

This first issue of Minnekahta eMessenger is complimentary. If you wish to receive future issues, please follow the instructions below.

---

# Minnekahta eMessenger®

---

VOLUME I

MINNEKAHTA PUBLISHING, LLC

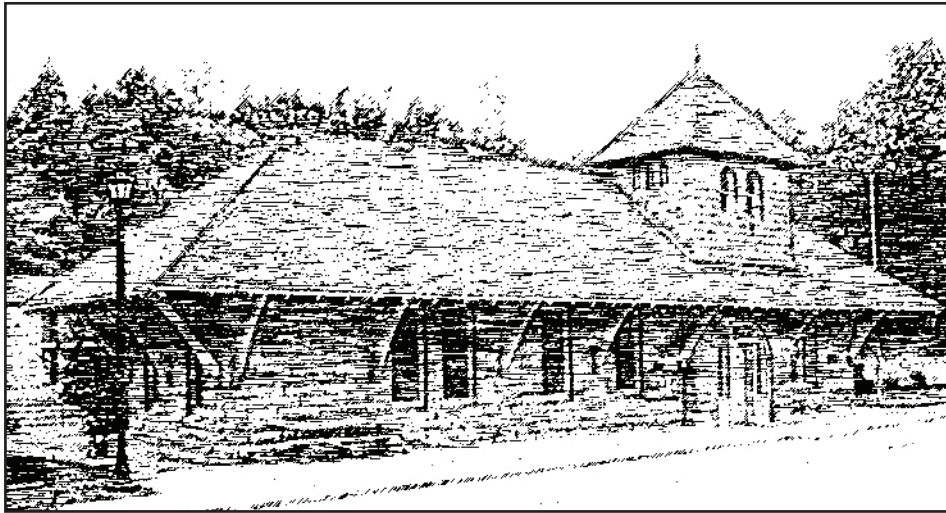
NUMBER 1

SOUTHERN HILLS, SD.

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

FRIDAY, MAR. 31, 2017

---



We're not against  
**Printing**  
We're against  
**Wasting Resources**

We don't want to stop printing  
**Minnekahta Messenger**  
for readers and advertisers.

We simply think that wasting paper, ink, and toner  
doesn't make economic or environmental sense.

Help us **Go Green** by subscribing to eMessenger for **only 75¢** per issue.

Send a check or cash and your email address to

**Minnekahta Messenger**  
**P.O. Box 221, Hot Springs, SD 57747**

# Minnekahta Messenger



VOLUME I

MINNEKAHTA PUBLISHING, LLC

NUMBER 1

SOUTHERN HILLS, SD.

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

FRIDAY, MAR. 31, 2017

Tomorrow We Would Say

**HAPPY APRIL**

**FOOL'S DAY**

Please

**Play Jokes!**

Responsibly

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

Southern Hills' Best Kept Secret

**Bourbon-County**

Another Time and Place

**HOT SPRINGS'  
NEWEST LOUNGE**

**Located Uptown in the  
Historic Sandstone District**

**Darts • Open Mic  
Live Music • Tina**

705 North River St. 605-745-4441

**A RIDDLE FOR READERS**

1. I was raised in San Marino, CA
2. I am an alumnus of UC Davis
3. I published and wrote for The Conference (1995-1997)
4. I published and wrote for Fall River Review (1997-1998)
5. I was technical editor and graphic/web designer of DHS/FEMA First Responder training curricula at New Mexico Tech
6. I am a CITechie graduate of NMSU
7. I recite cowboy and romance poetry from memory as Grits Wrangler
8. I am publishing and writing for Minnekahta Messenger

**WHO AM I?**

(see back page for answer)

**SUPPORT  
BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUB**

Hot Springs, SD

**ON NEWS STANDS NOW!**

You won't want to miss

**The Latest Issue of  
Minnekahta Messenger  
of the Southern Black Hills**

**A Fresh Approach to  
LOCAL NEWS & FEATURES**

Written by Your Friends,  
Neighbors, and Patrons

Who Seek The Grail

**GUNS IN THE COURTHOUSE**

By Paul Nabholz

*"The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."*

This important piece of the Bill of Rights helps to keep us free. But politicians, in their wisdom, look to make improvements. And some, probably, are improvements.

Felons for the most part can't vote or carry arms. Good thing? Well, many felons are incarcerated for multiple crimes over multiple prison terms. Keeping guns out of their hands might be a good thing, except that felons tend to ignore whatever laws they choose and continue to commit crimes with guns, even if a no-no.

The mass shootings in schools show the ignorance of lawmakers and their delusions that passing laws against a feared act will prevent the act. So, lawmakers have enacted laws to prevent anyone from carrying a gun onto a school campus.

Now the often-deranged have an environment where innocent people have been stripped of the ability to protect themselves and others. Schools, instead of being safe havens, have become the perfect killing grounds for those motivated to kill others in relative safety.

The nice thing about the wild and wooly west (or at least we think we are wild and wooly) is being comfortable around guns and gunfire. Lots of folks carry guns as a matter of course.

In Fall River County, in any group of one hundred people, perhaps ten are armed. That means that the one guy who is looking to rob or murder people in the group is outnumbered ten to one. Robbery or murder becomes one hell of a lot less fun if you might get shot or killed yourself.

West River politicians are all for the second amendment, or at least those NRA endorsements. Yet, here in South Dakota we have a law, probably from those dang East River politicians, that requires the posting of "No Dangerous Weapons" signs on all the entry doors of county courthouses.

