

# OUR TOWNS

Gayville  
Mission Hill  
Volin

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## Horizons Delivers A Tech Touch

Communities Receive Two Laptop Computers For Public Use

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GAYVILLE — Gayville and Volin have become a bit more high-tech, thanks to a gift from South Dakota State University Horizons.

The two communities have been undertaking projects as part of the Gayville-Volin Horizons Project for the better part of the past year. For their efforts, they received two laptop computers and a digital projector during a ceremony held in March.

"It's equipment that we really need," said Horizons planning committee member Barbara Egbert. "The church has been borrowing the projector from the school for 10 years, and so is anybody else who needed it. So there's that — just the fact that we don't have the technology in our community resources."

Horizons focuses on community leadership to reduce poverty. It is funded with grants from the Northwest Area Foundation.

The communities received the equipment for being so close to completing the objectives of their various Horizons projects.

"We're just about completely done," Egbert said. "We have received the \$10,000 award that we were working toward. We've had a check-signing ceremony, and in addition to that money, they gave us (the computers and projector)."

The communities had previously received a digital camera when they first began their involvement with Horizons.

"The rest is all new, and we're really happy to have it," Egbert said.

The equipment is currently housed at CorTrust Bank in Gayville, but once a resource room has been constructed in Volin, one of the laptops will be stored there.

CorTrust employee Missy Taggart said the bank was chosen for its community accessibility.

"It's a public location that's open during the day," she said. "Obviously, we're not here on the weekends, but they can always get it on Fridays, and we're here until 6 p.m. on Fridays. It made more sense than keeping them somewhere else."

The items are available to any individual or organization who wants to check them out, both for business and personal use.

"The laptops have wireless access, so if you were to go to a public area and wanted to use the Internet, job searches would be a primary use," Egbert said.

Residents could also use them to brush up on their basic computer skills, she added.

"The major thing you could use them for with the projector is slide shows and presentations. The camera, the projector and the computers work seamlessly for that," Egbert said.

"One person used (a laptop) for a class she was presenting," Taggart said. "Another one was used at the church for a talent show. I'm not so sure that the camera wasn't taken out for a new baby that someone had."

The check-out process is simple, Taggart said. "People just come in and tell me they want to



TRAVIS GULBRANDSON/P&D

Kelly Marshall examines some of the equipment Gayville and Volin received as a result of their involvement in the Horizons Project, as CorTrust Bank employee Missy Taggart looks on with the sign-in sheet. The communities have received two laptop computers, a digital projector and a digital camera.

check it out, and if no one else has it, I put it on the calendar and mark it down," she said. "I just have people fill out basic name, address, phone number, what they're taking and approximately how long they'll use it. This is just to keep track of where they are and who has them for the next person who needs them."

The items have been available for use since April, and they have all been checked out at least once, Taggart said.

"People say that they love having them, to be able to use them," she added. Egbert expressed her appreciation to CorTrust

Bank and its employees for their assistance throughout the Horizons program.

"They've made so many public community contributions through this facility and through these people's time and talents," she said. "They've just been a blessing to this community."

Horizons is a partnership between the South Dakota State University Cooperative and the Northwest Area Foundation of St. Paul, Minn.

For more information about the Gayville-Volin Horizons Project, visit <http://gayvillevolin.communityblogs.us/>.

## MMC To Host Nursing Days May 28, June 25, July 30

New and prospective students interested in the nursing program at Mount Marty College are invited to attend a session of Summer Nursing Days held May 28, June 25 and July 30, running from 9 a.m.-noon.

Students will be able to meet with Nursing Faculty, tour campus, learn about financial assistance available, meet with admissions staff and register

for classes.

Students who plan to attend Nursing Days should bring copies of their high school transcripts, and any college transcripts as well as a copy of their 2009 tax return forms so a financial aid estimate can be given. Those planning to attend should contact the Mount Marty College Admissions Office at 605-668-1545 or 800-658-4552.

## KNOFF

From Page 1

with its employee union, among other things.

"A lot of that has settled down, so I hope you see less and less (executive sessions)," Knoff said. "I will probably ask the city manager, when we have executive session-like issues, to specify what the executive session is about just so the public has con-

fidence we're actually in executive session for matters that are legitimate to be in executive session."

