

May 2015

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Thank you, retirees, for 240 years of service

The eight staff members pictured below have worked in education a total of 240 years, 196 of which have been with Meade School District. During their tenure, these employees have been mentors to many and an inspiration to all. Because of their fairness and understanding, they have developed friendships with peers and students that will continue long after they leave Meade School District. (Continued on Page 8)



Lon Harter



Dede Long



Dave Martinson



Randi Oviatt

Retirees will be honored at a reception
set for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13,
in the west gym at Sturgis Brown High School



Sharon Rank



Lois Rath



Joyce Schieffer



Deb Schnell

Sturgis High School graduation is May 17

The graduation ceremony for Sturgis Brown High School Class of 2015 will be 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17, in the west gym at SBHS. There are no reserved seats, and tickets are not needed for admission to graduation.

Class motto, a quote from Abraham Lincoln, is "Whatever you are, be a good one."

The class flower is the Latin lady rose with gold sparkle tips and the class color is gold. The class poem, written by senior Jesse Skidmore, is titled "Do Not Be Afraid." The class song is "On Top of the World" by Imagine Dragons.

Class speakers will be Seth Gerberding and Jordan Smith.

Baccalaureate: Senior send-off is May 10

Baccalaureate for graduating seniors throughout Meade County will be 6 p.m. Sunday, May 10, at the Sturgis Community Center Theatre.

Speakers are Sturgis Brown High School seniors Illianna Shuck and Taylee Hudson.

The program will include musical numbers per-

formed by senior students from LifeSpring Wesleyan Church and skits by junior students who attend Grace Lutheran Church and LifeSpring Wesleyan.

Baccalaureate is sponsored by the Sturgis Alliance of Churches.

Reception for SWMS eighth-graders is May 14

A reception to recognize and honor the Sturgis Williams Middle School eighth grade students will be held from 5-6 p.m. Thursday, May 14, in Grunwald Auditorium.

The reception is being held in lieu of gradua-

tion, which was discontinued several years ago, and is a way to support the students as they prepare for their high school experience.

The reception will be followed by a dance for the students from 6-8 p.m.

In Touch

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Questions or comments about the contents of this publication should be directed to the editor.

This publication can be found on the district website:
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Jumpstart to Kindergarten at Sturgis Elementary is May 7

As a way to ensure that children are ready to enter school to learn and succeed, the staff at Sturgis Elementary is sponsoring a program that will help bridge the transition from preschool or home environments to kindergarten.

The program, Jumpstart to Kindergarten, will be held 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at Sturgis Elementary School. All parents of preschool-aged children are encouraged to attend. Activities will be provided for the children and information for the parents. A snack will also be provided. Parents will be able to move from station-to-station with their child, meet the kindergarten teachers, and tour the building.

The stations are designed to provide parents and children with an experience similar to what a kindergarten student may experience in a classroom setting. For further information, call Principal Chantal Ligtenberg or Assistant Principal Ann Nonnast at 347-2386.

Deadline for reservations is May 5

Employees will be honored at May 13 retirement and recognition reception

A public reception will be held Wednesday, May 13, to honor the Meade School District employees who are retiring, those who have worked 15, 20, 30 and 35 years, and those who have been selected as teacher and professional technical support staff of the year.

The buffet reception and program will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the west gym at Sturgis Brown High School. This free event, sponsored by the Meade School Board, is open to the public. Those attending must make reservations so that an accurate count can be taken.

Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, May 5. To reserve a spot, call the superintendent's office at 347-2523, ext. 2.

Honorees include the following, all of whom will be retiring at the end of the current school year: Lon Harter, principal, Sturgis Williams Middle School; Dede Long, administrative assistant, Buildings and Grounds; David Martinson, instrumental music teacher, Sturgis Brown High School; Randi Oviatt, district nurse; Lois Rath, third grade teacher, Piedmont Valley Elementary School; Joyce Schieffer, first grade teacher, Sturgis Elementary School; and Deb Schnell, first grade teacher, Sturgis Elementary School. Sharon Rank, administrative assistant in the school nurses' office, retired earlier in the school year.

Employees recognized for 35 years of service are Ann Kling, kindergarten teacher at Whitewood Elementary School, and Jan Steffes, third grade teacher at Sturgis Elementary School.

Staff members with 30 years of service include Gregory Albright, general worker, Food Service; Francie Brink, paraprofessional, rural schools; Jerri Heggem, intervention teacher, Sturgis Elementary School; Shari Keffeler, second grade teacher, Sturgis Elementary School; and Randi Oviatt, school nurse.

Twenty-year honorees include Doug Draine,

safety and environmental field worker, Buildings and Grounds; Jill Eymer, sixth grade teacher, Whitewood Elementary School; Marlene Kotab, music teacher, Whitewood Elementary School; Cathryn Nissen, head custodian, Piedmont Valley Elementary School; and Becky Peterson, seventh grade reading teacher, Sturgis Williams Middle School.

Those recognized for 15 years of service are Darla DeKraai, independent living and child development teacher, Sturgis Brown High School; Clarence Grate, custodian, Sturgis Williams Middle School; Shelly Inhofer, second grade teacher, Sturgis Elementary School; Scott Peterson, business, personal finance and career planning teacher, Sturgis Brown High School; Sharon Rank, administrative assistant, nurses' office; Wanda Russell, third grade teacher, Sturgis Elementary School; and Carol Waider, second grade teacher, Piedmont Valley Elementary School.

The other honorees include Cathie Anderson, Teacher of the Year for 2015, and Dede Long, Professional Technical Support Staff of the Year for 2015. Anderson is an eighth grade reading teacher at Sturgis Williams Middle School and Long is an administrative assistant at Buildings and Grounds.

Also honored will be building/department level nominees for Teacher of the Year: Katie Harrington, second grade, Piedmont Valley Elementary; Cary Johnston, K-8 special education, rural schools; Ann Kling, kindergarten, Whitewood Elementary; Debby Neiman, kindergarten, Sturgis Elementary; and Carolyn Schuldies, ninth grade special education, Sturgis Brown High School.

The building/department level nominees for Professional Technical Support Staff of the Year will also be honored and include Roger Barker, custodian, Sturgis Elementary; Norma Howard, STOP coordinator, SWMS; and Deb Luger, accounts payable, district business office.

Peter Wilson and Ann Nonnast hired as principals at SBHS, SWMS

A high school principal from Upton, Wyo., Peter Wilson, will lead Sturgis Brown High School in the coming school year while Ann Nonnast, who currently serves as Assistant Principal at Sturgis Williams Middle School and Sturgis Elementary School, will take over the helm of the middle school.



Wilson



Nonnast

Nonnast has been in education for 33 years, the last 27 with Meade School District where she started out as a special education resource room teacher and collaborative teacher, and later worked as the 540 coordinator and Teacher Assistance Team coordinator for the Special Services Department.

Meade School Board members approved the hiring of the two educators during their April board meeting.

"We are sad to see long-term administrators leave," said Superintendent Don Kirkegaard, "but we are excited about our new hires."

Wilson has been the principal of Upton High School for five years. Previous to that, he was a math teacher for 15 years, including one year in Luverne, Minn., five years at McCook Central in Salem, six years at Spearfish, and three years at Sioux Falls Lincoln.

For the last six years Nonnast has served as the assistant principal of Sturgis Williams Middle School and Sturgis Elementary School.

Wilson replaces Jeff Simmons who is leaving after nine years to become president of the Aberdeen Catholic School System. Nonnast replaces her longtime co-worker Lon Harter, who is retiring after 36 years with Meade School District.

Wilson and Nonnast will assume their new positions on July 1.

David Olson is new assistant principal

Sturgis Brown High School social studies teacher Dave Olson has been hired as the assistant principal for Sturgis Elementary School and Sturgis Williams Middle School effective July 1.

