

# Picker

From Page 1

find out who pays the taxes on it from some of the old boys drinking coffee. Next thing you know, you're asking them if they have any old bicycles. A guy says, 'Sure.' The next think you know, you're buying two Ford Model A's. That's been a big thing for us."

Fritz, who is based in Davenport, Iowa, and has a business called Frank's Finds, developed "American Pickers" with his childhood friend, Mike Wolfe, who owns Antique Archeology in LeClaire, Iowa. The two scavenge around the country looking for valuable items to buy and then sell for a profit.

Hanten said Fritz was selected to headline "Wire Me Awake" for more than just his star power.

"For us, there is no better example, perhaps, of someone who has taken a business that seems to be old and antiquated and found a new way to innovate and grow," Hanten said. "Frank is going to tell the story of how they have developed their brand and company."

Fritz said it takes a lot of determination

"There are so many aspects that go into our job," he stated. "First, you've got to find the item. Second, you have to find out, is it for sale? Third, you have to be able to buy it at the right price. Fourth, you have to be able to market it. That's a lot of pieces to the puzzle. If one piece is gone, none of it comes together."

He said that 75 percent of the items found are not for sale.

The hunt has led the pair into a wide variety of situations.

"We've gone to nursing homes before and talked to people," Fritz said. "You find their kids, and they will help you buy it. Either that, or the reason it's stored in a building is because it's not for sale."

Family dynamics can come into play, he stated.

"Usually, you've got two kids

who don't care anything about that stuff," Fritz said. "But now you've got an interest in buying something, and one kid is a prominent lawyer in Los Angeles. The other son works at a muffler shop. So you've got one guy who doesn't care nothing about it and another who wants some money from it because he's not doing as good. Sometimes that causes controversy."

"The funny thing is, the lawyer making \$350,000 a year — his wife still wants half of everything," he continued. "And you've got the poor guy who works at Triple A Muffler who makes \$30,000 a year busting his butt that needs it. You get siblings fighting over that. The guy back in Los Angeles hasn't seen his dad in five years, but all of a sudden he is now interested in Model A's. That's only because now they're looking at the money aspect. That's how it is."

Sometimes Fritz encounters situations of what he calls "loving it to death."

"People have stuff and they have good intentions and dreams of doing something with it, but they're getting up there in years," he said. "They probably don't have any money or time. Their health might not be good."

One individual Fritz has been talking with for several years about buying motorcycles is an example of this. The man has a bad back and uses a wheelchair, Fritz said.

"He's got a couple motorcycles that he put away in 1979," he stated. "I talked to him the other day, after I thought I had them bought, and he said he was going to get some batteries and see about getting them fired up. He's talking about riding them again. The guy can barely walk. How is he going to kickstart a 1948 motorcycle? I just told him I'd call him back later."

Fritz said he was attracted to "Wire Me Awake" because of its focus on entrepreneurship and pursuing dreams.

During last week's interview, he wasn't quite sure what message he would bring.

"I'll be delivering the truth," Fritz said. "People are going to want to know how the show started, how the relationship between me and my partner developed, how I got into picking and how I'm successful at doing it."

While there won't be time for picking, Fritz said he will take leads for old motorcycles, cars, signs or anything else of interest.

"I haven't had a lot of luck in South Dakota, to tell you the truth," he stated. "It's kind of vast, and when I do find something, people sometimes don't want to sell it."

Still, he has attended the annual Sturgis rally for 31 years.

Fritz said he has been to Yankton before but not for picking.

"Last time I visited Yankton, I was seeing a friend who was in (the Yankton Federal Prison Camp)," he said. "I'm looking forward to coming there. I love South Dakota. The people are great."

Also appearing at "Wire Me Awake" Thursday are:

- Jim Beddow, the former president of Dakota Wesleyan University who currently works for the Rural Learning Center;
- Emma Peterson, CEO of Tikly, a Des Moines, Iowa, start-up that is finding success in the ticket sale industry because of low fees;
- Nic Zahasky, who created Barrel Aid, a Sioux Falls charity that provides shoes and clean water to impoverished people around the world; and
- Dan Hall, CEO of GunUP, a Seattle company that recently relocated to Sioux Falls because of South Dakota's business-friendly environment.

Additionally, Bozell, an Omaha advertising agency recently featured on "The Pitch," will lead a collaborative exercise at the conference.

Tickets are still available for "Wire Me Awake."

For more information, visit [www.WireMeAwake.com](http://www.WireMeAwake.com).

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage)

# Fair

From Page 1

"There's going to be many opportunities for jobseekers to take advantage of," Murphy said.

Wednesday's career fair is a change from last year's event, which was focused on veterans and their spouses. With Yankton's unemployment rate at 4.6 percent and 380 current job openings in the Yankton area, Murphy said his office made the decision to make the fair available to everyone.

"In these economic times, we wanted to make sure that if we're going to have employers present to hire individuals, we want to have it open for not only veterans and their spouses, but also all jobseekers," he said. "There's a lot of folks out there these days that are looking for work."

Even with this year's fair open to all jobseekers, veterans and spouses will still be given priority of service, Murphy said.

"There are many veterans returning home, and I think it's im-

portant for the employers to address their needs," he said.

