

April - May 2013

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Thank you, retirees, for 165 years of service

The six staff members pictured below have worked in education a total of 165 years. Of that number, 161 years have been with Meade School District. During their tenure here, these women have been a mentor 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.

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Diane Bilbrey



Kristi Friedel



Margaret Heckaman



Jean Kusser



Betsy Luptak



Connie Mickelson

Dakota STEP assesses academic achievement and mastery of standards

Meade School District students will be taking the South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress (Dakota STEP), the assessment system for accountability in South Dakota schools, between April 1-19.

Dakota STEP assesses basic curricular objectives in reading and math for students in grades three through eight and grade 11, and science for those in grades five and eight and grade 11, as required by the No Child Left Behind Act.

The test is a battery of untimed, multiple-choice subtests with the questions based on national and state content standards and is designed to gauge student achievement in relation to other children the same age in schools across the state and the nation.

Juniors at Sturgis Brown High School will take the test on April 3 and April 10, and to help prepare them and their parents for the test, several events will be held. Both testing days will begin with break-

fast at 8 a.m. in the west gym. The breakfast, provided by the South Dakota National Guard, parents and staff, will be followed by a demonstration of relaxation and stress breaker techniques as well as Zumba and yoga activities. Stephanie Sherman from Curves will lead the Zumba classes while high school staff members Alissa Adams and Chris Koletsky will teach yoga. Water and healthy snacks will be available to the students throughout the testing period.

In addition, letters were sent to all parents of the juniors regarding the testing schedule, the importance of adequate rest and nutrition prior to testing, test-taking strategies and other helpful hints. A meeting was also held during Parent Teacher Conferences for the parents of those taking the test.

Sturgis Williams Middle School eighth grade students will take the science test April 3-5. The math and reading tests will be taken by the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students April 9-11. All test-taking will be done during the regular science, math and reading classes.

Specific testing dates aren't scheduled at Sturgis Elementary. Instead, times and days within the testing window are selected based on what is best for the students in their current schedule. "We talk to the students about test-taking strategies, getting a good night's rest and the importance of eating

breakfast," said Principal Chantal Ligtenberg. Information is also sent to the parents about the test.

Testing at Whitewood Elementary School will take place from April 5-12. An assembly was held at the school at which time the younger students encouraged the test-takers to do their best. Principal Bev Rosenboom handed out "Do Your Best on the Test" pencils to the test-takers. In addition to the fresh fruits regularly available at the Whitewood School, the PTO is providing snacks. Each rural school sets its own schedule, but most testing will occur from April 2-12. All rural students have also received encouragement and special pencils from Rosenboom.

The majority of the testing at Piedmont Valley Elementary will take place April 2-5 and April 9-11. The students at that school will also receive pencils as encouragement. The Piedmont Student Council used some of its money from the fall cookie dough sales to purchase snacks and other foods and liquids for the test-takers so they can stay hydrated and full of energy throughout the testing.

Although Dakota STEP results are only one measure of student achievement, the assessment provides critical feedback to educators, students and parents regarding students' academic achievement and mastery of content standards.

In Touch

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

Students honored for test scores

As a way of encouraging Sturgis Brown High School juniors to be more serious about the upcoming Dakota STEP exam, this year's seniors, who took the Dakota STEP last year as juniors, were recognized for their test scores at an assembly held just for the junior and senior students.

SBHS Principal Jeff Simmons illustrated how individuals find success in life. "Luck," he said, "is not something we can control. Nor can we control genetics." He added that students also have little control over the difficulty of the tasks they encounter; however, he said, they can control effort. "Your effort on these tests is important."

Simmons encouraged juniors and seniors to continually challenge themselves to remember they are Scoopers, and Scooper



During a school assembly at Whitewood, kindergartners Ireland Nacey, Leah Johnson, Riley Fish, Cason Sabers and Logan Katsmedas displayed handmade posters to encourage everyone to do their best on the big test.

Pride means doing their best in all areas of life.

Seniors recognized for Dakota STEP achievement were chosen based on qualifying scores and improvement of scores. Murray LaHood Burns was recognized for highest combined score in math, reading and science. Also recognized were seniors Kristofer Baker, Steven

Bales, Devon BeVier, Courtney Cassen, Brendon Cerveny, Tonisha Hlavka, Molly Hermann, Alyssa Hoffman, Katie Johnston, Sawyer Mathiesen, Lia Meirose, David Owen, Kaitlin Peterson, Casey Papenfuss, Brianna Pratt, Tailer Reimer, Cole Sawyer, Tyler Schone, Cassiday Spelbring, Derek Seymour, Karly Simmons, Richard White and Kerry Wilson.



The lucky SBHS recipients of money gifts in a random drawing to recognize test scores, are from the left, Tonisha Hlavka, Sawyer Mathiesen and Devan BeVier. Murray LaHood-Burns, far right, was honored for having the highest combined test score. The money gifts are the result of a donation to the school from Sturgis Shopko Hometown Store to enhance educational opportunities. Representing Shopko is store manager Gary Callies.

This Old School House



Dec. 26, 1925, meeting of the Board of Education of Sturgis Independent

District No. 12:

Moved and carried that any girl coming to school with lips painted or cheeks rouged shall be dismissed from school indefinitely. Moved and carried that any boy or girl caught writing notes during school hours shall be dismissed from school indefinitely.

Aug. 12, 1935, meeting:

It was moved by [John] Sisk and seconded by [H.T.] Snyder that this School District enter into contract with the American Legion for the use of their hall for the school year commencing Sept. 3, 1935, at the stipulated rental of \$30 per month for nine months with the understanding that the lessors shall put said building in suitable shape by lowering the ceiling, cleaning the interior, arrange the heating, lighting and cabinet requirements for school purposes. Motion carried.

