

Minnekahta *eMessenger*®

VOLUME I

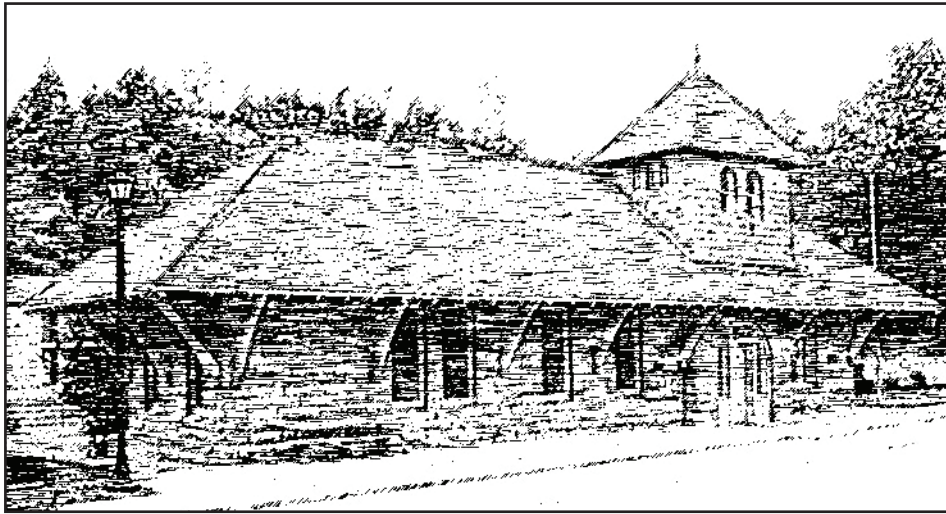
MINNEKAHTA PUBLISHING, LLC

NUMBER 4

SOUTHWESTERN SD.

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017



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We're against
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We think this is a great issue... And a great paper. Enjoy.

Minnekahta Messenger



VOLUME I

MINNEKAHTA PUBLISHING, LLC

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SOUTHWESTERN SD.

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017

HAPPY & HONOR MOTHER'S DAY & ARMED FORCES DAY

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

EDGEMONT LIBRARY IS
100 YEARS OLD!

By T.L. Matt

The Edgemont Library celebrated its 100th birthday with native author, Caroline Curl, who is actually older than the library at 103 years. Besides the anticipated cake and ice cream, area authors gave riveting presentations.

From the Edgemont *Herald Tribune*, April 20, 2017: "The first location of the library was in the back of Lillian Brenisholz's millinery shop. Lillian earned \$5.00 a month in 1917 as librarian. It wasn't until 1920 when the City of Edgemont took over the responsibilities and wages of the librarian."

The library was moved to several different buildings until 1994 when the Trotter family deeded the present building to the city.

Not only does the library act as the center of technology and information services, but it is expanding its social and educational programs to influence the lives of Edgemont citizens, young and old.

It is the best library I've seen in a small town with excellent staff and resources. There are 34,000 total holdings and 646 registered users. The staff is eager to help you find what you need and facilitate your use of the computers.

Librarian Ashley Courtney says, "We had a great turnout and a variety of great authors attend. Our patrons had an amazing time reminiscing about the library. I believe every one of all ages truly enjoyed themselves."

As a child, Sandra Brannan fell in love with Encyclopedia Brown mysteries by Sobol and then advanced to Agatha Christie. Her

highly-acclaimed mystery novels have titles inspired by biblical characters. However, make no mistake – these aren't Christian fiction books. Brannan has an engineering degree and her family has been in the mining business for four generations.

Liv Bergen, the protagonist in her series, is a dynamic young female Sherlock Holmes. Brannan donated her books to the library and also gave them to participants who made monetary contributions to the library. She gave a spirited presentation of her craft.

From the Rapid City *Journal*, Brannan says, "Usually the idea for every one of my books is something that happened in real life to bother me – an irritating grain of sand that I want to turn into a pearl."

Brannon also says, "Something that isn't quite right – I make it right."

(see *Library on back cover*)

BUFFALO PIPELINE SPILL

By Lorelei Marie

A pipeline spill is being investigated by state and federal officials in Oklahoma. The Buffalo Pipeline, owned by Houston-based All American Pipeline, L.P., leaked almost 19,000 gallons or 450 barrels of crude oil onto farmland in Kingfisher County on Friday, April 21.

The spill happened less than 1,000 feet from Cooper's Creek which runs into the Cimarron River. It contaminated nearby farmland. Steve Pope, a wheat farmer and cattle rancher, lost 120 acres of wheat crop and pasture as a result of the spill.

Dozens of workers arrived on the scene dressed in yellow protective suits to collect contaminated grass and crops. They also removed a portion of the pipeline.

All American Pipeline is one of the largest energy companies in the U.S. It averages 4.6 million barrels per day of crude oil (see *Pipeline on back cover*)

WILL SOUTHWEST SOUTH DAKOTA BECOME A NUCLEAR WASTE SITE?

By Lorelei Marie

A nuclear waste site is being proposed by the federal government in Haakon County on the Cheyenne River Reservation in Western South Dakota. Residents expressed their concerns regarding the environmental impacts and their children's future at a meeting in April.

CRR residents met with officials from RESPEC, an engineering consulting firm based in Rapid City. RESPEC, along with South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, hopes to procure a \$35 million contract from the U.S. Department of Energy.

An 8-inch borehole will be drilled 3.2 miles into solid granite, the deepest hole ever drilled in South Dakota. No one knows if the nuclear waste stored in the boreholes can be contained there.

What will happen to the people living in the vicinity and the environment if the waste proves to not be containable? Despite this uncertainty, SD Governor Dennis Daugaard supports the project. It needs both county and state approvals to advance.

On the Beyond Nuclear website, a DOE spokesman admitted that a potential site could later become a disposable radioactive dump. A major concern is how the DOE would handle any contamination on the site, since it has not allowed for the intricate interactions between the borehole's engineering and the waste container's seals, and the possible migration of radionuclides.

(see *Waste on back cover*)

YES, PLANTS CAN TALK!

By T.L. Matt

No, it's true that none of the members of the plant realm have a mouth—except for the Venus flytrap, of course—but plants can communicate. (I'm worried that my vegan granddaughter will eventually read this article and

experience pain.) In-depth studies have concluded that plants speak to each other by emitting chemicals in the air and through fungi in the ground.

According to *Quanta Magazine*, Richard Karban is trying to learn the secret language of plants. Karban teaches at the University of California, Davis campus and works with sagebrush in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

It has only been in the last 20 years that research has been developed in this field of science. In 1983 two studies involving willow trees, sugar maples and poplars showed that they can warn each other about insect attacks by issuing bug-repelling chemicals in the air.

Can brainless trees send, receive and understand messages? At first, this theory was shot down in the scientific world because scientists claimed the documentation wasn't valid. Now, the science is staging a comeback.

