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Woman in Business

Black Hills Studios of the Arts

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Just the Tip.

"It's going to ask you a couple questions," comments the gal at the front counter as she slowly adjusts the credit card machine my way. The options for a tip read 15%, 20%, 25%, or "custom".

(Awkward silence as I contemplate an appropriate tip.)

Requests for tips are becoming so prevalent I fear it won't be long before my husband hands me a request for a tip after taking out the trash. ("If your service was exceptional, leave 20%!"). On top of the customary tip, some businesses are automatically adding surcharges to bills in order to pay their employees more.

I'm here for tipping people for exceptional service. In fact, I consider myself a pretty generous tipper. In a past life, I cleaned motel (yes, with an "m") rooms and I was once a waitress. I know how important tips are to those in the service industry.

But, has the flooding of requests for tips cheapened the value of the tip? Is a tip now an expected charge that should automatically be added on to every bill instead of a reward for going above and beyond? Oftentimes, I feel I'm simply clicking a percentage tip out of awkwardness or fear of shame.

As we navigate this new tip territory, can we establish some generally accepted standards we're



all operating under? For example, if the service you received was above and beyond that required of the job, tip...and tip well.

Your barista offered your puppy a treat. Good tip.
Your waitress was kind, engaging, and attentive. Big tip.

Your Uber driver offered recommendations, provided water, and accommodated our music request. Big tip. You made your own self-serve yogurt parfait. The cashier told you the cost of your creation. *Why am I getting asked to leave a tip?*

With all this tip energy happening, I can't help but wonder...why am I tipping every time I go to pay, but there's no option to tip other important people who offer exceptional service? Teachers, health care workers, yoga instructors, car repair people, mail people, and/or plumbers...just to name a few. If we show value through tipping for outstanding service – aren't there many other humans we encounter that deserve a tip, too?

My tip confusion really set in about a year ago. My husband and I went to a Red Hot Chili Peppers concert last year. Like most concert venues, the options for food were slim (and the prices were steep). We elected to go with chicken strip baskets (a real gourmet experience). We typed our order into a kiosk. To our surprise, it asked how much of a tip we'd like to leave. A bit puzzled by the request in a self-service line, we selected no tip. Not long after we heard our name announced. My husband thanked the worker

who handed him the basket and said, "Wow! That was really fast." With disgust in her voice and a disgusted look on her face, the woman responded, "Ya, you could go back around and leave us a tip." Did we miss something? Is tipping at a self-service machine the new standard?

More tips. More questions.

What, if any, correlation does the size of the bill have on the amount of the tip you give? The more you spend, the more you tip...Why?

Should I tip the hairdresser, waiter, pizza-delivery person, and the burrito crafter the same (percentage wise)?

When I click my tip on the credit card machine, where does it go? Is my tip shared amongst the staff or given to the exceptional person who helped me?

Dare I ask – is there ever a time tips aren't appropriate?

I'd really appreciate some tips on tipping.



Kelsey Parker, Editor

From ShangriLa to Angelica's on 5th

The Unpredictable Journey to a New Creative Outlet

By Sarah Grassel

Photos by Riley Winter



Born and raised in Rapid City, Angelica Wojtanowicz has a passion for all things details and organization. Recently, and a little unexpectedly, she opened her doors on a new shopping experience in town catered toward every step in a woman's life.

Shopping transitional clothing trends and lifestyle looks and needs, Angelica's on 5th is a modern upscale boutique that truly offers a unique shopping experience for the Black Hills community and tourists alike.

Angelica never really saw retail in her future growing up, but as a mom to four kids under the age of six, one on the way, and a need for a creative outlet, an opportunity presented itself in 2008.

"I had no previous experience in retail, but that's the magic of our 20's. You have no fear, and you dream big," Angelica reminisces.

Purchasing ShangriLa, Angelica says the journey of that boutique could be its own story full of highs and lows like most businesses. Lots of lessons were learned and the story was made alongside Angelica's mom and grandmother.

"I think it was an education in people, expectations, and grit looking back," she said.

Under the management of Angelica, ShangriLa grew out of its' original space on St. Joe and ended up in a 4000 square foot storefront on Main Street. But ultimately, after the passing of her grandmother, her husband's growing real estate career, and her children's busying schedules, it felt like ShangriLa had run its course. ShangriLa closed in 2016.



"A woman who knows that clothing doesn't make a person, but she loves the way clothing makes her more of her own person."



"I just felt this desire to step back into my role as a mom full-time, and when I closed ShangriLa, I felt like I had accomplished everything I had wanted to do. It wasn't perfect, but it felt like closure," Angelica said.

