outside of town, gazing at sunsets and, occasionally, sitting in the middle of Main Street.

"That first year, we didn't really know what to expect," Purinton explained. "After the reception on Friday, we just turned the artists



1 Gordan Schnabel won the second annual Plein Air Event with his painting in August 2010. Photo by Susan Purinton

loose and said 'See you on Sunday.' We don't have a lot of rules. We don't time-stamp their canvas or check their paints. We just ask that they paint something outdoors. What they created was really special, and the entire event was a success."

As the event has grown, many of the artists have returned each year. Purinton says artists are welcomed throughout De Smet and the surrounding area. Many camp in the city park, some stay in hotels, but all have commented on how welcoming

the town is.

"We've had artists from as far away as Massachusetts come for the event," Purinton said. "To be honest, I don't think they make very much from the wet sale at the end of the event, but that's not why they come every year. It's a fun event that honors a great local artist and has become a place for friends to gather. And, of course, the scenery around De Smet is fantastic." ✨

For more information, go to www.discoverlaura.org.



Food is an important part of Schmeckfest. Photo courtesy Freeman Courier

Good Food, Good Music Keep People Coming to Schmeckfest

by JESSICA GIARD

Organizers of the first Schmeckfest in Freeman, S.D., in 1959 planned to host about 200 people. Imagine their surprise when 1,000 people showed up and the food ran out.

Now into its 56th year, the community event in southeastern South Dakota easily attracts more than 5,000

people over two weekends in March. Schmeckfest, which translates to “a festival of tasting,” recognizes the

traditional foods, which serves more than 1,000 people each night, and ends with a volunteer-led, community-produced musical.

“Education and fine arts have been a strength in this community,” Epp said, and that translates into Schmeckfest’s renowned musical productions.

“The people who come here for the musical production are in awe. It’s not typical community theatre,” he said.

A few of the traditional foods on the menu include bratwurst (pork sausage), dämpfleisch (stewed beef), nudel suppe (noodle soup), gerbraten kartofflen (fried potatoes) and käse mit knöpfle (cheese buttons).

Food preparation can begin months in advance, though the centerpiece bratwurst is made fresh the week of the festival. Visitors can watch the sausage making during the event.

“That’s one of the more popular things,” Epp said. Guests can also buy the fresh sausage at the festival.

Beyond the food and music, the festival also presents visitors with an afternoon of demonstrations on traditional foods, including those not on the menu, and crafts and local history via the on-campus Heritage Hall Museum.

Tickets for the 2014 Schmeckfest become available after Dec. 1. Freeman hosts the festival March 21-22 and 28-29 on the Freeman Academy campus and will feature the musical “Children of Eden.”

Find more information on the website at www.schmeckfest.com.

local German/Russian Mennonite heritage and acts as a fundraiser for the Freeman Academy.

The festival also brings together the community.

“Even though it is a fundraiser for Freeman Academy, it has become a Freeman community event. It takes so many hours,” said Nathan Epp, president of the Freeman Academy Auxiliary and a third-generation auxiliary member. For the staple event to be successful, planning continues year-round.

“The Freeman community benefits from Schmeckfest,” Epp said.

Schmeckfest’s notoriety stems from its food and its music. Each evening features a family-style meal of

Wacipi Dancers, Musicians Describe Coming Together as One

by SUZY GIOVANNETTONE COPE

The Northern State University Native American Student Association sponsored a wacipi as the culminating activity for the NSU Culturefest on Nov. 2 in Aberdeen. While the wacipi is centered on Native American tradition, everyone was invited to gather. Dancers, artists and spectators had the day to connect with each other and build relationships.

Focus on Tradition

Nicole Cooke of Wagner, S.D., has been dancing for 16 years. She learned how to dance fancy shawl from another family member when she was 2 years old.

Cooke has participated in a variety of traditional dance competitions and describes an overwhelming sense of accomplishment when she is performing in the arena.

“I just feel the rhythm when I am out there,” she said.

Cooke attends wacipis to keep tradition in her family. She explains that the purpose of the wacipi is for all tribes to get together and unite as one.

Attendees enjoy listening to the variety of drum groups at wacipis, Cooke said. “It depends on what language is being sung, but drum groups usually talk about family and everyone uniting as one.”

A family member made most of her traditional clothing, but Cooke

does all of her own beading. She specifically enjoys making moccasins.

Family Dances for Those who Cannot

Carley, Kim and Alana Cosay of McLaughlin, S.D., were first-time attendees at the NSU wacipi, though they have attended 20 other wacipis this year across the country.

Alana, 13, has been dancing for 12 years. Kim and Carley started taking Alana to the arena when she was only 1. She quickly picked up a passion for traditional and fancy dancing just by experiencing the dancing arena.

Carley began learning Native American traditional dancing techniques seven years ago. He started asking people in his community how to dance after watching his daughter dance solo at gatherings. “I didn’t want her to be out there (dancing) alone,” he said. “I had all of the traditional clothing on hand also.”

Alana describes traditional dancing as something that naturally comes to her. “When I see Alana dance, I see her gain confidence,” Kim said.

The Cosay family thinks it is important to keep the customs of traditional dancing alive to keep their culture going. Carley is originally from Arizona and comes from the Apache tribe. Kim is Lakota and hails from the Standing Rock tribe.

The dancing may look exhausting, but it is not, Carley said. “I gain energy from others and don’t get tired while I’m dancing.”

Kim said that her family does all of their own beadwork for their traditional dress. She also connects with others families and dancers throughout the area for specific pieces of clothing.

“I like to joke with Carley about how many animals he is wearing,” Kim said about his traditional garments. Carley pointed out that his attire includes porcupine, deer hooves, horse hair, otter fur, flicker tail feathers, eagle feathers and a variety of bones.

The Cosay family is passionate about making connections with others at wacipis, but their primary purpose is to dance for people who cannot dance. They dance for those who are physically unable and for those who have passed away while keeping the tradition alive for future generations.

For more information, see www.northern.edu/studentlife/Pages/ma/CulturefestWacipi.aspx.



Carley Cosay dances in the wacipi at Northern State University on Nov. 2. Photo by Suzy Giovannettone Cope

Community Drives Wessington Springs' Shakespeare Connection

by JESSICA GIARD

Wessington Springs, S.D., keeps art and culture alive with a heavy dose of one key ingredient: keeping it local.