July 9, 1979, meeting of the Meade School District 46-1:

Tuition rate: Motion by [Mel] Voorhees, seconded by [Shirley] Massa, and carried that daily legal tuition rate as determined by Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for 1979-80 school year be \$6.60 and \$9.30 for non-resident elementary and secondary students, respective-

ly, and charged for days in session and days of legal discontinuance.

Sept. 25, 1979, meeting:

Teacher duty hours, Policy 4116: Motion by [Mel] Voorhees, seconded by [Joe] Isaacs, and carried that that portion of Board Policy #4116 dealing with working hours be amended to read: The school day shall be considered to be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and teachers shall be subject to assignments within this period without extra compensation. Normally, if the teacher is present between 30 minutes before and after school, this will be satisfactory with the administration. Remember, that at all times when pupils are in the building or about the grounds, they are to be under the supervision of the teacher or a designated responsible adult.

Jan. 20, 1981, meeting:

Administrator Reports, Bob Daane: Because of rising costs of the Driver Education program, it will be necessary to review the program and possibly consider an increase in the student fee. Students now pay \$50 for 30 hours classroom instruction and 6 hours behind-the-wheel driving. Approximately 80 students completed the course last year and 84 have signed up for the program this year. Data will be presented at the next regular meeting recommending the increase.

May 17, 1983, meeting:

The Keith Smit family through donations, memorials and community involvement would like to donate an all-weather track at Woodle Field to Meade School District in memory of their son Jeff who was killed in an automobile accident last summer. The Board is being asked to provide 1,100 tons base gravel for the project. Motion by [Ross] Lamphere seconded by [David] Hersrud and carried that the board enter into agreement with the Keith Smit family for the donation and that said track to be referred to as Jeff Smit Memorial Track. District to provide maintenance of said track.

May 15, 1984, meeting:

Proposal, four-day school week: Motion by [Ross] Lamphere, seconded by [Carl] Wahl that 4-day school week be authorized in the Piedmont Stagebarn School for 1984-85 school year on a trial basis. Said program to be evaluated at the end of the first semester. Following a lengthy discussion concerning the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal, [Darrel] Forrester called for the question. Roll call vote on original motion: [Marguerite] Kleven, [Carl] Wahl, [David] Hersrud, [Ross] Lamphere, voting yes; [Mimi] Shewey, [Curt] Nupen, [Linda] Matkins, [Joe] Isaacs and Forrester, voting no. Motion fails.

Registration and screening of kindergarten and preschool children set for April and May

School registration for kindergarten and screenings for birth to five-year-olds and kindergarten-aged children will be held in April and May at four locations throughout Meade School District.

The kindergarten registration has been combined with the screening to save parents time. This pre-registration for the 2013-14 school year is open to children who will be five years of age by Sept. 1, 2013, and who plan on attending school in the fall.

Parents registering a child for kindergarten will need the child's immunization records and a certified copy of the child's birth certificate or affidavit in lieu of the birth certificate as issued by the Department of Health if the original is deemed unattainable; these documents are required by law for every child entering school in South Dakota. Parents are also asked to provide their child's Social Security number. [Click here for the enrollment form.](#)

The screenings are for children planning to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2013 as well as for those children up to five years of age about whom parents have concerns regarding their development. Children attending the screening will be evaluated in the areas of vision, hearing, speech, language, gross and fine motor skills, and cognitive skills. The evaluations performed during the screening are provided free of charge and take approximately one hour.

Sturgis High School graduation is May 19

The graduation ceremony for Sturgis Brown High School Class of 2013 will be 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19, in the west gym at SBHS. There are no reserved seats, and tickets are not needed for admission to graduation.

Class motto, from Dr. Seuss, is as follows: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on you own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where

The locations, dates and times for the screenings and registration are as follows:

Sturgis Elementary

Monday, April 15: 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16: 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At Sturgis Elementary School, 1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis. Call Sharon Rank in the school nurses' office at 347-2610 to schedule an appointment.

Piedmont Valley Elementary

Thursday, April 25: 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 26: 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

At Piedmont Valley Elementary School, 16159 Second Street, Piedmont. Call Cara Wise in the school office at 787-5295 to schedule an appointment.

Whitewood Elementary

Tuesday, April 30: 2:30-6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1: 7:30-11 a.m.

At Whitewood Elementary School, 603 Garfield Street, Whitewood. Call Karen Speed in the school office at 269-2264 to schedule an appointment.

Rural Area

Thursday, May 2: 9 a.m.-Noon

At the Central Meade County Community Center in Union Center. Appointments are not required.

you'll go." The class flower is the orange Asiatic lily and class colors are red, white and black.

Baccalaureate set for May 12

Baccalaureate for all graduating seniors from throughout Meade County will be 4 p.m. Sunday, May 12, at the Sturgis Community Center Theatre. Organizers are the Sturgis Center for the Arts and the Sturgis Area Alliance of Churches.

Staff retirement and employee recognition reception is May 15

A reception will be held Wednesday, May 15, in honor of the Meade School District employees who are retiring, those who have worked 15, 20 or 30 years, and those who have been selected as teachers and employees 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 event, sponsored by the Meade School Board, is open to the public. Guest tickets are \$5 each and must be purchased in advance at the district office or at any administrative office. Deadline to purchase tickets is Monday, May 6. Tickets will not be available at the door.

Honorees include the following, all of whom will be retiring at the end of the current school year: Diane Bilbrey, librarian, Sturgis Williams Middle School; Kristi Friedel, teacher, Sturgis Elementary School; Margaret Heckaman, teacher, Piedmont Valley Elementary School; Jean Kusser, teacher, Sturgis Brown High School; Betsy Luptak, teacher, Sturgis Williams Middle School; and Connie Mickelson, teacher, Elm Springs School.

