



Arts In Action

www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org

Volume 39, No. 5

September/October 2018

Longmire Author visiting Sturgis



Award-winning author of the Longmire series, Craig Johnson, is coming to Sturgis! We are pleased to announce that he will present a program in the Sturgis Community Center Theater on Friday, October 19th, at 6:00pm. An episode of the Netflix series (now streaming in its sixth season) based on his mysteries will be shown and will be followed by Johnson's talk.

There will be a reception in the theater lobby following his remarks to give attendees a chance to ask questions, buy books, and have the author sign them - along with an opportunity to peruse and purchase some of the "Longmire swag."

Johnson lives and ranches in Ucross, Wyoming—"population twenty-five," with his wife, Judy. He started writing the series in 2005 with the publishing of *Cold Dish* and hasn't shown any sign of stopping soon. His love of all things Wyoming and western shine through his work as does his unique sense of humor.

His public appearances are as fun and interesting as his novels, so we urge you to take advantage of this free event, co-sponsored by the Sturgis Public Library and the Sturgis Area Arts Council.

One Book SD

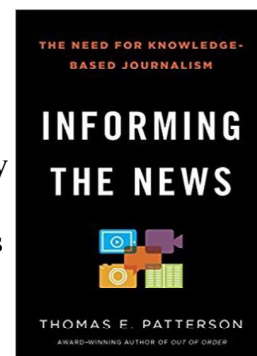
The South Dakota Humanities Council has chosen *Informing the News, the Need for Knowledge-based Journalism* by Thomas E. Patterson as the One Book SD for 2018. SAAC is pleased to offer a discussion of this book on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 7 PM in the program room of the Sturgis Public Library. Humanities Scholar Molly Barari will lead the discussion. Copies of the book are available to borrow at the Sturgis Public Library.

Thomas E. Patterson is Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press at the Harvard Kennedy School and is the award-winning author of *Out of Order*, whose research has been funded by several prominent foundations. He is a graduate of South Dakota State University and earned his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1971.

In this book, Patterson proposes "knowledge-based journalism" as a corrective for the lack of a "steady supply of trustworthy and relevant news," necessary to a healthy democracy as advocated by journalist Walter Lippmann nearly a century ago. It is directed to all citizens concerned about the integrity of the news.

Discussion leader, Molly Barari earned her MFA in Creative Writing in 2017. A native of Kearney, NE, she teaches creative writing through Community Education of the Black Hills and is a freelance teacher and marketer. She lives in Rapid City with her husband of five years, David Barari.

This program is made possible by a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is sponsored locally by the Sturgis Area Arts Council and the Sturgis Public Library. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Pulscher, 605 720 5467 or dapulscher@gmail.com



Children's Theater Production to return in October



Dakota Players will be back in Sturgis in October to work with our students to put on their “musical in a week” Mark your calendars now - auditions for “Treasure Hunt” for any and all students in the Sturgis/Whitewood area will be held on Monday, October 1st, at 3:30pm in the Sturgis Elementary school gymnasium. Letters will be send home with all Sturgis/Whitewood students in September, but if you have a home-schooler that would like to participate that’d be great as well. Send an e-mail to saacpublicity@hotmail.com and we’ll send you the letter that the rest of ‘em will be getting. We always love having the Dakota Players folks in our midst - they have a knack for working with the kids in a way that makes it both fun and educational. You can read more about them (and their programs) at their website - www.blackhillsplyhouse.com/education

Up to 50 students are needed for roles in the play. There are suitable parts designed for every age, skill, and experience level. In addition to the on-stage roles, there are older students needed that will assist the directors and learn how to operate sound and lighting equipment. Two professional actors from Dakota Players will guide the area’s young talent through an exciting week of putting a full-scale musical production together.

About the Show - What is most valuable in all the world? Gold? Silver? Diamonds? Members of the Fun Factory do their utmost to find the riches described in cryptic messages in order to save their club. These fearless (...and sometimes fearful!) students venture into forests with dancing fireflies, waddle with the penguins to discover diamonds ...or diamonds of ice, and outwit scorpions to discover the most valuable treasures of all.

