

# Minnekahta eMessenger®

VOLUME I

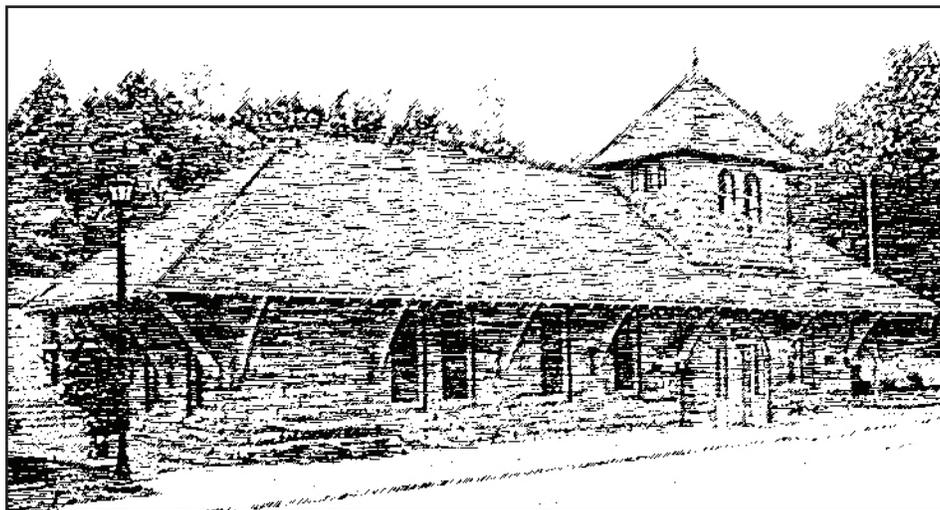
MINNEKAHTA PUBLISHING, LLC

NUMBER 2

SOUTHERN HILLS, SD.

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

FRIDAY, APR. 14, 2017



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# Minnekahta Messenger



VOLUME I

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FRIDAY, APR. 14, 2017

## HAPPY EASTER AND EGG HUNTING

**WE SUPPORT OUR FIRST RESPONDERS  
THANK YOU  
ALL LIVES MATTER**

GRACE. AND GUNS.  
By Dusty Pence

Grace  
Proverbs 6: 16-19

*There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.*

I read that proverb in Bible Study for the first time this week and realized that I am guilty of stirring up conflict, even if this is not my intent.

I asked the group if the proverb means we should not address divisive issues, lest we be guilty of stirring up conflict. When do we cross the line from trying to resolve conflict by providing information and point of view, to causing conflict and worsening a bad situation?

There was a good deal of silence. Even the pastor was silent. Then one of the younger ladies spoke up.

"Present the truth with grace," Lacey said. A wise young woman.

Okay. Lacey nailed it. But am I capable of presenting truth on controversial issues without infusing irony and self-righteous indignation? Would a little irony be okay, if it is not divisive? There is my challenge.

The topic, "Guns in the Courthouse," was already chosen and it is a subject about which I have strong feelings. I am not a reporter, thus not required to be completely objective, and Publisher Grits did say he wants us to present "subjective news." I think perhaps that is an oxymoron, but I will give it a go in the spirit of cooperation.

Maybe next time we will chat about cameras in the courthouse—the 2nd Amendment first and the 1st Amendment second—I feel strongly about both, so pray for a lot of grace!

*Guns in the Courthouse*

A couple of weeks ago, the Fall River County Commission passed a waiver to state law. The state law mandates that every county court-

house post a sign forbidding weapons in the building. The State probably knew this was a problem, because they also passed a clause allowing any county to waive the ban—a county cannot remove the 'no weapons' sign, but apparently can post another indicating that the ban is not valid in its courthouse. (This oddity is perhaps just a bureaucratic error.)

Our county commission took them up on the offer and waived the ban. Now, in the regular order of things, this policy would have gone into effect in twenty days. Instead, gun hysteria set in—wait, that was not graceful. Let me just say that some people disagreed with the decision. Did citizens march on the courthouse? Nope. Some of them might have made phone calls, but the judges in Rapid City were the real rebels.

On the afternoon of March 31, Judge Craig Pfeifle canceled court hearings in Fall River County for April 1 and 4, citing security concerns—although the gun waiver was not yet in effect and could have been reconsidered at the upcoming April 4 meeting.

Had Judge Pfeifle given the Commission more notice of his intent, it likely would have called an emergency meeting and stayed or rescinded the waiver immediately. Instead, people who had been waiting months for their day in court were delayed and future court schedules will likely be impacted also. People's *lives* were disrupted, when there were alternatives that would have accomplished the same end.

Let me clarify something: the Commission's waiver *excluded the courtroom when court is in session*. For those of you who are justifiably concerned about high emotions erupting in violence in court hearings, know that nothing would have changed. It was illegal to carry a weapon in the courtroom when court was in session *before the waiver* and it would have been illegal *with the waiver in effect*.

Let's digress for a moment and talk about security in the courtroom. Commissioner Paul Nabholz told me that a deputy uses a wand on everyone before they go into the courtroom (when court is in session, of course). But a friend who frequently testifies at hearings said she has never been wanded, nor has she seen anyone else wanded.