Employees honored for 15 years of service are

Julie Carpenter, teacher, Piedmont Valley Elementary School; Juanita Delbridge, paraprofessional, rural schools; June Guy, administrative assistant, Buildings and Grounds; Vicki Huck, teacher, Sturgis Brown High School; Cheri Isaacson, teacher, Sturgis Elementary; Cary Johnston, teacher, rural schools; Don Lyon, assistant principal, SBHS; Chrissy Peterson, director, Special Services; Jenny Seals, teacher, Piedmont Valley Elementary; John Septka, custodian, SWMS; Sue Smalley, administrative assistant, SWMS; and Roxona Thompson, custodian, Hereford School.

Twenty-year honorees include Duane Cunningham, teacher, SBHS; Kim Hartwig, teacher, SWMS; Karen Johnson, behavioral specialist at Piedmont Valley and district TAT coordinator; Robert Kaiser, district maintenance technician; and Jeff Ward, curriculum and technology director.

Staff members with 30 years of service include Guyla Ness, district reading/assessment coordinator.

Other honorees include the Meade teachers of the year and employees of the year. Those honorees have not yet been selected.

Judges needed for senior presentations

The senior English teachers at Sturgis Brown High School are in need of people willing to judge students' oral presentations for their senior cumulative projects. The presentations will take place April 15-19.

All senior English students must complete a cumulative project, the purpose of which is to demonstrate their knowledge and maturity gained during the course of their education.

The project is a four-part

process, the last step of which is the oral presentation. The other steps include an annotated bibliography, a research paper, and project or product that is an extension of the research.

Each student will speak about the research paper, product application, lessons learned and any challenges encountered while doing the project.

Upon completion of the 8-9 minute speech, the judges will ask questions about the different

phases of the project. To serve as a judge, call the high school at 347-2686.

Senior Experience Fair

Public viewing of the SBHS senior experience projects will be held at

5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 11,

at the

Sturgis City Armory

S.D. Supreme Court upholds action of Meade School Board

The South Dakota Supreme Court has ruled that the Meade School Board properly denied a request for a minor boundary change.

In the spring of 2011, landowners in eastern Meade County filed three petitions requesting that their land be transferred from the Meade School District to the Faith School District.

After holding a 2 1/2-hour public hearing on the matter, the Meade School Board granted one petition, denied one petition on technical grounds, and denied the third petition on the merits.

The landowners then appealed the board's decision to Circuit Court. Judge Jerome Eckrich ruled that the board was justified in denying the petition.

The landowners then appealed Judge Eckrich's ruling to the South Dakota Supreme Court. After considering the matter on the legal briefs presented by the parties, the Court, without issuing a written opinion, issued a letter which upheld Judge Eckrich's decision and that of the Meade School Board.

Attorneys Bruce Hubbard and Lester Nies represented the school board. The petitioners were represented by Craig Smith.



Meade School District attorney Bruce Hubbard addressed the school board during its minor boundary change hearing for the purpose of reviewing statutes and case law.

RETIREES:

Continued from Page 1

Diane Bilbrey has been in education for 24 years, and has worked the entire time as the librarian at Sturgis Williams Middle School. One of her favorite events was when she met Sonja Cody and commissioned her to paint the mural in the school library. "Helping the students learn and to develop a love reading and to get them to realize that in reading they can travel the world and know all kinds of people and cultures has

been very rewarding," she said. In the short term, Diane plans on traveling during retirement. Her youngest child lives in Alaska so she plans on spending time there.

Kristi Friedel has been a teacher for 32 years, all with Meade School District. She has taught special education, kindergarten, second grade, third grade and fourth grade, which she currently teaches at Sturgis Elementary. She has also taught at

Primary, Erskine and Badger Clark Schools. Upon retirement, Kristi plans on spending more time enjoying her favorite hobbies of riding horses, gardening, skiing and spending time with family. "Some of my fondest memories of teaching," said Kristi, "are the letters I have received from former students telling me why I was their favorite teacher."

RETIREES: See Page 9

Theme is 'Welcome to Pandora'

Sturgis High School prom is April 20

The Sturgis Brown High School prom, the theme of which is "Welcome to Pandora," is set for Saturday, April 20, in the west gym at SBHS. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for attendees and 7 p.m. for observers. Grand March will begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets for prom are \$20 each. Junior and senior students who sold five magazines during the

school's magazine drive receive free admission.

A sophomore will be allowed to attend prom if he or she has a date with a junior or senior. A non-student may attend prom only if he or she has a date with a junior or senior and is not older than 20 years of age.

Prom concludes at midnight.

Post-prom organizers asking for help

Members of the Post-Prom Committee are asking for help in hosting this year's party following the Sturgis Brown High School prom Saturday, April 20.

Post-prom will be held from midnight to 3 a.m. in the east gym at the high school and is free to the students.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and decorate the gym, donate food, work in the kitchen, monitor games, and work at the front door checking identification and handing out tickets. Donations of money, merchandise or gift certificates are also needed. The parents of each junior student are being asked for a donation to cover expenses of post-prom.

According to Trayce Fowler, one of the post-prom organizers, the event is being held to provide a

safe, fun and memorable night for those attending prom and also for those who wish to attend just post-prom. Students will be able to participate in a variety of games and activities including entertainment by a comedic hypnotist. Students will also have an opportunity to win door prizes.

Several grand prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the event but students must be present to win. Those prizes include I-Pods, I-Pads, video cameras, laptops and a senior college package consisting of microwave, refrigerator, laundry baskets and bags.

A variety of food and beverages will be available throughout the three-hour party.