Now, more than five years later, the idea for a new boutique has taken flight.

"It came a little sooner than expected, but we are excited for this new prospect," Angelica said.

Alongside her husband at Black Hills Realty, Angelica had a small 600 square foot space that she always knew would one day house another creative outlet for her. Thinking it would really happen more realistically in the next three years, Angelica's on 5th was born only a year after the building completion.

The small 600 square foot space is lined with intentional brands and beautiful collections.

"Many of them were my favorites and bestsellers at ShangriLa - Joes Jeans, Bishop & Young, Dolce Vita, 7 for all Mankind, etc." Angelica said. "I want to focus on quality."

Angelica's on 5th will carry all of the basics from dresses to blouses, heels to sneakers, with a focus on edgy items and feminine details. The boutique will also carry a unique collection of jewelry, specialty body products, and home decor, with the possibility of more to come later on.

"I think that each boutique has a uniqueness of its own because of the person buying for the store. One piece of advice I will always remember from early on at ShangriLa was, 'You buy what you love, and who you are will come through. People will shop there because they love your style,'" Angelica smiles.

Stepping into the new boutique, the quality of products and interior design reflects who Angelica is and the things that are important to her. Rotations of products and clothing lines are expected to happen frequently, in order to keep things fresh, timeless, and classic. Angelica says, "I knew I wouldn't be able to cater to everyone, but I wanted to focus on the women in our community."

After having difficulty finding transitional pieces that worked with her business and mom life, Angelica feels like she really understands the different stages in a woman's life which will be reflected in the lines offered at the boutique.

Customers will be able to shop in one space for clothing items that can be worn to the office and yet still feel comfortable in while taking kids to appointments or even heading out to sports events.

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In addition to the new boutique that Angelica is opening and her work as a broker's associate at Black Hills Realty, she is also working on a new interior design consultation company. Angelica explains, "It's really just an opportunity that grew out of people asking me to help them. It's not something that I was looking to do, but I think there's a desire from people."

Expansion on her design consultation is in the plans for the future, but for right now it's something that is fun to do on the side for close friends and referrals. "I want to focus on the boutique first and see where they grow together," Angelica said.

Be on the lookout for more under AG Signature Homes LLC, but for now get your purse and browse Rapid City's newest women's boutique at Angelica's on 5th today! The boutique had a soft opening May 24-25 and Angelica is excited to see both old faces from ShangriLa and faces ready for a new creative lifestyle shopping experience. To stay up-to-date with summer hours, follow the boutique on Instagram and Facebook. [BHW](#)

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Angelica's boutique



Get to Know Angelica

1. Angelica has a twin sister named Ana. They live only 5 minutes apart from each other.
2. A full house, Angelica has five kids from ages 14-21 years old.
3. Angelica married her high school sweetheart, TJ, and the two have been married for almost 20 years.
4. Although she is unable to have dairy, Angelica loves pizza.
5. Angelica is a self-proclaimed "neat freak." She says cleaning and organizing calms her down.

Making Music Accessible for Everyone

Black Hills Studios of Arts

By Kari Nielsen



The Black Hills Studios of the Arts (BHSA) mission statement reads, “Focused on bringing inspiring music and art education to the community of the Black Hills of South Dakota and beyond.” This non-profit, established in 2019, was born out of the desire to make music education affordable and accessible to every student, regardless of age, learning limitations, or financial barriers. Mallory Dekker, Founder, bears the title but credits a large group of people for making BHSA what it is today.

“I sought out people I trusted who had music, music education, and community in their heart - and who knew business,” Mallory said of the Board Members. These members include “a piano tuner, a retired High School Band Director, the current adjunct professor at Black Hills State University, the (then) President of the Black Hills Symphony, banker, and two local musicians.”

And of course, BHSA would not exist without the music educators themselves.

“I first (credit) the amazing instructors who stuck by and trusted me with their jobs and livelihood,” Mallory said.

These instructors provide a wide variety of music services including, piano, voice, band instruments, orchestral instruments, and many fretted instruments such as guitar, ukulele, mandolin, and banjo. Soon, bagpipes will also be added to that list.

“We want to give students the opportunity to receive the benefits of music,” Mallory said. “Music education is immensely important for emotional and mental health, not to mention physical health. We make it our mission to provide music for all: making it affordable, working with ADHD, Autistic, and Down



Syndrome students, and offering lessons to adult students.”

Music triggers many parts of the brain at once, which is why it is such a wonderful tool.

“Music is used to help teach concepts, calm a person down, or even helps in sourcing a deep, focused, state,” Mallory said.