(see Grace on back cover)

## WHY ALLOW ANYONE TO CARRY A GUN ANYTIME OR SPECIFICALLY IN A COURTHOUSE?

By Paul Nabholz

Statistics prove that issuing non-discretionary concealed gun permits reduce crime, according to Crime Prevention Research Center founder and president Dr. John R. Lott, Jr., who is "a world recognized expert on guns and crime" (<http://www.crimeresearch.org/about-us/>).

Thousands of murders and more thousands of rape are prevented annually by laws allowing more citizens to possess guns. Minorities and women are most benefitted. Nondiscretionary means that the state/county authorities have to issue permits to minorities or other groups possibly subject to discrimination.

Concealed carry can make a difference as criminals cannot determine in advance which potential victims could defend themselves, thus minimizing the number of victims.

(see Carry on back cover)

## KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

By Lorelei Marie

On January 24, 2017 President Donald Trump signed an executive order to allow for the continuing construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

While supporters argue that it would create jobs, these jobs would be only temporary. Once the pipeline is up and running, only 35 full-time permanent positions will be needed to run it along with 15 temporary jobs. These numbers have not been disputed by Trans Canada.

The opponents of the Keystone XL Pipeline claim that it could lead to dangerous oil spills while it crosses sensitive water aquifers. It is a \$7 billion dollar project that would send 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada to the Gulf coast.

This is crude oil derived from oil sands, said to release 17% more greenhouse gases than typical forms of oil development. The pipeline would begin in Alberta, Canada, and then travel down through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska where it would connect with an existing pipeline to the Gulf Coast.

Trans Canada has failed to demonstrate that the pipeline can be built safely. Opposition has come from Native American tribes, landowners (see Pipeline on back cover)

## EDGEMONT ELECTION RESULTS

By Frank Gregg

Edgemont has elected a new mayor. Jerry Dibble won the election with a vote of 131 to 96.

Carl Shaw was the incumbent, with Dibble running as his opponent.

Jason Shook took Ward II, the south end of town, with a vote of 49 to 36 over incumbent George West. West had been a council member for four years.

Shaw pretty much ran the city with a free hand, assisted by several on the council and opposed, usually, by only one member.

Now, to be fair, Shaw had been seen many times in the trenches, literally. He showed up virtually every morning at the city garage and could be seen with shovel in hand digging up a broken water pipe or shoveling snow.

While Dibble is an experienced leader, he is new to politics. He told this reporter, "I've thought about it for several years, and when I finally retired as a track foreman for Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad, I thought it was time. I was just too busy before. People have said I'd make a good mayor. I'm a good listener."

Dibble has lived in Edgemont his whole life.

Now that the town has a new mayor, it is to be seen how the police situation will play out. Shaw was trying to promote a private police agency for the town, while Dibble has stated that he is against changing the law enforcement status from its present sheriff patrols. The current contract with the Fall River County Sheriff's Office has less than a year before it is renegotiated or canceled.

(see Election on back cover)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Southern Hills News.....	Page 1
There's Something To Be Said.....	Page 2
The Girl Who Cared Too Much Over the Back Fence	
From The Pen Of The Publisher.....	Page 3
Special April Fool's Section Has Desired Effect Special Section.....	Pages 4-5
Timeline Related to Waiver of Gun Ban HS Star Editor John D. Taylor's Email to Auditor Sue Ganje	
Petition to Videotape and Broadcast Fall River County Commission Meetings	
Well, If You Ask Us.....	Page 6
Letters To The Editor.....	Page 7
Southern Hills News (cont.).....	Page 8

# There's Something To Be Said

## The Girl Who Cared Too Much

By Barbara Johnston

As my mind searches back through all my years, my Spirit and Soul told me that I was a "care giver." I was happy with that; however, being a preacher's daughter, classmates thought I was putting on a show to prove something. I was just being myself.

Experiencing life with its ups and downs, I realized that I was just like anyone else! I worked hard at the jobs I held and was proud of what I had accomplished in helping others. It flowed so easily for me I felt this was my niche: to be helping other lives run smoother. In my marriage, at the tender age of 20, I felt the world had given me something back. I had no idea what the future held!

Skipping through the 70's and 80's, I realized life was very precious and should not be taken for granted! My husband left

after I lost an early pregnancy. I was scared and alone. My gut told me, "Get back on your feet and continue the life God gave you. Pursue the life you wanted long ago."

It wasn't easy. It was hard, confusing, and I was scared beyond belief! I found out that I wasn't the only *woman* in our marriage; last to know is always the case. Hurt, mad, confused and crying all the time, I finally decided, "This is enough! I have a purpose on this Earth and I'm going forward with my quest!"

Hurting so badly, I thought my guts would spill out. I made a mind-change to help myself. Yes, friends, God was always there, but the warmth of someone that I loved was gone. Not trusting a man who would come forward to get to know me... I was running the other way... in Sketchers or barefoot!

After two failed marriages I decided to dig in my boots—yes, Ropers. I am not a fast learner, but when I get it, I GET IT!

At the age of 67, I'm still trying to figure out this journey I've taken. Age is only a number; it's how your Spirit and Soul connect. Life is precious and not to be taken for granted.

Looking back, as I worked with special needs students, a good friend told me that I carry the name *Kindred Spirit*. I smiled and thanked her. To this date, I feel blessed and honored to accept the name. That is what I really am; blessed with what I was born with and to carry on as *the girl who cared too much*.