For more information or to help, call Trayce Fowler at 490-3371 or Elaine Shuck at 490-5027.

Nominations sought for SBHS Hall of Fame

Nominations for the fourth class of inductees into the Sturgis Brown High School Athletic Hall of Fame are being accepted until April 30.

The categories of nominees are athlete; coach, adviser or administrator; and community member or contributor. Athletes become eligible for consideration on the fifth anniversary of their graduation from SBHS. Those nominated as a coach,

adviser or administrator must be retired or no longer employed with Meade School District for a minimum of three years. There is no time restriction for community members or contributors.

The Hall of Fame was formed in 2011 as a way of paying tribute to the many individuals who have been a part of the rich tradition of the Sturgis Brown High School athletic programs. A permanent Hall of Fame display is

located in the lobby of the west gym at Sturgis Brown High School.

The nominations of those not selected this year will be kept on file and active for the next five years.

The nomination form and criteria are available at the SBHS activity director's office and main office and on the Meade School District website as follows: www.meade.k12.sd.us.

Students make barn quilts

As part of Whitewood's 125th birthday celebration this summer, kindergarten students at Whitewood School including Aiden Erlandson and Alex Holler, pictured to the right, have been making barn quilts. The students' quilt, which consists of painted squares on plywood, will be mounted at the school. Others in the community are also making barn quilts to be displayed throughout Whitewood.



According to Mary Gallup-Livingston, above left, who is spearheading the project, the barn quilts are being made in honor of the pioneer women who helped settle Whitewood.

RETIREES:

Continued from Page 7

Margaret Heckaman has been a teacher for 33 years, 32 with Meade School District. Her first six years were at Whitewood Elementary and then she taught eight years at the rural schools of United, Wetz, Lakeside and Alkali. She then began her 18-year tenure at Piedmont and Stagebarn schools. For the past four years she has taught sixth grade at Piedmont. One of her most life changing experiences occurred while teaching at Whitewood when a student, Tige Cooper, was accidentally shot and killed. She knew him very well because he had been her student in three different grades. "After his death, I struggled

to finish that school year," she said. "The next year I went out into the country and taught which is just what I needed to mend my heart and mind, and I was able to continue as a teacher until now. Because of his death I am even more so reminded that life is too short and we have a very special job that enables us to work with youth, our future."

In retirement, Margaret intends to become a therapeutic riding instructor so she can still be with children and her horses.

Jean Kusser has been employed by Meade School District for 19 years, 16 as a teacher and three years as a paraprofessional.

She has taught at Sturgis Williams Middle School and Sturgis Brown High School. She primarily worked in special education but was also an eighth grade math teacher for two or three years.

Prior to becoming a public school teacher, Jean was a military instructor in the South Dakota Army National Guard. Her retirement plans include relaxing, spending time walleye fishing at the river, and helping out with her grandson Zach. "A favorite event for me," she said, "is when former students come see me, update me on their activities and thank me."

RETIREES: See Page 13

Students map out their futures at SBHS career fair

More than 100 people representing 60 business and 80 career fields were in attendance at the sixth annual Sturgis Brown High School Career Fair to answer questions from students and share information about their professions.

Approximately 650 students, which included students from Spearfish and Lead Deadwood High Schools, had an opportunity to explore career opportunities from more than 13 career clusters.

The Career Fair was organized by Coleen Keffeler, career and technical education coordinator at the high school, a host of high school staff members, and the Career Fair Advisory Committee.

Businesses interested in participating in the Career Fair next year should contact Keffeler at 347-2686.



In the photo above, juniors Frances Baustian and Jasmine Flakus talk to Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer TJ Friend about careers with the U.S. Forest Service



In the photo at the left, Assistant Professor Kurt Katzenstein talks to junior Tyler Covell about geology and geological engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Also pictured is engineering student Keyo Halbmaier, a 2010 graduate of SBHS.

Students and community members can learn about the 'land down under' when Australia Kaleidoscope comes to town

Meade School District students and community members will have an opportunity to learn about the continent of Australia when Martin and Nellie Beggs of Sydney, New South Wales, present "Australian Kaleidoscope."

The one-hour assembly, set for 8:45 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. Friday, April 26, will be held at the Sturgis Community Center Theater. The program, which is free and open to the public, will have everyone saying "G'day" to their "mates" and understanding the meaning of "billabong."

The couple will introduce the audience to both the young nation of Australia that was federated in 1901 and the ancient land of the indigenous Aboriginal people who have lived there for at least 40,000 years. Audiences will have the opportunity to participate in forming a "bush band," to join in a simple folk song and learn an Aboriginal dance.

The program will intertwine songs and stories with a multi-media presentation to give a look at the land down under through the eyes of the original aboriginal inhabitants, the convicts sent to the colony of New South Wales and the very first European settlers who arrived in the 1700's. These early explorers, farmers, shearers, cattlemen and miners brought their pioneering vigor to this fascinating land of the kangaroo, platypus and emu.

Aboriginal artwork artifacts, maps, posters, pictures, flags and other Australiana will be a part of the workshops offered to Meade School District students after the assemblies.

Since childhood, Martin Beggs has been involved in playing musical instruments, performing professionally and songwriting. He has performed with and written music for some of the best-known musical groups in Australia. He has been nominated for many awards and in 1999 and 2000 he and his brother won the Australian Entertainment MO award for Variety Duo of the Year.

Nellie Beggs is thoroughly versed in the history of Australia and has a first-hand understanding about the challenges faced by early women settlers and modern-day Australian women.

This is the third program brought to Meade School District by The Cultural Kaleidoscope from Kansas City, and funded by the Sturgis Area Arts Council and the South Dakota Arts Council in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Woodle Field cleanup set

A cleanup day at Woodle Field will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 18.