The city has often disclosed, at least in general terms, what the executive session pertains to since it was raised as an issue by Knoff and other commissioners. For example, an agenda may disclose that the session is about "contractual matters" or "personnel matters."

"I don't do that to say there have been some problems in the past," Knoff said. "I do it to say,

## Campaign Reports Deadline On Friday

PIERRE — Secretary of State Chris Nelson reminds candidates who have a primary and other committees that their 2010 pre-primary campaign finance reports must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, May 28. This includes gubernatorial candidates, legislative candidates, county candidates in counties with more than 5000 population, state political party committees, and political action committees.

Late filed reports will incur a \$50 per day late fee. All reports filed with the Secretary of State can be viewed by accessing [www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov).

"Hey, as a commission, let's hold our feet to the fire. This is what we're here for. We're human beings. Like with any conversation, you can end up talking about anything."

While overseeing meetings, he said he hopes to keep them efficient and still give everyone the opportunity to express their opinions.

"I want everyone to have a voice," Knoff said. "It's your governing body. You have a right to hear what we have to say and have a say in what we are doing."

## TEACH

From Page 1

the time she was not just a good teacher, but a great one. She teaches with passion, compassion and enthusiasm," he said. "I value her integrity and work ethic. I have been her principal both at middle school and high school, in both schools she has demonstrated fantastic qualities of an exceptional teacher. It is a real honor to have a teacher of her caliber teaching our students at YHS."

Mathison said it is easy to excel when you can come to work each day and love what you are doing.

She has been employed by YSD for the last 15 years, 10 years at the middle school and five at the high school. Through that time, she said, her quirkiness and her ability to be firm

but fair are what the students will remember most.

"I am sure if you ask a student to describe me, they would say I am weird, like to sing and am strict," she said. "But I have found that I will do whatever it takes to engage the zest for learning in my students. If a student can be shown enthusiasm, if they give me a chance, they will find some part of what we are working on interesting."

Mathison said that rather than focusing on learning the small details, she emphasizes the lifelong learning that students will need.

"The date something was discovered in the long run is meaningless. However, if they can someday tell their children, 'There look up in the sky, that is the Big Dipper,' then I have succeeded," she said. "I have also learned I can't be afraid to say, 'I don't know, let's find the answer together.'"

She said helping students find answers will spark them to look

further, maybe finding the potential to see that they can be anything if they want to work for it.

"For some students, all they need to be successful is to know that someone cares," she said. "It might be the reason that they get up and come to school the next day."

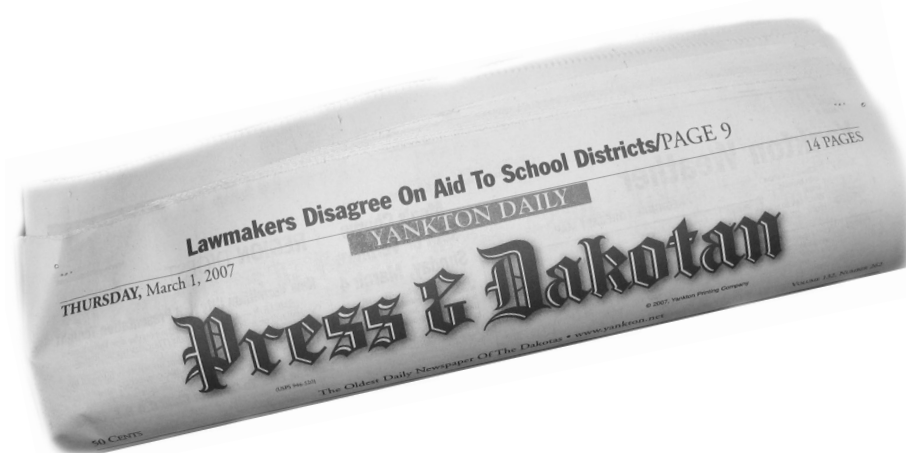
The respect that she shows the students is returned.

Mathison explained that this spring, during the astronomy section, she offered three nighttime viewing sessions. Although they were not required to attend, two-thirds of the students showed up, Mathison said.

"Kids appreciate the extras that you do for them. That is why you do it," she said. "If you make the kids want to be here, you have succeeded."

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