I am striving each day to make the best of the rest of my life and of those who have trodden my path into friendship. Believing in oneself is a journey with which no one can help. It's out there. Just believe, for we are all different. We have an opportunity to show that belief can be the most positive decision in our lives. Enjoy the journey!

## OVER THE BACK FENCE

### Prairie Paradise

By Carrie Cofer

Empty forever is this short-grass prairie.  
Ghost herds thundering,  
Lifting dust aloft.

Gravid clouds become,  
They birth Fire and Ice,  
Wind and Water, and lose their baby fat.

They warn of Winter's wind,  
Its whip-crack driving the herds across the plain;  
Part of the cycle.

Finally showing the other Ancient face –  
Smiling, offering life again  
But the herds have gone.

Empty forever is this short-grass prairie,  
Ghost herds lifting dust on high.  
Humans gone, quiet returns.

### Mallorn

By Carrie Cofer

In their skin of silver silk,  
The trees cloak themselves  
With silent fog,  
Dewdrops like sparkling jewels  
Their Royal coronets.

Stately matrons and lithe maidens,  
They arise from winter's slumber,  
No more to gather their petticoats  
Around their knees and dance.

No more to sing their rootlets  
Free of the Mother's bounty,  
No more to roam the forest's verge,  
Calling home the Ents.  
No more. The Age has changed.

### Rhinitis

By Carrie Cofer

Flows, flows my nose.  
Who knows why my nose flows?  
No one knows I suppose.  
It just goes and goes.

Allergens  
Mallard hens  
and rabbit pens  
make my eyes twitch,  
make my ribs itch.

Hard to flirt, 'cause  
is she winking?  
Or just blinking?  
No one knows just  
what she's thinking.

Eye drips dropping,  
nose drops dripping,  
throat frog-clogging.  
No more singing  
Until freezing.

# From The Pen Of The Publisher

## Special April Fool's Section Has Desired Effect: Readers Were Fooled

By Grits McMorro

The first issue of Minnekahta *Messenger*, released on March 31, presented a variety of news and human interest stories, written by a team of skilled writers, for readers in the Southern Black Hills.

Among the stories were three that appeared in the Special April Fool's Section. The cleverly-written articles, sharing "facts" from each, informed readers that Swami Amar Sharma, a personal friend of President Donald and First Lady Melania Trump, acquired the VA campus for use as a retreat for members of The Church of Divine Guidance. As expected, many readers were fooled by these fine examples of creative writing.

Why were these readers fooled? The answer is that they failed to read the table of contents (In This Issue) that was displayed in the lower right corner of the front page. From past experience, I suspected there would be people who would not read it.

When I open a book or magazine, I typically read the table of contents (TOC). I am curious to learn how many chapters the book contains, what those chapters are about, and how many pages each chapter uses. In magazines, I seek to discover which articles may be of interest to me and I identify where in the magazine the articles are located.

Newspapers and, as is the case of the *Messenger*, information sources do not usually contain a TOC. But the *Messenger* does have a TOC (as did one of my previous publications). It is included in the *Messenger* to help readers learn what is in the paper. More importantly, the electronic version (the *eMessenger*) utilizes the TOC to allow readers to use the content hyperlinks I programmed to navigate to the stories.

These hyperlinks are convenient. There is no need to manually move from the front page to the page upon which the sought-after article resides. One click and there you are. In addition, all cited Internet sources of information (identified by the <http://> or <https://> in the URL (Uniform Resource Locator) are hyperlinks. If a subscriber's

computer is connected to the Internet when s/he clicks on the URL, a browser window opens and the website associated with the address appears. Ah, the marvels of PDFs.

But I digress. It is a tradition of mine to include an April Fool's set of stories in any issue that is released on or shortly before April Fool's Day (April 1). My first effort occurred on April 1, 1996. The publication was the Hot Springs *Conference* (before the infamous and talented cartoonist and satirist Jim Davies became a contributor).

With the permission of six Hot Springs friends (Robert Tiensvold, Russell Bledsoe, Mary MacPhee, David Strawn, Charlene Lively, and Mavis Moen), I wrote about a recent "heavy snowstorm" that created a power surge that "disrupted the flow of electricity" and "altered the sequence of operation of 29 video gaming machines" in Hot Springs. My friends received combined "unscheduled payouts of hundreds of thousands of dollars." Cool, huh?

Perhaps the most successful set of April Fool's stories occurred in the March 28, 1997 issue of *The Conference* (renamed because it was also circulated outside Hot Springs). In this issue I wrote three stories about my "negotiations" to purchase the Hot Springs *Star*. My friend, Renee Noel, called the business that owned the *Star*—Smith Newspapers in Alabama—and said she was a college student writing a paper on newspaper publishers.

Written with authentic but publicly unknown facts about the *Star*, my three stories complemented each other in describing my "imminent ownership" and plans to make a "few changes regarding the *Star* format."

Publisher Tim Franklin was so outraged by the joke and the reader complaints it elicited (neither they nor Franklin read the TOC) that he sent me a registered letter calling the articles "yellow journalism" and demanding a 10-bullet list, "full retraction of your stories." I printed his letter instead.

Minnekahta *Messenger* will publish factual stories that I and Lorelei Marie believe readers may appreciate. April Fool's stories always will be identified in the TOC.