The east-central South Dakota community of 956 sits on the edge of the Wessington Hills along Highway 34. The town may be best known for its Opera House, Shakespeare Garden and Anna Hathaway cottage, rodeo and as the hometown of the late cowboy musician Kyle Evans.

"How the arts survive in a small town—we all rely on each other," said Kathy Dean, who sits on the board for the Shakespeare Garden and the local arts council. "If it's going to happen, the local people have to do it."

The retired nurse's volunteer work overlaps between organizations, though she is best known for helping turn the town's Shakespeare Garden and Anna Hathaway cottage into what she describes as a focal point for the community.

"It's obviously a big part of life for people in this town," she said.

The garden has been the site for numerous weddings and receptions, theatre and music performances, a maypole dance and the annual English tea fundraiser. Nearly a dozen volunteers gather each May

for the three-day planting festival. Community groups and businesses donate to the upkeep, and high school ag classes help with labor in spring and fall.

The 81-year-old cottage and accompanying Shakespeare Garden is the only piece of the Wessington Springs Seminary campus that remains nearly 50 years after the school closed.

Professors Emma and Clark Shay built the cottage as their home in 1932, inspired by the Anne Hathaway cottage at Stratford-on-Avon in England. The cottage stayed in private hands until 1989. A Legacy Grant provided by the S.D. Centennial jumpstarted a decade of work to bring the cottage and garden back to life.

"I love that little cottage. It has wonderful history," Dean said.

Retired music professor Mary Jane Belz, a Wessington Springs native who returned in 2011, felt the college's influence growing up in the 1950s and '60s. Her connection put her on stage in eighth grade as a soloist in the school's performance of the Messiah.

Cultural Events



The Anne Hathaway cottage at the Shakespeare Garden in Wessington Springs, S.D., acts as the centerpiece for the garden, which was originally created in the early 1930s. The garden and cottage stand central to the small community as a place for performance and gatherings. Photo by Jessica Giard

"That was my introduction to singing some wonderful classical music," Belz said.

Last spring she returned the favor and spearheaded the first Music in the Garden series. The weekly showcase featured local musicians—including high school students, church members and clergy, the community choir and locals who simply like to entertain—at the Shakespeare Garden from June through mid-August. She was told that Music in the Garden would only be successful with local artists.

The three local eateries also provided food on a rotating basis each Thursday. At the peak, the series hosted 120 people.

"We only heard good things," she said. "Our audiences grew every week."

Beyond the Shakespeare Garden and Hathaway cottage, the community supports a Community Club that meets weekly and the Springs Area Council of the Arts. SECOTA acts as an umbrella for the Foothills crafters group, the two-day summer arts festival, the Opera House, community choir and children's theatre and sponsors touring artists through the S.D. Arts Council.

For Belz, supporting local art and culture is part of keeping alive a history she remembers from the days of the college.

"We try to bring back the things we had growing up," she said. "We're trying to keep Wessington Springs a vibrant community." ★

For more information, go to shakespearegarden.blogspot.com.

Cultural Events

Granary Encourages Reflection on Rural Art and Culture

by HEIDI MARTTILA-LOSURE

The Granary Rural Cultural Center, located between fields and farms not far from Groton, S.D., started as a dream project of the John Sieh family.

"We want to celebrate the land and the animals and the people who live here through the arts," Sieh said, as quoted on the Granary's website. "We think the fact that it's rural—and very rural—is what makes it unique."

The Granary Rural Cultural Center changed hands in 2012, when John Sieh gave the facility to Brown County. But its new owner is intent on helping the center live up to its purpose: A place where rural art and culture can be celebrated by all ages.

Visitors can view art in the Granary Memorial Gallery, an art exhibition space converted from a 1928 wooden granary. Programming or meals, depending on the event, happen in Putney Hall, a 1912 town hall moved from its location in Putney Township in 1996.

Scattered across the grounds are works of art, the "Walk with Dakota" interpretive landscape and sculpture garden.

"Some prominent stories at the Granary are those told through objects in the sculpture garden—stories of the land, the Native Americans and others who settled

here," explained Marianne Marttilla-Klipfel, curatorial assistant with the Dacotah Prairie Museum, the county-run entity that's now in charge of programming and development of the facility.

A stroll through the grounds highlights the relationship that humans have had, and continue to have, with the Dakota environment.

The Granary Rural Cultural Center hosted its first event, the All Dakota Fine Arts Festival, in June 1996. A similarly named event with a student focus was begun around the same time and continues annually. The All Dakota High School Fine Arts Exhibition features students from about 20 different school districts from South Dakota and North Dakota.

Event organizers have noticed a change in recent years as some schools have eliminated art teaching positions. With no art teacher, there is no one to encourage, gather and submit student projects and organize teams to attend the event.

"One of the goals of this event, in addition to promoting a love of the arts by young people, is supplementing



Photo caption

QQP QUALITY QUICK PRINT

APPAREL PRINT SIGNS PROMO ITEMS COPY CENTER

YOUR HELPING HAND FOR OVER 30 YEARS!

CALL US ABOUT OUR WORKWEAR SPECIALS!
CARHARTT, DRIDUCK, CORNERSTONE -
SOMETHING FOR EVERY BUDGET.

1923 6TH AVE SE • ABERDEEN, SD 57401
226-2541 • MYQQP.COM

WHERE THE PAST IS PRESENT

DACOTAH PRAIRIE MUSEUM

Dedicated to telling the story of the Dakota prairie and its inhabitants

21 S. Main St | Aberdeen, SD
605.626.7117
www.dacotahprairiemuseum.com

Gallery and Gift Shop Hours:
 Tues-Fri: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sat-Sun: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Office Hours:
 Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Lora Schaunaman instructs children in watercolor techniques at Granary art camp for children in June. Photo courtesy Marianne Marttila-Klipfel

arts education in schools by providing information about careers in arts, instruction by professional artists in a variety of media and discussion about critique and interpretation of art in judge's workshops," Marttila-Klipfel said. "Art students from far reaches of the Dakotas have a chance to share ideas, critique each other's work and meet like-minded, arts-appreciating peers."