(see Guns on back cover)

**EDGEMONT SENIOR CENTER**

**SERVES NEEDS OF MANY**

By Frank Gregg

There's a place over in Edgemont that's pretty special. The Senior Center over on 5th Avenue and F Street feeds a bunch of old folks every weekday at noon. But that's not all they do.

There's a music jam session every second and fourth Sunday starting about 2:00 pm. So bring your guitar, fiddle, mandolin or whatever you've got and play along. If you don't play or sing, you can come and listen. Some of the finest musicians in the Southern Hills show up to play.

There's bingo every Monday at 1:30 (I think they are required by law to have bingo. It's in the International Senior Center Book of Regulations and Procurement, Chapter 2, page 48).

Every Wednesday they offer breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00. Best all-you-can-eat breakfast in town for 5 bucks and you can stop by every weekday from 8:00 to 9:00 for coffee.

Other groups meet there on a regular basis. There's a union, a church group, a ceramics class and a writing group. There're a few women who meet upstairs a time or two a week to quilt. The Edgemont Historical Society gets together there for a meal and meeting once a month or so. There's a card playing group and a coloring group. There are exercise machines upstairs for those so inclined.

(see Senior on back cover)

**CUSTER POLYGAMOUS CULT**

**LEADER REMAINS JAILED**

By Lorelei Marie

Most of you are probably familiar with that cult that moved into Custer some time ago. They call themselves The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their compound is in rural Custer County. They have two home bases, one in Hildale, UT and another in Colorado City, AZ.

Well, the leader of the one in our neighborhood is a fellow by the name of Seth Warren. That last name ring a bell? He's related to Warren Jeffs, the leader of the compound in Waco, TX that got raided by the feds back in 2008.

Warren is still in prison, I hear. In fact, Seth is his brother, no less. There's another brother too, Lyle Jeffs. He was arrested at one point, but escaped and is currently on the run.

Now, Seth here won't be making his presence visible at his compound in Custer anytime in the near future. He was indicted last December on charges of diverting some \$12 million dollars' worth of federal benefits, food stamps in this case, into front compa-

nies and using said money to fund a lavish lifestyle for himself and other cult leaders.

(see Cult on back cover)

**TOXIC VACCINES**

By Lorelei Marie

Getting a vaccination, folks, may do you more harm than good! It is your right and to your benefit to be thoroughly informed and aware of the ingredients in any vaccine, and only then to give your consent to these being injected into your body or that of your children.

Some of the dangerous substances that are put into many vaccines today include viruses themselves such as Epstein-Barr, along with aluminum, formaldehyde, and thimerosal (mercury). These three ingredients alone are enough to cause extensive damage, if not kill you.

Other ingredients in these vaccine cocktails include but are not limited to ammonium sulfate, bovine extract, polysorbate 80 (an endocrine disrupter), as well as genetically modified organisms and nanoparticles that are designed to target and shut down your immune system.

Reputable studies have found that the number of vaccine-damaged people is increasing along with the number of those who become ill with the same disease that they have been vaccinated against! Please reference the following site to learn more about vaccine safety issues: <http://www.healthimpactnews.com/>

Many states are considering passing bills to make vaccines mandatory, including South Dakota! Yes, *mandatory vaccines!* Does that tell you anything, folks?

(see Vaccines on back cover)

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Southern Hills News.....	Page 1
Off the Beaten Path.....	Page 2
Turning Scratches Evening at the Lake	
This May Interest You .....	Page 3
Draining the VA Swamp Standing Up for Us All	
Special April Fool's Section.....	Pages 4-5
Well, If You Ask Us.....	Page 6
What People Are Saying.....	Page 7
Southern Hills News (cont.).....	Page 8

# Off The Beaten Path

## Turning Scratches

*She liked the mere act of writing, the magic of turning words inside her head into scratches on a page.*

(With apologies to John Green)

By Dusty Pence

*Can a gal named Dusty refuse a guy named Grits when he asks her to write a column for a paper with a cool name like "Minnekahta Messenger?" Of course not. (Especially a gal known to share her two cents a time or two thousand when nobody even asked.)*

*But when Grits said the paper will come out every other week I got as nervous as a cat in a clothes dryer and asked him (Grits, not the cat) what he wanted me to write about, because if I had to write about a standing subject matter—like, say, politics, or cat swinging—every other week, or try to be profound, funny or erudite on a consistent basis—then I'm in trouble and you are so very bored.*

*So I said to Grits, how 'bout I write whatever comes to mind—kittens in clothes dryers or conniptions at the courthouse or rodeo cowboys dancing jigs on Saturday night in Buffalo Gap—and that fool, I mean that fine fellow, said sure, write whatever you want to write. Oh, boy!*

*Of course, I had no clue what I wanted to write about, but then I went to Maui for a meeting and right there in paradise I found my first topic.*

### Trouble in Paradise

I was picking up some healthy groceries at "Island Gourmet", which is just a fancy convenience store on Maui. (There is no truth to the rumor that I was buying malasadas, those decadent little cream puffs so popular in the islands.) There was no line at the cash register but a teeny little bit of a woman, an employee of the store, had engaged the younger cashier in conversation more urgent than my pastries—oops, I mean my kale and tofu.

I could not help but hear their frantic conversation and soon understood that a crime, an assault upon society, a dire threat to the health of all paradisiacal beings, was being committed right in front of Island

Gourmet. Just yards from the front door! Yes, I could see the criminals in action, a heartbeat from where I stood waiting to pay for my pastries—oops, sorry, I mean kale and tofu!

To add chaos to crime, mall security had, according to the horrified Little Bitty woman, walked right past the evil doers only moments before without intervening in the ongoing criminal behavior! Needless to say, the ladies were indignant—imagine, a crime committed in full daylight as the security guard turns his head and walks away! Surely anarchy must follow.