Tense, I feel my palms begin to sweat as I grip the steering wheel. My seatbelt is on. I focus a long, purposeful look through my rear window, straining my neck and turning in the seat to take in my surroundings. I shift into reverse, but my foot is still planted firmly on the brake pedal. I wait... my turn will come. I wait. Suddenly, I see my chance.

With infinite care, I ease out. I'm practically standing as I try to maintain my view over or through other vehicles parked on either side of me. I'm turning the wheel for extra protection, to be an extra foot or two out of the lane. I brake hard, cursing the other driver for going so fast. What if...? Again, I back up, this time free to merge into traffic. Panting, I have escaped safely. But what about tomorrow?

Maybe I'll walk to the Post Office instead.

[Reprinted from the Nov. 22, 1995 Pioneer Issue of Hot Springs Conference.]

I am amused that, after nearly twenty-two years, the challenges associated with trying to back out of parking slots in front of the Hot Springs Post Office without being rear-ended by speeding, impatient, or semi-conscious drivers still exist. Interestingly, no warning signs are posted.

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## Special Section

# Timeline Related to Waiver of Gun Ban

Regional media misrepresented recent actions of the Fall River County Commission by hinting that the commissioners took action on a March 21 gun waiver without public input. The courts caused further confusion by canceling court, citing passage of the waiver, and delaying resolution of outstanding cases.

I asked Commissioner Paul Nabholz to provide me with the timeline of events leading up to and following the March 21 motion in question. Some information was partly clarified in the April 4 meeting but there was still some confusion and some unhappy people. Here is the timeline I have been able to gather. It is surely incomplete and subjective, but I tried to be fair.

3/9 Nabholz sends fellow commissioners copies of South Dakota Codified Laws 22-14-23, prohibiting firearms in the courthouse, and SDCL 22-14-28, *“Waiver of provisions. By a majority of the members-elect, the county commission in any county may elect to waive provisions of [SDCL] 22-14-23.”* The issue is subsequently placed on the March 21 agenda for 9:20 a.m., including this text: *“Consider carrying of weapons in the courthouse/courtroom.”*

3/21 Nabholz makes this motion, seconded by Chairman Joe Falkenburg: *“We waive the provisions of SDCL 22-14-23 to allow citizens and county employees to carry firearms and other weapons in the courthouse, except in the courtroom on days when court is in session.”* Discussion takes place for and against. Falkenburg makes a motion, seconded by Nabholz, to table the motion until later in the meeting. Chairman Falkenburg states that a delay will allow them to first hear from Judge Jeff Davis, who is scheduled to talk about building security.

(Resident Rick Kaan is later to be cited by the Hot Springs Star as opposing guns in the courthouse during Judge Davis’ discussion, presumably in response to the earlier motion.) The commissioners address six agenda items, the last being a tax abatement issue that drags into the lunch hour,

ending at 12:20 p.m.; most of the audience is already gone.

Falkenburg wants to address Nabholz’s waiver motion before executive session, so that interested parties will not have to wait through executive session. Fall River County State’s Attorney Jim Sword remains. Falkenburg brings the motion from table, it is discussed and Nabholz amends it to add “legally” between “to” and “carry.” The motion passes with Commissioners Joe Allen and Ann Abbott voting no.

A motion is made to go into Executive Session at 12:30 p.m. (topic was contractual, related to bidding on ambulance shed). *The courtroom door is closed. When commissioners come out of executive session at 12:46 p.m., Sword opens the door and looks to see if anyone is waiting to hear the results of the executive session. Apparently, no one was.* Commissioners make a motion for Falkenburg to bid at discussed price. The motion passes with Allen and Nabholz voting no. The meeting is adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

3/22 Falkenburg informs Nabholz that commissioners may have to pass a resolution to enact the motion and Nabholz should discuss it with Auditor Sue Ganje.

Nabholz receives an email from Hot Springs Star Editor John Taylor, addressed to Ganje and copied to the commissioners. (See page 5 for Taylor’s email.)

Nabholz meets with Ganje, who tells him that Sword has smoothed the waters with Taylor. Ganje tells Nabholz there was a stay of some sort on the motion. Nabholz visits Taylor at the Star offices to explain the timeline. Taylor thanks Nabholz and seems satisfied that the commissioners’ actions were proper.

Nabholz asks Clerk of Courts Carol Foster for a copy of the stay referenced earlier by Ganje. Foster indicates that Judge Craig Pfeifle of the Seventh Judicial District has concerns with the motion and will come down to talk with the commission, but there is no paperwork available. Nabholz emails Taylor with the relevant laws and the timeline of passage of the motion.

3/28 Taylor’s article appears in the Star. Article opens by saying that the vote took place: *“Following a series of executive sessions where no citizens were involved in the meeting according to State’s Attorney Jim Sword, Fall River County’s commissioners approved a measure that would allow firearms and other weapons to be carried into the courthouse at their March 21 meeting.”*

3/29 Rapid City Journal reprints modified version of Taylor’s article and also hints at wrongdoing by commissioners: *“The Fall River County commissioners have approved a measure that would allow firearms and other weapons to be carried into the courthouse. Fall River State’s Attorney Jim Sword said the board took the action during a March 21 commission meeting after a series of executive sessions, which are closed to the public.”*

3/30 The Seventh Judicial Court cancels court for Fall River citizens, scheduled for March 31 and April 3. Nabholz receives calls from two citizens, including from one who was expecting a settlement of a child custody issue that is now delayed. Since the Commission was informed of the cancellations on Thursday afternoon, March 30, the commissioners could not hold an emergency meeting within statutory time limits to consider rescinding or delaying the gun waiver motion.