When bugs chew leaves, plants respond and ready their defenses with chemical weapons. Other plants can sense this somehow. What isn't understood is how they do it. Most studies have been (see *Plants on back cover*)

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Mitakuye Oyasin

Voice of the 7th Generation

By Robert A. Horse, Oglala Lakota

Since 2007, South Dakota has seen drug related arrest numbers climb from 3,101 to 7,671 by 2016. This indicates that arrests have doubled in the last ten years. South Dakota Indian reservations have witnessed drug, alcohol, and violence rise to epidemic levels. With so many social ills taking place at once, responses from the state, tribal, and federal officials have come to our attention. These include longer prison sentences, banishment from tribal enrollment, evicting families where drugs are being used, and increased law enforcement. Some of these responses are praised by people. Others believe that they are heavy handed punishment at its best.

Whether you support these responsive measures or not, one thing is certain: it is costing taxpayers money. Statistics have shown that these *knee-jerk* responses don't actually curb crime or addiction. We need to think back on the last 40 years and ask ourselves if the *lock up agenda* has made a difference. How about the *war on crime*? Or the *war on drugs*? If the answers remain "no" than I believe we have to start looking for real solutions, and not ones based

on political ideologies, race, hate, or arrest numbers. We have to start getting involved as community members, neighbors, voters, and taxpayers.

We need to search for studies which show that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and begin to contact larger cities and states to inquire about the methods that they use to lower their numbers in regards to drug addiction and violence.

It is imperative to educate our youth early in their lives about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

There are many ways to do this. One example is to provide alcohol-free environments. Often just stepping into a place or situation where alcohol is being served is too much for youths to handle, especially considering peer pressure. Teenagers often struggle to fit in and to be accepted.

Support is crucial. Providing a fun environment for kids to hang out with like-minded peers—such as a community support center that offers non-alcoholic refreshments and popular activities to engage in—is a step in the right direction.

Sports and other physical activities are

an ideal way for teens to engage in non-alcoholic activity, especially since drinking alcohol is not conducive to participating in physical activity. Most people are agreeable to watching a good movie together, so spending an evening at the cinema can be helpful. Another good idea is to host sober parties—an environment where kids can relax together while socializing and listening to popular music.

The idea of gift cards from prison inmates may provide teens with the incentive to choose a better path. Perhaps inmates could be encouraged to write letters of support to youth. This would be especially empowering and no doubt benefit the inmates who would be role models in this regard.

It is important to have education come from former addicts and others who have turned their lives around in a positive manner. We also are in need of rehabilitation programs in our prison systems that work, not ones that merely suffice politicians and prison administrators.

Until next time, be safe, be free, and remember that we are all related!

"Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission—fulfill it or betray it."

—Frantz Fanon

State Officials Kidnapping Native Children

By Lorelei Marie

Native American children are being taken from their families without fair hearings in South Dakota

This is a violation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 which gives tribes exclusive jurisdiction over children who are a part of the reservation in child custody cases.

More than 700 children are removed by state officials yearly. The majority are sent to white foster homes and adopted out, even when placement in Native foster homes is available.

Once in custody children are not allowed to see their parents for two months, then warned by the Department of Social Services (DSS) that if they become emotional during visits with parents, the visits will be

terminated.

South Dakota is committing genocide against its Native population, according to the United Nations General Assembly's Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

In Article 2, one of the definitions of genocide is "forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." This is occurring in South Dakota when officials purposefully place children in white homes, especially when Native foster homes remain empty.

Genocide is also defined as "causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group." There are reports of Native children being drugged and sexually abused in DSS foster care. Responsible parties need

to be brought before an international court of law.

There is also a financial motive. For every Native child removed, South Dakota receives \$79,000 per year. \$9,000 goes to the foster home, the rest is kept by the state. That's \$70,000 per child profit for the state each year. Over 5000 Lakota children have been taken in the last decade.

In March of 2015 a federal court ruled the state was in violation of federal law by removing Native children from their homes. In January 2017, South Dakota and Pennington County officials appealed the U.S. District court rulings.

In the words of Chase Iron Eyes, a staff attorney with the Lakota People's Law Project, "We have a right to the control and well-being and development of our children. Our basic existence depends on them."

There's Something To Be Said

The Kindred Spirit By Barbara Hauseman

Animal Lovers

Picking out a puppy or any other pet for yourself or the whole family can be a most exciting time for all.

When I was searching for a puppy, I spent time talking to breeders who had much knowledge about the breed of dogs they were selling. Good behavior, health, and attitude are the qualifications I seek from my lifetime companions.

Usually the owners-to-be select the pet that will become a part of the family. However, to my surprise, one roly-poly puppy

came bouncing up to me as I was sitting on the grass.

Head cocked to one side with floppy puppy ears dancing, golden eagle eyes looking up at me, the puppy plopped into my lap! Picking up this bundle of joy, I was licked all over and christened with soft puppy breath. This puppy had chosen me! The connection was complete.

I named him Rudy. He is a Red Merle, Australian Shepard with all the qualifications I was searching for.

At the time I was a full-time working "mommy" with a growing energetic puppy

to come home to. This didn't last long. A friend found a tri-colored female Aussie three years older than Rudy. She had been named Keeva by her previous owner, a name she still retains.

I checked out this *older woman* and she turned out to be a match! After the initial *doggie greetings* were consummated, I left with an additional family member.

We are now a family of ten years, with a Tabby cat to boot! All is well in our world.

Be a responsible pet owner. Take the necessary steps to prevent unwanted pets by spaying or neutering them. Adoption is certainly an option. I did it with no regrets! Unconditional love lives in our home.

Life on the Rio Grande

By Larry Stocker

Hola Amigos! I drove my car into the last parking space available at La Llorona Park [in Las Cruces] last night and walked directly to the Music-Playing Bench. There's getting to be a crowd down there. You have to hurry so no one takes your spot!

I sat down on one edge of the bench and looked out to where the sun always is. "Still, there," I say to myself. I left plenty of room on the other end of the bench for someone else to sit down but no one did. There would be no conversation except with the guy inside my head—that would be Mark Twain. I had been talking with him all afternoon.

Pretty soon I had the guitar out and I started playing a blue and white song about Nicaragua; then I played a brown and white song about a long-ago dog; then I played a light green song about living in a little house. I got lost in those sounds—by the time I looked up the parking lot was nearly empty. The air had changed from noisy and windy to quiet and still.

My spot on the end of the bench seemed more comfortable than ever. Slowly the blue in the sky got darker on its way to black, the bottoms of the long clouds turned purple and the yellows and reds temporarily visited and disappeared. Like the swallows—last week they visited, this week they are gone. But the cottonwoods

are getting green along the banks of the Rio Grande. They have remembered what to do...an astonishing thing, if you think about it.

Mark Twain said that the very best job a man could have would be to be pilot of a steamboat on the Mississippi between the years of 1812 and 1872 (not counting the war years). I would say to him, "Okay, Mr. Twain, what about River Watcher on the Music-Playing Bench, 2014? What do you think about that job?"

Mark Twain's essential rationale for his statement about steamboat pilots was their achievement of independence, nobody could push them around. He admired that

status greatly.