I waited (not patiently) while Cashier and Little Bitty discussed their next move—Little Bitty finally left and Cashier looked at me and my basket laden with healthy stuff, smiled and picked up the phone to call security (or 911 or SWAT). After reporting the crime, which was still being perpetrated in plain sight somewhere between 10 and 20 feet from the front door, she thanked me for waiting and graciously allowed me to pay for my groceries.

I walked outside and promptly told the criminals (with tongue placed firmly in cheek) that they might wish to "cheese-it" because the authorities were en route.

The criminals, a bit too promptly, disposed of their cigarettes and furtively deposited the butts in the waste can. Cashier stood in the doorway, yammering something unintelligible at the convicts-in-waiting; she wisely did not come outside to confront the dangerous criminals.

Yes, I tell truth. The perps were smoking cigarettes, an act forbidden by the State of Hawai'i within 20 feet of public entrances and exits in paradise. And yes, I aided and abetted their opportunity to escape before the paddy wagon arrived.

But which was more disturbing? The behavior of Cashier and Little Bitty, who were more concerned about smoke somewhere in the distance than about serving their customers? Or the reaction of Smokin' Couple, who behaved as if they had indeed been caught doing something bad? I would rather they had moved a bit closer and blown smoke rings within eight feet of weenie Cashier, who fell prey to Little Bitty and called in the gendarmes.

None of this bodes well for a society founded upon the freedom to live your own life and run your own business, even if you sometimes do stupid stuff. The only shining star in this litany of do-gooders and cowards is the unseen security guard, who had the good sense not to whip out his tape measure to ensure that Smokin' Couple were outside the twenty-foot limit.

Bravo, conscientious objector!

Now, I admit, I'm a bit worried. The next time I go shopping for—yes, inspired by Security Guard, I say it now loud and proud—*deep-fried, cream-filled, carb-loaded, gut-busting malasadas*—will my face be on a poster, captured perhaps by mall security cameras when I alerted the scoundrels so that they could escape the long arm of the law? Smokin' Couple might well be first to testify against me, perhaps even sue me for contributing to their cigarette delinquency.

Guess I'll have to buy my malasadas elsewhere. Although by then they, too, may be banned and I may be sneaking down dark island alleyways in search of black market buns.

Happy trails, my friends, in faith and freedom.

## Evening at the Lake

By Shirley Schumacher

**Sultry, silent nights of softly wafting  
owl messages to and fro  
One pitched high, one pitched low  
The message, we may never know  
From owl to owl did through the  
night flow.**

**Just at dusk, the moon did waft  
Upon the water, a slowly floating raft  
Glimmering light upon a squirrel daft  
That from rooftop to pine she did  
craft.**

**Tail flickering, eyes aglow, looking at  
us in askance  
Where have you been in your years of  
absence?  
The owls and squirrel in querulous  
dance  
And the moon upon the water, a  
happy chance.**

# This May Interest You

## Draining the VA Swamp

By Lorelei Marie

Isn't it sad to see the Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System, a vital source of economic revenue and jobs for the community of Hot Springs, moving many of its services to Rapid City (believed by many to be a death knell for the health care system here). This historic facility and the people and veterans in the Southern Black Hills deserve more consideration and respect from officials in Washington D.C.

The VA has had long-standing problems. Perhaps these are a result of the special treatment received by its top 300 senior executives who received \$3.3 million dollars in bonuses in 2015. That's \$10,000 per person, folks! Non-executives only got \$900.00 each. Still, it translates to more than \$177 million dollars in bonuses!

And these extra gifts were doled out before President Donald J. Trump took office. In fact, one of the president's objectives is to "drain the swamp" at the VA. Could this leave the possibility of funding going more directly to where it is needed? Perhaps even to keeping the VA open in Hot Springs? There may be hope with the current administration.

Benjamin Krause, a U.S. Air Force Veteran, became an attorney after experiencing difficulty receiving any help for a traumatic brain injury. He realized that "the primary Veteran service organization community lacks the will or desire to stand up for veterans like me who were being abused or not getting the help that we deserve." He is now helping other veterans to navigate these treacherous waters and is exposing corruption in the VA.

He has set up a website where veterans can go for guidance and education. It is called "Disabled Veterans.org, Redeeming The Promise of a Square Deal." (<http://www.disabledveterans.org/>)

Krause believes it is important for veterans to realize that the VA is merely *an insurance agency*. In fact, it used to be called the Bureau of War Risk Insurance. They changed it to a gentler sounding name; however, the services did not become more so! In any case, it remains an insurance agency.

Is the VA corrupt? It is questionable at the very least as to why they would pay a \$5,000.00 bonus to Dr. Daren Deering, the fired chief of staff of the Phoenix VA Health Care System. This, after several veterans died while waiting for care.

Krause questions whether federal employees should be getting bonuses at all. Since there is a lack of accountability within the VA, bureaucrats are often receiving these bonuses at the expense of veterans. Even when fraud is discovered, it is usually after veterans have died, and then it is subsequently covered up.

Our veterans deserve better. They risked their lives overseas for this country. They don't need to face another battle for their survival when they come home.

Let's hold the Department of Veterans Administration in Washington D.C. accountable. And let's find a way to maintain the existing services of the VA in Hot Springs. Our community, as well as those who are currently receiving services, depend on it!

## Standing Up for Us All

By Lorelei Marie

People from all over the world have been tuned into the events at Standing Rock. It is not only a disgraceful and sad episode in American history, but a turning point for the future well-being of all life upon our planet.

