

# OUR TOWNS Hartington

■ To get a news item published on this page, contact Travis Gulbrandson at 665-7811 (x121) or e-mail [travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net](mailto:travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net)

## Life Is Anything But Bittersweet At 'Bittersweet'

Painting Passion Becomes Successful Business

BY LINDA WUEBBEN  
P&D Correspondent

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Since 1996, life has been anything but bittersweet for Judy Smith, who has operated a gift and craft outlet in Hartington with the name of Bittersweet.

She has turned her artistic love for painting into a thriving business.

"Almost everything I have in here is hand-painted or hand-crafted by me," Smith said. She will paint on anything and especially loves rusty buckets or old barn windows.

Smith's favorite items to paint are the special orders she creates for her customers. Someone will bring a bucket from the farm or an old shovel and she lets her imagination take her away.

"Someone may have a wood-framed window from their families' farmstead and they ask me to paint a special scene on it and they hang it in their house," said Smith.

These personal items have proven very popular, and she has even painted on old ironing boards and flower pots or just old boards from a building that has been torn down. She suggests her customers place them not only in their house but also outside as yard decorations. Along with painting an item, she may embellish them with flowers or other trinkets.

"It is the unique aspect of my business which keeps it popular," Smith said.

Some of her customers are out-of-town visitors who come to visit family or friends and they bring them down to see her wares. She has painted many items for visitors from Norfolk, Sioux City and Omaha as well as hometown customers. Some customers even bring items that are broken and ask if she can fix them.

"What I do is totally different from many craft shops," said Smith. "It's what keeps me busy."

This year she also had great success traveling to a few craft shows.

Bittersweet is open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. but if she needs to run home for an errand, Smith leaves a note on the door with her phone number to give her a jingle and she'll come right back. That's the fun part of owning a business in a small town she said.

Smith has corners of her shop decorated in special themes. Christmas items are on display year-round but she takes this quiet time early in the year to stock her shelves for summer and fall. Customers especially like the fall decorations she creates, including those with a Halloween theme.

In one corner, Smith also fulfills another need for the Hartington area residents by offering gourmet coffees in old-fashioned glass canning jars. The coffee business invokes memories with quick conversation and brings another group of customers into her shop.

In Smith's early days as a shop owner, she had space for consigners but has since found she loves the crafting work and fills her shop space with her own unique designs. She even finds she has more ideas than she herself can complete, so she has invited another creative person



Judy Smith's passion for painting led her to open Bittersweet, a crafts store, in Hartington in 1996. She can turn even rusty buckets into rustic works of art. She has also cultivated a very devoted clientele through the years. (Photo: Linda Wuebben)

## Neb. Astronaut Launches Into Space

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska native Clayton Anderson and his fellow astronauts roared into space aboard the shuttle Discovery. The Discovery blasted off on schedule at 5:21 a.m. CDT from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

NASA says the 13-day mission will carry logistics modules filled with science racks to the International Space Station in what will be one of NASA's last shuttle missions. The 51-year-old Anderson, originally from Ashland, is scheduled for three space walks.

### Truckload Spruce & Fruit Trees

**Midwestern Growers** Kleinschmit Hay Farm  
Menominee Corner & Hwy 61 (West 1/4 mile)

**Friday, April 9 & Saturday, April 10**  
8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Both Days

Cash, Checks, Mastercard & Visa Accepted  
**While Supplies Last!**  
Questions? Call Jo at (402) 630-7333

Tree or Shrub	Size	Price
Fruit Trees - Variety	5-6' / 5 Gallon	\$35.00
Black Hill Spruce	12" / 1 Gallon	\$10.00
Black Hill Spruce	18" / 2 Gallon	\$20.00
Black Hill Spruce	24" / 3 Gallon	\$30.00
Black Hill Spruce	3-4' / 7 Gallon	\$50.00
Colorado Spruce	12" / 1 Gallon	\$10.00
Colorado Spruce	18" / 2 Gallon	\$20.00
Colorado Spruce	24" / 3 Gallon	\$30.00
Colorado Spruce	3-4' / Container	\$50.00
Colorado Spruce	3-4' B&B	\$59.00
Colorado Spruce	4-5' B&B	\$79.00
Norway Spruce	2-3' / 5 Gallon	\$30.00
Norway Spruce	3-4' / 7 Gallon	\$50.00
Red Twigged Dogwood	3' / 3 Gallon	\$20.00
Knockout Roses	3 Gallon	\$20.00