I would assert that a River Watcher on the Music-Playing Bench has achieved even more independence than the Mississippi pilot. The only thing lacking is the handsome sum of two hundred fifty dollars paid monthly in crisp U.S. currency. If a body can manage to get along without that he may claim an even greater share of this coveted independence—*independence...an astonishing thing, if you think about it.*

"Life on the Rio Grande" is a weekly email blog written by Larry Stocker. This story was published on Mar. 28, 2014.

"Life on the Rio Grande" was reprinted with permission from the author.

"As a retired physician, I can honestly say that unless you are in a serious accident, your best chance of living to a ripe old age is to avoid doctors and hospitals and learn about nutrition, herbal medicine and other forms of natural medicine unless you are fortunate enough to have a naturopathic physician available. Almost all drugs are toxic and are designed only to treat symptoms and not to cure anyone. Vaccines are highly dangerous, have never been adequately studied or proven to be effective, and have a poor risk/reward ratio. Most surgery is unnecessary and most textbooks of medicine are inaccurate and deceptive. Almost every disease is said to be idiopathic ("without known cause" or genetic) although this is untrue. In short, our mainstream medical system is hopelessly inept and/or corrupt. The treatment of cancer and degenerative diseases is a national scandal. The sooner you learn this, the better off you will be."

—Allan Greenberg, MD

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Off The Beaten Path

World's Most Busted Down Taxi is in Nicaragua

By Larry Stocker

Some amigos may want to know if I arrived safely in Nicaragua. In a word, the answer is, "Yes." My big suitcase is lost, however, but I'm not worried. It will be easily found, I'm sure, somewhere between Managua and El Paso. I have every confidence in United Airlines and don't think that my complaint to the stewardess about the lack of food on the flight over the Gulf of Mexico even phased her. She gave me an extra glass of water, smiled a lot and launched into a long story about the origin of the policy. "Not even a bag of peanuts?" I interjected, but she just kept going unimpeded.

This means that my first day of life in Nicaragua was spent getting sandals, a t-shirt, shorts, a toothbrush and underwear. My recommendation is to go as light as you can on the clothes. That's on account of the heat.

About 10:00 am this morning I noticed a familiar wetness around the top of my head. It stayed there all day and even spread to other parts of my body mostly under my inappropriate dress: black shirt and long jeans.

It was a complicated shopping trip. I went into a lot of small stores and immediately walked back out. The ladies in the stores looked at me suspiciously wondering why I didn't want to buy shirts with all kinds of advertisements all over the front and back. I finally found a plain white t-shirt for 100 cordobas. I looked at it for a long time, sweating, until I finally decided it was right for me.

Afraid of being taken advantage of, I tried to figure out what 100 cordobas translated to in dollars. Divide by 25 Sarah told me but sometimes division problems with divisors beyond the number 2 seem too complicated for me these days so I just paid the lady and did the math later when I got home.

In the morning after breakfast, before I went on the shopping trip, I got in the world's most busted down taxi with Sarah to take my grandchildren, Hannah and

Lucy, to one of the local daycares. It turned out to be a lively place with kids doing what they naturally do—learning from one another.

The men and women on the staff all fussed over Hannah and Lucy when we arrived. There were about an equal number of brown and white faces—each seemed to be completely democratic about what language they spoke.

Lucy, at one and a half years old, was one of the youngest. It made me think of what being dropped off for a morning at a daycare in Granada, Nicaragua might mean to her. Already she is being called upon, like so many other children, to face the world on her own.

The world builds monuments to soldiers for being brave and for facing adversity. I think the greater bravery exists in these children who face a complex world with only a very basic skill set and the brave people who care for them, hold them when they are hurt, praise them over their great successes and greet them as if they were completely unique entities endowed with a truly cosmic purpose.

They say that Nicaragua is a pretty poor country. Some say it's the second poorest country in the hemisphere. And they say that Grenada is the most developed town in a very poor country.

I can see a lot of Europeans and Americans on the streets. Some are buying property and some are staying in hotels and going to certain tourist restaurants as the evening air gets cooler. In Mexico the finer dining establishments more often than not cater to largely Mexican clients. Here the regular Nicaraguan people don't go to these places, except to serve.

The house I'm staying in is mostly open to the sky. It's a long rectangle with a roof over about half of it. True to the Colonial-style, pillars support the roof and rock and finished wood predominate the floors and walls.

In the back are three bedrooms and three bathrooms. All of these rooms have doors

that close. There is a small swimming pool, which comes in pretty handy. A housekeeper comes every afternoon. She's nice.

This place, of course, is a far cry from what typical Nicaraguan families live in. You can see corrugated iron lean-to shacks all over the place with little puffs of smoke coming out of them. These people, like the relatively wealthy, eating their traditional meal of gallo-pinto, and Lucy have to face every new day with bravery.

Seems to me they all deserve better but I am always sentimental about such things. I have already had that pointed out to me.

By the way, slang for cordobas (money) is *cords*. So, if you are planning a trip to Nicaragua and you want to be hip, add that word to your Spanish vocabulary.

Another thought has been haunting me: What if my big suitcase ended up at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico? Another funny thought was of when we went to pick up the kids at the daycare, the very same busted down old taxi appeared completely at random and we piled in. I'm sure it's the worst taxi in Granada with the least talkative driver. Gas prices are high and fares are low you can see why he would put off routine maintenance until something breaks.

Comparatively, my problems are small—I don't have to wear the black shirt and jeans in the Nicaraguan sun tomorrow.

Nicaragua is famous for coffee but it is not the only country competing in the world series of coffee. For two days now I have been drinking cappuccinos at a nice little coffee shop up the street. Judging from that broad experience I can tell you that that coffee tastes pretty good.

One thing I found out is that 95% of Nicaraguan coffee comes from shade-grown coffee plants which, I understand, produce better coffee. Not only that, but the movement to pay the coffee workers a living wage has grown to 20% of the workers. I don't think about these things when I'm drinking coffee, I think about other stuff.

Right there where I drink these cappuccinos, a group of mostly old men seem to meet every morning to drink coffee and (*see Nicaragua on page 5*)

Tiny Travel in a Big Country

By Sophie Clark

Last year we took a trip unlike any before—a camping road trip with a destination in Canada, but no set route or timeline.

We had just traded down from a 30-foot camper trailer to a micro-camper from HikerTrailers (<http://hikertrailer.net/>), an 8-foot enclosed trailer with a queen bed and galley kitchen, reminiscent of the tear-drop trailers of old. It has no A/C, no bathroom, and no limitations.

It tows behind my 4-cylinder car easily, parks virtually anywhere, and needs no hook-ups, so it almost never needs a reservation at a campground. Except for sleep or

rain, once we make camp, we are outdoors, which is the point of camping after all! For us, it was the perfect blend of engaging with nature and feeling comfortable when we sleep.

So we set off on the open road towards Canada with a map and one trusty app. Each day as the sun dipped low, we would bring up ParkAdvisor (<https://usparkadvisor.com/apps>), a GPS map-based guide to all campgrounds in the U.S., to find a place 20-50 miles ahead of us, preferably on the water.