Peaceful, unarmed protesters have been threatened with police force and military might, shot with rubber bullets, doused with toxic chemicals in the middle of the night, and sprayed with blasts of cold water from high pressure hoses in subzero weather and freezing wind chills. Then, on February 22, they were forcibly removed from their own land! All because they tried to protect their water supply—that is, OUR water supply.

In April 2016 the Keystone 1 Pipeline ruptured near Freeman, SD; 16,800 gallons of oil spewed out. 300 square feet of neighboring farmland was contaminated, with benzene-laced tar sand oil covering an area the size of a football field.

And this past December a massive spill occurred about 150 miles from Cannon Ball, ND, resulting in 176,000 gallons leaking from the Belle Fourche Pipeline in Billings County and contaminating Ash Coulee Creek and surrounding hillsides.

If you are thinking that this is just an "Indian Issue," you would be wrong. This situation involves every American who desires a future that includes water.

The pipeline was supposed to be built adjacent to Bismark, ND but citizens protested and the Governor decided against taking a chance on having it that close to the city in the event that it may eventually rupture—as many pipelines around our country are doing at an alarming rate—contaminating the land, water and resources for many miles around.

No, the North Dakota governor wasn't going to risk Bismark losing its water supply. Better to put the pipeline on Native American land. Indians are apparently expendable in his mind! Native Americans were the first people to live in America. How can America be considered great if we allow such an injustice?

Oil pipelines are being built across America the Beautiful with increasing frequency. This pipeline will stretch from Canada down to the Gulf, at which point the oil will be shipped overseas.

Americans won't be getting a drop of it! But we're expected to risk our land, water, and welfare so the oil companies can turn an even bigger profit!

What shall become of our Mother Earth? If we lose our natural resources, where will any of us be living one day? Unfortunately, if we continue to allow this sort of abuse, we won't be around to find out!

Every American should ask themselves: Would I want an oil pipeline—with the potential to rupture—in my backyard? If the answer is no, it is time WE ALL Stand with Standing Rock!

## Special Section

# Trump Family Friend Obtains VA Property to Open Retreat Investigation Reveals Plans for Transfer were Kept Secret for 4 Years

By John MacDonald

The Minnekahta Messenger has uncovered a massive plot to remove the Hot Springs Veterans Administration Campus from federal control, turning it over to Swami Amar Sharma of India in exchange for \$13 million dollars and 17 acres of land outside Washington, D.C. Swami Sharma has purchased the campus from the VA as an extension of his considerable holdings.

His intentions, recently uncovered, are to convert the grounds, first established as a veterans care facility in April of 1907, into a retreat similar to ones he has developed at Stowe, VT, Maysville, KY, Clovis, NM, and Sitka, AK. The Swami also has planned to establish retreats on the World Islands in Dubai and outside Kielder Forest Park north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England.

The Swami is known to be a friend of First Lady Melania Trump. They reportedly met at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia in 1988, where the Swami was conducting a recruitment drive.

First Lady Melania Trump is fluent in six languages, one of which being the Indian dialect Punjabi. This lingual ability assisted her in being a primary force in helping Swami Swarna attain the Hot Springs campus. Their meeting in Slovenia resulted in her expulsion from the campus of the University of Ljubljana

in the fall of 1988. She then moved to Milan, Italy with financial help from the Swami to pursue a modeling career, where she met many influential wealthy businessmen, leading her to later meet soon-to-be presidential candidate Donald Trump.

Only high levels of government can remove historic designations from buildings. In this case, the designation removal has been traced to President Trump, beginning long before his candidacy announcement. These plans have been in the works for more than four years, apparently at the request of First Lady-to-be Melania Trump. (See next issue of Minnekahta Messenger for more information in a story titled, "When and How are Presidents Actually Chosen?")

Building 11 on the VA Campus, which was slated to house the new VA Call Center, will now be used as an indoor roller rink and overflow intake center. The campus is expected to initially house 280 guests, or retreatists, by which they are referred. One of the Swami's lesser aides was overheard to say, "The VA was only going to bring in 120 people. We'll bring in thousands!"

The Facility Management Service Building (Building 14) will continue to function as it is with the addition of a pump house pulling water from Fall River to heat the entire complex, thus becoming one of the largest facilities to be heated completely with naturally heated water from an underground hot spring. The water will be returned to Fall River through a pipeline running east of Hot Springs. The US Corps of Engineers reportedly will approve the plan by April 15th of this year.

The Chapel (Building 10) will be converted to a Mandiram, a Hindu place of worship, with daily prayer services provided to the retreatists. The conversion will begin as soon as weather permits removing and restructuring the roof.

Buildings 2 through 8, which are presently Domiciliary Quarters, will be renovated, housing the majority of the 280 cohabiting

retreatists. The cohabitation, unusual in India, is an experiment Swami Sharma initiated in Alaska with mixed results. While Hinduism recognizes sexual pleasure as one of the chief aims of human life, sex must fit within the overall scheme of an orderly and disciplined life, leading to liberation and upholding of *dharma*, or the principle of cosmic order. The cosmic order was disrupted by the Inuits who found the heated dormitories conducive to sexual coupling.

The handover, which has been kept in strict secrecy, is expected to occur sometime in April of this year.

Co-chair of Save the VA in Hot Springs, Bob Nelson, when contacted about the sale stated, "I knew Director Sandra Horsman had something underhanded planned. I never would have suspected something like this. We've been riding the wrong horse, man."

Horsman was unavailable to comment on this developing story. However, Teresa Forbes, Public Affairs Officer stated, "I think it unfair to say this is a done deal. Director Horsman will be scheduling a public briefing the end of April." With the possible influx of several hundred new persons to Hot Springs, as well as many new businesses, the community will soon be on board. There may even be a new language arts center built close to the existing Hot Springs Library.