Art-minded students in schools without art teachers likely miss out on this opportunity, she said. One student has attended the event in recent years even though his school no longer has an art program, but what happens more often if a school has no art program is no one attends. Since the transition in ownership, museum staff have added more programming to the schedule: Elementary schoolchildren are invited to art day camps in the summer. A day for ladies called "Pampered on the Prairie" drew many women to the Granary for a day of relaxing and learning, and the Living History Fall Festival, now in

its second year, featured re-enactments and music that brought the early settlement days of the region to life.

Plans for summer 2014 are in the works and will be posted on the Granary website (www.granary-finearts.org) when finalized. The Granary facility operates seasonally; buildings are open during scheduled hours only, but the outdoor campus is open daily.

"The campus is a beautiful setting for plein air painting and sketching. Bring your art supplies and spend the afternoon," Marttila-Klipfel said.

Volunteer opportunities are available at the Granary, especially for artists and individuals wishing to support local art, history and education. Those interested should contact museum director Sue Gates at (605) 626-7117. ★

For more information, go to www.dacotahprairiemuseum.com/granary/default.html

→ **Marttila-Klipfel** is the writer's sister. Additional reporting by **Paul Kosel**.

ViTality Award Honors Regional Thinkers

Do you know of someone who works to build and develop community, and knows that community doesn't stop neatly at the city limits?

If so, that person may be a candidate for a ViTality Award, which will be presented at the Community Champions Luncheon in February.

The ViTality Award honors an individual "who is the keeper of the regional vision," according to a news release from Absolutely!Aberdeen, which is coordinating the award process. The award is given annually to someone in the 17-county area of northeastern South Dakota who works for greater regional development.

The award is named after Aberdeen resident Vi Stoia, "a regional thinker who believed that a new business in Redfield or community work in Leola was a win for Aberdeen and the entire region," according to the news release. The award was created after Stoia's death in 2008.

Rodney Fouberg of Dacotah Banks, Inc., received the first ViTality Award in February 2013.

Nominations can be sent to Absolutely!Aberdeen at 416 Production Street North, Aberdeen, SD 57401, or e-mailed to juliem.johnson@absolutelyaberndeen.com.



In June 2012, the ViTality statue was revealed on the corner of South Main Street and Third Avenue in Aberdeen, near Stoia's former office in Dacotah Bank. The statue was created by Aberdeen sculptor Benjamin Victor.

No specific form is required, but as much background and supporting material as possible is appreciated. Calls can be placed to 605-725-5070. Nominations will be accepted until Jan. 3, 2014.

A video retrospective remembering Vi Stoia and his contributions to the Aberdeen community can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_0_ob_Tw-Q

golden livingcenters®

Enhancing Lives Through Innovative Healthcare™

From recovery care and wellness to management of long-term health conditions, Golden LivingCenters® offer a full spectrum of innovative programs and services, provided by compassionate, dedicated staff.

Our services include:

- 24-hour skilled nursing care
- Short-term rehabilitation
- Compassionate long-term care
- Respite care
- Assisted living services at Golden LivingCenter - Ipswich and Groton
- A dedicated Alzheimer's Care Unit at Golden LivingCenter - Groton

For a tour or more information, please contact us:

Golden LivingCenter - Clark
 201 NW 8th Ave.
 Clark, SD 57225
 605-532-3431

Golden LivingCenter - Groton
 1106 N. 2nd St.
 Groton, SD 57445
 605-397-2365

Golden LivingCenter - Ipswich
 617 Bloemendaal Drive
 Ipswich, SD 57451
 605-426-6622

www.GoldenLivingCenters.com

Equal opportunity provider of healthcare services. GLS-10415-13





Just outside of Roscoe, S.D. this pink Mack big rig sits in stark contrast to the vibrant background. The setting fall sun casts dramatic shadows and saturates the landscape with sculptural light. Photo by Troy McQuillen

Five Quotes to Note From the S.D. Housing Conference

by HEIDI MARTTILA-LOSURE

The 2013 conference of the South Dakota Housing Development Authority celebrated the 40th anniversary of the organization. Here are some words from just a few of the speakers at the conference that might interest Dakotafire readers.

"About seven, eight years ago we started to hear this a lot from communities. Even though populations were shrinking, even though economic development was tough, we kept hearing, 'Hey, we have a housing problem.' ... And then, a couple years ago we started to hear the same thing but a little differently: Hey! We need to solve this housing problem!" ... Our communities suddenly found themselves in crisis mode around housing. ... "It doesn't matter the size of the community. The same is true in Sioux Falls, and Rapid City, and Aberdeen, where we've been hearing it. We've also been hearing it in and Martin and Faulkton and Miller and Wagner and Gettysburg and in communities like that. And everything in between."

—Joe Bartmann, community coach for the Home Address program

Bartmann explained that while these communities recognize they have a housing problem, they often have no idea what to do next. Many agencies had resources to help with projects—but many communities had no idea what projects should be done, or how to go about getting them done. The Home Address program was designed to slow the process down: Instead of jumping into a building project, Home Address communities start with a housing study and

a gathering of the community to discuss the findings. They also look at the whole picture of housing, including maintenance and demolition instead of just looking at new construction. Coaches guide the process. Four communities were selected to take part in the program through an application process. Community coach Mike Knutson says they are seeking funding to continue the project with two to four more communities next year.



1 Joe Bartmann describes the housing problem facing many rural communities in South Dakota.



1 Elliot Eisenberg spoke to a full room about the positive effect that housing construction can have on a community's economy.

"That is the great promise (of a passive house): To get a house that is in balance, that is resilient to various disasters, temperature swings. When the energy goes out, the house never drops below freezing because it is super insulated and you still get some solar heat. And we can get to zero energy."

—Katrin Klingenberg, executive director of the Passive House Institute US.

Klingenberg advised the S.D. Housing Development Authority in the building of a Governor's House that meets passive house standards, which includes lots of insulation,

a design that lets in the heat of the sun and an airtight building envelope. That house was completed and shown at the State Fair this summer. Klingenberg said that passive house principles could work quite well in South Dakota, because despite the low winter temperatures, the state has many sunny days that can provide solar heating. Unfortunately, it's not likely that more Governor's Houses will be built to passive house standards. The cost of building a Governor's House to those standards is double the cost of a regular Governor's House, and the people who could get a loan for the cost of that house make too much money to qualify for the Governor's House program.