On that trip we happened upon some of

the most beautiful campsites, from a pastoral stream in Virginia with resident ducks roaming through, to a lakefront site in Maine so dark at night that we saw several satellites and meteors crossing the starry skies.

Primitive campsites are a joy. They're uninterrupted by RV generators or exterior TVs. Purists may say tent camping is the best and only way to enjoy a camping experience, but when you reach an age where sleeping on the ground is not the best way to recover from a day of hiking, or you don't want raccoons or bears pillaging your home in your sleep, you may be glad to have your own tiny trailer.

And if you spot us in our yellow-fendered micro-camper, feel free to say hi!

Nicaragua (cont. from page 4)

talk. This morning they were talking about Viagra. I listened out of curiosity, my head cocked like a dog cocks his head when he can't believe what he's hearing.

These guys were not Nicaraguans. I think they were mostly Americans, talking about Viagra. Giving testimonials to each other. As I got up to leave, a guy with big eyes looked into my face and told me I looked like an honest man. I was skeptical. I didn't know where this was going. Then he reached into his burlap bolsa and handed me a magazine. It's for free he said.

It had a picture of Barack Obama dressed up in a General's uniform and the headline said that he was the all-powerful new dictator of the new totalitarian world. The guy said when I am done reading it I should come back; he's got plenty more. "Thanks," I said, happy to be free to start walking again.

Now I could understand why shade-grown coffee is better than the kind that is not. Could it be that certain people stand in the Nicaraguan sun too long? They should be like the coffee plants and stand in the shade. And be like the workers who can't even afford to think about Viagra and are trying to push that 20% number a little higher.

We rode out to the daycare in a different taxi this morning. It was way nicer than Nicaragua's most busted down taxi from yesterday. The windows even rolled down. We tumbled in for the two mile ride through

the heart of the town.

The drivers drive fast. You clear buses, trucks, horse-drawn work wagons with bald tires, horse-drawn tourist carriages also with bald tires, bicycles and mopeds and pedestrians by inches. Drivers are way more liable to use the horn than the brake. They don't slow down for nothing.

We hold on to Hannah and Lucy tight and try to make pleasant conversation in Spanish with the driver. Today we talked about why people come to Nicaragua. The driver said people come, he thinks, for the peaceful, slow pace of life. I said, yeah, you are right!

Arriving at the preschool (or daycare – whatever you call it) is always a joy. The people who run this place are so on top of it. They intuitively give the kids exactly what they need. Even so, the prospect of facing another day filled with challenges was too much for Lucy this morning.

She cried hard and pointed her two arms in the air as if she wanted someone to rescue her from a sinking ship. It was hard to go away but we had to and we did, walking the two miles back. Who did we see? The driver of Nicaragua's most busted down taxi drove by and honked to say hello. We let him pass, waving back but not too much.

At noon, when we went back to the daycare, we found out Lucy had cried for a full four minutes before she settled back to her normal persistent and relentless personality, pushing the wheels of her own development a little further into the tropical day.

It was hot this afternoon. You can see why the siesta was created. The siesta, however, assumes that a person has a place to sleep and in that case you just go there and sleep. Seems like many don't have that opportunity. Monday I start my Spanish Lessons with Auda. I have a lot of questions.

The preceding two stories were written by Larry Stocker. They were published on Feb. 13 & 14, 2014 in the author's weekly email. These stories were reprinted with permission from the author.

Project (cont. from page 8)

a maximum net (consumptive) withdrawal rate from the Inyan Kara aquifer limited to 0.38 cfs (170 gpm)..."

Regarding the Madison aquifer, the State of South Dakota did an analysis of available water and stated, "Approval of this application will not result in average annual withdrawals from the Madison aquifer to exceed the average annual recharge to the aquifer."

The claims made in several letters to the editor that the project will consume 8,000 to 9,000 gpm of water are factually incorrect.

My wife and I intend to be ranching here long after the Dewey-Burdock project is complete. Most likely, at least a couple of our kids will be ranching here, too, along with some grandkids. We have no reason to believe the Dewey-Burdock will negatively affect our plans in any way.

Special Section

Do Good

By Andy Skadberg

Complicity with *the devil* to take care of *our own* is not acceptable in the Christ consciousness. This goes for the entire world.

Corporations, that claim rights of individuals, do not have a soul created in the beginning by the One Infinite Creator. Thus, the collective responsibility and *soul-ness*, if such exists, is distributed throughout the entire organization of people.

No one can escape the karmic responsibility they incur by accepting and continuing to work for entities that do harm to people or nature. If we truly want to change the world, we must eliminate this concept that the responsibility for wrong actions somehow falls through the cracks in the gyrations and legal shenanigans and elaborations. We may think we are fooling someone, but we aren't. We know – in our hearts.

Divine Law does not allow for escaping the realities of the consequences of our actions, this is covered by both the Law of Cause and Effect and the Golden Law. It is time we stand up and face this “real reality”

and know that the Kingdom of God, Paradise, Nirvana is simply waiting on the other side of a door when we recognize that our job is to re-present our knowing that what we do, and what those that we are affiliated with, we have responsibility for.

It is time to step forward and face the truth, that we cannot escape the truth. Our actions have repercussions. However, we need not be afraid, for clemency (forgiveness) is always available when we decide to alter our course and decide to contribute to unification, peace, love and abundance and accept the glories and wonders that are anxiously awaiting to pour down on us as soon as we courageously face the fear of change – not just accepting the way things are, and simply saying, as one common voice, *enough is enough*.

We will be astounded at the rapidity of the transformation and transmutation as we release the energies the Divine has been building up behind the world's people's desire for things to improve for all. We have just been afraid whether or not our families will be taken care of.

There are no *buts* in this process. It is either *Do Good* or perish in the fires of

conformity and acceptance of less than the best – the quagmire of mediocrity. These doldrums, the human tendency to think we can escape from ourselves, each other, and the Laws of the Cosmos have come to an end. It is now time to step up to the plate and represent our knowing that we truly are expressions of Love, and as such need to embrace the opportunities, that are abundant beyond our comprehension, to make a shift in our actions at all levels.

When a large enough group of individuals make a conscious decision, we will be astounded at the rapidity of the shift (I am sure it is already occurring), and then we will enter the true glory of what it means to be a Divine Creation.

“Do Good” is the title of a blogpost by Andy Skadberg. It was published on Jun. 29, 2011 on the author's website,

13LightMessages (<http://13lightmessages.blogspot.com/2011/06/do-good.html>).

Mr. Skadberg is a consultant in rural development and innovation in agriculture, with a foundation in environmental protection. He is a proponent of sustainability.

“Do Good” was reprinted with permission from the author.

Rainbow Warriors

By Lorelei Marie

“When the earth is ravaged and the animals are dying, a new tribe of people shall come unto the earth from many colors, classes, creeds and who by their actions and deeds shall make the earth green again. They will be known as the Warriors of the Rainbow.”