Freedom of Information Act requests were returned unanswered by the Veterans Administration and the White House; however, further inquiries into the Swami's other retreats revealed some of the secretive methods with which the story was kept from the general public.

A little-known office within The Church of Divine Guidance, called the Category Acquisition Manager, is responsible for procuring land for retreats. Various names are used to mask true intentions as negotiations are in progress. Money has been exchanged in high places to facilitate the exchange.

Around the same time as the announcement





of the VA partial closing approximately five years ago, the takeover was initiated with the help of Trump's business partners, Turkish billionaire Aydin Dogan and United Arab Emirates billionaire Hussain Sajwani. It has been discovered that the many public and private meetings related to the restructuring of the Hot Springs VA were simply a continuing cover-up designed to mislead the local city and county authorities until the deal could be consummated.

In unrelated news, it has been revealed that of the two bibles President Trump used for his inauguration, the one said to be a family bible was actually a Shruti, the Hindu Bible that contains the oldest written works in Hinduism.

*Minnekahta Messenger staff members as well as deeply embedded sources contributed to this story.*

## Health-Conscious Religious Sect Comes to Hot Springs

By Lorelei Marie

Adios to the VA and howdy to The Church of Divine Guidance. These folks are coming all the way across the world from India to set up residence in Hot Springs. The Church also has centers in Stowe, VT, Maysville, KY, Clovis, NM, and Sitka, AK

The leader of the Church is a fellow by the name of Swami Amar Sharma. The name Amar, meaning immortal, and the prestigious name of Sharma, meaning plain old joy.

The Swami's lead staff are Banerjee Savitar, Chief Administrator, and Vijay Deshpande, Community Liaison, or more precisely, Recruiter. He is hoping to get some, if not all, of us in Hot Springs to join their quaint little commune, saying it is a step in that eternal right direction. A gal by the name of Amala Jha will be in charge of all matters pertaining to religion. So, direct any such questions to

her. Nisha BalaKrishna is Dietary Consultant.

Now, these swamis are not to be taken lightly. They are down-right serious about their convictions and are going to encourage their new neighbors to eat healthier. They believe it is important to feed the body, mind, and soul. No more eating beef, for sure. Cows are sacred. Don't consume pork or chicken neither, or even eggs or that cup of coffee in the morning. They call that kind of behavior *tamasic*, or influenced by ignorance.

And you'll want to stay away from left-overs, stale, overripe, or spoiled foods, too. Eating those causes negative emotions such as anger, jealousy, and greed.

Then there's something called *rajasic*, eating food that gives you strong emotional qualities such as passion and restlessness in the mind. This comes from consuming meat, eggs, fish, onions, garlic, hot peppers, and pickles, as well as pungent or spicy foods.

So what's left to eat, you might be thinking? Tofu, yes siree. Nice white tofu! Also, abundant vegetables, fruit, nuts, and whole grains. Eating this way is preferred because it's non-irritating to the stomach and purifying for the mind. It produces calmness and mobility, or what's known as an increase in one's magnetism.

And this condition is vital for true service to God. Purity of food is necessary to maintain the desirable state of mind that leads to enlightenment. Food is not consumed only to survive, but to stay healthy and maintain mind/body equilibrium. By eating a purer quality of food regularly, one can ensure a pure heart, long life, cheerful spirit, strength, health, happiness and delight.

You'll see these folks around town any day now. Can't miss 'em! The women wear *saris*, long sheets of colorful, patterned cloth that are draped over a blouse, and *lehengas*, which are long, gathered gypsy skirts with dazzling embroidery and vibrant colors. They'll also be wearing scarves.

The men will be noticeable by the *lungis* they're wearing, pieces of cloth sewn in a circle and worn around the waist like a sarong. They also will be wearing long white sheets of cloth, or *dhotis*, wrapped around the waist and between the legs, and with shirts over those. No feed caps or cowboy hats for these guys. They'll be sporting colorful turbans on their heads.

No, you can't miss these folks.

## Buy Fresh-Grown Swami Veggies

By Lorelei Marie

The Church of Divine Guidance, opening it's fifth America-based religious retreat and health and diet center at the former VA Black Hills Health Care System facility in Hot Springs, SD in 2017, promotes good, clean living, including healthy dietary habits. And to be of help to the Hot Springs community in that regard, they'll be supplying us with lots of fresh vegetables and fruit.

Swami Amar Sharma has big plans to get the old VA greenhouse in tip-top shape to begin cultivating as many of "God's rainbow of veggies" as they can. Everything from root vegetables, like beets, carrots, sweet potatoes, daikon, and other radishes, to above-ground produce, including cabbage, celery, brussel sprouts, broccoli, and turnips. And they haven't forgotten fresh leafy greens. They plan to make kale, collards, chard, spinach, and multi-colored lettuce available.

They claim variation in people's diets is best since fresh food has different energetic properties to convey, depending on whether they're under the ground soaking up soil-enriched nutrients, sitting on top of the ground or waving in the wind and basking in the sun.

And I hear tell they might even include some of those water veggies. Seaweed, they call 'em. They're saying these vegetables can actually remove heavy metals from our bodies, like that radiation making its way across the U.S. from Fukushima, Japan, or aluminum from weather-altering chem trails. Then there's all that mercury, or thimerosal, we get injected into us in the form of vaccines. So, sounds like eating these sea veggies will surely benefit us folks in Hot Springs.