1 Roger Dieter tells how the Home Address program has helped the Faulkton community. Photo by Heidi Marttila-Losure

"In our community, our housing issues are a tangled web of interacting things. It's very complicated. More so than we realized when we started the project. ... We needed to dive deeper than we would have without (Home Address coach Joe Bartmann's) help. "In most rural communities, when it gets down to doing things, the people that make it happen are ag-related people like myself. We're action people: Here's a problem, let's get to the solution. ... Having done that, we've made some mistakes. We wouldn't understand the problems nearly as well had we not gone through this process."

—Roger Dieter, farmer from Faulkton and participant in the Home Address program

"When you build a house, you get this huge short-term effect, and then this very sizable, very long-term impact. So there are real long-term benefits to having someone move to your community and making sure they have a place to live. If you don't build homes, they are not going to come. That's for sure."

—Elliot Eisenberg, economist and public speaker, of Washington, D.C.

Eisenberg did an analysis of the Sioux Falls, S.D., metro area and found that for every 100 single-family homes built, the area benefits phenomenally. In the first year, the region gains with about \$12.2 million from direct construction spending and taxes, plus 179 jobs. There's also a "ripple effect" that first year (for example, those construction workers buying lunch or getting a haircut) of about \$6 million and 93 jobs. The more significant effect comes later: The 100 additional families in the community contribute \$3.4 mil-

lion annually and support 53 permanent jobs, pretty much forever. That means in the first 10 years, according to Eisenberg's analysis, building 100 single-family homes adds to the economy \$43.8 million in local income, \$7.3 million in local taxes, 272 temporary jobs and 53 permanent jobs. About 44 percent of those jobs are in construction—but more than half are elsewhere in the economy, Eisenberg said. "This is tremendously stimulating for the economy," he said. "Housing is truly a wonderful thing."

"I think the lack of sustainability of our community initiatives has defined rural development in South Dakota: Stop and start. Stop and start. Get a little energy. Run out. Stop and start. Stop and start. "It's kind of a perverse reality that our rural communities have to be smarter and sharper than the big guys. Sioux Falls has tons of resources. They can work in silos ... do all kinds of things. But the resources are so big that it masks (errors). In our rural communities, we have a little, tiny margin of error."

—Jim Beddow, former president of Dakota Wesleyan University and coach for the Home Address program.

Speaking about the program's mission, "building community capacity for strategic housing development, now and in the future." Beddow said the "in the future" part was absolutely vital. ✨

COMEBACK KULM

by HEIDI MARTTILA-LOSURE photography by TROY MCQUILLEN

One reliable indicator of the health of a rural community is moving in a positive direction in Kulm, N.D.: There are more children in incoming classes (more than 10 each in preschool through second grade) than in the senior class (7).

School enrollment is up 30 percent in the last five years, according to Kulm Superintendent, Tom Nitchke.

This increase comes with its own challenges, as the town is now trying to decide if the schools need to be upgraded in some way. One option that's been discussed is consolidating the elementary and high schools into one location. If that were to happen, the closed school could be converted into housing or assisted living—another need in the community. Young families with children moving into Kulm have fueled the increase in class sizes, and demand for more housing is significant.

"Twenty years ago, there wouldn't even have been consideration of (enlarging the school)," said Jordan Gackle, Kulm Economic

Development board member. "I am sure most thought the schools wouldn't even be here. So that's a surprising and encouraging sign."

A word that came up several times during Dakotafire's November visit to Kulm was "blessed." Blessings certainly seemed evident: In addition to the new children in the community, several businesses have gained momentum in recent years. Fire trucks and ambulances are shiny and new. A new pool welcomes swimmers in the summer (the original pool cracked at the bottom one winter and had to be replaced), and a fitness center provides a place for exercise in the winter.

Blessings they may be, but they are not unearned. The people of Kulm have figured out a variety of ways to make sure their small town survives and even thrives.

"In this community, businesses seem to stay open," said Keith Kinzler, a member of the executive committee of Kulm Grocery. "It just seems Kulm has always been the type of town that has refused to die."

So how is Kulm staging a comeback?

STRONG GROUP OF COMMUNITY INVESTORS

One reason for Kulm's improvements is the Kulm Economic Development Corporation. The group was started more than 40 years ago when some community members saw the need for a veterinary clinic in town. Those community members decided to form the economic corporation, and they asked other residents to contribute \$100 each to become lifetime voting members.

"There were a few people who put in only \$99, who didn't want to be voting members," Lindgren said with a small smile.

Those \$100 contributions make up the most regular source of funds for the group. The corporation also benefits from an agreement with other area towns to share some of the proceeds of nearby wind turbines.

The corporation's main action is to provide gap funding for new or expanding businesses—helping to make up the difference between what the business owners can pull together from their own funds and from loans, and how much is actually required to start the business.

In the last six years, the economic

group has financed five or six projects. Most have succeeded, but some have not. The funds are unsecured, and so the group has not recouped its losses on occasion.

"That's the nature of the business," Lindgren said. "Sometimes, for whatever reason, (paying back the loan) just is not possible."

But there have been more successes than failures. Some of the businesses that have benefitted from the economic development group's help are a café, a grocery store, a day-care and a fitness center.

The fitness center was a little out of the usual realm of economic development, and the group had much discussion about why they should get involved.

They eventually decided that amenities such as a fitness center could make the difference between a

continued on page 40



Bruce Lindgren and his brother, Emery (not pictured), have stripped the interior of the old Methodist church in Kulm as they work on transforming it into apartments.

CHURCH SERVING A NEW COMMUNITY NEED: HOUSING

About four years ago, when a Lutheran church closed in Kulm, the building was torn down before most people in the community knew what was happening.