–Native American Prophecy

There was a time when all life coexisted harmoniously, in balance with and respect for the environment and the intricate web of life. It was a golden age of peace and the power of people to create a pristine and balanced world came into being because their thinking was centered in their hearts and manifested by their powerful connection to the Source of all life. Love and compassion created more of the same. Life was

good for all.

Native peoples referred to newcomers who projected negative energies as being spiritually afflicted. One description was more specific—Wendigo. Wendigo means “the evil spirit that devours mankind.” It is believed this occurred by consuming the flesh of another human being, at which time one is overcome by negative energies and transformed into a Wendigo, a creature more reptilian than human, with glowing eyes and long fangs and claws. Such creatures drain the life force of others. On a wider scale, a society infected with Wendigo causes wide spread destruction including to the environment in which they live.

There is a Hopi Prophecy: *“If we dig precious things from the land we will perish.”*

Today we are living in a Wendigo world. Force dominates along with a quest for more and more things. There is much greed

and corruption along with an insatiable appetite for control and acquisition. This is leading to the destruction of our collective environments.

Negativity such as anger cannot defeat the Wendigo. It will only create more of the same. Real power is to connect with one's heart and to manifest positive energies of love, compassion, harmony and empathy.

These will dissolve the illusions of fear and the claw will be no more. Hands will hold one another in affinity, peace and friendship. We will then be unified in our quest to save our Mother Earth, to stop the destruction that our separateness is causing. We are all the manifestation of one Source Energy.

When we value profit and power over equality and peace, we give the direction of our lives and the future of the earth to the (*see Rainbow on page 7*)

Declaration of Interdependence (The Creed)

By Dan P. Davison

This day and in all coming days, I choose to fill my mind with love, power and a strong, sound, balanced attitude. I choose not to accept fear thoughts into my mind or direct my fears toward others.

I will be intimate with Creation or my Higher Power in relation to my feelings, mind, body and spirit. I will love all of my being and demonstrate the same consideration to all humanity, regardless of their past, lifestyle, values, position in life, or any view which they regard important to their own being.

I grant all humanity the liberty to live as they wish unless I believe their actions to be based on fear and are destructive to themselves or others. In this case, I will protect myself and move away from their needy and destructive behavior, but I will not look upon them with condemnation. I will be strong and willing to aid them when they choose to seek new direction, heal, and live in love and harmony with others.

In all relationships which I may have in my life, I will continually put in more than I take out. My relationships consist of intimacy with Creation, myself, a partner, a family and community, and with ecology and economy. In each case, I will joint venture with the other and must give with no thought of return. My relationships will be

with individuals, and with situations where the same principles are embraced and mutual respect and love is demonstrated. I neither wish to dominate or be dominated. I seek freedom and I take total responsibility for my life.

As to my purpose for being on this planet, I am equal to every other individual, with no purpose being more elevated or important than another. I will not tolerate any form of prejudice or attitudes of superiority that I encounter. Not only will I embrace this principle with my mouth, but I will closely monitor my heart for such attitudes of fear, lack of understanding, intolerance and prejudice which cause poverty, sickness, abuse and division.

I understand and support the principle that every other human being on the planet earth is engaged in a walk similar to mine and they battle fear and seek love as I do. I am no better or no lessor a person than any human who has breath and life. As I sit at the banquet and celebration of life, I will continually feed the person who sits opposite me with all the generosity that I can, regardless of who that individual is and what values they cherish.

I embrace the hope of a time on earth where ALL fear is gone. I choose to allow perfect, unconditional love to saturate my

life. I give this same unconditional love to all people, and will include those who appear to be unlovable or lack value.

I will start toward this worthy goal today. I will seek out other people who will join with me in reviewing the truths and views of this document, in accordance with their own free values, and make a passionate commitment to implement them in all aspects of our lives, regardless of the cost or sacrifice. I will seek out those individuals who I do not understand or that I fear, and make a dedicated, conscious effort to see life from their point of view, even though I may not agree.

I will love unconditionally with no expectations. I will anticipate the power of unlimited creativity in my life and embrace miracles and gifts given to me without seeking to contain the good that comes to me. I will allow the infinite Source of Love to bring visions, dreams, wisdom and resources to me for the purpose of healing humanity and the earth.

By embracing these truths and sharing them with others, all members of the human race will be reached and healed in a matter of a few short years. We will launch this new Millennium seeking a world which boasts an absolute absence of fear and an absolute atmosphere of love.

Today I will choose to Love. Firstly, I will love Creation or a Higher Power; secondly myself, and equally, my fellow human beings. In this, I will experience total health, happiness and prosperity, and all aspects of completeness within myself. I will be complete in every way.

In reading this Declaration, and internalizing it in my mind and heart, I lift all of humanity to a new level or peace. I am neither dependent nor independent—but instead INTERDEPENDENT. There is not another soul on the face of this planet who is dispensable or worthless. They are part of me and I am part of them. I will act accordingly.

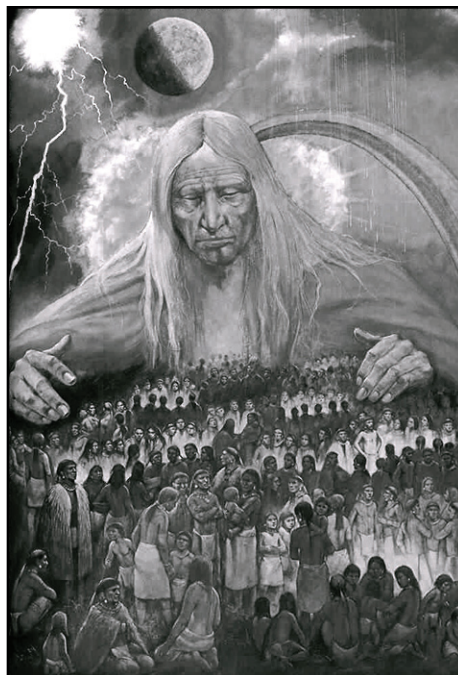
This is the mind of the Universe, and indeed all great Masters, my elder brothers and teachers, with whom I am joint heir to all of the love and good that exists in this universe. I will celebrate my position and relationship to all good that is available to me today. I bless the Universe, I bless you and I bless myself. Herein lies all the power of the Universe.

Rainbow (cont. from page 6)

same entities. This has caused widespread despair and injustices today. The Wendigo world in which we are living is rampant with corruption, inequality, poverty, sickness and violence. We need to stop giving our power away to warmongers, corporations and institutions that perpetuate it.

This is the 7th Generation. Now is the time to transform ourselves into who we really are. Let us revive the spirits of community, sustainability, nurturing and cooperation. If we focus our thoughts and attentions on creating a balanced and peaceful world, which promotes the health and well-being of all, and which gives dignity and respect to the same, our collective reality will change. As this truth is manifested, our world will once again be in balance, self-sustaining and harmonious.

What cause could be more worthy, especially to leave to future generations?



What People Are Saying

[Some writers] are driving me slightly insane with their stories on uranium and pipelines. It really helps to have a certain amount of education and work experience to understand complex topics.