3/31 Nabholz contacts the South Dakota Attorney General’s Office and leaves a message asking for an interpretation of the law, to determine if the motion had gone into effect immediately or would be effective 20 days after passage (believed by the commissioners to be the timeframe for the implementation of the gun ban waiver).

Nabholz receives a call from the Rapid City Journal, but the reporter only asks him if the waiver was enacted by motion or ordinance. When told it was an ordinance, he thanks Nabholz and hangs up.

4/2 Rapid City Journal publishes a staff editorial that reads: *“After meeting in executive session and with no public input, the Fall River County Commission voted...”*

4/3 The Attorney General’s Office confirms to Nabholz that the motion will not go into effect until 20 days after passage.

Nabholz receives unapproved minutes of March 21 meeting, confirming the outline he provided to Dusty Pence, a Fall River

County resident.

Pence arrives early for the Commissioners meeting and sets up a GoPro camera and prepares to also audio-only record on her phone. Falkenburg tells her she cannot record either video or audio. Nabholz says it is probably legal since it is a public meeting. Falkenburg arranges to contact Judge Pfeifle, who is scheduled to speak to the commissioners at 10:40 a.m., for his input.

KELO TV also sets up its camera and Falkenburg tells reporter not to film. Judge Pfeifle gets back to Falkenburg, saying that no cameras are allowed because the meeting is being held in a courtroom. (Someone, not sure who, said that this is because

broadcasting the layout of the courtroom could provide information to people intent on doing harm.)

Judge Pfeifle arrives and tells the commissioners why he thinks they should rescind their gun waiver motion. Falkenburg cites the Kenny Rogers' song lyrics from *The Gambler*—"You've got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em"—and indicates that he is ready to fold on this issue. A motion is made and seconded to rescind the waiver and it passes, with Nabholz voting no.

At some point during this meeting, Taylor addresses the commission regarding the media confusion. Sword states that he

may have misled Taylor when he gave him information about the progression of the agenda. Sword apologizes for this.

The commissioners proclaim that they did conduct the waiver vote before the executive session and with the door open, but no one's memory is completely clear on how they communicated this to the audience.

Kaan says that they shut the door, excluding the public, before they discussed this. Someone, I think Falkenburg, suggested that perhaps they could have announced it and gone out to the hall to make sure people knew what they were doing. (*see Timeline on back cover*)

## HS Star Editor John D. Taylor's Email to Auditor Sue Ganje

From: John Taylor

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 1:30 PM

To: <mailto:sue.ganje@state.sd.us> ; <mailto:allenranch@gwtc.net> ; 'Paul Nabholz' ; <mailto:jbart@gwtc.net> ; <mailto:deb.debkussell@gmail.com> ; <mailto:frcaud@gwtc.net>

Cc: Brett Nachtigall

Subject: Commissioner's meeting issue...  
John Taylor/Hot Springs Star

Sue:

This is a formal request from the Hot Springs Star to verify or not that on Tuesday, March 21, at the county commissioners meeting during what was deemed an "executive session" that a motion was presented and almost voted on while the public was not allowed into the courtroom/meeting room.

My understanding is that States Attorney Jim Sword opened the courtroom door just prior to the actual vote on a motion and said the meeting was open again, that the commissioners did not go out of executive session prior to this. Is this so?

My understanding under state open meeting laws is that, following an executive session, the commissioners must declare themselves back in session before taking any votes or offering any motions to vote on and allow the public to re-enter the meeting. If the commissioners did in fact not declare the meeting open to the public

again prior to offering the motion and opening the courtroom door, The Star intends to file an open meeting violation against the commissioners.

Also from you, Sue, I would like to know what actions the commissioners took following their executive session? My understanding was that they voted on permitting firearms in the county courthouse – certainly a contentious issue in terms of how people will react to it – and possibly a bid on the former ambulance building, another contentious issue.

From my perspective as the public's ears and eyes, this appears to be an effort to skirt public knowledge of their actions, to avoid confrontations from the public. During meetings with Mike Ortner as chairman, executive sessions were noted on the agenda. This one was not. Also, Ortner always declared the reason, as per state law, for the executive session.

I would also appreciate it if you would inform all of the commissioners -- especially Mr. Falkenburg, whose email I do not

have -- that as a result of this, the cordial relationship between the commissioners and myself is no longer applicable. I will not be following his admonition to "be kind," – I can play hardball, too. If in fact the commissioners did pull this kind of stuff, it is plain down stupid and wrong. I expected better of them as elected officials. If the allegation is not accurate, my apologies for bringing it up.

However, perhaps a swift kick in the britches like this ought to remind us all that we're dealing with the public's trust -- on both ends – and I refuse to leave the public in the dark about potential county commissioner shenanigans.

Also, from henceforth on, I will be riding out commissioner meetings through the bitter end of adjournment, executive sessions or not.