"We welcome Dave to our administrative team," said Superintendent Don Kirkegaard, who added that seven candidates, all school district employees, interviewed for the position and that all were quality candidates.

"I am honored to join the administrative team at Sturgis Elementary and Sturgis Williams Middle School," said Olson, who has been a teacher with Meade School District for nine years. "I am excited to work with two exceptional groups of teachers, and am grateful for



Olson

the opportunity to serve the students and staff of Meade School District."

Olson chairs the district Social Studies Department and is a member of the Instructional Council. He researched and designed the Small Learning Community that is currently in place for the ninth-graders at the high school.

He received a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education from Black Hills State University in 2005 and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, also from BHSU, in 2009. He will receive

his educational specialist degree in education administration (pre K-12 principal certification) this May from the University of South Dakota.

Close friends share districtwide honors

The Meade School District Teacher of the Year for 2015 is Cathie Anderson and the Meade School District Professional Technical Support Staff member of the Year for 2015 is Dede Long. The two women were selected for the honor from among nominees submitted by the administrative units throughout the district. The two women have also been close friends since the early 1960s, when they both attended kindergarten at the home of Ramona (Britton) Saubers, who taught the class before it was offered through the school district.

"We were both so surprised that we were chosen together," said Dede. "What a sweet, sweet surprise."

Cathie is an eighth grade reading teacher at Sturgis Williams Middle School while Dede is an administrative assistant at Buildings and Grounds in the central copying and receiving office.

Dedicated, kind, compassionate, hardworking and loyal are just some of the words used by Cathie Anderson's nominators to describe the 21-year employee.

"Cathie develops extensive lesson plans that include a thorough understanding of the Common Core standards that push her students to their optimum level," said a nominator. "One example includes a cross-curricular unit on the Holocaust dealing with real life situations and events that happened in history. In addition to her lessons, she has brought in numerous speakers to enhance student learning."

Students love her class and are motivated to give 100 percent, according to a co-worker. "When she praises students for their efforts, she is specific and sincere. She is quick on her feet to praise success but also firm in her approach to redirect when needed."

Another co-worker, who happens to be a first year teacher, offered her praise of and thanks for Cathie. "Cathie has gone above and beyond to help me out. She has been there with answers and sup-

port when I wasn't sure what to do. Cathie truly goes the extra mile for her students, whether it is helping them to better understand a concept or to simply be interested in their extracurricular activities."

Another nominator said that Cathie is a wonderful teacher and asset to the district. "She is dedicated to her students and is determined to have each student rise to his or her fullest potential. She is an excellent choice for Teacher of the Year."

Dede Long's nominators all agree that she bends over backwards at a drop of the hat to satisfy the copying needs of the staff and students, and that she is very pleasant with whom to work and always has a smile on her face.

The 12-year employee has also been referred to as the "Energizer Bunny" because of her efficient and quick delivery of orders.

"Dede provides exceptional service at Central Copy. Her copying and laminating is always done as ordered, and if there are any questions, she goes out of her way to clarify the requests," said a nominator.

"She even created a system whereby she was able to anticipate and provide copied and laminated materials for future years and for new teachers without redoing everything that had been done previously."

"Dede is one of those people who makes our school district an awesome place to work and learn, and always with that wonderful smile," said another nominator. "What sets Dede apart from others is her attitude for the job and her love for people. I have never seen her treat someone poorly. I have never seen her in a bad mood."

Even though Dede's job is behind the scenes, her nominators say Meade School District is fortunate to have someone with such a strong work ethic and commitment to supporting all others in the district with the work she does. "She is a true professional and very deserving of this award."



Anderson



Long

“The Legend of Robin Hood...Sort Of” is this year’s children’s show

The drama students at Sturgis Brown High School will present the comedic spoof "The Legend of Robin Hood...Sort Of" for their annual spring children's show.

Performances for Meade School District students will take place during the morning and afternoon of Monday and Tuesday, May 4 and 5.

The public performance is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, at the Sturgis Community Center

Theatre. There is no admission but donations are accepted.

SBHS senior Chris Wheeler, who is directing the production for his senior English project under the guidance of teacher and director June Dill, said the production is exactly like the title implies except there is a comical take on the classic story.

"Robin Hood, portrayed by Jesse Skidmore, and all of the people under the temporary rule of the tyrannical King John

(Jordan Mullen) have their land and estates taken from them," Wheeler explained. "Robin, aided by the monk Friar Tuck (Jordan Smith), his gang of merry 'men,' and his best friend Little John (Kellen Barden) decide to take matters into their own hands and attempt to overthrow the king."

"The result is probably not quite how you remember it," Wheeler continued, "but it promises to entertain all audiences."



Attending the King’s festival are, from the left, Griffin Davies, Kyle Jones, Brendan Van Pelt, Keith Grant, Claire Hilton, Abbie Barker and Seth Gerberding; front, Drew Concha, Amber Solaas, Rileigh Kronmiller and Sam Colvin. Not pictured is Tanner VanSickle.



In the photo at the left, Robin, portrayed by Jesse Skidmore, back center, gets help from Friar Tuck (Jordan Smith), back left, and Little John (Kellen Barden) back right. In front are the witches of the woods, from the left, Witch One (James Fleming), Witch Way (Willow Cowherd) and Witch Time (Erika Cerveny).



King Richard, played by Brandon Loomis, seated, is surrounded by, from the left, the Sheriff (Gwen Hoops) and members of the Royal Court, Guard (Jason Schneider), King John (Jordan Mullen), Guard (Gabe Harms) and Marian (Emily Linneweber). Additional photos can be found on the school district website.

RETIREEES:

Continued from Page 1

Sturgis Williams Middle School Principal **Lon Harter** has been in education 41 years - 36 years with Meade School District and five years with the Haakon School District in Philip. He began his career at Sturgis Elementary where he was a fifth grade teacher for three years and a sixth grade science teacher for 2 years.

Lon was then hired as the elementary school principal in Philip, a position he held for five years. His responsibilities included overseeing 13 rural schools in addition to the one elementary school in Philip. "I had never been in a rural school until the superintendent took me to one before I was hired," he said. Lon notes that one of the difficulties he faced in that position was the fact that two of the rural schools were in the Central Time Zone while the others operated in the Mountain Time Zone.

Lon returned to Sturgis in 1984 when he was hired as the middle school principal. That was also the same year that the middle school changed from a junior high school of seventh and eighth grades to a middle school of fifth through eighth grades.

It was during his administration that two major construction projects took place. The first, in 1999-2000, consisted of enclosing the interior courtyard for additional classrooms, cafeteria and other uses. The second, in 2013-2014, was the reconstruction of the collapsed roof and interior remodeling resulting from Storm Atlas. It was during both those projects that Lon also had to

secure alternate classrooms in the community for the students. The first relocation lasted two months while the most recent relocation was almost 10 months.

"When I think about my time at SWMS, what I'll remember most are the great students and staff," he said. Over the years he has hired 11 former students of his to be teachers including Kerry Skinner, who is currently a seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher at SWMS, who was a student in his fifth grade classroom. There are also numerous second-generation students attending SWMS including some whose parents he had as students while working in Philip.

Lon had considered retiring last year, but with the roof collapse and reconstruction, the timing wasn't right. This year it is. "I am not counting off the days on the calendar, but I am ready and looking forward to retirement," he said. Though he has no specific plans for retirement, he has maintained strong friendships with many of his former staff members, and so weekly rounds of golf aren't out of the question.

Dede Long has been an employee of the school district for 12 years. She started out as a substitute teacher in the rural schools and as a volunteer at the Enning School Library. She then worked as a paraprofessional at the Opal School until the fall of 2007 when she became an administrative assistant in the Central Copy Receiving Office for Buildings and Grounds.

Dede's commute to work is 60 miles one way from her home near Red Owl in north central Meade County. She says that it's that daily drive to her workplace in the Building and Grounds building on the campus of Sturgis Brown High School that gets her motivated and energized for the day's work.