While I certainly didn't specialize in these topics, my engineering education, fracture flow modeling at LASL, designing miles of piping on a floating production facility in India, and being the drilling engineer on a scientific research vessel doing geologic research provide a good foundation of information. You can't pick up what you need to know off the Internet because you can't determine which sources are factual.

LNT (linear no threshold) has been debunked. A certain amount of radiation is good for you. A little sun improves your mood and makes vitamin D.

Related to the above are the claims of radiation-induced cancer in Edgemont and Fall River County. [One writer] referred to the 1976 non-age-corrected state *study* reported on by Seth Tupper of the Rapid City Journal. I chased this reference down and Tupper was only able to find an appendix of the study and, as I read my e-mail correspondence with Tupper, find that he chose to ignore the 2006 age-corrected study that found no increase in cancer.

Age correction is critical when it comes to lung cancer. The older you get the more likely you are to have lung cancer. Fall River had and has an older than normal population, possibly because of the State Home and VA. Hence, we have more lung cancer per resident than the state average with a younger average population, but that is an age effect, not a radiation effect.

[Another writer's] uranium-polluted Madison is a red herring because the potentiometric surface of the Madison is higher than that of the Inyan Kara. Any leakage is from the Madison to the

Inyan, protecting the Madison from any Inyan derived pollution.

The biggest conceptual flaw of those not familiar with geology and well-drilling is the rapid change in rock and water characteristics. My household well in the Inyan, which I drilled myself, tested too high in gross alpha at a depth of 300 feet, but was perfectly fine when completed at 580 feet.

Conceptually, the aquifers are closer to being something like fruit cocktail in jello as opposed to being a uniform underground lake. The uranium to be mined is in a narrow band feet wide because the characteristics of the aquifer formation change in that short distance.

Remember those old movies of drilling for oil? All at once the well *comes in* as you drill a couple more feet. Geology often changes a lot in short distances. Professor James Stone's studies show most of the *released* uranium after mining is reattached to the formation rocks within 100 feet of the mined perimeter.

As to pipelines, they are the safest, most environmentally-wise way to transport oil. [A writer] wrote about a 28,000 gallon oil spill in the Apr. 14 issue. So, how much is that? Like a football stadium full of oil? No, it would fill a cube 16' wide, long, and tall. So, not a huge amount. Dangerous? Not particularly. Did you ever get oil on your hands changing the oil in your car?

Gas, oil, and pipelines improve our lives. How does [that writer] propose we transport oil in a cleaner safer way than by pipeline? I never heard of a pipeline running into a truck stuck on a crossing (train) or running into a busload of kids (semi).

Regards,
Paul Nabholz

Edgemont Uranium Project Should Proceed

Editorial by Mark Hollenbeck, P.E.

Just a few miles from Powertech's Dewey-Burdock in situ recovery (ISR) project, my wife and I, along with our four school-age children, operate an organic ranch. Clean water, clean air and a healthy environment are a hallmark of our operation.

I am also the project manager for the Dewey-Burdock project, hold a degree in chemical engineering from the SD School of Mines & Technology and am a licensed professional engineer in the state of South Dakota. With the upcoming EPA hearings in South Dakota, opponents of the project have submitted letters and editorials, making numerous inaccurate claims that simply contradict the facts.

In 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued an operating license for the Dewey-Burdock project. This followed several years of background studies by Powertech and analysis by NRC's team of qualified scientists and engineers including hydrologists, geologists, ecologists, health physicists, social scientists, nuclear engineers and chemical engineers. In fact, the NRC published a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

for the project, which concluded, "...there are no environmental impacts that would preclude licensing the facility."

The environmental consequences raised by opponents of the project continue to ignore the facts, including the expert opinions of the regulatory bodies, such as the NRC. The NRC issued Powertech's operating license after addressing all environmental concerns expressed by the public at numerous hearings and in written comments.

Studies have shown, and regulatory authorities have confirmed, that there will be no impact to underground sources of drinking water from ISR operations or from the deep injection wells. Keep in mind that the small portion of the Inyan Kara aquifer where ISR operations will take place is not currently suitable as a drinking water supply and neither is the area of the Minnelusa proposed for deep well injection.

The continual exaggeration of water consumption at the Dewey-Burdock project by those opposing the project must also be addressed. In recommending approval of Powertech's Inyan Kara water rights application, the State of South Dakota clearly stated that Powertech cannot exceed 170 gallons per minute (gpm), much less than that consumed by a 120-acre center pivot.

According to the state, "Approval of this permit would authorize (see Project on page 5)

Having The Last Word

Nuclear Energy: Profit for Few, Despair for Many

By Lorelei Marie

I wonder how many people know that the Pine Ridge Reservation was originally known as *Prisoner of War Camp #344*. Are not the residents living there citizens of the United States? The history of disrespect as well as genocide to Native populations, especially those living on Pine Ridge, continues today.

75% of the development of nuclear energy is being pursued on tribal lands. Long-standing treaties are violated and land that has been held in trust for Native peoples is desecrated. The result is an environment so toxic that those living in these areas are plagued with high rates of cancer and other diseases.

On Pine Ridge alone, water quality tests conducted by the United States Geological Survey, the Indian Health Service, the Oglala Sioux Tribal (OST) Rural Water Program and the Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry show that the water contains arsenic, Radium 226 and 228, Barium, Thorium 230 (man-made) and other Radioactive Alpha Emitters. Arsenic cannot be contained once it is released into the environment. 98 wells on Pine Ridge have Arsenic levels 2-12 times higher than the Maximum Contaminant Level.

In Red Shirt, on the northwestern corner of Pine Ridge, signs read "Caution Nuclear Radioactive Water." This is in reference to the high levels of radiation found in the Cheyenne River. Children play and swim in the rivers here, people fish and grow gardens using water from the river. Drinking water is piped in or residents have to drive 25 miles to the small town of Hermosa.

On August 7, 2007 Ordinance #07-40 was passed. This states that the OST has a responsibility to protect the land, air, water, and people of the tribe. It criminalizes nuclear contamination on the Pine Ridge Reservation and within the areas of the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty boundaries.

Why is this not being upheld? The violations are clear and people are paying daily with their lives as a result.

Charmaine White Face refers to uranium mining as "America's secret Chernobyl."

In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a secret Executive Order declaring a four State area including South Dakota to be a "National Sacrifice Area" for the mining and production of uranium and nuclear energy, the same area of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty territory, the home of the Lakota Nation. Were the people consulted or even informed? The facts speak for themselves.

Isn't it time to stop the radioactive contamination of America, specifically Native Lands held in trust by the United States government? America is only as great as the way that it treats its own citizens.