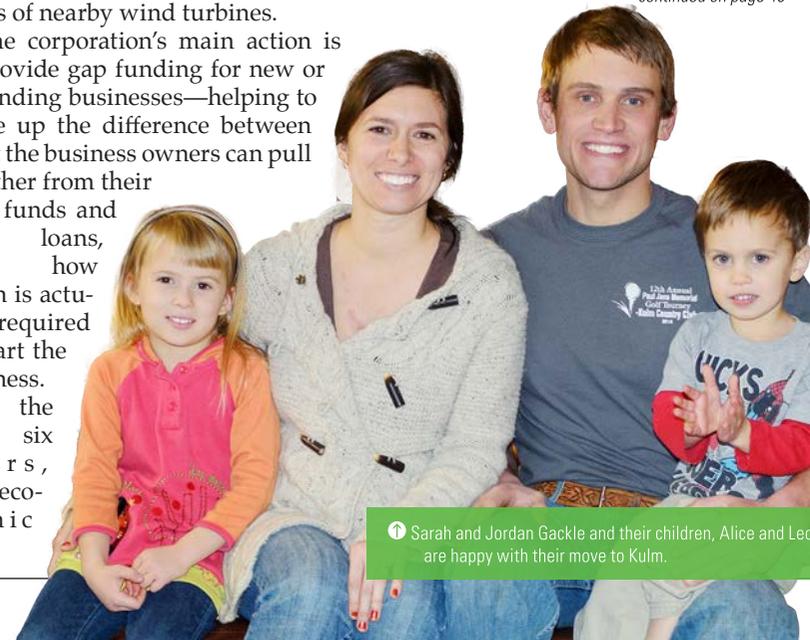
So when another church in town (this one a Methodist) closed about two years ago, Bruce Lindgren didn't hesitate. He told some of the people involved with the church that before they did anything, the economic development corporation would like to find out if there was anything they could do with the building.

The economic development group discussed a couple possibilities, and eventually Lindgren and his brother, Emery, decided to buy it and make apartments out of it. The old church will have six apartments, two on each floor, each about 1,000 square feet. They are not

intended to be for those who might have trouble with stairs—they won't be installing an elevator.

"It's not for the old people," Lindgren said. "What we're looking for is something for is the new schoolteacher that comes to town that doesn't want to rent a house and buy a snow blower and a lawn mower, or the guys that are working Fish and Wildlife that are here a couple years and in order to get a promotion they have to move someplace. They don't want to buy a house. Or the guys that work at Titan (Machinery) or Johnson's for a while, while they figure out if it's a place they want to stay."

Interested tenants will have to wait a while, however. One big part of the project, raising the roof, is still to come.



Sarah and Jordan Gackle and their children, Alice and Leo, are happy with their move to Kulm.

↓ Landyn Johnson, left, joined his father, Jerry Johnson, at Johnson Manufacturing about three years ago.



JOHNSON MANUFACTURING FOCUSES ON BENEFITS OF SMALL-TOWN LIVING

Jerry Johnson has had some trouble recruiting enough employees for his business.

"We'll have a guy come and apply for a job," Johnson said. "We can interview him, he can drive around town with his wife. We call him in two or three days and he'll say, 'My wife is thinking she doesn't want to live that far from WalMart.'"

Sometimes finding work for the wife is also part of the problem, Johnson said.

He may not be recruiting enough NASCAR fans. One of the benefits of working at Johnson Manufacturing, which makes HyGrade Pull Type Graders and trailers for combine heads, is the employee appreciation event that Johnson plans each year. Most years that means going to Fargo for a night and a Redhawks game, but last year, Johnson said if the crew reached a goal they had

set, he'd take them all to a NASCAR race.

They met the goal, and Johnson rented a bus for all the employees and their spouses to go to Kansas City.

"It was a blast," Johnson said, adding that the trip improved morale and helped the employees bond.

Johnson said he can't compete with the oil fields on pay, but he can offer good pay (including profit sharing that ends up in the thousands for most employees) in an atmosphere and a community that's more family-oriented.

"It's just a good place to raise a family," Johnson said.

Apparently, the whole Johnson family agrees: The business started with Jerry Johnson's father, Gerald Johnson Sr., and now Jerry's son, Landyn, has moved back to join the business.



ⓘ The Kulm Café is one business that benefitted from assistance from the Kulm Economic Development Corporation. The business was able to pay back the loan early, according to members of the economic development group.

continued from page 40

family deciding to move to Kulm, or deciding to move to one of the other towns in the area.

"Amenities add up for helping people make decisions about living in a particular community," Gackle said, "which then has an economic ramification—it certainly helps the community."

The group also sponsored an event called "Discover Kulm Days" last year.

The main idea of the event was to get people to think more carefully about where they spend their dollars, and the consequences those decisions have for the community. "Every dollar spent in Kulm remains a lot closer to Kulm than every dollar

spent at Wal-Mart," Gackle said.

As part of "Discover Kulm Days," the group also paid for a week's worth of advertising for Kulm businesses in the local newspaper. Many on the economic development corporation were surprised to see just how many businesses popped up to take advantage of the offer: They eventually had about three dozen ads.

"There's a lot in Kulm that people don't know about," Gackle said.

INNOVATIVE OWNERSHIP MODELS

The sign outside the bar might fool you into thinking the building houses a community development office. It

continued from page 42



ⓘ Dale Gackle, resident hardware expert in Kulm, will be retiring soon. He plans to put out his shingle to help with handiwork.

DALE'S HARDWARE FINDS AVID SUPPORTER IN OUT-OF-STATE HUNTER

Kulm's hardware store has been around since 1907, with Dale Gackle at the helm for 30 years. Gackle put the "for sale" sign up in May.

"It's time," he said.

Some in Kulm said they saw the sign and had a sinking feeling in the pit of their stomach, worried that this long-time business would close for good.

Someone else heard the business was for sale and had a different feeling: Too bad the timing isn't right, Andrew McDermott told his wife.

McDermott lives in Farmington, Minn., but has been coming to Kulm for years hunting.

"He's just always loved the community," said Gackle, who related the story. Before this, McDermott had at one point told his wife, "Boy, someday, I'd like to

settle down in Kulm and run the hardware store."

But in May, he had a job in Minnesota, and it didn't seem right to leave.

Then McDermott was laid off. Maybe the time was right after all.

Since then, McDermott has helped in the store on several occasions, including running the store when Gackle's father passed away in September.

McDermott has discussed some of his plans with Gackle.

He says, 'I don't want to get rich.' And I say, 'You don't have to worry about that because that's never gonna happen,'" Gackle said. "He said, 'I just want to make a living.' And I said, 'if you run it right you can make a living.'"