"During my drive I draw energy for my workday from the beauty of God's great land - seeing the magnificent bald eagles, antelope, deer, turkeys and even a mink! When Storm Atlas raged through western South Dakota in 2013 and after the roads opened and I was able to resume my commute, I witnessed the most memorable moment of my life," she said. "Thousands of dead cattle strewn across the pastures and hung up in the fences as they had trudged south looking for protection from the hurricane-strength winds, first rain, then heavy snow. Then for weeks they laid by the roadside for the State's removal process. The power lines were down for miles and miles, some broken in half standing jagged in their lineup. It was a most humbling experience that fall and winter and made me thankful for every waking moment of my life," she said.

She thanks everyone for all the kind words throughout her years with the district. Her plans following retirement are to help her husband on the ranch, spend more time with the children and grandchildren, and pursue her passion of photography.

RETIREEES:

Continued from Page 8

Dave Martinson has been a band director for 39 years, the last 23 at Sturgis Brown High School. Other locations where he taught are Flandreau, White, Brookings and Hartford, and Mansfield (Penn.) University.

Dave said two of the highlights while with Meade School District include playing with the school's Symphonic Band for the State Music Convention in 1999 and also performing with the Symphonic Band in Washington, D.C. in 2000. Another milestone, he said, was setting the school record in 1999 when five of his students were selected for All-State Band. He is also very proud of the success of the Jazz Band program in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

"Of course the most enjoyable part of the job," he added, "is the day-to-day interaction with the students."

During his time in Sturgis, Dave was named Meade School District Teacher of the Year in 1997. He was also selected Outstanding Bandmaster for South Dakota in 2011 by the S.D. Bandmasters Association, which is comprised of music educators, for his achievements in the field of instrumental music education, and for his exemplary service, dedication and professionalism.

Regarding retirement, he said he will continue directing the bands at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, which he has done on a part-time basis for the past two years, and will also

continue serving as the choir director at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Rapid City.

"Meade School District has been a great place to be over the past 23 years," he said. "I've been very blessed to work with the students and faculty at Sturgis High School.

Randi Oviatt, the Meade School District Employee of the Year in 2001 and the South Dakota School Nurse of the Year in 2010, began her 30-year nursing career with Meade School District by helping with the student screenings and working part-time at Whitewood Elementary School.

Over the years Randi has worked at all Meade School District schools. Presently, Randi is most often at Sturgis Williams Middle School, but also covers Whitewood Elementary and the five rural schools. She also spends two to three hours, three to four days a week at Sturgis Elementary School.

The biggest change she has witnessed over the years is the increase of chronic illnesses in students. "Students with diabetes, asthma, seizures, autism and cancer diagnoses have increased immensely over the years," she said. "The school nurses' office is always busy."

Her list of fond memories includes the camaraderie with staff, students and parents. "Watching students grow and blossom from kindergartners to seniors, having school-to-work students in our

office who then go on to become caring nurses and nurse anesthetist are things that I will miss. I will also miss all my 'kids' and true friends in Meade School District," she says. "I am thankful for everyone I have learned from and those who influenced and enriched my life. I am so lucky to have had this experience."

Regarding her retirement, Randi said when she is not traveling and eating good food, she will be helping her almost 90-year-old parents. She also plans on spending time with her six grandchildren, volunteering, gardening, camping and going on a mission trip. "I am not one to sit still for long," she added, "so maybe I will also work a little."

Sharon Rank, who retired in January, worked for 15 years as an administrative assistant and medical aide tech in the district school nurses' office, about which she says, "I really think I had the best job in the district. I enjoyed every single day I worked there."

Sharon says every day at work was an adventure because each day was a little different. "I loved all the kids coming in to say hello or to get a hug. Some would even come in and tell me about their day and what was so special about it." She added that she worked with some of the best people including three great nurses, the teachers, principals and superintendents.

**RETIREEES:
See Page 10**

The 2013 Meade School District Employee of the Year said one of her most memorable events occurred the year she was hired. "I was introduced by Chrissy Peterson to the special services staff as Sharon Stone!"

In her retirement, Sharon plans to do some house cleaning to get rid of junk, and spend more time with her husband, four children and their spouses, and her seven grandchildren. She and her husband also want to do some traveling.

Lois Rath has been a teacher for 34 years, the last 11 at Piedmont Valley Elementary. The other 23 years were in Groton. Thirty-two of her 34 years have been as a third grade teacher, which is the grade she teaches at Piedmont.

In addition to being named Meade School District Teacher of the Year in 2007, she says the other memorable event was when the entire staff moved from Stagebarn into the new building at Piedmont. "That was a very exciting time," she said.

During retirement, she plans on spending time with her family. "Both of my parents are in their 80's and any extra time I can be with them will be special," she said. Lois also has four grandchildren aged five and under who, she said, give her great joy.

"I am grateful to have been a part of this district," she said. "I can't think of a better place to have finished my teaching career."

Joyce Schieffer has been a teacher for 33 years, all with

Meade School District. She worked for two years as the fifth and sixth grade resource room teacher at Erskine and Williams buildings, five years as a kindergarten teacher at Francis Case, and the last 26 years as a first grade teacher at Francis Case, Primary, Bear Butte and Sturgis Elementary Schools.

"I have had the good fortune of working with some of the finest children, parents and staff," said Joyce, who has also taught with her mother, brother and daughter. She has also taught all of the siblings in many families, and has had some second-generation students. "It is always a great pleasure to see and visit with my former students," she said. "It's been a great joy to watch them grow up and become adults."

She said many of her classroom projects have continued on a yearly basis because siblings of former students always ask if they will get to do 'this or that.' She continues to build valentine castles, race cars on the 100th day of school, and partner on projects with teachers from other grades. "My greatest pleasure, though," she said, "has been teaching children how to read. Reading really opens a child's world, and it is so much fun to watch them become successful."

Joyce doesn't have any major plans for her retirement but she does want to spend time with family and travel. "Monday morning coffee on my deck will be great," she added.

Deb Schnell has been a teacher for 36 years, all with Meade School District. Her first job was at the rural Atall School where she taught all grades, K-8, for eight years. At the time, Atall was a one-room school with no indoor plumbing. "We filled the teapot in the morning from the hydrant outside and set it on the stove so there would be warm water by lunchtime with which to wash our hands," she said.

While at Atall she began a tumbling program and dance team for the girls. She also helped coach boys and girls basketball.

In 1987 Deb moved to Badger Clark School in Sturgis where she taught first grade. She later moved to Bear Butte School, now Sturgis Elementary, where she currently teaches first grade.

Deb says some of her favorite memories include Christmas programs and turkey shoots at Atall, student plays at Badger Clark and Bear Butte Elementary, and playing Halloween tricks on her students with her twin sister.

The Meade School District Teacher of the Year for 2002 said she has enjoyed her 36 years of teaching very much. "I've had the pleasure of working with some of the hardest working people I know and have the greatest respect for my fellow teachers and principals at Sturgis Elementary," she said.

In retirement she plans on babysitting her grandchildren and substitute teaching.

Keffeler inducted into ACTE Hall of Fame

Sturgis Brown High School teacher Coleen Keffeler has been inducted into the Region V Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Hall of Fame during a Leadership Conference held in April in Kansas City.

Keffeler was honored for her contributions, accomplishments and impact on the field of career and technical education at the national, regional and state levels.

Not only has she served as the national president of ACTE and was the ACTE National Teacher of the Year in 2002, she has been extremely active on the local, state and region levels of ACTE including serving as president of the division and state association and of the Region V Policy Committee.

On the state level, she has served on numerous of committees and has chaired the Legislative Committee for more than 12 years. She has chaired a variety of task forces including the State Leadership Task Force and ACTE Quality Association Awards Task Force, and is a regular presenter at the Region V Leadership conference.