“Treasure Hunt” will be presented Friday, October 5th, and Saturday, October 6th at 7:00pm each evening in the Sturgis Community Center Theater. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for students - kids under 5 are free. Bring the whole family and support our young actors and actresses here in Sturgis!!

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Armchair Travelers Book Club

After a short summer vacation, we are back, ready to discuss books about women of the Bible on Thursday, September 6th, at noon in the Lushbough Room of the Sturgis Public Library. Books on the subject are on display in the library near the check-out desk.

Because we see and hear author Craig Johnson on October 19th in the Sturgis Community Center theater (see the article about this event elsewhere in this newsletter), we will discuss books by him on October 4- same time and place as in September. His series revolves around Sheriff Walt Longmire of fictitious Absaroka County and are set primarily in real Wyoming sites. The library has all 15 of his novels and can get more by interlibrary loan if needed.

Since the first Thursday in November is the first, we are giving readers advance word about the discussion for that date. The book of the day is *The Lemon Tree* by Sandra Tolan, a biography-memoir about a Palestinian and an Israeli, who meet and develop an unlikely friendship. This book is not in the library, so will have to be found by interlibrary loan or another manner. Contact the librarians or Dorothy Pulscher (dapulshcer@gmail.com) if you have trouble finding a copy of it.

Armchair Travelers is an open book club that meets nearly every month on the first Thursday at noon in the Lushbough Room of the Sturgis Public Library. All interested readers are welcome. It is not necessary to have read about the theme of the day to take part in the discussion, so join us when you can.

“Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.”
..... Groucho Marx

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History at High Noon

We start again this fall with a program on September 21. Lee Strochine will present a program

on a new book about Ft. Meade that he co-authored with the late Bobbi Sago, archivist at Black Hills State University. This book will have many photos and interesting items about Ft. Meade. Be sure to come and meet this author.

On October 19 Father Bunker Hill will be presenting a program on St. Thomas Episcopal Church. One of the oldest churches in Sturgis - this will be a wonderful addition to the history of our church community. This will be a program that you won't want to miss.

We are pleased to have another family history program. On November 16, Joan Harmon will be sharing the history of the Bestgen family. Again, these family histories mean so much to the history of the area.

The History at High Noon committee is hard at work on the 2019 programs. Give Bonnie Lange, Diana Hayes, Rosalee Johnson, Richard Moeller or Dode Lee a call if you have an idea for a program or would like to share one. History at High Noon meets on the third Friday of the month January through May and in October and November. Sometime, like this year we will add on in September. We meet in the program room in the Sturgis Public Library at noon and the library always has the coffee pot on and you are welcome to bring your lunch with you.

It will be great to see all of you again as we present these programs to end this year of 2018.



THOMSON LAW^{PC}

CANDI RAWDON THOMSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Candi@ThomsonLawOffice.com

Phone: (605) 347-2551
Fax: (605) 347-4466
P.O. Box 145
1010 Ball Park Rd. #6
Sturgis, SD 57785

Sturgis Area Arts Council's Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 6

Armchair Travelers Book Club
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Tuesday, September 11

One Book SD Discussion
Sturgis Public Library, 7:00pm

Thursday, September 13

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting
Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

Friday, September 21

History at High Noon
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Monday, October 1

Auditions for "Treasure Hunt"
Sturgis Elementary School Gym, 3:30pm

Thursday, October 4

Armchair Travelers Book Club
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Friday, October 5th & Saturday, Oct 6th

"Treasure Hunt"
Sturgis Community Center Theater, 7:00pm

Thursday, October 11

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting
Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

Friday, October 19

History at High Noon
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Friday, October 19th

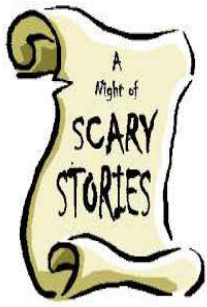
"Longmire" Author Craig Johnson
Sturgis Community Center Theater, 6:00pm

Friday, October 26th

Spooky Stories with the Black Hills Storytellers
Sturgis Center for the Arts, 7:00pm

Thursday, November 1

Dr. Paul Higbee discusses
"South Dakota's Cowboy Governor Tom Berry"
Sturgis Public Library, 5:00pm



Have a Creepy, Crawly Halloween!