Those interested in helping are asked to bring their own rakes. Track team members will be assisting with the cleanup.

End-of-year music events

Music events for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year are as follows:

Thursday, April 11: SBHS big band concert, 7 p.m., Sturgis City Armory.

Monday, April 22: Sturgis Elementary fourth and fifth grades spring choir concert, 6 p.m., Sturgis Elementary School gym.

Tuesday, April 30: Sturgis Elementary kindergarten program by kindergarten Group A, 5:30 p.m., and kindergarten Group B, 6:30 p.m., Sturgis Community Center Theatre.

Monday, May 6: Middle school choir concert, 7 p.m., Grunwald Auditorium, Sturgis.

Thursday, May 9: SBHS band concert, 7 p.m., west gym, SBHS.

Monday, May 13: SBHS choir concert, 7 p.m., Sturgis Community Center Theatre.

Tuesday, May 14: Middle school band concert, 7 p.m., Grunwald Auditorium, Sturgis.

Children's play 'Goldilocks' will be presented in May

The drama students at Sturgis Brown High School will be presenting "Goldilocks" for their annual spring children's show. Director is senior Cole Sawyer. Assistant director is Tess Jones, also a senior at SBHS.

PERFORMANCES FOR MEADE School District children will take place during the morning and afternoon of Tuesday, May 7, and Friday, May 10. The public performance is set for 7 p.m. Friday, May 10, at the Sturgis Community Center Theatre. There is no admission but donations are accepted.

In this comic spin on the classic fairy tale, Goldilocks is once again confronted by the Three Bears...and Joe, the Bears' species exchange student. From Goldilocks' house to the Bears' home and back again, a slew of fairy tale characters cross Goldilocks' path to give advice and tell their tales.

This fresh adaptation by Matt Casarino teaches young audiences the meaning of responsibility through its clever, upbeat dialogue and audience participation.

Cast members include Tess Jones, Storyteller; Sam Colvin, Goldilocks; Katie Meirose, Goldilocks'

Mother; Jordan Smith, Father Bear; Lisa Stanley, Mother Bear; Drew Concha, Baby Bear; Marshal Smith, Joe the Deer; Kyle Jones, Granny Wolf; Mark Heintz, Jack Sprat; Seth Gerberding, Cinderella; and Erika Cerveny, Witch.

Cast members also include Tiffany Concha, Hard chair 2/Scientist 3; Devon BeVier, Soft chair 1/Strange Man; Mikkayla Johnson, Soft chair 2/Scientist 2; Katie Johnston, Baby chair 1; Jordan Reichert, Baby chair 2; John Gasper, Scientist 1/Out-of-Breath Wolf; Leah Pappas, Pig 1; Amanda Barrows, Pig 2/Door 1; Hannah Beauvais, Door 2; Willow Cowherd Door 3/Old Woman; Derek Seymour, Jack; and Jessica Schepers, Red Riding Hood.

IN CHARGE OF the set and props are Cole Sawyer, Tonisha Williams, Sadie Kinslow. The costume committee consists of Tess Jones, Jessica Schepers and Jordan Reichert. Members of the publicity committee are Willow Cowherd and John Gasper. Jacque Stielow and Mariah Kayser are in charge of lights.

Adviser is June Dill.

Save cash register receipts

The public is being asked to help the Sturgis Brown High School S-Club by saving Lynn's Dakotamart cash register receipts.

For every \$10,000 collected in receipts, the store will give \$100 through its We Care Program.

Collection boxes for the cash register receipts are located at Sturgis Brown High School, and in the offices at Sturgis Williams Middle School and Sturgis Elementary School. Money received benefits all student activities.

Subscribe to 'In Touch'

The Meade School District newsletter *In Touch* is now an electronic edition only. This quarterly newsletter will continue to be posted on the district website at

<http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/parent/intouch.htm>.

To have it automatically sent to your inbox, a subscription page has been created at

<http://www.k12.sd.us/Listserv/MeadeInTouchNewsletter.htm>.

Fill out the form on that subscription page, or send an email to listserv@k12.sd.us with the following in the message body: **subscribe MeadeInTouchNewsletter**

SBHS student customized bike wins first place

Working on four holidays, eight weekends and every day after school for two weeks for a total of more than 377 man-hours has paid off for students at Sturgis Brown High School.

The students recently brought home the first place prize for their Student Built Challenge Buffalo Chip Legends Ride Bike in the full custom bagger classification in the open class at the 26th Annual Donnie Smith Bike Show held recently in Minneapolis. The students also took top honors for overall best display.

Though this is the first year of participating in the bike show, it is the second year that the Sturgis students, and their teachers Chad Hedderman and Bill Johnson,



The students who rebuilt the bike and others are pictured with the award-winning Road King Harley Davidson, from the left, Wyatt Harwood, teacher Chad Hedderman, Casey Packer, Hannah Beauvias, Caden Packer, Randy Cramer from Dakota V-Twin, Richard White, Keith Terry from Terry Components, David Owen, Rod Woodruff from Sturgis Buffalo Chip, Nick Cramer from Dakota V-Twin, Steven Remington and teacher Bill Johnson. (Photo courtesy of the Buffalo Chip)

have been selected by the Buffalo Chip to participate in their bike build mentorship program.

"Winning multiple awards at the Donnie Smith Show is an accomplishment of which these students can truly take great pride," said Rod Woodruff, owner of Buffalo Chip Campground.

The bike will be auctioned off at the conclusion of the Buffalo Chip Legends Ride Aug. 5 during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally at the Buffalo Chip Campground. Proceeds from the auction will be donated to Black Hills Special Olympics and the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum.