She mentors new members on all levels of leadership and has helped develop and implement numerous professional develop-



Coleen Keffeler, second from left, is pictured with Chuck Gallagher, ACTE vice president for Region V, and her nominators Annika Russell, instructor at Mitchell Technical Institute, and Dodie Bemis, executive director of S.D. ACTE.

ment opportunities for educators to learn about career and technical education.

"Coleen's dedication and passion to CTE and Region V is unequaled," said Regional Vice President Chuck Gallagher.

Keffeler, a 25-year employee of Meade School District, is the internship coordinator, culinary arts teacher and Scooper Time coordinator at Sturgis Brown High School.

Region V of ACTE consists of state associations in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and South Dakota.

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Long term debt is topic of discussion at school board meeting

Meade School District's long term debt has been a discussion item at numerous meetings of the school board including the April meeting when Toby Morris, senior vice president of public finance with the financial services firm of Dougherty & Company, addressed the board about financing for capital improvements.

Morris, principal consultant for the district during the past 10 years, has been working with School District Business Manager Brett Burditt on developing a financial strategy for the district regarding large scale capital improvements.

"This was precipitated by the enrollment surge in our district that left both Sturgis Elementary and Piedmont Valley Elementary at or near capacity," said Burditt. "The first step we took was an analysis of the district's assets. An appraisal was completed at Sturgis Brown High School east campus and the land at Sturgis Elementary was reviewed to determine future expansion possibilities."

Burditt said the school board then turned its attention to the Piedmont/Summerset area when it declared Stagebarn School as surplus and awarded a contract for demolition of the structure and then acquired six additional acres adjacent to the property at Stagebarn for future growth.

"It was in this time frame that Mr. Morris began his discussions with the board about future capital improvement projects in the district and possible financing strategies," said Burditt.

Morris has provided an in-depth analysis of the district capital outlay fund and its ability to generate revenue as well as long term indebtedness of the Meade School District through 2030.

"An important parameter of debt to capital outlay revenue has been the focal point of Mr. Morris's presentations," said Burditt. "Regardless of what the project may be, the district should try to keep the debt to revenue ratio of 1.5:3 which basically means



Consultant Toby Morris recently talked to the school board members about financing strategies for future capital improvement projects.

the district should not obligate any more than \$1.50 of the maximum \$3.00 capital outlay mill levy toward debt. Compliance to this ratio helps the district maintain an AA- rating with the financial industry and enables Mr. Morris to secure competitive interest rates from lending institutions," explained Burditt.

It was at the April 2015 meeting that Morris provided the board with this culmination of data to assist them with planning for future growth in the district.

Morris' services for the district have included the west gym construction and the Sturgis Williams Middle School renovation. He also assisted in the Sturgis Elementary project in 2009 and Piedmont Valley Elementary in 2011.

Science fair open to the public

A science fair is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, in the west gym at Sturgis Brown High School.

Featured exhibitors are the high school students enrolled this spring semester in biology or honor's biology. The exhibits are open to the public that day from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

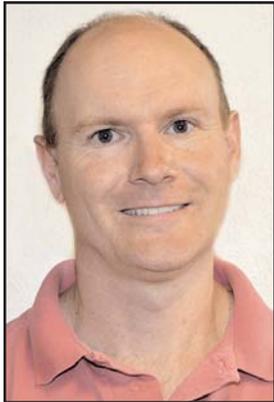
Election is June 2

Seven running for three school board seats

Seven people are running for the three open seats on the Meade School Board in the June 2 election. Vying for the three three-year terms are Michael Brown and Charlie Wheeler, both of Piedmont, John Nachtigall of Elm Springs, Elden Rice of Black Hawk, Mike Isaacson and Corey Johnson, both of Sturgis, and Shelli Grinager, the incumbent, from Summerset.

The other two incumbents, Chad Legner of Sturgis and Don Williamson of Piedmont, are not running for re-election.

The deadline for voter registration is May 18. For information about absentee voting, call the school district business office at 374-2523. To view the polling locations, go to the district web page at: www.meade.k12.sd.us/offices/pdf_files/businessoffice.htm.



Michael Brown

Michael Brown, 37, has a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He is an engineer in training for American Engineering Testing, Rapid City. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and Love Rapid City. He has two children who attend Piedmont Valley Elementary School.

Shelli Grinager, 37, has a bachelor's degree in food science from South Dakota State University. She is a fulltime mom and wife. She is a volunteer Sunday school teacher at Fountain Springs Church, Awana leader at South Canyon Baptist, treasurer of Piedmont Cub Scouts and coach with Sturgis soccer. She has three children, none of whom attend Meade School District schools.

Mike Isaacson, 56, has a bachelor's degree in business administration, a bachelor's degree in community health education, a master's degree in physical education/adult fitness and exercise, and a doctor of education in higher education administration. He is dean of students at Black Hills State University. In addition to being a Sunday school teacher, his community involvement consists of helping teachers and staff at the various Meade schools and at Black Hills State University. He has two children who attend Sturgis Brown High School.

Corey Johnson, 38, has a bachelor's degree in biology from South Dakota State University and a doctorate in



Shelli Grinager

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Mike Isaacson



Corey Johnson



John Nachtigall



Elden Rice



Charlie Wheeler

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chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic. He is self-employed as a chiropractor and cattle rancher. He is a member of the Meade County Taxpayers for Responsible Government. He has one school-age child who attends Sturgis Elementary School, a preschooler at home and a third child expected in August.

John Nachtigall, 31, has a degree in diesel mechanics from Western Dakota Tech and is self-employed as a rancher. He is a member of the Elm Springs Fire Department, a coach for the Rebels basketball team and a three-year PTO representative for the Elm Springs area. He has two children who attend Elm Springs School.

Elden Rice, 56, has a doctorate in dental surgery and owns his own practice, Area Dental in Rapid City. He founded Citizens for Academic Transparency, is a board member of Citizens for Liberty and serves in a leadership position at his church where he is also in charge of a young adult group. He has eight children, none of whom attend Meade School District schools.

Charlie Wheeler, 44, has a bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University and is self-employed with Wheeler Farms Candy Company. He served five years as member and one year as president of the Northern Hills Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, and is the current chairman of the CISS Men's Auxiliary Committee. He has three children, one of whom is a graduate of SBHS and the others are still students at SBHS.

All candidates were given the same questions to answer. The following are the questions and responses.

Why are you running for Meade School Board and why should people vote for you?

Michael Brown: I am running for the Meade School Board because as a father of two I want to be involved in the decisions that affect the children in this school district. People should vote for me because I will help make decisions that are best for the children and not let other factors influence these decisions.

Shelli Grinager: I have served on the board for the last three years and am running for re-election to continue to be an advocate for students and families in our community, push for high quality curriculum and support teachers. People should vote for me because I am the mother of three children and they have driven my passion for education leading me to be a past PTA president and now a school board member.

Mike Isaacson: The ability, interest and desire to serve and give back are the main reasons I am running for school board. I've devoted my life to education (as did my parents and grandparents) and it is now time for me to serve our community in meaningful ways.

Corey Johnson: I am running for Meade School Board so I can play a part in ensuring that the education received by my children and all students of Meade School District is the absolute best that we can provide. A quality education is the greatest gift we can give our children and I believe it is our obligation to do so. That education should not only provide students with the knowledge and skills required to excel in any field, but should also build and enhance qualities such as creativity, perseverance, confidence and a belief that they can and will succeed in life.

I believe it is the responsibility of the school board to do everything in its power to provide students with the absolute best education possible and to spend the citizens' tax dollars responsibly with that goal in mind. I believe it is very important that board members are ever aware that it is not their money they are spending, but the taxpayers, and it is an extremely important responsibility. Budgeting money wisely is one of the most important responsibilities of the school board. I believe that every available dollar should stay in the classroom. I believe any quality education starts with quality educators. It does not matter how much money is spent on supplies and infrastructure, if it is at the

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expense of the educators. In the cattle world, if you want a high quality herd of cattle, you must be willing to spend the money for high quality bulls. I believe it is no different in the education world. There is no reason the Meade School District cannot compete for the best educators in the state if money is budgeted wisely.

