

What's Up for July? Take a Look Inside...

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School Bus Transformed into Ambulance

By Amanda Rombough
Information Services Officer

Transporting students to and from school isn't the only way to use a school bus. Rapid City Area Schools and Pennington County Emergency Management have teamed up to repurpose an old school bus into an AmbuBus. From 26 seats to 18 cots and a handful of seats, the new AmbuBus will be able to transport up to 25 patients with non-life threatening injuries.

The AmbuBus will be tested out during the 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. The bus was scheduled for trade into a bus vendor but thanks to a conversion kit from the Department of Health, seats were removed from the bus and it was transformed into the makeshift ambulance. The bus qualifies as a trade in and this



came at no cost to the district. The bus will be insured by the county.

"I feel we are working well with other government entities," Transportation Manager Dennis Berg said.

The bus will help transport more patients than a normal ambulance can hold, freeing up other ambulances to help in more serious situations. A normal ambulance is normally equipped to transport up to two patients.



Local Church Beautifies Area Schools during Love Week

By Amanda Rombough
Information Services Officer

What started as a simple way to bring teachers donuts to show appreciation has now grown into a service project of epic

proportions. Fountain Springs Church has been holding a week long service project called Love Week since 2009. The church goes out to various places throughout



the community to do service projects, including numerous schools. In the fall, students and staff alike will see some improvements to the schools thanks to members of Fountain Springs Church.

Fountain Springs started out in fall of 2008 bringing donuts to school staff throughout the district, and by 2009 they were pulling weeds at General Beadle. Projects are submitted to the church and if they are submitted within deadline, the projects are usually taken care of. All of the work the church does in the schools is

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done at no cost to the district.

Projects that were taken care of this year included hallway painting at Black Hawk, purchasing a school banner for East Middle, making a new school sign for Horace Mann, landscaping and garden box cleaning at Knollwood, cafeteria and hallway painting at North Middle, teacher lounge makeover and shed painting and re-roofing at Robbinsdale, art room clean-up and outside bench painting at Stevens High, classroom painting and kitchen makeover at Wilson, and professional photos taken, framed and hung throughout Rapid Valley.

“Schools are the epicenters of their neighborhoods and serve our city and region in a way that no one else can,” Next Steps Director at Fountain Springs Katy Kinnan said. “As a

church, we believe that one of our greatest responsibilities and privileges is to serve the city God has put us. We want to help people walk that out, and we can’t think of any better people and places to love than our schools. Our goal is to serve the

plays a big role in student achievement,” Veluswamy said. “We need community partnership. We need it now more than ever It means so much for us.”

Veluswamy said if students are involved in projects that take place in their school, they can show that to their friends and take pride in having helped create that and it instills more school pride in them.

Love Week has been taking place at Fountain Springs since 2009. Kinnan said her favorite part of Love Week is being able to connect with people and watch people connect with each other. Kinnan said a lot of people stop being passive and start being active in the community during that week. She said next year they hope to connect students, parents, and teachers from Fountain Springs with the school that they attend or work.



schools, the staff, the students, and their families as big and as often as we can.”

All projects are done at no cost to the school district, which Facilities Services Manager Kumar Veluswamy said is a huge help at this time and that he hopes to get the community and other families involved more in coming years.

“Family and community involvement



General Beadle Garden Part of Annual Rapid City Garden Walk

By Amanda Rombough
Information Services Officer

The students at General Beadle have been hard at work in their garden for the past five years and this year the garden was part of the annual Rapid City Garden Walk, the only non-residential garden that is featured in the walk. The Garden Walk took place on Sunday, June 28.

The garden at General Beadle was started over five years ago and each year features a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. Students and families work on the garden throughout the year and harvest all of the food once it's grown. Last year, the garden produced over 700 pounds of food that was donated back to the community to families and students who needed it. Students also used the food for classroom projects, such as making salads, making pizza sauce, and learning how to can food.

"The garden is there for the kids," North Rapid Community Coordinator Morgan VonHaden said. "We want to show the kids what they are able to do, they are able to do something for themselves and give back to the community and education is all around us. Education is in the dirt. The kids are having fun and they

don't realize that they're working on math and reading."

The garden is designed so that every student in the school is able to participate



in it. If the student is able to walk into the garden, they can help. If the student is in a wheelchair, there are places where they can help. If a student is blind, there are still things for them to help with.

VonHaden said the garden represents the diversity of the school in what is planted there. The garden contains hot peppers, tomatillos, bok choy, lemon grass, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, herbs, corn, squash, zucchini, artichokes, cucumbers, beets, radishes, strawberries, pumpkins, and much more.

VonHaden said they hope to get more than 700 pounds of food this year to give back to the community. She hopes the Garden Walk will help to educate people that you can have a garden no matter where you are, whether you're in a house or an apartment. General Beadle's garden features bright colored tire planters and other unique planting techniques.

"We want the community to see that a garden doesn't have to be planted in the ground," she said. "It can be planted in a tire, in boxes. A garden can be anything you want it to be."

Other gardens included on the walk were 4820 Chalkstone Drive, 415 Van Buren, and 2220 S. Ridge Road. The Garden Walk is put on by the Pennington County Master Gardeners and Rapid City Garden Club.



Western Dakota Tech Welcomes Dr. Ann Bolman as President



WDT Press Release

Western Dakota Tech is pleased to welcome Dr. Ann Bolman to campus as WDT's new President. She comes to WDT after 25 years of higher education experience in Texas.