The parties hope to have the sale finalized by Jan. 1.



NOW HIRING!
SALES
PARTS
SERVICE

Aberdeen
605-225-6772

Webster
605-345-3391

Redfield
605-472-2540



www.rdoequipment.com



These folks help Kulm Grocery serve the community: Keith Kinzler, governing board member; Susan Ukaonu; Phyllis Dotzenrodt; Diane Batsch, co-manager; and Jolene Kinzler, co-manager.

KULM GROCERY FINDS SUCCESS IN GOOD SALES AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

A few years ago, Kulm Grocery was really struggling. A group of investors decided to buy the store, and after one false start, business has been gradually improving through the years. Getting a supplier that offered more selection has helped, as has negotiations with suppliers to get better prices.

And like many other businesses in town, Kulm Grocery appreciates its hunters.

"We always say ... fall is kind of our Christmas," said Keith Kinzler, member of the governing board of the grocery store. "If we can do fairly decent through September, then we know we're going to have a couple good months."

"And now we've got Thanksgiving, and we've got Christmas," said manager Diane Batsch, adding that these good months will carry them through slower

times in midwinter.

Part of that appreciation is showing great service. Kinzler, who owns A and K Collision Repair, said he loaned out his own truck to hunters who came in needing a repair so they wouldn't lose a day of hunting.

Batsch said she got a call during Wednesday evening Bible study on her cell phone: A group of hunters wanted to buy some ribeye after hours. She went to the store and let them in to make their purchases.

"They said, 'I can't believe you're letting us buy these,'" Batsch said.

Then they mentioned they were out of propane, so Batsch offered to let them use her grill.

"They weren't used to that," she said. "But this is a small town. This is how we are."



The bar in Kulm is owned and operated by the fire department. Kulm residents have never heard of another arrangement like it in the U.S.

continued from page 40

reads, "Kulm Civic Improvement."

It is a bit of a joke, but not entirely, because the bar is owned by the Kulm Fire Department. The volunteer firefighters make up the board of the bar, and a smaller group of six firefighters manages more of the day-to-day decisions.

There may not be too many other places in the U.S. where you can feel this good about buying beer or liquor, as the profits from the bar are donated back into the community.

The ambulance service received \$20,000 and the fire department received \$20,000 for new vehicles.

The building of city hall was also done with all donated work and money, and the new swimming pool received funds from the firefighters, said Gary Brovold, firefighter and president of the bar board.

"Over the years, that bar has donated a lot of money within the community," Brovold said. "That's basically (the only place) it goes."

Another nontraditional business structure is in place at Kulm Grocery. About seven years ago, a group of investors put money in to get the store going again. They hired new employees (and retained some old ones,

including the makers of the town's famous LeRoy's sausage) and set about making the business profitable.

They had some hard years, but Diane Batsch, one of the store managers, says the business is now holding its own. They added a bakery to their operation recently, which has proved to be popular.

"We just keep building. Building and building," Batsch said. "We had a new ceiling last year. Every year or

young people who have chosen to live in Kulm in recent years. Jordan and Sarah lived in Vancouver, British Columbia, for four years before moving back to Kulm, where Jordan grew up.

"One of the things we liked about that city was that it was a very neighborhood-oriented city," Jordan said. "We could pretty much walk everywhere we needed to."

"There's a lot in Kulm that people don't know about."

so we like to do a big project like that. Just to make improvements like that helps get customers in the door."

POSITIVE RETURN

The energy going on about town seems to be attractive to young families. A number have moved back in recent years, and residents have heard of some others who would consider moving to Kulm if they could find a place to live.

Fathers in some of the new young families in the community work in the oil field. They have likely weighed the quality of life and the relative costs of living and decided that a long commute at the end of a work rotation is better than having the wife and kids in the boomtown mentality of the oil field.

Jordan and Sarah Gackle are two

Then the Gackles moved to a Twin Cities suburb for a few years and had a completely different experience.

"For us, it was just depressing," Jordan said. "It was hard to connect with people. We couldn't walk anywhere. We had to drive at least 20 minutes to get groceries, to get simple things.

"We started comparing (and realized) the closest thing to Vancouver is Kulm."

In Kulm, a few things were missing, such as a clothing store and cultural events, for which they'd still have to drive. But they could walk to get nearly everything else.

"As far as day-to-day life, Kulm compared better to our experience (in Vancouver) than did the Twin Cities," Jordan said. "We can get everything we need (in Kulm)."

You Dream it, We Build it!

Brian Pfeiffer/David Sandquist
Owners/ Certified Welders
1105 S. 2nd St.
1(605)725-5575

Aluminum Welding
Stainless Steel
Carbon Steel
Fabrication

Mobile Welding For On-site Repairs

30 yrs of Welding Experience

DURALITE TRAILERS
Livestock Trailers
All Riveted, All Aluminum, All The Time!

Duralite Trailers, LLC

2500 SERIES
2009, 2010,
2011 and 2012
SD State Fair
GRAND CHAMPION TRAILER

Scott Schiffner
(2012 CFR Champion Bull Rider)

Ranches with Duralite Trailers

1-800-437-8931 • www.duralitetrailers.com

Dealer Inquiries Welcome!

Long-Term Care Insurance

Submitted by Pam Lewis,
Employee Benefits Sales Manager,
Dacotah Insurance

Have you ever worried about medical costs consuming your savings?

Rising medical costs and longer life expectancies are making this a concern for many. There are some government programs like Medicaid and Medicare that can help cover some expenses of long-term care. However, there are restrictions on what is covered and qualifying for these programs may only be possible after you have used all your personal savings.

With long-term care insurance, you will be in a better position to get the care and services you need. You will have a greater opportunity to choose the type of care you want. You can protect your other assets and be in a better position to leave assets to heirs when you pass away. You will be in more control of your financial future.

The Costs of Long-term Care

Several studies have found that a year's stay in a nursing home can cost over \$50,000. Even the cost of having a skilled professional come to your home and provide care three times a

week can be over \$15,000 annually depending on what type of care you need. While life expectancies are increasing, amount of care we need (and its cost) seems to be increasing even faster.

Paying for Long-term Care

Neither Medicare nor private medical insurance cover most long-term care costs. Medicare will pay for some special services, but most people receiving long-term care need help with things not covered, like bathing, dressing and eating. In most cases, Medicare does not cover these.