John Nachtigall: I am doing my part to ensure my kids and everyone else's kids get the best education possible.

Elden Rice: I've been involved with parent groups interacting with school boards and teachers for over 15 years. I understand the issues of teachers and parents and how to best interact with both. I want the best education for our students and believe with the help of our good parents and teachers that can happen.

Charlie Wheeler: I am running for Meade County School Board because I want to take a more active role in making decisions for our children's education. I think people should vote for me because I will take the time to visit schools to talk with all the personnel to see what their needs are. I will ask questions and give my opinion even if it might not be popular. I will also be a person who will ALWAYS want to hear all sides to the story. My mom taught English for over 30 years in the Brookings School District. One thing that I learned from her is that there are always two sides to a story and sometimes more.

What are some good things that the Meade School District is doing?

Shelli Grinager: I believe Meade School District is doing many things well like getting computer devices in the hands of students. Having a device for each student from fourth grade up in all our schools next year not only helps prepare students for future careers, but allows our teachers to reach diverse learning styles and offer resources outside of a textbook.

Mike Isaacson: I am impressed with the district's level of professionalism, collegiality, and "can

do" attitude. We as an educational community are fortunate to have so many individuals - at all levels of the district - skilled and devoted to student development and educational excellence.

Corey Johnson: Meade 46-1 has made some great investments in the future of the Meade School District. The district has faced some difficult situations and decisions in the recent past.

With an ever growing student body, facilities are a constant concern. After the blizzard of 2013, the board was faced with the difficult decision concerning the middle school and I feel they made the best decision with the information they had and the best interests of the school system and its future in mind.

Although the board has limited funds, I feel they are dedicated to investing in the future of the school district and are determined to provide the facilities required to accommodate all students of the school district.

The adoption of the Common Core State Standards has been a very controversial issue the school board has been faced with and made a decision on. I feel they have done so with the best intentions of the students in mind. Now that it has been adopted, I feel it is of the utmost importance that we keep a vigilant eye on the issue to ensure that it is accomplishing the goals intended.

I believe that we need to keep extra attention on grades K-3 to determine if the newly adopted standard is truly serving the best interests of our children and is enhancing their development, not hindering it. As in any experiment, the results will dictate whether or not the theory is sound and in this case the results are our children; their development, their success, and their overall growth. With something as important as our children and their future at stake, it is extremely important that the leaders making the decisions regarding their future are doing so with their best interests in mind and nothing else. Leaders must have the knowledge and wisdom to make sound decisions based on the best

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information available. That information must come from a number of sources.

The instructors that have dedicated their lives to educating the future generation are a valuable source. There needs to be an open line of communication between the faculty and the school board. Faculty needs to be able to comfortably and confidently share ALL opinions and concerns regarding our children and their education. Another valuable source of information is the students themselves.

The first day I entered the doors of Palmer Chiropractic College, I was told, "Your patients will not care how much you know until they know how much you care," and, "If you simply ask your patient what THEY think is wrong with them, you will get 90% of the information you need to treat them." I believe that is true and I believe that it also applies to our children and their education. I believe that diplomats at the state and national level should be the last in line to tell us what is best for our children.

I do not particularly like politics, but our society is in need of leaders on every level that will make sound decisions for the welfare of the people and I believe I can and will do exactly that.

John Nachtigall: The technology of iPads and Mac labs is great.

Elden Rice: I have heard a lot of good things about the elementary and middle school in Piedmont. The high school in Sturgis has some great reputation in their music and other programs. There are many hard working and dedicated teachers.

Charlie Wheeler: I think we are moving in a good direction when it comes to technology. Our kids are going to have to know how to use all kinds of technology by the time they graduate. I don't think that is ever going to change. I am glad that the district has invested in computers. Not every child has access to one at home, but the world we are sending them out into uses them all the time. It is important that this continues to happen regardless of what minor irritations and inconveniences it may cause from learning the new technology.

Michael Brown: The schools have been building good facilities and have been bringing in new equipment to keep up with today's technology. Small class sizes have been maintained to greatly benefit the children's learning environment. I am also appreciative of a good special education program.

What are some things that Meade School District could improve upon?

Mike Isaacson: Student-centered learning is evident within the district, however, I'd like to see our educational community strengthen in terms student-centered learning initiatives. Student-centered learning puts students' interests first and places student voice as central to the learning experience. Student-centered learning requires students to be active, responsible participants in their own learning.

Corey Johnson: The school board should be dedicated to one purpose; educating and preparing our children for any direction they choose to go in life. I believe that students, parents, and faculty are a valuable source of information regarding the Meade School District and that their opinions and advice regarding the education and welfare of our children should be placed above that of our higher government. I would like to see more communication with the faculty, parents, and the student body. I believe there should be a simple process for students and faculty to share their opinions and concerns, anonymously if necessary.

I believe Meade School District needs to make a competitive teacher salary a priority. We cannot give our children a quality education unless we have quality teachers and we cannot expect to bring quality teachers to Meade County if we cannot offer them a competitive wage.

John Nachtigall: Not really sure what needs improved on.

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Elden Rice: We need to take a hard look at what is working with the new Common Core curriculum and what is not working. I'd like to make sure we have good, open dialogue between teachers, parents and the school board and superintendent.

Charlie Wheeler: I would like to see all the schools in the district work on transitioning our students from one school to another. Whether it be from the grade school, to middle school, to the high school or from the rural schools into town. I am not saying we are doing anything wrong, but I just want to make sure we do everything we can to make all those transitions as seamless as possible.

I grew up on a farm. It was only 9 miles into town for me, but life was still different in town from the farm. Some of our rural families travel much farther than that. I want to make sure that we do everything we can to support the small rural schools so they have as many of the same opportunities that the city kids do. I think that doing so will ease the transition from one school to the next.

Michael Brown: All programs have room for improvement. If you are not continually reviewing and striving to improve programs you are falling behind other schools that are doing this very thing. Also, as the population of this area grows, we need to match the growth by adding or expanding facilities. Many students living here are attending school elsewhere. We need to try to keep more of our children in Meade County. Some children that do stay in Meade County do not get much time at home because of long bus rides and are not able to participate in extra-curricular activities because of this. I would like them to have the same opportunities as the other children.

Shelli Grinager: I would like to see changed immediately in Meade School District is our high stakes testing. The new Smarter Balanced test does not identify academic needs of individual students. Over eight hours of high stakes testing creates a harmful environment for our students and teachers. I want Meade School District to take back local control and go with less testing for our students and teachers. Let's get back to doing what we are supposed to be doing, -educating.

What concerns you about education in Meade School District? Statewide? Nationwide?

Corey Johnson: What concerns me most about Meade School District and education on a state and national level is whether we are properly preparing the next generation for the world they will be faced with. That is something that only time can tell. There has been more advancements in science and technology over the last hundred years than the previous thousand and it seems to move faster every day. How do we prepare our children for their future when we cannot even imagine what their future may bring? That is the dilemma we face. The great minds among us are always attempting to predict, which is why I had to take computer classes in school in which I used Commodore computers and spent an entire semester learning to use Word Perfect. I question whether spending money on expensive technology for the classroom is the wisest use of funds. With the increasing rate of technological advancement, my example of Word Perfect and the Commodore computer may not seem as ridiculous as my children reminding me thirty years from now of the technology we spent time and money on. In this day and age, people can hardly get away from technology. I believe that technology should be in schools, but we should be careful to keep spending in check when purchasing technology that is obsolete before it even reaches the schools.

Public school's number one goal should be developing our children's minds and their character. With goals focusing not only on the acquisition of information, but memory, focus, patience, perseverance; skills and qualities that are timeless and will benefit them throughout their life.