Beware of Nuclear Dump Here

By D.E. Matt

Worried locals opposed to a proposed deep bore holes test site by RESPEC say its language opens the door to creating an ongoing nuclear waste dump near Philip, SD, according to a March 2017 report by Tri-State Livestock News (<http://www.tsln.com/news/bore-hole-test-near-philip-s-d-worries-residents/>). They cite language from the lengthy request for proposal:

"The terms of use for the drill site (e.g., lease, easement, license, or permit, etc.) must include a provision that allows the U.S. Government, at its sole discretion, to continue to use the site for authorized purposes under the contract for the duration of the contract's maximum period of performance (five years), plus an option to be exercised at the sole discretion of the Government, to use the site for up to an additional period of five years after completion of the contract's period of performance. This option (1) gives the Government and its contractors the right to further test, drill and/or improve the characterization deep borehole and to drill one or more additional deep borehole(s) of differing sizes and configurations on the site for additional research purposes; (2) includes the monthly and the full cost/price to the Government for using the site for the additional five-year period, and (3) is transferrable to a bona fide third party (i.e., another DOE contractor) that could use the site for the activities specified in (1) above. The inclusion of this option does not obligate the Government to exercise the option."

Residents worried about RESPEC proposed boreholes further quote multiple uses of proposal language lending unending opportunities for turning test sites into ongoing nuclear dumps.

Those pushing Chinese financed Edgemont mining of uranium by in situ are now citing RESPEC proposal data regarding future possible underground nuclear waste disposal.

What is the real agenda here?

In situ mining proposals inject chemicals into an underground aquifer to dissolve uranium into the water to transport and remove uranium.

This appears to be the exact opposite of sealing drums of nuclear waste into granite. Why are engineers implying similarities between sequestering programs and extraction programs when the goals are the opposite?

Why are locals asked to support a program whose discussion and agenda itself appears self-contradictory?

Well, If You Ask Us

I Found *Confetti* on Freedom Trail

By Grits McMorrow

Publisher

Last Saturday I got out of the house to enjoy the outdoors. I had been thinking about exploring the Freedom Trail in Hot Springs and the warm air and sunshine beckoned me to do it, not think it.

I entered the Freedom Trail from the Mueller Center. After a few yards, I suddenly noticed the absence of street traffic sounds. The primary sounds were those made by the warm, spring-fed, Fall River mineral water rippling between grassy banks that sheltered it and me from the aural assault of vehicle noise.

The Freedom Trail led me across the river and behind the business district. A beautiful park hides here; slopes of green grass and yellow dandelions, trees with old blossoms and new leaves, and a ribbon of concrete dotted with respite benches. A flag waved from a pole atop a facing bluff. I saw and envied groups of children and parents immersed in and enjoying the water. At the time, I wondered why, on a hot Saturday afternoon, a mere 14 people had the whole *water park* to themselves. Where were all the other kids?

A notable attraction on the Freedom Trail is the waterfall. Many people pause in front of the waterfall to pose for photographs, others to seek the relief of the water-cooled air and maybe a spritz of water on their sun-warmed faces and arms. I paused, too, but not for the selfie; my pause was to get the wet relief. I forgave myself for my weakness; after all, it was over 90° F in the shade that day.

Before I reached the north end of the Freedom Trail, I paused again, this time to admire the vista of the VA building dome up on the hill that was bookended by the tall Minnekahta Block buildings and Evans Hotel down on street level, all of the historic structures having been built of sandstone. It was an awe-inspiring sight.

Heading back south on the Freedom Trail, the view down the river is of a long expanse of sky-and-cloud-reflecting water and cattails. Off to the right is the gazebo of Kidney Springs Park.

My best memory of the Freedom Trail was at the flagpole. Trees with pink blossoms surrounded it. As I gazed at our nation's colors with reverence, I thought of the peace and freedoms we have—thanks to the heroism of our veterans. I was thankful. Suddenly, the air filled with falling blossoms, like confetti at a heroes' parade.

Who Are We?

By Lorelei Marie

Editor

We have been educated to believe that we are descended from apes and are evolving. Does an evolved species destroy its own habitat? Does it focus its priorities on gaining more and more at the expense of its fellow beings?

Maybe we were once giants, spiritually advanced life forms, already human physically and much more advanced spiritually. Perhaps our world was balanced, peaceful and prosperous in ways that benefited the whole. After all, the earth is covered with monolithic footprints of giants.

I believe that we are the spark of divine consciousness. Our source has given us the free will to create and to become anything we choose. Can we be considered programmable life forms then? It does seem many people today are confined to a pre-programmed range of awareness which is controlling their thoughts and determining their behavior and purpose. You may think this is far-fetched, but don't many people seem to be products of the mainstream environment, unable to think outside the box or matrix?

We are our thoughts and the influences from our external environment. Our bodies are stardust constructed from atomic particles and bound together by the energies of universal forces. Daily we recreate ourselves by what we consume, through both food and thought. We are holistic beings. When one part of us is being affected by something, this radiates out to the rest of us. It is the influences in our lives that we choose to accept which ultimately determine who we are.

The greatest challenge we face is the war on human consciousness. We are being misled in our perceptions, confusing truth with deceptive illusions. It is time we acknowledge our greatness, our divinity, our potential, and use our inherent abilities to lift the veil enslaving us. Let us recognize the beautiful reality, the peaceful, prosperous world that we are already a part of.

Perhaps our greatest freedom in life then lies in raising our level of awareness and educating ourselves to truth.

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What Matters Most

Global Celebration Honors All Mothers

By Lorelei Marie

Please take a moment to wish a special mother a blessed day this Sunday. If your mother is in spirit, she will still hear your words and feel what is in your heart.

Mothers are all around you. Brighten a grandmother's, aunt's, or sister's day by acknowledging her. Bring flowers to an elderly neighbor lady who is alone so that she may feel uplifted and honored.

Most of all, remember our Mother the Earth. Every person can take a moment to give gratitude and thanks for the sustenance she provides to us every day, along with the many bountiful gifts and pleasures. Without her graces we would not exist. May we honor and care for this loving and gracious mother better than has been done in recent years.

Mother's Day is celebrated all over the world. It dates back to an ancient festival held by the Greeks each year to honor *Rehea*, wife of Cronus and the mother of several deities of Greek mythology.

The Romans also celebrated with a spring festival. It was called *Hilaria* and

was dedicated to *Cybele*, a mother goddess. Offerings to the temple of Cybele were made for three days. Festivities included parades, games and masquerades.

Christians first celebrated a type of Mother's Day during the fourth Sunday of Lent to honor the Virgin Mary. In England this became *Mothering Sunday* and honored all mothers.

Mother's Day continues to be observed throughout the world, including in the United States, the United Kingdom, India, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, Mexico, Canada, China, Japan, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Panama and Thailand. It is a day to thank mothers for their love and support. Traditionally, it is celebrated with gifts of flowers, cards and other kindnesses.

In Spain, Mother's Day is December 8, during the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*. This, so that mothers in one's family may be honored, as well as Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Mother's Day in France is on the last Sunday of May. It is celebrated with a special cake which resembles a bouquet of flowers. This is presented to mothers at a family dinner.

In the United States, a woman named Julia Ward Howe proposed the official

celebration in 1872. She was an activist, writer and poet. Julia is also known for her song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

In her well-known Mother's Day Proclamation, written in Boston in 1870, she asked women to stand against war. She suggested Mother's Day be celebrated on June 2 of each year and that it should also be dedicated to peace. Julia began a Mother's Peace Day held on the second Sunday in June in Boston. Her efforts were recognized for several years, then eventually were replaced with the current Mother's Day celebration held in May.