And, with the exception of dulce, which is grown in the good old U.S.A., those other seaweeds have some fancy Japanese names such as wakame, kombu, hijiki, and arame. The Church will be importing them to sell. Next thing, they'll want us to eat miso soup.

To partake of this heavenly garden of nutrients, just come bright and early on Wednesday and Saturday mornings to the main parking lot next to the police/fire departments. Produce tables will be set up by 7:00 a.m.

# Well, If You Ask Us

## Coming Back to Hot Springs, Everything Looks the Same

By Grits McMorrow

It is good to be back home in the Black Hills. They say you can never go home again but I'm not so sure that expression is always true. This will be my third time living in Hot Springs, the last time being in the mid- to late-1990's and the first time in 1988.

I did visit the Hills in 2013 and again in 2015 and 2016. The past two times I could be found at the Badger Clark Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering in September, reciting Badger Clark poems solo and for Pegie Douglas and being in the workshops. Maybe some of you read Hot Springs Star Editor John Taylor's 2015 writeup of the event that included a statement about Grits Wrangler from New Mexico. That would be me. Really. Ask the Allens. I was among their guests when they hosted last year's Bunkhouse Tales.

I am a bit surprised not to see a thriving business district like in Custer and Hill City. Yes, there are some new businesses here, and I have been inside the new library, which I think is awesome. But I also see many empty storefronts and buildings, including the old library and the Wesch Oak building. After all the trouble I went through with City Hall after I loaned Save Our Sandstone the insurance premium to thwart Mayor Donnell Herbert's plan to tear it down, the Wesch Oak building sits empty. It is disgraceful.

I remarked the other day to a long-time resident that I was disappointed in the apparent lack of economic development aimed at tourism. He said the "city forefathers" are determined that the community will never be a tourist town, merely a veterans town.

Yes, that was true the last time I lived here, when people were expressing their fears that the VA was going to close. But that was nearly twenty years ago! And now the VA looks to be closing. I'm flabbergasted! How did the threat of losing the VA progress this far? What have City Hall and the forefathers and others been doing all these years? This may sound critical and sarcastic but, since praying or drinking the problem away has failed, is there a Plan B?

Maybe SAL Commander Jeff Shannon can save the VA and be our hero. As a former Florida LEO, he probably knows many tricks. May I suggest, if a boycott by multiple Facebook friends does not work, how about mailing a few anonymous letters?

## Despair for the Wrongfully Convicted Sex Offender

By Lorelei Marie

How would you feel if you were wrongfully convicted of a crime, especially a sex offense? We live in a society that is often quick to condemn a person or incident, particularly when children are involved.

Crimes against children should never be taken lightly. It is our duty as a society to protect the most vulnerable among us. However, because of the emotion involved in such cases, there is a higher level of probability that a person may be wrongfully identified and subsequently convicted of a crime that he (or she) may not have committed.

Sylvester Smith was granted a new trial in 2004 in North Carolina after serving 20 years on a sexual assault charge. The two girls who identified him as their attacker were 4 and 6 years old at the time. They later recanted their testimony, saying their grandmother told them to blame Smith, who was dating their mother at the time. He lost 20 years of his life to prison while the real perpetrator, the girls' cousin, remained free.

Nearly 900 similar cases have been filed in the National Registry of Exonerations since 1984. While compiling this database, 1,100 other cases, in which convictions were overturned due to police scandal, were uncovered.

Over the last few decades, state laws became more severe after a wave of hysteria swept the U.S. in the 1980's over preschool child sex abuse. This was a great issue for politicians to campaign on. Subsequently, much of the legislation passed had little basis in actual research.

Sentencing is one area where sex offenders' laws have become harsher. The case of Chad Curtis, former NY Yankees outfielder, is an example. He was convicted of "inappropriately touching" three teenage girls at a high school where he volunteered as a coach. He's facing 15 years in prison. For touching.

When people are falsely convicted of a sex offense, the consequences (including the societal stigma and indignities of further persecution) they are forced to endure magnify the injustice. *(see Despair on back cover)*

## Minnekahta Messenger

Published by Minnekahta Publishing, LLC

P. O. Box 221 Hot Springs, SD 57747 • messenger@blackhillssentinel.com

Christian "Grits" McMorrow, Publisher • Lorelei Marie, Editor • Frank Gregg, Deputy Editor

The opinions expressed in our published works are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the opinions of Minnekahta Publishing, LLC or its Advertisers. • Information contained in our published works has been obtained by Minnekahta Publishing, LLC from sources believed to be reliable. However, neither Minnekahta Publishing, LLC nor its authors guarantees the accuracy or completeness of any information published herein and neither Minnekahta Publishing, LLC nor its authors shall be responsible for any errors, omissions, or claims for damages, including exemplary damages, arising out of use, inability to use, or with regard to the accuracy or sufficiency of the information contained in Minnekahta Publishing, LLC publications. • All rights reserved. No part of any Minnekahta Publishing, LLC published work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

# What People Are Saying

## Wars, Skirmishes and Bank Bailouts Lead to US Debt of \$20 Trillion Congressional Leaders Claim Medicare and Social Security Costs Did It... *Yeah, Sure*

By John MacDonald

Businesses were first created to fill a need and make money. They could take profits or reinvest as they desired and were solely responsible for any success or failure. These days every business over the size of a lemonade stand wants to go public. Multiple owners may increase the complexity of governing the business, but still the fate of the business falls on the owners.

Now, with public ownership, companies are required to maximize return to investors or face lawsuits. This hampers investment for the future and relegates the business to maintenance status, and to be less innovative. This leaves capitalism as an unsustainable relic of bygone days, resulting in a steady drive toward *corpocracy*.