In our modern society, I fear people losing their individuality, their spirit, and that inherent sense of freedom that makes us American. We are so smothered by laws, regulations, and rules that seem to be

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eating away at what makes us human, it sometimes feels as though we are trying to be replaced by a generation of drones that have no individuality, ask no questions, but blindly comply with anything they are instructed to do. I do not believe that any person or entity on a local level has done this intentionally, but I fear it may be happening never the less.

Although I believe Common Core was created with the best intentions of the students in mind, I am afraid it may be following this same trend. I believe this is something that we need to be aware of and I believe public schools should nurture students' individuality, creativity, and curiosity. Students should not be afraid to question the establishment, and maybe, should be encouraged to do so. How can a system ever improve if it is never questioned?

John Nachtigall: Personally I do not support Common Core curriculum.

Elden Rice: I'm concerned about the teacher having to teach to the test. We have many experienced teachers who are having to be retrained and all too often are being constrained by new, untested federal regulations and programs.

Charlie Wheeler: I think we are not doing enough to fund education on the state and national level. Knowledge is power. The more knowledge you have, the better you can be. This can only make our society better. Educated people will give us better leaders, more innovation, and a more productive populace.

Before any politician decides they have the answer to something about education, I would like them to get input about their idea from teachers and administration in their districts. If on the national level, then get input from schools in the state. Too often we have legislation coming down or being proposed that could just as well have been handled by the local governing authority.

Michael Brown: The nationalizing of programs, such as the children's assessment testing, is a major issue. Such programs should be left to individual states and local school districts. We need to make such decisions locally to fit what is best for our children. It is senseless to think one nationalized

test is best for all the states. We are being inhibited by this and we are giving up our voice in decision making.

Shelli Grinager: The over emphasis on testing our students.

Mike Isaacson: It takes an entire community to educate children...teachers, administrators, parents, family members, legislators, and community leaders are all important aspects of a child's educational outcome. I believe we all have an ethical and perhaps moral obligation to improve educational opportunities with the ultimate goal of maximizing human potential. We must support our schools and district leaders in having bold and inspiring visions for student success and invest in teachers so they can do their best work every day.

What changes or improvements would you like to see happen in the Meade School District?

Nachtigall: Not sure what needs improved on.

Rice: We need to work to improve the high school test scores. This does not mean, however, more testing. Some of the rural teachers need more prep time.

Wheeler: I would like the district to continue to evolve with technology. As I stated earlier, I believe this is important. As we move forward with the new schools and new space, I also want to make sure we upgrade the rural schools. It is my understanding that Enning could use a new school and before the election I plan to visit all the schools to see and learn for myself. It will give me a much better understanding to the new job I hope to have as a board member.

Brown: I would like buses to have seatbelts. I think it is dangerous for children to ride in a school bus without seatbelts. I would like the Meade County School District to be an example for others to look at and want to duplicate.

Grinager: I would like to see changed immediately in Meade School District is our high stakes

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testing. The new Smarter Balanced test does not identify academic needs of individual students. Over eight hours of high stakes testing creates a harmful environment for our students and teachers. I want Meade School District to take back local control and go with less testing for our students and teachers. Let's get back to doing what we are supposed to be doing, -educating.

Isaacson: I'm interested in curriculum reviews. Ideally, classroom teachers should lead these reviews since they are the ones who best know how to engage their students deeply in a rigorous and culturally relevant curriculum. I'm also interested in development opportunities for our teachers that are designed to ensure they are supported to adjust their teaching regularly to better meet their students' needs.

Johnson: Doctors of chiropractic speak of the three legged stool of chiropractic. A three legged stool demonstrates the point very well because a three legged stool cannot stand without all three legs. Each leg is equally important and bares equal weight to the others. In chiropractic, those legs are represented by science, art, philosophy. I believe the three pillars of chiropractic should be pillars of a quality education at any level, but, I will use the imagery of the three legged stool to demonstrate what I feel to be the pillars of early education.

On my education stool, one leg represents parent involvement in the student's life and educational progress. The second leg of the stool is represented by a responsible budget that places the maximum resources available in the classroom and not on bureaucracy, hierarchy, or unnecessary expenses of standardized programs. The third leg of the stool is quality teachers; the kind of teachers that we all remember, that truly teach and that love teaching. Teachers that have the freedom to use unconventional methods if that is what gets their students' attention. Teachers that share all opinions and concerns, put the students first, and do so without fear of merit evaluations, and with the knowledge that they, and their opinions, are highly valued. As a school board member, I would make decisions with

these three pillars in mind and look for ways to strengthen them. I believe the school board needs to think very carefully about their priorities and how they are reflected in the budget.

What are you most proud of concerning Meade School District?

Rice: The program at Sturgis High School, the track team at Sturgis High School, Piedmont Elementary is very well thought of by parents.

Wheeler: The things I am most proud of with the district are my kids. They are a reflection of the successes of the district. One is in college, one is about to graduate and the last is finishing out her freshman year. We live in Piedmont, so we could have taken them to Rapid for school, but we made a choice to stay in Meade 46-1. Even though we have had some minor bumps, like most do, along the way, we have never regretted that decision. We have always been able to work through any issue we have had. I think the teachers and administration care for our kids and appreciate parents who are willing to work through things with them.

Brown: The atmosphere of the children being the first priority. Anti-drug and tobacco programs seem to be very influential to the children.

Grinager: Our hard working staff that work together to educate students.

Isaacson: Our people are our greatest asset and source of pride. Virtually everywhere you look, you'll find highly trained, extremely hard working, and caring individuals. As my grandmother used to say when it was chore time (and she was a school teacher in a one-room school house), "All we have is each other." I'm very proud to be a part of the Meade County community...and am confident we have what it takes to produce well educated and productive children.

Johnson: I am extremely proud of the fact that my family has been part of the Meade School

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District since it was formed. My Family has been in the Sturgis area since my great-great-grandfather Martin Johnson and his oldest son, Irving, came here in 1877. My children are the fifth generation to attend the Meade School District. My great-grandfather, my grandfather, my father, and myself have all taken the quality education that we received in the Meade School District on with us to higher education. Both of my grandmothers taught in local country schools that no longer exist.

Before my grandfather Johnson went to WWII, my great-grandfather, one of the founders of the Cottonwood School, had just hired a new teacher that my grandfather met briefly. During his four years at war, he made it clear to several of his friends that after the war he intended on moving home to the ranch and marrying the school teacher, which is exactly what he did. So, in a sense, I owe my life to the Meade School District.

Nachtigall: Technology.

Other comments.

Wheeler: I would appreciate your vote on June 2. No matter where you are in the district, I will take the time to listen. Just know that after I listen, I will go to the administration and teachers to get their feedback before I make a decision. Sometimes you might like it and other times you might not. Hopefully, most of the time, I will just point you in the right direction to get your issue resolved. Thank you

for taking the time to read this and get to know a little bit more about me.

Brown: No comments listed.

Grinager: We have a diverse district from one room rural schools to the largest elementary in the State. No matter what school students attend they all deserve the best education we can provide.

Isaacson: Given the nod, the Meade 46-1 community can count on me to be hard-working, absolutely devoted to student success, and always honest. I'll honor the expectations of the position and represent Meade 46-1 with the highest professional standards.

Johnson: Although I was born and raised in the Sturgis area, I spent the years between 1996 and 2009 either in school or driving truck over the road which is what I did during breaks from school. Since I moved back to the area in 2009, my life has been somewhat hectic, but I finally feel that I am at a point that I can dedicate some time to public service and am eager to do so.

Nachtigall: No comments listed.

Rice: I have served as a Boy Scout leader and have 4 sons who are Eagle Scouts. One Eagle project included building outdoor structures for the local high school. I have experimented with living off grid, have built my own generators, and ran my vehicles on homemade biodiesel. Come see me race my yellow 1969 Corvette this summer at Sturgis Raceway.