Teens and adults (no little ones, please—we don't want them to have nightmares!) are invited to join the Black Hills Storytellers at 7:00pm on Friday, October 26th, at the Sturgis Center for the Arts (located at 1238 Main St. Suite 2 in the back off the alley), for another spine-tingling session of stories for the Halloween season.

This will be the 23rd year of spooky-ness brought to you by the Black Hills Storytellers. The event is co-sponsored by the Sturgis Area Arts Council. Admission is a donation to the Center for the Arts.

Artists of the Month



Betty Pedersen Bell is our September Artist. Betty was born and raised in the Black Hills. She graduated from Sturgis Brown High School in 1946 and went on to earn a degree in theater from Black Hills Teachers College. She married Douglas Bell in 1952 and they lived in Belle Fourche and Sturgis, where Doug taught high school English and drama. Betty had fond memories of living and raising her young daughters in Comanche Court and on Pine Street.

Betty was always very artistic. She sketched, sewed, made elaborate birthday cakes, and even signed her name beautifully! She was also very musical, playing the violin and drums and studying piano with Sister Clement at St. Martin's Monastery in Sturgis.

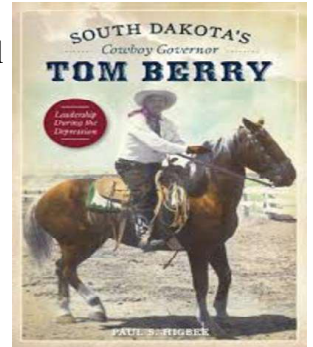
It wasn't until her youngest daughter entered high school that Betty began taking watercolor classes from Dick DuBois at Black Hills State. She fell in love with painting and truly found her niche painting portraits of immigrants. This subject was near and dear to her heart as both of her parents, Hans Skak and Ida (Matthesen) Pedersen, had emigrated to America from Denmark. Betty was extremely proud of her Danish heritage.

She also loved to travel and made multiple trips to Europe over the years. She was always watching for

.... continued on page 8

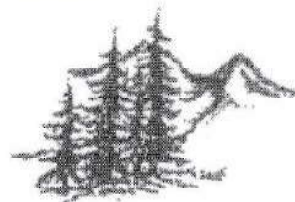
Author Paul Higbee to present program

Spearfish author, educator, and playwright, Dr. Paul Higbee will speak about his latest work, "South Dakota's Cowboy Governor Tom Berry", in the program room of the Sturgis Public Library on Thursday, November 1st, from 5:00-6:30pm.



Dr. Higbee grew up in Spearfish, where he still lives and works. He is a feature writer and columnist for "South Dakota Magazine" and the author of "The Phantom of the Opera House," a melodrama performed each July in the Matthews Opera House. He also has four other non-fiction and I fiction book to his credit.

The Sturgis Area Arts Council and the Sturgis Public Library invite you to join us for this free event. There will be refreshments and the opportunity to ask questions of Dr. Higbee and have him sign your books. Copies of the biography will be available for purchase. This is an excellent chance to get a head start on your Christmas gifts! Please join us.



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Betty Bell (continued from page 6).....

possible subject matter in her own travel photographs and in magazine photos. (Her daughter Kerry's hands even served as a model for a profile portrait of an Amish man!) Betty came to know and love each subject who emerged from the paper and paint beneath her brush. She did not title most of her pieces, instead referring to them as 'the little newsboy' or 'the man with the cigar,' and she loved imagining the lives they may have lived.

Soon after she began painting Betty won several awards for her artwork, including a Judge's Choice and Best of Show for her 'Old Man with Violin.' But she painted because she loved the process and the medium and the subjects she painted. For years, her framed portraits were displayed only in her Spearfish home where she could enjoy them and share them with family and friends.

Betty passed away Nov. 11, 2016. Her paintings were on display at the Museum of Danish Heritage in Elk Horn, Iowa, from 2017-2018. Her family is pleased to be able to share her talents in her hometown.



And Our October Artists are all of YOU!! See the Pop-Up Art Show info. on page 5 of this newsletter and submit your entry for the show. Entries are due September 20th.