What is corpocracy? According to Merriam-Webster, it is “a government controlled through wealthy corporations instead of a normal democracy.”

Why the CEOs would trade control for money is a topic for a future column.

While most Americans consider our current system of government a democracy, it is not and never has been. Our governmental system is a federal republic, which means that the three branches of government, Executive, Legislative and Judiciary, share powers reserved according to the constitution. The federal government shares sovereignty with the state governments.

At least, that’s the way it’s supposed to work. One of the reasons public approval of congress is so low is that at some level or another, most people understand that our system of government is broken. When corporations write the laws, only the corporations benefit.

When a member of congress is contacted by a corporate sponsor, the corporate lawyers are expected to have done their job. Their job is to present the bill in a “cut and paste” fashion so as to not require effort on the part of the congressperson. That leaves more time for fundraising.

The result of this is that when corporations need to bypass existing laws or create new ones, there is an immediate conduit in which to operate. Simply speaking, our congress is owned by the corporations. This is one of the very environments the founding fathers warned about and tried to prevent.

In 1913, when the Federal Reserve Bank (The Fed) was established, our monetary system was moved from federal control to that of a private institution. This law was signed by President Woodrow Wilson on December 23rd of that year, an action he subsequently regretted. (In an unrelated story, the Federal Income Tax was created in 1913.)

How many people really know what The Fed does? How many of us simply go through our day-to-day activities with no thought of our currency system, how it works, and what effect it has on our pocketbook? Most.

Prior to The Fed’s establishment, it was believed that inflation was caused by wars and out-of-control spending. However, since 1913, inflation has grown an incredible 2000% according to Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Of course they won’t tell you that directly, but calculating year-over-year inflation numbers allows a diligent person to arrive at the obvious conclusion that inflation is created and monitored by The Fed as a direct result of how much currency is in the system at any given time.

One of the results of this finagling was that The Fed was in a position to loan money to the US Government. The problem for the government, and for us, is that while the money loaned to the Federal Government is created out of thin air, the interest is not.

The end result is that the government ends up spending the money, then has to borrow more just to pay the interest on what was originally borrowed. This situation, along with many wars and skirmishes, has put our acknowledged federal debt at \$20 trillion (acknowledged because of questionable and corrupt practices that hide much of the debt).

How much is \$20 trillion? Strangely, no one knows. None of the government bean counters can count that high.

Often, there’s talk about getting this country to pay back what it owes and we’ll pay off the national debt. Sure. If that were really the case, we might. However, China, which everybody *knows* owes us trillions, actually holds around 6% of the US debt. Yes, that’s right. We owe them approximately \$1.2 trillion that they hold in US bonds. We owe Japan about the same amount.

Remember those wars and skirmishes we talked about earlier? They ran up the debt. Remember the bank bailouts of 2008? They ran up the debt.

Remember hearing about the entitlements programs such as Medicare and Social Security? They do not run up the debt. Well, at least they would not have, being funded by workers and businesses that set aside for those purposes. Except the worthless congress people stole those funds and spent them on... ready for this? Wars, skirmishes and bank bailouts. And bridges to nowhere. And special health care services for themselves.

Think they would possibly avail themselves of Obamacare? Oh, no! That’s good enough for the “little people” but not good enough for them. What might happen if they got sick sitting at their desk in the Capitol? Can’t possibly wait for an appointment with their Medicare or Obamacare physician, can they? Must have immediate care, as they might miss a very important vote or corporate payoff.

The answer to all these problems is obvious. Throw the bums out.

Oh, wait. Not *my* bum! He’s a good bum. You need to throw out *your* bum.



Guns (cont. from front cover)

However, we also have a law, SDCL 22-14-28, probably from those saintly West River politicians, allowing county commissions to overturn the courthouse weapons ban.

I found that law while researching the sign on the door. The sign included knives as being banned. However, the actual law does not say knife, so I probably wouldn't get locked up for carrying my Swiss army knife to a commissioner meeting.

Anyhow, I believe our schools would be safer with guns than without, and likewise the courthouse. I want to be able to carry and I want the county employees able to carry. You only need a few armed good guys to discourage or stop a bad guy. (I probably won't bring my 40-cal Glock and I'm a lousy shot, but maybe this will give me an excuse to get a 9mm with a laser and practice up.)

If we get the commission to open up the courthouse, we might be able to protect you and ourselves with our own guns. Nothing in life is certain.

If you and I are in a meeting and a bad guy shows up to shoot us, we've got a chance if we're armed. If we're not armed we're dead. I'd rather take the chance you are a good shot, I'm a lucky shot, or the mere presence of our guns would send him packing.

Let's give the second amendment a chance to make the courthouse safer.

Cult (cont. from front cover)

Just recently, a U.S. magistrate judge ordered Seth to stay behind bars so he wouldn't get any ideas about fleeing like his brother Lyle did after his arrest. That makes sense since Seth had his pilot's license, a passport, and multiple credit cards with him when he was arrested.

Seth tried to downplay his role in the church last year when he met with South Dakota water regulators. Seems they wanted to get water more quickly at the Custer compound. But authorities don't buy that.

He's a top cult leader, alright, and they're not going to let this one get away.

Senior (cont. from front cover)

Every day 25 to 30 people show up for lunch. Sometimes more. Meals are \$3 for seniors and \$8 if you've not yet entered the golden years. People from "not-yet-retired" to "over 100" enjoy each other's company. Well, most people do. They used to have a curmudgeon or two, but kindness and attention made them easier with which to deal.

The cook is no chuck wagon cook. She's a Cordon Bleu chef. Shrimp and Prime Rib are sometimes on the

menu. Friday, the salad bar is open.