Dr. Bolman will assume leadership of the campus July 24, pending approval by the Rapid City School Board on July 14. Dr. Bolman replaces Mark Wilson, who left WDT in June to become President of Mitchell Technical Institute.

"I was so impressed when I met with faculty and staff with the commitment they have to the students," Dr. Bolman said. "You don't see that everywhere. When I

saw that, it really excited me about the potential for the school."

From 1990 to 2009, Dr. Bolman served at Grayson College, Texas, as reading and writing instructor, director of developmental education, Assistant Dean, and Dean.

From 2009 to 2011, Dr. Bolman served as Vice President of Instruction at McLennan Community College in Texas. Most recently, she served as Vice President at Lone Star College, also in Texas. At the Montgomery campus at Lone Star College, Dr. Bolman oversaw all instructional divisions and the college's professional development unit. She was responsible for leading the student course completion efforts that raised the success rate by three percent campus-wide. She also supported faculty in developing an innovative professional development approach, which was nominated for the Bellwether Award in 2014. Dr. Bolman also set up the

college's learning outcomes assessment process.

Dr. Bolman says she has been looking for a college that understands the impact technical institutes can have on the local and regional economy. She is impressed with the progress WDT faculty and staff have made with community and regional

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class or activity in

The Reporter?

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development and with improving student learning and retention.

Dr. Bolman feels her skills with strategic program and resource development and her focus on partnerships and collaborations on and off campus make her a good fit for WDT.

“WDT is a great institution and has wonderful potential,” Dr. Bolman said.

“I am excited to be part of that bright future.”

Dr. Bolman wants the community to know she has an open-door policy and wants to hear from those who need WDT’s assistance. She will be taking a lot of time in the early months of her tenure to get to know everyone on campus and in the community.

“If there’s something WDT can help with,

I want to know about it,” Dr. Bolman said. “I really want to hear everyone’s dreams for the school, its programs, and its role in the community.”

Dr. Bolman earned a Doctor of Education degree in English from Texas A&M University-Commerce, a Master of Arts degree in English from Texas A&I University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Texas A&I University.

Students Participate in Summer Band Program

By Amanda Rombough
Information Services Officer

School doesn’t end once the final bell rings in May for some students. Over 160 students in grades five to 12 participated in a summer band program that took place at Stevens High School and South Park Elementary to help hone in on their skills and improve.

The summer band program has been held for more than 50 years in Rapid City. After starting out as being part of the summer school program, it eventually became a 501(c)3 in the 1970s. Five instructors are part of the program. George Drago teaches flutes and percussion, Kandy Hastings teaches clarinets and saxophones, Lyn Alberty teaches brass, Don Downs does private instruction for high

school students, and Jerry Young taught all instruments at South Park. In addition, Mary Ann Downs took care of the promotion and fee collection for the class.

“Summer band is important for students who really want to excel in band,” Alberty said. “They are given individual attention on their instruments and encouraged to work to their full potential. Because the groups are so small, the students are able to work on more advanced material.”

Alberty said the material that is covered during class depends on the age and experience of the students. Everything from reading music, producing sound, and basic instrument maintenance is covered for beginners and the more advanced students work on improving their technique. Both sides hold a jazz band rehearsal

twice a week and parents are welcome to observe rehearsals and lessons.

“We always hope to enroll more students,” Alberty said. “We think it is a great program that helps students to become outstanding musicians.”



Students Learn Strider Bike Safety During Summer



By Amanda Rombough
Information Services Officer

As August draws closer, everyone’s thoughts have turned to back-to-school preparations. Not for one group of teens, however, who are taking advantage of the warm weather and free time to learn some more about bike safety and how to get the most of their Strider bikes. Central High School Special Education teacher Amy Heuston has been holding a Black Hills Special Olympics Strider safety

course throughout the summer.

“It’s a weeklong course learning about bike safety and how to have fun on their bike and how to make friends,” Heuston said.

Last year Heuston taught a course on how to ride a Strider and she wanted to give an opportunity for those students to come to this course to learn more. Last year there were about 14 students who participated in the course.

“I felt that they got it so quickly and that they needed to learn bike safety and why you ride your bike,” Heuston said.

Officers from the Rapid City Police Department stopped by to share some bike safety tips with the students and race them around the parking lot. Heuston said the course will take them out into the city, on the sidewalks, crossing streets, and even to the BMX track to put what

they learn into practice.

“It’s hard to say to someone who is non-verbal what they should do, unless you go out and ride,” she said, “so it’s nice to get out and ride it.”



Check out the great things our staff & students are doing!

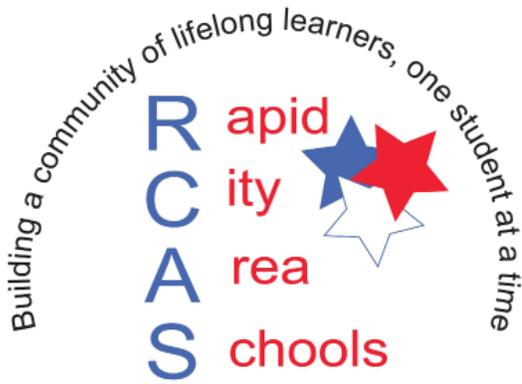
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