## Out On The Town

APRIL 9, 10, 11  
Fri. 7:30 PM • Sat. 7:30 PM • Sun. 4 PM  
Students \$2.00 Adults \$4.00  
Idle Hour Theatre  
Tripp, SD

### Knights of Columbus BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY

8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Pancakes, Rolls, Eggs, Ham or Sausage, Milk, Juice or Coffee  
**KC Hall**  
2700 N. Broadway  
Breakfast served second Sunday of the month.  
**Everyone Welcome!**

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### VFW Post 791 209 Cedar

**Thursday**  
6-7pm - Domestic Beers \$1.00  
4-7pm - Hamburger/Pizzaburger & Fries \$5.00

**Friday**  
Ribs or Menu  
Serving 5:30-8:00

**Saturday Entertainment**  
Kenny Carlow  
Singles Dance Basement  
Outback Band  
Serving from Menu 5:30-8:00

**Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm**  
Sunday at 6:30pm  
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-6:00

### Special Overnight Trip To Royal River Casino

Flandreau, SD

Sun. & Mon., • Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

Each person to receive Play \$25, get \$25 FREE PLAY on your rewards card each day. Plus, \$5 off meal coupon, ride and room.

All for \$50 each (double occupancy)  
Bus will leave from Fry'n Pan Restaurant on April 11th at 1 p.m. (pick-up also available in Vermillion)

For Reservation/Info: **HENNEN TOURS**  
1-800-551-5275

### Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Yankton Scramblers MOTOCROSS RACE

See It To Believe It!  
Sign up 7 a.m.  
Practice 9:00 a.m. • Race 11:00 a.m.

Call 665-3500 for more information or log on to [www.scramblersmx.org](http://www.scramblersmx.org)

Admission \$5 & under Free  
All 2010 Races are Point Races  
Concession Available (Not responsible for accidents to spectators or riders)

**SCRAMBLERS CYCLE CLUB**  
8 miles W. on Hwy. 50, then 1/4 miles S. on Hwy. 52

### 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Thank You To All Of Our Customers For Your Support!

BUFFET \$5.99 adults \$3.99 ages 5-12 FREE 4 & under  
11:30am-2pm • BUFFET TO GO ALSO!

**10% OFF ENTIRE MEAL TICKET WITH THIS COUPON** Expires 4/18/10

**KING DRAGON** 4th & Mulberry, Yankton  
Hong Kong, Hunan, Szechuan, Open Daily 11AM-10PM  
Mandarin, Cantonese & Peking Cuisine 665-5688

### Pancake Supper

Wednesday, April 14th • 4:30-6:30pm

Everyone welcome to join us for all you can eat pancakes or French toast  
Serving eggs, sausage or bacon, and coffee

Adults \$5.00  
Children \$2.50  
Juice or milk, 50¢ extra

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You are invited to...  
**THE MMC GREGORIAN CLUB MEMBERSHIP BUFFET**  
Friday, April 16th - 6:00 p.m.  
Roncalli Welcome Center  
on the campus of  
**MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE**

The Buffet will be followed by reserved seating to the **MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE HOME FROM TOUR CHOIR & JAZZ BAND CONCERT**  
Under the direction of Dr. Sean Vogt & Dean Rettedal

The Gregorian Club supports and enhances the Fine Arts and Humanities at Mount Marty College and works to create a bridge between college events and the Yankton community.

Membership donations provide talent awards and other much needed support.

Members receive reserved seating at all events, notice of art exhibits and Great Plains Writer tour events, various lectures, lunches and the Foreign Film series.

To join, contact Chris Tudor at 668-1292, [ctudor@mtmc.edu](mailto:ctudor@mtmc.edu); or Vi Ranney at 665-3596. Please RSVP by April 12th.

Join the MMC Gregorian Club and attend our Membership Buffet on April 16th!

## GOT NEWS?

Call The P&D  
At 665-7811

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