Meals-on-Wheels is run from the Center. Each weekday about a dozen or so meals are delivered to those who can't easily get out.

The Center also houses Prairie Hills Transit for the Edgemont area. It's available not only to Center members, but the public at large. Its primary use is for medical appointments and such, but when the van is not being used for that, it's available for grocery store trips, hair appointments and other trips. Medicaid recipients and veterans can ride free. The dispatch and driver's positions are all volunteer. They spend many hours per week serving the public for nothing more than a "Thank you."

According to the National Council on Aging (NCOA), there are 11,400 senior centers in the United States serving more than 1 million older adults every day. They also say that senior centers serve as a gateway to the nation's elderly, connecting them to vital community services that help them stay healthy and independent.

To maintain operations, centers must gain resources from a variety of sources. These include federal, state and local governments, public and private grants and volunteer hours. In the case of the Edgemont Senior Center, the state supported Meals Program out of Rapid City pays rent on a monthly basis and pays for the food and the cook's salary. All money collected for the meals goes to the program headquartered for this area in Rapid City. There is a "Match Fund" funded by donations from various sources which cover under-collected or non-collected funds.

Aside from the Meals Program, also known as Meals-On-Wheels, the center itself is funded in various ways, echoing the data from the NCOA. They have come up with many ideas for funding, ranging from donations resulting from various activities, such as a weekly breakfast, as noted above. The various agencies that use the Center pay rent for the privilege of having a comfortable, easily accessed place to meet.

As in most organizations, there is a small core group of individuals who contribute the majority of the work required to keep the Center running. Besides the Board of Directors and Officers, there are those who help cook, clean up after breakfast and lunch and run the various activities. There are many more who donate food for the salad bar, food for breakfast and money for other needs. When a new roof was needed, many people donated significant amounts of money to help with that. A furnace replacement saw a similar response.

The Edgemont Senior Center hous-

es one of the busiest centers in the West River region of South Dakota in spite of it being located in such a small town. It has more members and more participants than larger communities, such as Custer and Hot Springs. People frequently drive from other towns to have lunch at the Center.

If you're planning on joining the bunch for lunch, please let the chef know a day in advance so she can ensure a sufficient quantity of food. Give them a call at (605) 662-7193.

Vaccines (cont. from front cover)

Even if the ingredients in these vaccines were nothing more than broccoli and apple extracts, does that give the manufacturers or our government the right to force them upon us?

If you're thinking it's for our protection, as in requiring all school age children to be vaccinated, then let me pose a question, "How are unvaccinated children a danger to vaccinated children if vaccines work?"

To become more knowledgeable about states that are currently considering mandatory vaccine bills, please go to the following site: <http://www.healthnutnews.com/breaking-nvic-tracking-134-vaccine-bills-introduced-35-states/>

No less than 134 vaccine bills are currently on the agenda in 35 states! Do you want toxic vaccines forced upon you?

And for you veterans, do you know a bill has been passed by the Senate to require veterans to receive up to 90 vaccines before being eligible for VA care? Read about it yourself: <http://www.thevaccineaction.org/2015/11/u-s-senate-passes-bill-approving-mandatory-vaccinations-for-veterans/>

Please become informed! Know what is in a vaccine and that it is your inherent right to refuse to be injected with toxins! And if you're still not convinced that vaccines are unsafe, here's another link that may help to persuade you: <http://www.vaccines.news/2015-09-23-cdc-admits-98-million-americans-were-given-cancer-virus-via-the-polio-shot.html>

Also, please research agencies that recommend vaccinations. The Centers For Disease Control (CDC) is nothing more than a for-profit corporation. Here's what their own scientists are saying about them: <http://healthimpactnews.com/2016/the-u-s-centers-for-disease-control-a-history-of-corruption/>

Despair (cont. from page 6)

A convicted sex offender must register with the state's Sex Offender Registry. There are restrictions on where one can live and the residence may be marked by a sign. There are mandatory therapy sessions, examinations, polygraph evaluations and, for men, a plethysmograph evaluation, in which a mercury-filled rubber ring is placed around the shaft of the penis to measure "penile tumescence."

Most evidence presented in trials is human testimony. Reasons for wrongful convictions have included fabricated crimes in which a divorced parent tells a child to lie about an ex-spouse, or a therapist or police officer convinces a child to say something that wasn't true.

Eyewitness mistakes are common. Often these are white victims identifying black perpetrators. Misconduct by authorities is the second biggest cause of false convictions. Even the way a police line-up is conducted can result in swings of inaccuracy from as low as 14 percent to as high as 86 percent.

Sexual abuse of children should not be tolerated for any reason. If you suspect or know of such activity, speak up! Falsely accusing innocent people of sexual abuse should also not be tolerated. Miscreant behavior is also a crime!

**Southern Hills' Best Kept Secret**  
**Bourbon-County**  
 Another Time and Place  
**HOT SPRINGS' NEWEST LOUNGE**  
**Located Uptown in the Historic Sandstone District**  
**Darts • Open Mic Live Music • Tina**  
 705 North River St. 605-745-4441

We're not against **Printing**  
 We're against **Wasting Resources**  
 We don't want to stop printing **Minnekahta Messenger** for readers and advertisers.  
 We simply think that wasting paper, ink, and toner doesn't make economic or environmental sense.  
 Help us **Go Green** by subscribing to eMessenger for **only 75¢** per issue. Send a check or cash and your email address to Minnekahta Messenger, P.O. Box 221, Hot Springs, SD 57747

**ANSWER TO RIDDLE WHO AM I?**  
 Christian "Grits" McMorrow