School Board Candidate Forum
Hosted by the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce
6 p.m. Wednesday, May 20
Meade County Commissioners Room
Meade County Erskine Office Building
1300 Sherman Street, Sturgis, S.D.

Marcia Potts is School Nurse of the Year

Meade School District nurse Marcia Potts has been recognized for her excellence in school nursing by being named the South Dakota School Nurse of the Year for 2015.

Marcia has worked for the school district for 14 years and although she works with all students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, her focus is students at Sturgis Brown High School and Sturgis Elementary School.

Those who know her say the honor is well-deserved. "Mrs. Potts is the epitome of a world class school nurse who has dedicated her life to the well-being of children and their health," said Chrissy Peterson, director of special services for the school district. "She is a tremendous nurse who has a wide range of medical knowledge and is a natural in creating relationships with all people and believes communication is the key to every working partnership."

Marcia has been instrumental in the evolution of the district's nursing department. She initiated and assisted with several programs including medication aide training for unlicensed personnel, CPR training and recertification of students and staff, immunization clinics for students and staff and arranging for the Dental Mobile Program to come to the district.

Co-worker Randi Oviatt, who was Nurse of the Year in 2010, says that Marcia deals well with students who are in need of hygiene education. "This is

often a difficult, touchy subject for many students," said Randi, "but Marcia always makes them feel okay about themselves. She often will buy hygiene products for students to take home or help figure out a solution for washing clothes, taking a shower or cleaning shoes."

Marcia has also influenced many of the high school students to pursue a career in nursing. "Through the district's school-to-work program, she has mentored many students who have gone on to receive nursing degrees," said Oviatt. Marcia's two children are also nurses, working in intensive care units.

Sturgis Brown High School Principal Jeff Simmons said he has the pleasure of working, literally, side-by-side with Marcia. "Our offices share the same wall," he explains. Because of his close proximity to the nurse's office, he sees the steady flow of students to her office. "Many students are regulars, and some come to her office with real and significant concerns. Despite the reason, students always get the same Mrs. Potts," Simmons said. "She is even-keeled, unflappable and consistent. She is confident and most of all she always has a sense of calm, and a sense of empathy and care," he said.

Nash Jeffery, a third-grader at Sturgis Elementary, said that Marcia is his favorite nurse. "Marcia is a good nurse," he says, "She takes care of me and helps me with my diabetes."



Marcia Potts

Last day of school year will vary

Teacher training with the new laptop computers will take place on May 19-20, so the last day of school will vary throughout the Meade School District as some students will be dismissed early to accommodate that training.

For Sturgis Williams Middle School students, the last day of school will now be Monday, May 18, instead of Wednesday, May 20. The sixth-graders at both Whitewood Elementary and Piedmont Valley Elementary will also be dismissed Monday, May 18.

A dismissal plan is currently being developed for the rural schools that would accommodate the end of the school year while also meeting the needs of the rural teachers who will be impacted by the new laptops.

For all other attendance centers and grade levels not already mentioned, there will be an early release on Wednesday, May 20, with classes dismissed two hours earlier than normal except at Whitewood Elementary, where the students will be dismissed at 1 p.m.

One-to-one laptop initiative expanded to include all sixth through eighth grades

During the regular April meeting of the Meade School Board, board members endorsed further changes to the district technology plan which they had initially approved at the March meeting. In March, board members authorized the lease-purchase of new laptop computers for each student at Sturgis Williams Middle School and two carts of news laptops for sixth-graders at Whitewood Elementary and Piedmont Valley Elementary, and the updating of other computers throughout the district.

A re-evaluation of that plan took place after the March meeting and it was then recommended to the board at the April meeting that the one-to-one laptop

initiative now be expanded to include all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students throughout the entire district.

"We talked about the MacBook labs and updates to the older computers, but we just feel it would be better for the kids to all have the same devices," explained Curriculum and Technology Director Jeff Ward. Board members concurred and agreed to spend an additional \$54,000 for the laptops.

Staff training on the new laptops for all sixth, seventh and eighth grade teachers will take place the last two days of the school year - Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19-20.

Basketball and football camps are being offered

Two different athletic camps will soon be held.

The first camp, Rising Scoopers Football and Basketball Camp, is for boys and girls currently in first through fourth

grades. Students can participate in both football and basketball or just one sport. The camp is set for 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Wednesday, May 26-27, at Sturgis Brown High School.

Participants at this camp will have the opportunity to work with the Scooper football and boys basketball players and coaching staff while learning about and playing the games of football and basketball.

The second camp, Sturgis Brown High School Scooper Girls Basketball Camp, is open to girls in fourth through twelfth grades and will be held June 2-4 at Grunwald Auditorium in Sturgis.

Those attending this camp will have an opportunity to work with professional basketball player and SBHS graduate Megan Mahoney in addition to Scooper basketball players and coaching staff.

Deadline to register is May 20 for both camps. Information including the cost and registration form can be found on the school district website:

www.meade.k12.sd.us

End-of-year music events

Meade School District music events for the remainder of the school year are as follows.

Friday, May 1: Piedmont Valley Elementary drumming performance at 8 a.m. at Piedmont; 10 a.m. at Sturgis Elementary; 10:45 a.m. at Whitewood Elementary.

Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.: Sturgis Williams Middle School band concert, Grunwald Auditorium, Sturgis.

Monday, May 11: 5:15 p.m.: Sturgis Brown High School band potluck, west gym lobby; **6:30 p.m.:** SBHS band awards, west gym; **7 p.m.:** SBHS band and choir concert, west gym, SBHS.

Tuesday, May 12: Sturgis Elementary third and fourth grade music program "On the Radio," Sturgis Community Center Theatre: **5:30 p.m.:** Third grade students of Stofferahn, Dahl and Pankratz; **6:30 p.m.:** Third grade students of Russell, Steffes and Cook; **7:30 p.m.:** All fourth grade students.

All music events are free and open to the public.



This Old School House

1951 Sturgis Junior High Round-Up

Sturgis Outstanding in Basketball and Football
By Jerry Bachleitner

Starting the football season the "Little Scoopers" played Lead Jr. High in a muddy, cold, sloppy game. We were defeated by a score of 7 to 0. The following week the Sturgis Junior High challenged Rapid City. Sturgis went over for a touchdown but fumbled and received a safety giving us a two point lead which we held until the end of the game defeating them 2 to 0.

We again played Lead, this time on our field. This game had a different ending than the first game played with Lead. On the kickoff Lead received, fumbled, and Sturgis recovered. The first few plays brought us 6 to 0. Again in the second half Sturgis

made another touchdown on the same play making the score Sturgis 12, Lead 0. Sturgis held this score until the end of the game.

For our fourth game we played Rapid City again. Rapid leaped ahead with a lead of 6 to 0 but we bounded back and pulled off a new play, the famous "Sleeper," which tied the score 6 to 6. We then made an extra point putting us in the lead. Rapid could not score again before the game ended.

Our final game was with Spearfish, who we trampled with a score of 24 to 7. On the first play we made a touchdown. In the second half Spearfish made a touchdown but we drove right back to make two "Sleeper Touchdowns," and a touchdown from a double reverse to the right. Thus Sturgis ended the season with four wins and one loss.

Next in the line of sports comes basketball.

At first the "Little Scoopers" played the heavy weight team which beat them and the 115 pound team which they defeated one out of two games. Later in the season the Sturgis Junior High played Spearfish which was a thriller of a game. We went all out to defeat them 56 to 35.

The next week we went into the Invitational Tournament held at Sturgis where the first night we challenged Lead. Lead led all through the first half but in the last three minutes of the third quarter we tied the score up 34 to 34. In the final night of the tournament we lost to Belle Fourche with a score of 32 to 34.