Just in listening to music, the brain works in triggering emotions, memory, and physical movements. By studying music, the brain becomes involved in learning different patterns to multi-task in order to both memorize and perform a piece of music.

“We had a student who was told by her doctors and other specialists

that her brain would never be able to process both memorization and execution of performing a complex music piece while also recalling the brain function for directional marching simultaneously,” Mallory said. “We, as instructors, have watched growth to do just that. We have witnessed the impossible.”

Music education is important for everyone. This is why BHSA strives to provide access to anyone interested. Their current age range spans from age 4 to 84. There are many factors that attract students to music lessons; BHSA strives to keep them coming back.

“It is our goal to invest in each student to make them feel comfortable with their instrument, with the genres of music, and with the

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overall experience,” Mallory said.

The barrier most often faced is affordability, which is why BHSA was founded as a non-profit to better serve the community. Not only does BHSA provide sponsorships for students who many not be able to afford lessons, they also champion a Music Education Outreach program which involves them with schools in the area. This means providing an instructor to teach classes requested by that school.

“We’re currently working on additional grants to do other music education outreach programs,” Mallory said. “For instance, several Girl Scout troops want ukulele lessons.

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Mallory Dekker,
Founder





This entails multiple group lessons, paying a teacher, and buying and maintaining those instruments.”

BHSA would also love to collaborate with the Juvenile Detention Center and Wellfully in the future.

The ability to expand and provide additional services ultimately comes down to support. Grants are often project specific and are unable to help fund the Studios general needs.

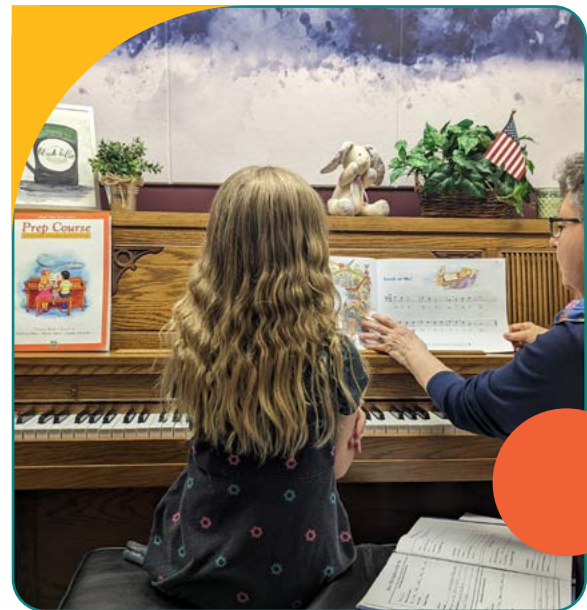
“As a nonprofit, I think some people automatically assume we get handed free money, and this simply is not true,” Mallory said. “If we want ‘free’ money, we have to work extremely hard.”

The easiest way to support BHSA is by word of mouth, as many still don’t know they exist. Going a step further would be to get involved through partnerships, sponsorships, or becoming an instructor there. The ultimate goal is simply that more students would have the opportunity to access high quality music education.

“Often music education and music lessons are viewed as something for children and teens,” Mallory said. “But we strive to prove that it is a lifelong endeavor that can be started at any age, with some of our students learning music for the first time at 70 years old.”

Using and challenging the brain, keeps it sharper. Music itself is a sharpening tool. Learning and performing music helps foster a wide range of skills, in addition to, creating a social dynamic for people to come together and thrive.

Music education should be accessible to anyone and everyone, and BHSA is succeeding in make that goal a reality. **BHW**





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Caring for a loved one or even for yourself in the final stages of a life-threatening illness or disease can often signify long days and dark nights. But there is a light to shine on the situation that is often times overlooked. Hospice care is an easy and thoughtful decision to consider, once you know all the facts.

At Stillwater Hospice, the focus isn't just on comforting clients in their end-of-life times, but educating family and friends along with the general public as to why and how hospice care works.

Amy Gorman-Harl is a registered nurse, as well as, the Community Relations Representative at Stillwater Hospice.