Medicaid will cover nursing home care, but it functions like a safety-net type program. To get Medicaid help, you must meet federal and state guidelines for income and assets. Many people

start paying for care out of their personal assets and then qualify for Medicaid when their personal assets are depleted. While some assets and income can be protected, by the time you qualify for Medicaid, you will probably have used up most of the assets you had hoped to pass on to surviving family members.

Long-term care insurance is another way to pay for some or all of your long-term care. This type of insurance was introduced in the 1980s as nursing home insurance but now covers a great deal more. The greatest benefits of these policies are that they enable you to make more decisions about your care and they help protect your other assets.



Some Guidelines

1. Usually, age 50 is the time to consider a long-term care policy. Younger than that, you probably do not need it and older than that, you may have a condition that could prevent you from qualifying or result in higher premiums. The earlier you buy the coverage, the lower the premiums.
2. Be sure the insurance company is financially sound. You may qualify for benefits for a long time and you want the insurance company to be around. You can get ratings reports from your agent or at the library on insurance companies.
3. Review what types of expenses are covered by the policy. Some policies provide coverage for only some services, a limited period of time or only up to a certain total dollar limit. As you would expect, the more services covered, the higher the premium.
4. Get the coverage you need. Many experts suggest at least three years' coverage. While three years in a nursing home today may cost \$150,000, be sure the policy you are considering protects you against medical cost inflation.
5. Review the elimination period. This refers to the amount of time between when you start receiving care and when your insurance starts paying.
6. Be sure to understand what makes you eligible for benefits.
7. Make sure the policy is guaranteed renewable. This does not necessarily mean that your premiums will not rise. It does mean you can still get the coverage.

Summary

Long-term care insurance may be a critical part of your overall financial plan. Long-term care insurance can be purchased as an individual, as a couple, or can be offered payroll deduct as a voluntary benefit to employees providing simplified underwriting. Employer contributions for qualified long-term care are excludable from employee income, except for contributions under a cafeteria plan or flexible spending account. Employers may deduct their own qualified premium contributions as trade or business expenses. Self-employed individuals may deduct qualified long-term care premiums as health insurance expenses under special maximum caps. Consider purchasing a long-term care plan with its many tax advantages and preserve the assets you have worked so hard to accumulate.

DACOTAH
INSURANCE[®]
*Here for you.*SM

Dacotah Insurance is an independent insurance agency representing some of the nation's largest and strongest insurance companies. Our experienced employee benefits specialists offer products that will best fit your business needs, providing the service features you desire.

For more information contact:

PAM LEWIS
Employee Benefits Sales Manager

Dacotah Insurance
300 S Phillips Ave
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
(605) 331-6341 Ext. 6478

pam.lewis@dacotahbank.com
dacotahbank.com

Insurance is not FDIC Insured.

A Hunting Story

by KEITH SCHUMACHER

It was mid-afternoon on a cold December day, but the obscured sun was already edging lower as the shortest days of the year were upon the countryside. There I was, near a frozen riparian paradise in a tree that was creaking and bending in cold prairie winds that swept down from Canadian tundra so far north. I was standing there in a homemade hunting stand, hoping for the chance at a very late-season deer. My bow ready, an arrow nocked, I waited in dreary skies and air temperatures that were -10 F and dropping fast.

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD

In each issue of *Dakotafire* and regularly online at Dakotafire.net, we will feature a "Postcard"—a short, evocative story about an event, person or place, written as if you were telling the story to a friend. Some ideas: hunting stories, the highlight of a big basketball game, or a moment in history. Story must have a photo to accompany it. Digital images (a minimum of 1000 pixels wide) are preferred; you can also send a photo by mail.

E-mail submissions to heidi@dakotafire.net, or mail to **Dakotafire Media, Postcard Submission, PO Box 603, Frederick, SD 57441**.

While many may not equate "paradise" with much of anything in the northern reaches of South Dakota at the end of December, the areas in and around Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge have always held a special mystique. The trees grow bigger, the crops grow bigger, and all wildlife flourishes in the richness of the James River Valley. It truly is a special and holy place for those who respect it. Even in the depths of that cold and the incredible silence that settled in after hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese abandoned this way station on their travels southward, that place is subtly inviting, presenting an opportunity to grow and to learn no matter who you are.

Something interesting happens in a hunting stand. You get time to think. But it is not the place where thoughts turn to school or the office or the business of modern human life. I contemplate my place on this earth. Indeed, I contemplate my existence in that specific moment. It is utterly quiet, with senses tightly

tuned to the world immediately surrounding you, and slowly, oh so slowly, one gains the feeling of truly becoming one with nature. Every other hunter I know understands this. It is a shame that more people cannot experience this all-too-brief version of "wolakota"—a Lakota Sioux word that roughly means being balanced and in harmony with your surroundings.

As sunset approached, the surface winds began to subside as the air nearly froze in place. On the edge of the horizon, the cloud cover was being quickly swept away by high altitude winds, revealing the setting sun. With the wind in my marsh a mere whisper what it had been, and the hyper-cold air transmitting sound waves more efficiently, I could literally hear everything for miles.

The deer stepped out less than 100 yards away, and knowing the trails as I did, I knew it would be moving past me. It was a small deer—not one I normally would have taken, but it was late December as well. As it moved closer, I could hear the combined crunch of snow and ice and leaves under its hooves with each passing step, making its way towards me in the most brilliant last orange-red sunlight of the day. Forty yards, twenty yards, ten yards, and then directly below me.

"I shouldn't be able to make the shot," I thought to myself, believing the sounds of drawing the bow back in this utter silence would alert the deer. Then I thought that if I can draw the bow without alerting it, the deer is meant to be mine. I drew back

the string, laid the sight pin on the vitals of this deer only 10 feet directly below me. The deer looked around perhaps thinking something is not quite right, and he paused.

I released. The arrow flew straight down, passing directly through the deer and embedding itself into the hard frozen ground. The deer bolted, running west about twenty yards before stopping and turning broadside to me. It was looking back at me, breathing hard, but just standing there. The setting sun behind it cast the most beautiful light that caught and amplified the glistening of frost in its fur. The horizon ablaze but fading, a crimson and purple twilight sky was taking over. I could see blood dripping, and each breath it took instantly condensed and froze, hanging in mid-air and refracting those last few remnants of that magical sunlight. I will never forget that site. Fifteen seconds later, the deer fell over.