RETIREES:

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Betsy Luptak has been a teacher for 27 years, 25 with Meade School District and all at Sturgis Williams Middle School (a junior high school when she first began). Twenty-two of her years were spent teaching sixth grade reading. Betsy has also taught seventh and eighth grades and the subjects of English and social studies.

Retirement will allow her to visit family and friends more often. "I also plan to volunteer more in the community," she said. "I have truly enjoyed my years in the classroom, and will miss getting to know the students every year. A highlight for me through the years," she offered, "is when former students visit about their lives beyond middle school."

Connie Mickelson has been a teacher for 30 years, 29 with Meade School District. She has taught

at the rural schools of Union Center, Hope, Hereford, Opal, Stoneville and Enning. She currently teaches at the Elm Springs School where she is the only teacher for eight students in kindergarten, first, fourth and eighth grades. Over the years, Connie has taught all subjects except music and computers and all grade levels. Once retired she will be helping her husband Darrel care for his mother who has Alzheimers. Connie also plans to do more Harriet Tubman presentations in the schools.

Connie says the best thing that has happened to her was when she was named the South Dakota Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 2007. "It was a thrill of a lifetime," she said. Connie was quick to add, "But you know, as I have said more than once, for me it has always been about the kids."

In the Spotlight

Selected: Bridger Gordon, a seventh-grader at Sturgis Williams Middle School, has been selected as South Dakota's top middle level youth volunteer in the 2013 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Bridger will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., on May 4-7 for a series of national recognition events.

Bridger has also qualified for the President's Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and country.

During the past four years he has spearheaded several environmental initiatives including community cleanup events with his 4-H Club. He has organized a community rummage sale to encourage the reuse of belongs so they're not sent to landfills and hosted a drive that collected nearly 500 pairs of worn-out tennis shoes that were then ground up to make other products. Bridger also initiated a can-recycling program at the county fair and helped launch a recycling program at SWMS.

Won: Sturgis Brown High School wrestling team placed eighth at this year's SDHSAA State "A" Wrestling Tournament. Team members include Zane Joens, state runner-up; Brody Jorensen, fourth; Tanner Brengle, seventh; Ryan Wiley, state qualifier; Jesse Skidmore, fifth; Caleb Karrels, state qualifier; Till Olson, state qualifier; Cole Hemmah, state qualifier; Tate McVay, sixth; Payson Dirk, state qualifier; John Wilcox, fifth; and John Wilson, seventh. Coaches are Steve Keszler, Jason Schlichtemeier and David Olson. Student managers are Andrea Collins, Taylor Applegate, Kerry Wilson and Whitney Werdel.

Won: Sturgis Brown High School girls basketball team placed eighth at this year's SDHSAA State "AA" Girls Basketball Tournament. Team members include Brooke Ireland, Illianna Shuck, Lauren Fowler, Baillie Mutchler, Jenny Bruch, Callie Gabriel, Kenzie Skovlund, Errin Short, Lynsey Prosser, Taryn Urbaniak, Jenna Odle, Lia Meirose, Amada Heidrich, Kahlie Peterson and Jocelyn Keszler. Head coach is Mike Friedel. Assistant coaches are Colin McCampbell and Roxy Murphy. Student managers are Kim O'Conner and Jan Nichols.

This year's legislative funding for K-12 education

With the 2013 South Dakota Legislative Session completed, Superintendent Don Kirkegaard summarized the legislative impact on funding of K-12 education. "The governor and legislators have the responsibility to wisely use the limited resources in the state, prioritize certain programs and end up with a balanced budget," he said. "We always ask for a little more money than we get, but I believe this year's legislature treated us fairly."

The per-student funding allocation will increase by 3 percent or \$135 a student plus there will be an

additional \$45 per student in one time money. According to the Superintendent, this will be the largest increase the school districts have received for several years, but still does not bring the schools back to the pre-budget cut numbers.

"When we look at the per-student allocation or funding increases, we need to remember that the legislature sets the dollar amount and then the dollars are raised from either local or state taxes," said Kirkegaard. "With the 3 percent increase in the per student allocation, half of the increase will

be raised through local property taxes and the other half will be state dollars."

In addition to an increase in the general fund allocation, special education funding will increase by 3 percent. An additional \$1 million was allocated statewide for innovation and technology grants.

The approximate amount of additional money to be received by Meade School District as a result of legislative action is \$440,000, which includes some one-time money.

Five running for three board positions

Five people are running for the three available seats in the Meade School Board election on June 4.

Vying for the three three-year terms are Amy Conover and Bryce Richter, both of Sturgis, Ezra Hays and Curtis Nupen, both of Piedmont, and Robert Burns, the incumbent, from Black Hawk. The other two incumbents, Wanda Blair of Vale and Nancy Richter of Enning, are not running for re-election.

The deadline for voter registration is May 20. For information about absentee voting, call the school district business office at 347-2523.

Amy (Hallock) Conover



Amy Conover graduated from Sturgis Brown High School in 1997. She holds a bachelor's degree in cross categorical special education from Arizona State University, a graduate certificate in assistive technology, and a master's degree in early childhood education from Northern Arizona University. She is a landscape administrative assistant at Rockingtree Landscape, Sturgis.

The 33-year-old and her fami-

ly relocated to Sturgis from the Phoenix area in 2012 because she and her husband want to raise their children in a small community where they could be active in both the education of their children and the community.

"My primary reason for running for the school board is to set an example for my children that being involved is not only individually rewarding but has a lasting positive impact on the community," Amy said. "I have over 10 years of experience in the educational field - from classroom teaching to educational management - and truly value what education has to offer a community."

She feels the school district has done an excellent job of meeting the needs of the large geographical area that it encompasses. She also feels it has created and demonstrated the value of the community which is reflected in the success of its students.