Sincerely yours,

John D. Taylor, Editor

The Hot Springs Star  
745-4170

[John.taylor@lee.net](mailto:John.taylor@lee.net)

## Petition to Begin Filming and Broadcasting Fall River County Commission Meetings

We the undersigned believe that, in the interest of transparency, to ensure accuracy and to improve public access to the decision making process of our Fall River County Commission, a digital video recording should be made of every public (non-executive) meeting of the Fall River County Commission and these recordings should be made available without censorship on YouTube and public access

television and maintained in the County archives. We urge the commissioners to follow the example of the Hot Springs City Council and heed the recommendations of the Fall River County State's Attorney and the Hot Springs Mayor by, without delay, initiating the policy of digitally video-recording all public Fall River County Commission meetings. (Contact Dusty Pence at 605-890-1515 or [pencedusty@me.com](mailto:pencedusty@me.com))

# Well, If You Ask Us

## Promoting a Harmonious World by Sharing the True Message of Easter

By Lorelei Marie

Our first issue of the *Minnekahta Messenger* was special, as first issues often are. This second one is also special because it is the Easter issue! Grits and I are enjoying working together to publish a newspaper with integrity that promotes the truth in all situations. We are welcoming writers from diverse backgrounds. One of our objectives is to promote not only tolerance, but acceptance and understanding of all people in regards to race, religion and other affiliation or orientation.

Acceptance and tolerance come to mind when I contemplate Easter. Isn't this one of the messages that a life sacrificed came to bring? That, along with the beauty of diversity. Diversity in regards to both people and nature. Jesus was a dark-skinned Palestinian Jew who spoke the ancient Aramaic language. Today his message of peace and love is revered by different races of people the world over. In accordance with this divine messenger, I have thoughts of people from all walks of life sharing one peaceful world.

At this blessed time, I also think of the earth renewing itself. Spring flowers blossoming and the melodious voices of birds returning from their winter sojourns in the south. It is also a time of beginnings, transformation and miracles.

I remind myself that life is not static but is constantly changing and ever-flowing. Some of this takes place in our external environment, the rest in our own thoughts and perceptions. In this regard, it is helpful to remember that life doesn't happen to us, but rather life happens for us.

At times of challenges that can be difficult to believe, but if we maintain positive thoughts and a strong faith in something more beneficial, we empower ourselves in such a way as to create advantageous circumstances in our lives.

I have endeavored to do that with experiences in my own life. I'm a native Midwesterner and have spent many delightful times visiting the Black Hills while growing up. In 1997 and 1998 I wrote and sold ads for *The Conference*, then the *Fall River Review*, while living in the unique community of Hot Springs. I also

taught English as a Second Language in Rapid City to students from around the world. These past years I have been living in southwestern New Mexico.

Like most people, I have endured both happy and sad experiences in my life. I remember watching the Space Shuttle Endeavour being transported by another plane from California back to Florida from my rooftop. I recall the pleasant sensation of being hugged by celebrity George Hamilton at his resort in Florida, and of snorkeling off the Florida Keys. I have memories of pleasant camping experiences with my Honey and our two dogs. Sometimes the best things in life really aren't things!

I survived the loss of my beloved brother from cancer and losing many other close family members within a two-year time period along with three devoted pets. I also recently survived a lengthy and devastating illness, the result of a vaccine injury. But I am not bitter or resentful because of these occurrences. Rather, I've chosen to create a better life by embracing love, compassion and forgiveness and to share the things that I have learned to help others.

And isn't that the message that Easter brings to all of us? To have faith in a higher power that is always surrounding us with devotion, tenderness and comfort, bringing all that we need into our lives. I believe that everything works for our good and that if we are receptive to the lessons hidden in both positive and negative experiences, we are eventually brought to a better place in our lives.

My message to all of you, our wonderful readers, during this Easter season is that no matter what challenges or struggles you may be experiencing in your own lives, remember that fear in the face of faith crumbles. Where you are now is only a stepping stone to an even better existence.

All possibilities exist always and you can bring the best outcomes into your own lives by keeping your thoughts conducive to the outcome you wish to manifest! Know that each of you and your life are important in the grand scheme of things and that you are always cherished and taken care of!

Have a Blessed and Happy Easter and remember to endear yourselves to the loved ones in your lives. They, too, are facing their own challenges. A hug or a kind word will go a long way.

## Minnekahta Messenger

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# Letters To The Editor

Lorelei asks, "How are unvaccinated children a danger to vaccinated children if vaccines work?"

Herd immunity is the idea that disease spread can be stopped by the percentage of the community immunized. If Typhoid Mary only visits Pete and Jane and they are immune, then the rest of the community is safe. If one is immune, then typhoid spreads through the other and, depending on the number of people visited, the disease may spread. If neither is immune, the chance of disease spread doubles.

Immunity is seldom 100% and weaker members of a community may be too frail to be immunized. So, smallpox has been and hopefully polio will be eliminated by a sufficient number of people being immunized. When enough people are immune to a disease, the "herd" protects those who cannot safely receive a vaccine.

—Paul Nabholz

Paul, in regards to "herd immunity," it does not work, especially when the ingredients in the vaccines are so toxic that the immune system is severely compromised. This is the real epidemic that we are facing today. The immune system is our best defense and by destroying it people are left vulnerable to anything that may come along.