Sturgis, with hopes high, then went to Hill City. First in line was St. Patricks of Lead whom we beat 43 to 23. Next was the Cathedral of Rapid City whom we also defeated 32 to 31. Kyle then romped Sturgis 60 to 32. In the finals we played Hot Springs for third place and defeated them by a score of 61 to 23.

The Sturgis team all received medals. LeRoy Draine, the team's center, made the all tourney team and received an additional medal.

1951 Junior High Faculty

Top to Bottom:
Mr. Randolph Krause
Mr. James Hale
Miss Margaret Mance
Miss Alma Robins
Mrs. Lillian Carr
Mrs. Rose Reber
Mr. R.B. Williams



May school board meeting to include action on 4-day school week for the rural

The Meade School Board will take action at its May 12 meeting on a proposed alternate school calendar for the six rural schools of the district. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the board room of the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis.

The proposed calendar is not a true four-day school week because there are five weeks during the school year in which students attend all five days. "If there is no school on a Monday due to a holiday, there will be school on Friday of that week," explained Superintendent Don Kirkegaard.

The superintendent, together with rural Principal Bev Rosenboom, rural teachers, Meade Education Association and several rural parents, have been exploring alternative calendars for the rural schools for some time. "In my tenure as superintendent of Meade School District, I have had annual requests to consider an alternative calendar for the rural schools," he said.

Rural students will have fewer instructional days that other district students, but a longer school day - from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. According to the superintendent, the calendar not only meets but exceeds all state requirements. "Actually, all students in the district will have similar contact time," he said.

"This calendar will continue to provide and improve the quality of education that we have come to expect in our rural schools," said Kirkegaard. He also cited additional advantages of the proposed calendar as follows: 1) Quality planning time for the rural teachers; 2) Reduction in travel for rural patrons; and 3) Similar schedule to surrounding schools.

"This isn't being proposed as a financial savings for the district, even though we might save a few dollars," he said. "The intent is to help teachers with uninterrupted planning time and provide a better environment for parents and students."

Superintendent Kirkegaard is asking for input from rural patrons regarding the alternate calendar. He can be reached by calling 347-2523 ext. 2 or by emailing him at don.kirkegaard@k12.sd.us.

Other action on the board's agenda includes a contract with Architecture Incorporated to design a possible middle school in the Stagebarn area, administrative contracts, support staff salary and benefits, insurance renewal rates, athletic training rules and supplement to the 2014-15 capital outlay budget.

The complete agenda and supporting documents can be viewed on the district website the Friday prior to the meeting.

Staff to receive training on new Apple laptops

Staff from Sturgis Williams Middle School, Piedmont Valley Elementary, Whitewood Elementary and the rural area who work with students in sixth, seventh or eighth grades will attend two days of training on the new Apple MacBook laptop.

Four sessions, each three hours in length, will be offered over the course of two days - Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19-20 - in the art room and con-

ference room at SWMS.

Topics to be covered include enhancing personal productivity and collaboration, authoring dynamic documents with Pages, creating presentations with Keynote and becoming a power user for learning and teaching.

Participants will learn how to identify and explore the fundamentals and features of their new laptop including learning how to personalize the settings and use

built-in applications for learning and teaching.

Other objectives include increasing productivity, collaboration and communications with built-in apps and iCloud, identifying strengths of Pages and Keynote for learning and teaching, and creating visually engaging and organized documents and presentations.

Leading the training will be two specialists from Apple.

Free lunches are available this summer

A summer lunch program will be available beginning May 26 and ending July 24 at Sturgis Elementary School, 1121 Ball Park Road.

This federally funded lunch will be offered from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and is free to students 18 years of age and under.

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition. This Summer Food

Service Program provides free, nutritious meals to help children get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

Meade School District is able to offer the program because 50 percent or more of Sturgis Elementary School students qualified for free or reduced-price school meals this school year. This is the second year that the district has qualified for the program.

The Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers the program at the federal level while the South Dakota Department of Education oversees the program on the state level.

For more information about the summer feeding program, contact Meade School District Food Service Director Joe Schaffer at 347-3601 or email him at joe.schaffer@k12.sd.us.

Meade School District Calendar for 2015-16

The following is the approved calendar for the 2015-16 school year. Any snow days will be made up by adding additional days at the end of the school calendar. Furthermore, Feb. 15 (Presidents' Day), March 11 (Spring Break), and March 28 (Easter Monday) could be used as make-up days at the discretion of the Meade School Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

Staff Inservice	Aug. 25-27, 2015
First Day of School	Aug. 31, 2015
Labor Day (no school)	Sept. 7, 2015
Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
High School: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 5, 2015
Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 6, 2015
Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 6, 2015
All Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 8, 2015
Inservice Day (no school)	Oct. 9, 2015
Native Americans' Day (no school)	Oct. 12, 2015
Thanksgiving Vacation (no school)	Nov. 25-27, 2015
Inservice Day (no school)	Dec. 4, 2015
Christmas Vacation (no school)	Dec. 23-Jan.1
Inservice Day (no school)	Jan. 15, 2016

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school)	Jan. 18, 2016
Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 8, 2016
High School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 9, 2016
Middle & High Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 11, 2016
Presidents' Day (no school)	Feb. 15, 2016
Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 23, 2016
Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 25, 2016
Inservice Day (no school)	Mar. 10, 2016
Spring Break (no school)	Mar. 11, 2016
Good Friday/Easter Monday (no school)	Mar. 25-28, 2016
Graduation	May 22, 2016
Last Day of School	May 24, 2016

Directory for Meade School District

Schools

Rural Schools

Bev Rosenboom, principal.....	269-2264
Atall	985-5916
16375 Atall Road, Union Center, S.D. 57787	
Elm Springs	798-2492
21309 Elm Springs Road, Wasta, S.D. 57791	
Enning	985-5364
Highway 34 Box 22, Enning, S.D. 57737	
Hereford	985-5380
15998 Cross S Road, Hereford, S.D. 57785	
Opal	748-2426
18010 Opal Road, Opal, S.D. 57765	
Union Center	985-5367
1700 Highway 34, Union Center, S.D. 57787	
Office	985-5532

Piedmont Valley Elementary School

16159 Second Street, Piedmont, S.D. 57769
Ethan Dschaak, principal.....787-5295

Sturgis Brown High School

12930 E. Highway 34, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Toll-free 1-888-568-3514
Jeff Simmons, principal.....347-2686
Don Lyon, assistant principal.....347-2686
Mike Paris, activities director.....347-4487
Academy.....347-9349

Sturgis Elementary School

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Chantal Ligtenberg, principal.....347-2386
Ann Nonnast, assistant principal.....347-2386

Sturgis Williams Middle School

1425 Cedar Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Toll-free 1-888-567-8274
Lon Harter, principal.....347-5232
Ann Nonnast, assistant principal.....347-5232

Whitewood Elementary School

603 Garfield, Whitewood, S.D. 57793
Bev Rosenboom, principal.....269-2264

Superintendent

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Don Kirkegaard.....347-2523 x2
Toll-free 1-877-522-6251

Business Manager

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Brett Burditt.....347-2523 x1
Toll-free 1-877-522-6251

Buildings and Grounds

12940 E. Highway 34, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Cody King, maintenance foreman.....347-2649

Communications Office

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Kristine Hubbard.....347-2523 x3

Curriculum and Technology

1610 Fulton Street, Sturgis**
Jeff Ward, director.....347-4454

Food Service

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Joe Schaffer, director.....347-3601

Nurses' Office

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Randi Oviatt.....347-2610

School Social Worker

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Ginger Johnson.....347-2386

Special Services

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Chrissy Peterson, director.....347-2523 x4
Deb Kerstiens, assistant director.....347-2523 x4

Harlow's School Bus Service

2237 West Sherman, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Andy Ellingsen, transportation manager.....347-5066

Woodle Field

600 Woodland Dr., Sturgis**.....347-2003

**Not a mailing address