Anna Jarvis is another woman who advocated for declaring Mother's Day a holiday. She is regarded as the founder of Mother's Day in the United States. Her inspiration was her own mother, who often expressed her hope that one day mothers would be honored.

By 1911 Mother's Day was widely celebrated and in 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution declaring the second Sunday in May as the official celebration of Mother's Day.

Let us be inspired by Anna's heartfelt love for her mother and honor all mother's accordingly, especially those closest to us.

"In my medical career I've treated vaccinated and unvaccinated children and the unvaccinated children are far healthier than the vaccinated ones."

— Dr. Philip Incao, MD

"Knowing what I know now, I would not vaccinate my children and run the risk of them getting diabetes, asthma, eczema, becoming more susceptible to meningitis and ending up chronically disabled."

— Dr. Jayne Donegan, C.P., Homeopath

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Serving All Of Western South Dakota

Library (cont. from front cover)

Also from Rapid City, Dorothy Rosby is a syndicated humor columnist who has maintained a column for 17 years. She gave an entertaining explanation of her art, keeping everyone laughing at her remarkable insights into everyday foibles.

Rosby's work appears in newspapers in eleven Western and Midwestern states, as well as local and national magazines. Her column has been recognized by the South Dakota Newspaper Association, South Dakota Federation of Press Women and National Association of Press Women.

Rosby definitely has "empathy for people who read self-improvement books but never get any better. (Also for the people who sincerely wish they would.)"

Rosby delighted everyone with her comments and winning personality. Her work is fully appreciated by those who need fresh insights into the often humorous human psyche.

Developing his skill in storytelling, J.E. Terrall told bedtime stories to kids in a camp outside Detroit. He later began writing books when working in law enforcement as a way of relaxing. Learning a lot from law, investigation and procedures from his job, he used this knowledge in writing his mystery novels, often set in the West. He focuses not on the often grisly sensational aspects of a crime but on investigating its mystery.

This prolific author also writes other tales of the West, including historical fiction and romance. Tarrell says, "I like to tell stories and that is what I do with my books. I simply tell a story." You can't go wrong by picking up a Terrall novel. Entertainment without nightmares!

The last speaker was Caroline Curl. It was an honor to have her with the other authors. A historian who wrote *Red Canyon Echoes*—an intimate true account of the early families who pioneered in the unique canyon outside Edgemont—Curl also edited the *Edgemont Centennial (1889-1989)* and a history of the Assembly of God Church in Edgemont.

Curl said her doctor told her

she has lived such a long life because as a child she ate only natural foods from the garden and fields and canned fruit and vegetables in the winter.

Afterward, as I talked with Curl, she said that people are *on the go* too much today and there is joy and comfort in just visiting, as they used to do in the old days. She is a gracious, caring, intelligent person who enjoys life to the fullest and has family in the area. (In a forthcoming issue, look for an in-depth article about Caroline Curl's remarkable early life on the homestead in Red Canyon — something to touch your heart.)

Pipeline (cont. from front cover)

and natural gas liquids. It has had more than 25 pipeline incidents since 2016. Corrosion was listed as the cause for 14 of the leaks with 6 being the result of materials, welding or equipment failures.

The company has a long history of problems concerning its pipelines. In December 2014 they received a warning letter from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration citing failure to protect materials from atmospheric corrosion. The National Response Center listed corrosion as the likely cause of this latest spill.

Waste (cont. from front cover)

Sweden and the United Kingdom had considered deep boreholes in the past, but abandoned their studies, concluding that there were too many unknown variables and the risks were too high.

One of these risk factors included a canister becoming stuck while being placed or breaking open, which would release matter into the ground water.

The ultimate goal of this DOE project is to find a permanent storage for high-level radioactive waste.

Generations of families have lived on this land which supplies quality beef and grain to our country. In the words of Jen Jones of Midland, "We stand to lose our livelihood, our future for our children and grandchildren,

our community, our water our land, our agricultural income and our social structure."

Rancher T.J. Gabriel, who owns and operates the Deep Creek Angus Ranch 65 miles west, is also concerned. He says that the 17-inch borehole is exactly the size needed to store casks for nuclear waste.

Gabriel also says that the borehole would go through "every aquifer." If nuclear waste leaked it would contaminate the water.

The DOE is spending between \$30 million and up to \$100 million on this project. In consideration of both the short and long term dangers of nuclear waste to life on earth, wouldn't this money be better spent on developing safe and renewable sources of energy?

Plants (cont. from front cover)

done in the lab under controlled conditions. If these same mechanisms are apparent in the wild, farmers and fruit growers could help plants defend themselves against herbivores.

Ted Farmer, of the University of Lausanne, discovered something else. Plants transmit via electric pulses that are strangely like an animal's nervous system. They don't have neurons or brains, but Farmer says, "It's pretty spectacular what plants do. The more I work on them, the more I'm amazed."

Experiments by Farmer and Clarence Ryan, a plant hormone expert, showed that insect-damaged sagebrush leaves, when put with potted tomato plants, signaled the tomatoes to begin producing inhibitors—compounds that harm insects by disrupting their digestion.

Karban clipped sagebrush plants, inducing them to produce methyl jasmonate and the nearby wild tobacco plant started pumping out the defensive enzyme polyphenol oxidase. At the end of the season, the tobacco plant had much less leaf damage than others from insects and worms.

The results were intriguing. Besides sagebrush warning tobacco, chili peppers and lima beans respond to chemical warnings by cucumber plants. These facts

were authenticated by Karban.

Microbes, moths, ants, hummingbirds and even tortoises detect and react to plant-emitted chemicals, according to Karban. This interaction is amazing and we are just now beginning to understand this communication. Are plants actually sending signals, or are other plants just "eavesdropping?"

BBC, in the Earth segment by Nic Fleming (11 Nov. 2014) reports that beneath our feet is an *information superhighway*. Mycelium, or fungi, is the source of connection. Is that pine tree in your yard hooked up to the bush next to your window? Probably.

Plants are not just sitting around growing quietly. They can help out their neighbors by sharing nutrients and information about invaders and unwelcome plants. This is done by spreading toxic chemicals through the fungi network. They have their own *vigilante groups*, so to speak.

Remember the movie *Avatar* that came out in 2009? All the organisms were connected on the forest moon. They could communicate and manage resources because of "some kind of electrochemical communication between the roots of the trees." With current research, this is beginning to prove true.

Suzanne Simard of the University of British Columbia found evidence that larger trees help their small seedlings by sending extra nitrogen and phosphorus to them through the network. Because they are often in the shade, this helps them to survive.

Plants not only feed us and animals, they provide needed medicine. They are vital to our existence, so it is only right that we explore their communication abilities. We are deeply indebted to the plant kingdom.

The Earth is a thoroughly beautiful and complex creation and, as Robert L. Stevenson had said, "The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings."

Exploration leads to discovery and discovery leads to joy. Let's not discount communication between plants as we are all together in this Earth life.