"Herd immunity is not a sufficient rationale to mandate wide-spread vaccination," says renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Russell Blaylock. He also states that "Herd immunity is mostly a myth and applies only to natural immunity itself." The term was first used in reference to those who had already contracted diseases. Natural immunity lasts a lifetime. It was assumed by scientists when vaccines were initially introduced that they also would provide lifetime immunity. This is not the case. To learn more, go to this website: <https://www.snyderhealth.com/articles/toxins-and-contaminants/vaccines/herd-immunity-vaccination-russell-blaylock/>

Diseases such as small pox and polio, which have been around for thousands of years, were largely eradicated by an increase in sanitary conditions. The pharmaceutical companies stepped in with their vaccines and took credit after the fact. To learn more about the history of vaccination in the U.S. please read, "Dissolving Illusions: Disease, Vaccinations and the Forgotten History," written by Suzanne Humphries, a conventional medical physician who discovered the truth for herself.

The enterovirus is commonly found in the gastrointestinal tract. However, if it gets directly into the body through tonsillectomies or deep puncture wounds, such as vaccines, it mimics the symptoms of polio. See a correlation between vaccines and the rise of polio symptoms in the 1950's and the threat of "polio" again today with the push for more and more vaccinations? Watch this video to learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKNVygQyjY>

It is imperative that proper research be done to uncover the facts. This includes researching informative articles, ascertaining who is writing the articles and finding out the funding sources, whether independent or pharmaceutical-based. Here is a list of vaccine ingredients; the toxins are not filtered or diluted enough to be safe: <http://vaxtruth.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/cdc-vaccine-ingredients.pdf>

Notable holistic doctors, scientists and even journalists have risked and even sacrificed their lives to expose the toxicity of vaccines. For more information about their sudden and unexplained deaths, visit this website: <http://www.healthnutnews.com/recap-on-my-unintended-series-the-holistic-doctor-deaths/>

There is a reason that even the U.S. Government has consented to the formation and support of a Vaccine Court to provide compensation to those who have been vaccine-injured. This fund has recently topped \$3.5 billion in compensations paid out.

I speak as one of those who has been vaccine-injured from the DTaP vaccine. I especially speak for those who did not recover and who are no longer here to speak for themselves. Check out some of the stories of others who have been vaccine-damaged: <http://vaccine-injury.info/about.cfm>

We need to stand together to ensure the medical treatment given to us and especially our children is safe. This is not about opinion or who is right or wrong. Facts speak for themselves. If we are free citizens of America we have the right to informed consent before receiving potentially dangerous vaccines.

There is currently a bill to require vaccinations as a condition of employment. It is called H.R. 1313 Preserving Employee Wellness Programs Act and is sponsored by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC-5). The objective is to "coerce employees into employer disease prevention wellness programs," which would include vaccines. Those who do not comply would be penalized. This is how government partners with Big Pharma to force vaccinations upon us.

Please contact your U.S. senate and congressional representatives immediately to ask them to oppose this bill that would take away your freedom to say no to vaccinations. It will also help you to determine whether your government representatives are working for "We the People" or for Big Pharma. Remember that the same corporations that are creating these vaccines are profiting from the medical system treating the illnesses being caused by them!

For more information concerning vaccine safety please read the following book by internationally recognized physician Sherri J. Tenpenny: "Saying No To Vaccines, A Guide For All Ages" (<https://www.amazon.com/Saying-No-Vaccines-Resource-Guide/dp/0979091047>).

A little more food for thought. In 1960, five doses of three vaccines were given to children. By 1983 that had increased to 24 doses. In 2017, 69 doses of 14 vaccines were given from birth to 18 years of age. This is three times more vaccines than most developed countries require, yet American children have some of the highest rates of childhood diseases NOT seen in other countries. These diseases include asthma, diabetes, food allergies, leukemia, ADHD, autism, lupus, arthritis, eczema, and epilepsy.

The questions we need to ask are, "What are the vaccine risks that we're not being told about?" And where are the safety studies on the combined doses of all these vaccines? If children are becoming sicker as the rate of vaccination increases while vaccines are being marketed as a way to protect health, well it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what's really going on!

*Grace (cont. from front cover)*

Back to Nabholz I went, and he checked again and was told that Fall River County only wands if a case is potentially volatile. Another friend tells me she was *never* wanded when she appeared in court with her ex-husband, who was under a restraining order, and that she rarely even saw a deputy on duty.

If our judges are worried about weapons in the courtroom, why do they not wand for all hearings and trials?

Back to the waiver. Judge Pfeifle was on the agenda for the April 4 commission meeting. He made a passionate case for increased staff training in lieu of the public being equipped to defend themselves. (Something to think about—would you rather rely on civilians trained to throw shoes at the bad guy or on Commission Chairman Joe Falkenburg being armed? Would we not be safer with *both* security measures?)

Judge Pfeifle cited judicial belief that training is more effective than allowing the public to be prepared to defend themselves and others, but offered no evidence. He promised to provide Nabholz with relevant studies. (We will keep you posted.)

Falkenburg then quoted Kenny Rogers: “*You’ve got to know when to hold ‘em, know when to fold ‘em...*” and said he was ready to give up on the waiver. Before the public knew what was happening, a motion was made, seconded and carried, with only Nabholz opposing, to rescind the waiver. There was neither public discussion nor commission debate.

If the public believes, as I do, that so long as violence is a part of human nature, we are safer when good guys carry, then I guess we can keep on talking to our commissioners. The first step to resolving this issue might be to move commission meetings out of the courtroom.