There was no rejoicing. There was me, and a deer, and harmony, and a feeling that this was LIFE as it was meant to be. I was transformed in that moment, no longer just an observer, but a true participant. Hunters will understand this. I hope the rest will someday have a chance to understand. ✨

→ **Keith Schumacher** is a native of Aberdeen, South Dakota, having spent much of his life there and in Pierre. He has spent the last 10 years teaching in California, and gaining a greater appreciation for South Dakota each year. He hopes to make a permanent return soon.



↑ Dakota winter. Photo by Keith Schumacher



Teacher's aide Linda Gutschmidt helps a kindergarten student with her keyboarding lesson at Gackle-Streeter Public School. Photo by Melody Owen/Tri-County News

Screens, Technology are Commonplace in Dakota Classrooms

While health experts warn of the effect of too much screen time for children, schools increase their use of technology, in part to meet Common Core standards and ways of testing. The key is how the technology is used, school leaders say.

www.dakotafire.net/?p=5803

Dakota Bees That Pollinate Crops Nationwide are Struggling

Area beekeepers are suffering from bee die-offs in numbers they call unsustainable, which threatens not only their livelihood but could also affect hundreds of crops that depend on pollination by bees.

www.dakotafire.net/?p=5633



Addressing a Growing Physician Shortage May Not Be as Simple as Adding More Doctors

If the physician shortage is the result of too much demand (for health care services) and too little supply (physicians to provide health care services), the marketplace answer would be to either lessen demand or increase supply. Policymakers are trying to adjust both sides of this equation to make sure that people get the care they need when they need it.

www.dakotafire.net/?p=5504



A Varroa mite (indicated with red circle) can be seen under the wing of this bee from Miller Honey Farms in Gackle, N.D. Beekeepers say the mites cause many problems for them. Researchers from the University of Minnesota say that poor nutrition resulting from habitat loss may be making the mite situation worse. Photo by Lindsay Anderson/Tri-County News

Bee Losses That Threaten Industry Partly Related to Change in Dakota Landscape

What is causing the significant increase in bee die-offs in the past decade? Recent research suggests there's no single cause, instead pointing to several factors that combine or interact to weaken or kill bees. But according to an ongoing study in Stutsman County, N.D., at least one of those causes is tied to changes in the Dakota land where those bees buzz away their summers: The conversion of grassland to cropland is affecting bees' diets, which makes them less healthy.

www.dakotafire.net/?p=5650



Bees in a hive at Miller Honey Farm in Gackle, N.D. Photo by Melody Owen/Tri-County News



Making Life Better

Therapy Services Close to Home at Sanford Aberdeen

Whether you are an adult recovering from an injury or a baby trying to learn a new skill, if you need rehabilitative services, receiving it close to home matters.

An unexpected fall on the sidewalk changed everything for Julie Janisch.

After her concussion, the Aberdeen woman suddenly found herself having trouble with the most basic skills. Speech, the ways her eyes tracked and even just regular balance seemed tricky.

Specialists in Sioux Falls said she'd need months of therapy to get life back to normal. But how would she fit appointments for occupational, speech and physical therapy around her work schedule and daily life?

"I knew that I couldn't drive three hours one-way for therapy no matter how badly I needed it," says Janisch. "I was so lucky to have a facility in my own backyard with providers I love dearly."

The expert staff at Sanford Aberdeen provides a variety of therapies helping patients like Janisch heal from injury or improve their daily lives. Experienced therapists treat patients of all ages, from infants through senior citizens, helping them with all of their therapy needs close to home.

After her diagnosis, Janisch began appointments six times a week with the therapists at Sanford Aberdeen. She was able to work full-time throughout her treatments and still do the therapeutic work she needed to recover fully from her brain injury.

Her therapists, Sunny, Elaine and Chrissy, helped her understand what she had lost in the accident and helped to rebuild her new life. One therapist even went to Sioux Falls to consult with therapists there to make sure they were offering Janisch everything she needed.

After those "dark days" following her concussion, she finally understood

why life was so hard. And she did what she needed to make it better.

"I could get in my car and be there in five minutes," says Janisch. "We are so lucky to have a facility like this in Aberdeen."

Sanford Aberdeen not only provides therapy services for adults, but also children in need of specialized care during the important developmental stages in their lives.

Jacey Friedt, of Oakes, N.D., appreciated the convenience of the Sanford Aberdeen therapies department. Friedt noticed her third child, Easton, wasn't doing any of the developmental things he should be doing at two months of age. A trip to Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls showed her baby boy had severe reflux issues.

Therapists in Aberdeen had specialty training in a neuromuscular electrical stimulation program that could help little Easton with his swallowing

technique. His therapists, Chrissy and Nicole, worked with him patiently and lovingly, explaining that once he could get past his reflux issues, he would have the energy to develop other muscles and thrive.

"They have given him every chance and opportunity that he deserved," says Friedt. "I cannot even thank them enough for all that they have done for us."

Friedt was able to get her baby the care she needed without having to drive to Sioux Falls. And today Easton is a content little boy, who now likes to move and explore, cuddle with his mother and interact with his two big sisters.

"He is just a completely different baby now," says his mom. "They gave us hope and we weren't getting that anywhere else."

To learn more about therapy services at Sanford Aberdeen, call (605) 626-4380.



423 S Main Street Suite 1
Aberdeen SD 57401

READY TO RETAIN AND ATTRACT TOP TALENT?

Pay isn't the only carrot. Build a benefits package on your own terms.

You can attract and retain the top talent in the market with a sound employee benefits package – health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, and retirement plans. To learn how affordable employee benefits will contribute to the growth and profitability of your organization, let's talk. **One conversation will change the way you think about insurance.**

**THE ART OF
DIALOGUE**



**I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOU
ABOUT GROUP BENEFITS.**

PAM LEWIS, Insurance Agent
(605) 331-4000 / pam.lewis@dacotahbank.com

I look forward to our conversation!
Pam



Here for you.™

Insurance and Trust not FDIC Insured.