"In my few experiences with the staff, it is clear that their dedication to what they do is exemplary. It makes me proud to say my children attend school in this district."

Since she has just moved back to the school district, she feels it is difficult to say what exactly the district could improve upon, however, she said there is always room for

improvement when building the school-to-home connection. "Parents are a student's first teachers and there is always improvement to be made on that front," she said.

"I attended a recent board meeting," she explained, "where new curriculum was being adopted and I am proud to say that the school board seemed to have done their due diligence in regards to new curriculum and were willing to hear both sides of the argument prior to making their decision."

"I do look forward to the opportunity to meet the challenges the school district faces by being a voice in the community heard on the board," the candidate said. "I look forward to the opportunity to review changes and improvements suggested by those residing in the school district for the betterment of all students."

While a teacher in Arizona, she served on the school district Superintendent's Advisory Council. "Information that was discussed and synthesized at the Advisory Council was then presented to the school board for decision making that directly impacted the students in the school district," she explained.

During her last three years of teaching, she served as a

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mentor to teachers new to the profession and to the school district.

She is an assistant coach for the Sturgis Soccer Program-U8 level, and is a volunteer with the Sturgis Elementary PTA. She is also a student in the Sturgis Leadership Academy sponsored by the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce.

Amy and her husband P.J. have two daughters who attend Sturgis Elementary: Ryan, a fifth-grader, and Rylee, a second-grader.

Bryce Richter graduated



Bryce Richter

from Sturgis Brown High School in 1997. Following graduation, he attended Black Hills State University and is employed as an agricultural commercial lender with First National Bank in Newell.

He is running for the school board because he is concerned about the education being provided to the students as well as the responsible utilization of tax dollars.

"I would like the opportunity to serve my community by representing parents in Meade County on the school board, and allowing them a voice in the

decision-making process for the school district," Bryce said.

The 33-year-old believes the overall quality and continuing education of the teachers in the district provide a solid basis to ensure students the best possible education while meeting the state's Common Core standards. "The increased focus to the adherence of the security procedures in our schools since the Sandy Hook tragedy is a testament to the overall nature of the school administrators," he said.

Bryce is concerned, though, that the students have not been uniformly provided the level of education they will need in order to succeed in an increasingly competitive world. "There is an ever-growing reliance on technology, math, and science in the overall scope of employment across our state and nation," he said. "Our current students will not only compete with each other for quality future employment but also with people from around the globe," he said.

"I feel that children need to be provided a level of education higher than their predecessors in order to compete globally. These higher standards should be provided regardless of where they attend school or their economic advantages or disadvantages."

Bryce believes better utilization of individualized technolo-

gies could give teachers the ability to work more directly with each student.

"The increased size of our classrooms and unique geographical obstacles in our particular school district make it very difficult for our educators to provide a thorough education," he said. "Providing students with access to their teachers through multiple methods allowed by today's high tech equipment improves their ability to work on a one-to-one basis with those teachers."

"The stewardship of the tax revenue provided to the school by the residents is a responsibility of the utmost importance to me as a representative of the Meade School Board," he said. "Each dollar spent must be scrutinized and evaluated for its effectiveness in benefits to our students in their overall growth. The taxpayers need to know that their tax dollars are being invested in our students in a manner that yields the highest quality standards and best returns possible."

Bryce is a member of the Board of Directors of the Sturgis Soccer Association, serving as treasurer. He also serves as a board member of the Northern Hills United Way and is a committee member of the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce Northern Hills Ag Fest.

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Bryce and his wife Kristen have four children: Ryne, 8 months old; Madisyn, 5 years old; Ryleigh, third-grader at Sturgis Elementary; and Jordyn, first-grader at Sturgis Elementary.

Ezra Hays, who holds a high



Ezra Hays

school diploma and a Fraternal Insurance Counselor degree, is a financial representative with Modern Woodmen of America in Rapid City.

The 28-year-old is running for the school board because he wants to be an advocate for the changing needs of children's education. "My goals," he said, "are to make sure our policies and curriculum are student/parent friendly by continually investing in our future."

Ezra believes the district has hired some great staff. "I am most proud of our ability to attract and retain qualified and professional individuals," he said. "I want to make sure the district's money is spent efficiently. I also want to make sure we are keeping well ahead of the minimum standards and that our students and graduates are in the best position to achieve success."

He is a volunteer fire fighter

with North Haines Volunteer Fire Department. He is a member of the Habitat for Humanity Faith Relations Committee, advisory board member for FHA, advisor for the Black Hills Area TARS, member of the Young Sturgis Professionals and Leadership Sturgis, and is a foster parent.

He and his wife Carmen have three children: Emma, three years old; Flora, kindergarten at Piedmont Valley Elementary; and Joseph, first-grader at Piedmont Valley Elementary.

Curtis Nupen, a Vietnam

veteran, is retired from the Air Force. He is a graduate of South Dakota State College and holds a master's degree in guidance and counseling. He has previously served three terms on the Meade School Board and four terms on the Meade County Commission.

Curt is running for the school board because he believes he still has something to offer. "I believe in public education and feel that it is the keystone of our country's strength and our way of life," he said.

"Because we have all been

given the opportunity to learn as much as we are capable, we have been given a chance to improve the lives of our families and contribute to future generations."

The 74-year-old continues to believe a good education is important to all youth, especially because the country's future is at a real turning point.

"Our education system is also in transition as the computer age and social media are becoming more and more important," he said. "The common core requirements are moving concepts to lower grades and we will have to follow these changes closely to see if the results are as expected," he said.

"I have always been an advocate of community schools, even though the tendency has been to move to bigger consolidated schools," he added.