State’s Attorney Jim Sword reminded me in the hallway later that there is a perfectly serviceable meeting room in the basement. We were talking cameras at that point, but it might be part of the gun rights solution. What do you think? There are a fair number of moving parts in this debate. You might want to write to the *Minnekahta Messenger* and speak your piece.

*Editor’s note: See the Special Section on pages 4-5 for more information on this subject.*

*Carry (cont. from front cover)*

Concealed carry levels the playing

field between criminals and victims. Criminals in minority neighborhoods, where crime is more common, already have guns; carry simply allows some potential victims to defend themselves, reducing crime rates.

Prevention of rape is a logical outcome for women, that are physically incapable of preventing rape by bigger males or being able to defend themselves, who own guns.

The important discussion regarding whether guns should be permitted in the courtroom ought to be whether, like schools where gun-free zones have increased murder rates, the signs on the doors of the courthouse will deter criminals or just potential victims from bringing in guns.

The question should be whether courthouse security lowers the risk of being murdered in a gun-free zone to below that of a society that normally carries.

*Pipeline (cont. from front cover)*

and environmental groups who have voiced concerns that the pipeline would contaminate water supplies and contribute to pollution.

Specifically, the pipeline would cross the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System, the OSRWSS which supplies water to Pine Ridge. Their core pipeline and water delivery system are held in trust by the United States for the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Under the Mni Wiconi Act the Oglala Sioux Tribe must agree before any federal agencies can approve an easement which Trans Canada has requested.

Since the Rosebud and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes’ water systems intersect the OSRWSS they are also affected. Yankton Sioux Tribal Chairman Robert Cournoyer has expressed concern over potential effects in South Dakota, saying the pipeline could have “devastating” consequences in the areas where the oil is mined.

The first Keystone pipeline has already experienced about a dozen spills, including the May 2011 North Dakota incident, which also exposed problems with Trans Canada’s leak detection system. A 28,000 gallon spill was first reported by a nearby landowner.

Democratic Senator Kevin Killer, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, was in Pierre on March 8 to ask a South Dakota judge to reverse state regulators’ decision to authorize the portion of the project that would go through the state. More than 50 pipeline protesters gathered outside the Hughes County Courthouse before

the hearing.

Senator Killer has said the Dakota access pipeline opposition was the “preseason” for fighting Keystone XL. Brandon Sazue, Crow Creek Tribal Chairman, calls on South Dakotans to “wake up.” “It’s a human thing,” Sazue said. “It doesn’t matter what color you are. It matters if you drink water or not.”

*Election (cont. from front cover)*

When asked about challenges he sees as Mayor, Dibble said, “The town is divided and I’d like to change that.”

Dibble does not see any definitive changes right away, as he will want to take a good look at how things are running now. However, he stated during the candidates’ forum that he plans to address the problem with the streets in town after completing the water project currently in progress.

In an interview before the election, Dibble said, “We can’t afford to pave the streets, but they could be chip-sealed. They definitely need something done.”

When asked about his history, Dibble responded that his grandparents had lived and worked here.

Dibble was Edgemont’s Fire Chief during the 1990’s. He said while it was in good shape when he was appointed, he was challenged with upgrading the department.

Dibble says he is a good listener and is open to new ideas.

“We are not a rich town, so we have to have priorities and do what needs to be done first.”

Dibble sees a need to help local and new businesses, saying, “Any business is welcome. I’m for economic growth.”

Looking towards Colorado’s cannabis laws and the cash windfall they have seen, he says, “Why not?”

“In order to get things done,” Dibble says, “you have to have commitment, stay with it and see it to the end.”

Jason Shook, in the candidates’ forum, stated, “I see things that aren’t quite right. It’s time to make a change.”

“We need to help entice companies and families to move here. We can’t be picky,” he said.

In his closing statement during the forum, Shook said, “We should concentrate on Main Street first and keep an eye on other properties that can be developed.”

*Timeline (cont. from page 5)*

Someone else pointed out that sometimes members of the public stand in the hall and shut the door so that their conversation will not disturb the meeting; the point being that someone other than the commissioners may well have shut the door during the public meeting.

The commissioners agree that they will put this behind them and be more attuned to the public in the future. Not all members of the public agreed.

Outside the meeting room, much discussion took place among the public. Sword mentions that the basement meeting room would be quite adequate for commission meetings, thus eliminating the problem of cameras in a courtroom.

Here is my subjective conclusion: There was certainly miscommunication, overreaction by the press and, likely, carelessness on the part of the commission in terms of how it conducted the meeting. Members of the public, myself included, jumped to conclusions about certain aspects of the controversy. There is no evidence of open meeting violations at this point.

This all could have been avoided if the commission had loudly announced its intention to the audience; if audience members who cared about this issue had not left the room without making sure they knew the agenda; if judges had not overreacted; and if reporters had talked to more of the people involved or at least reported both Sword’s and Nabholz’s conflicting versions of the events, rather than just Sword’s, side-by-side and without commentary.

Most importantly, if the commission meetings had been recorded, this confusion could have been cleared up immediately.

*[This timeline was prepared by Dusty Pence. (Contact information: 605-890-1515 or pencedusty@me.com) She is aware that it is not complete nor fully objective. That is why she is a strong proponent of the full transparency provided by cameras and audio recording equipment in the meetings.]*

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