"They put it all on the line, and they have families, and they're looking for work. They're very qualified individuals, and they just need a chance to get back into the workforce."

Murphy said the fair will promote veterans preference to all levels of government entities that participate, including federal, state, county and city employers.

"All attending eligible, honorably separated men and women of the armed forces, veterans, widows, widowers and spouses are entitled to certain benefits," he said. "For example, preference points will be added to passing grades earned in the examinations for entrance into federal employment."

Eligible veterans will also receive preference for appointment, employment and promotion at all levels of government employment, Murphy said.

"Priority of service is really all about promoting and hiring qualified veterans," he said. "We are all about hiring our heroes."

Dustin Larsen, manager of the South Dakota Department of

Labor and Regulation's Yankton office, said he is excited for this year's event, and he hopes individuals in the area will take advantage of the opportunity to visit with numerous area employers.

"This career fair will be a great opportunity for businesses to network, but also for jobseekers to understand what is all here in the Yankton area," he said. "I feel many jobseekers may not know of all the different jobs there are in the Yankton area, and this would be a great opportunity to see what is available."

The Yankton Career Fair is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, the Regional Technical Education Center, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the VFW and VFW Post 791 Ladies Auxiliary, the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Yankton Office of Economic Development.

For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit [www.sd-jobs.org](http://www.sd-jobs.org).

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at [twitter.com/d\\_bartos](https://twitter.com/d_bartos)

# Deaths

From Page 1

wide — allowing most foreign troops to go home by the end of 2014.

As part of that drawdown, the first 33,000 U.S. troops withdrew by the end of September, leaving 68,000 still in Afghanistan. A decision on how many U.S. troops will remain next year will be taken after the American presidential elections. NATO currently has 108,000 troops in Afghanistan — including U.S. forces — down from nearly 150,000 at its peak last year.

The program to train and equip 350,000 Afghan policemen and soldiers has cost the American taxpayer more than \$22 billion in the past three years.

The most recent attack came just days after Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said most U.S. and coalition combat units in Afghanistan returned to their practice of partnering with Afghan forces, nearly two weeks after the top U.S. commander put restrictions on such cooperation.

Like so many other deaths in Afghanistan, the latest were shrouded in confusion and conflicting accounts.

On Sunday, U.S. officials confirmed the deaths of two Americans, a service member and a civilian contractor killed late Saturday.

The fighting started when in-

surgents attacked a checkpoint set up by U.S. forces in eastern Wardak province, said Shahidullah Shahid, a provincial government spokesman. He said the insurgents apparently used mortars in the attack. The Americans thought they were under attack from their allies at a nearby Afghan army checkpoint and fired on it. The Afghan soldiers returned fire, Shahid said.

The Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman said the shooting broke out as a result of a "misunderstanding" while ISAF forces were on patrol near an Afghan army checkpoint.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force, commonly referred to as ISAF, gave a different account of the fighting in Sayd Abad district.

"After a short conversation took place between (Afghan army) and ISAF personnel, firing occurred which resulted in the fatal wounding of an ISAF soldier and the death of his civilian colleague," the coalition said in a statement. It said the three Afghan soldiers died "in an ensuing exchange of fire."

NATO did not say whether it considered this an "insider" attack on foreign forces by Afghan allies.

In Washington, Pentagon press secretary George Little said 2,000 deaths is one of the "arbitrary milestones defined by others" that the U.S. administration does not mark.

"We honor all courageous Americans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan to


make the American people more secure," he said. "The fact of the matter is that America is safer because of all of those who have served in this war, including our fallen heroes."

In addition to the 2,000 Americans killed since the Afghan war began on Oct. 7, 2001, at least 1,190 more coalition troops from other countries have also died, according to iCasualties.org, an independent organization that tracks the deaths.


According to the Afghanistan index kept by Brookings, about 40 percent of the American deaths were caused by improvised explosive devices. The majority of those were after 2009, when President Barack Obama ordered a surge that sent in 33,000 additional troops to combat heightened Taliban activity. The surge brought the total number of American troops to 101,000, the peak for the entire war.

According to Brookings, hostile fire was the second most common cause of death, accounting for nearly 31 percent of Americans killed.


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2012 Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media Honoring Marilyn Hagerty



Marilyn Hagerty

Join us for an evening with newspaper columnist and Internet sensation Marilyn Hagerty, 86, as she receives the 2012 Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media. Hagerty, who writes columns for the North Dakota *Grand Forks Herald*, drew widespread media attention earlier this year when her straightforward feature story about the opening of the first Olive Garden restaurant in Grand Forks went viral on the Internet. Her long and storied journalism career included time at the University of South Dakota, where she was Al Neuharth's first editor at the student newspaper, *The Volante*.



Al Neuharth

The award, recognizing lifetime achievement, is named for USA TODAY and Freedom Forum founder Al Neuharth, a South Dakota native and 1950 USD journalism graduate, who will be on campus to honor Hagerty as a model journalist dedicated to serving local communities through consistently fair, truthful and relevant coverage.

This event is free and open to the public.

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THURSDAY  
October 4

6:15 p.m.  
Doors open for general seating.

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Award presentation and remarks by Marilyn Hagerty.


Aalfs Auditorium, Slagle Hall  
The University of South Dakota  
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General seating is first-come, first-served.

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