Curt believes the electronic updates for teachers have helped in the classroom, but that the district needs to continue to keep up with technology improvements. "School security has been in the news lately, and everything we can do must be done to keep our children safe. Every child should be able to go to school and have the opportunity to learn free of bullying and fear."

He is chairman of his church council, involved in the local PTO and a member of the



Curtis Nupen

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Legion Honor Guard. His involvement also includes youth softball, baseball and soccer.

Curt and his wife Darlene have eight grown children, five of whom graduated from Sturgis Brown High School and two who are teachers.



Bob Burns is owner of Earthorizons Inc., a construction and excavation company.

He attended Piedmont Elementary School and later earned a bachelor's

Bob Burns degree from Rutgers University, New Jersey, in environmental science.

He has served on the Meade School Board for four years. During that time, he has been a member of the building committee, employee recognition committee, teacher negotiations committee and transportation committee. He also serves as board vice president.

"As a lifelong resident of Meade County and the father of four children who attended Meade schools, it's been an honor to have the opportunity to give back to a community that has given us so much," he said.

The 63-year-old is running for re-election because he wants to continue to be part of the team that builds the future for the district and its students. "The state's

new Common Core curriculum and technological requirements bring change that will challenge our teachers, administrators and school board. I know our staff is up to the task, and the sound budget established by the board over the past two years will allow the school board to provide the building blocks our educators need to meet that challenge."

Even though budget reductions have caused school closings and consolidations in other districts, he is proud that Meade School District has kept its commitment to keeping the rural schools open.

"The building improvement at Hereford, the realignment of classes at Enning and Union Center, which kept both schools open, and the continuing plans to build a middle school in Piedmont Valley attest to the district's commitment to the local school concept," he said.

Bob believes the district can do a better job of long-term planning for growth. "The new elementary schools in Piedmont and Sturgis are almost at capacity and we have limited capital outlay funds or property at the schools for expansion," he explained.

"Budgets are always tight and the cuts of the last few years have limited our ability to do any more than spend on our immediate needs," he explained. "The good news is that the proposed budget for next year is starting to reflect the importance of planning for the future."

Bob is concerned that contin-

ued budget cuts, combined with unfunded mandates, will force decisions that are detrimental to the children's future.

"Even with the funding cuts needed to balance the state's budget, Meade School district has, fortunately, managed to balance its budget without dramatically reducing the quality of education for our children," he said. "This has been a team effort of the staff at all levels of forgoing pay raises and finding efficiencies which allowed us to do more with less. At the board and administrative level, spending that wasn't absolutely necessary was postponed and creative ways were found to move funds from capital outlay to support the general fund. These moves saved more than 11 teaching positions and allowed us to keep all our schools open and fully staffed."

Bob is president and finance chairman of the Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church Council, member of the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board, member of the Citizens Advisory Council to the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and board member/treasurer of the Chapel in the Hills (Stavekirk Church).

He and his wife Mary LaHood have four children: Murray, a senior at Sturgis Brown High School; Delainey, a sophomore at the University of Vermont; Ryan, an exercise science major at Black Hills State University, and Kevin, a TV news director.

Drivers education sign up is now underway

Sign up is currently underway for driver education classes offered this summer through the Meade School District's Curriculum Office. The session is scheduled for 9 a.m.-noon Monday through Friday, June 3-14, in room 120 at Sturgis Brown High School.

Cost is \$249, which must be paid in advance. Registration deadline is Friday, May 24. Placement will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Students must be at least 14 years of age and must attend the entire 30 hours of classroom instruction. In addition, six hours of driving time is required, which must be individually scheduled with the instructor and completed by the first week in July.

Many insurance companies give discounts to those who have completed a driver education course.

Completing the course also reduces the time a student must hold an Instructional Permit from 180 days to 90 days before that student can get a Restricted Minor's Permit or an Operator's License.

The registration form can be downloaded from the school district website:

www.meade.k12.sd.us/Curriculum/DriversEd.html or is available at the main offices at Sturgis Williams Middle School and Sturgis Brown High School and at the curriculum and technology office located in the Francis Case Building, 1610 Fulton Street, Sturgis.

The registration form and class fee should be dropped off or mailed to Meade School District, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785. For further information call 347-4454.

Meade School District calendar for 2013-14

The following is the approved Meade School District calendar for the 2013-14 school year. Any snow days will be made up by adding additional days at the end of the school calendar. Furthermore, Feb. 17, March 14, and April 21 will be used as make-up days if more than three snow days have been used prior to Feb. 1, March 1 or April 17, 2014.

Staff Inservice	Aug. 20-22, 2013
First Day of School	Aug. 26, 2013
Labor Day (no school)	Sept. 2, 2013
Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
High School: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 7, 2013
Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 8, 2013
Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 8, 2013
All Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 10, 2013
Inservice Day (no school)	Oct. 11, 2013
Native Americans' Day (no school)	Oct. 14, 2013
Inservice Day (no school)	Nov. 8, 2013
Thanksgiving Vacation (no school)	Nov. 27-29, 2013
Christmas Vacation (no school)	Dec. 23-Jan. 3

Inservice Day (no school)	Jan. 17, 2014
Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 10, 2014
Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 11, 2014
High School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 11, 2014
All Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 13, 2014
Presidents' Day (no school)	Feb. 17, 2014
Inservice Day (no school)	Mar. 13, 2014
Spring Break (no school)	Mar. 14, 2014
Good Friday/Easter (no school)	April 18- 21, 2014
Graduation	May 18, 2014
Last Day of School	May 21, 2014

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

Sturgis Bus Company

2237 West Sherman, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Einar Mortenson, owner.....347-5066

Woodle Field

600 Woodland Dr., Sturgis**347-2003

**Not a mailing address