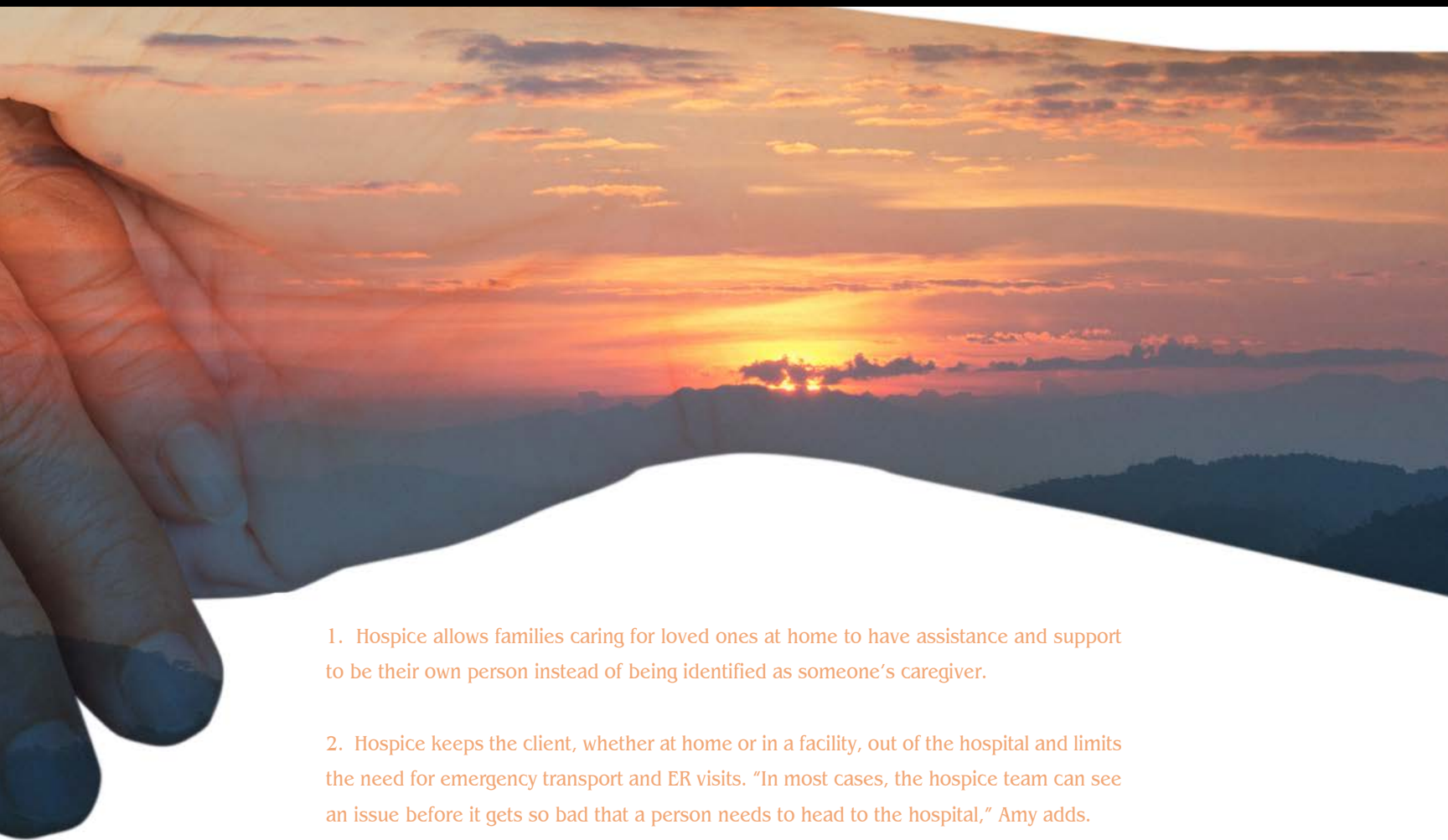
"The textbook definition of hospice care is provisions and care for a person with a life-limiting illness, but I define it simply saying it is help," Amy starts.

Hospice is helping increase care to the patient and focusing on providing a better quality of life, one day at a time during the end-of-life stages. Simply stated, Amy lists the following five benefits of why hospice care should be utilized more often.

A Graceful Exit

Stillwater Hospice

By Sarah Grassel



1. Hospice allows families caring for loved ones at home to have assistance and support to be their own person instead of being identified as someone's caregiver.
2. Hospice keeps the client, whether at home or in a facility, out of the hospital and limits the need for emergency transport and ER visits. "In most cases, the hospice team can see an issue before it gets so bad that a person needs to head to the hospital," Amy adds.
3. Providers serve as an extra set of eyes and ears to see patient and caregivers needs. For example, providers can offer respite care when needed and have medical backgrounds to observe any issues with medications and decline of the patient themselves.
4. Overall, hospice eases and prevents caregiver burnout.
5. Hospice provides extra support to the family and friends when the patient is resting, stable, and comfortable.

Not often discussed, hospice care sometimes gets a bad reputation and some even assume that the patient will be immediately started on morphine or high power drugs. However, this isn't always the case depending on how late in the disease or illness process a patient or caretaker has elected for hospice care.

Stillwater Hospice is a small company specializing in end-of-life care. Amy explains, "Every staff member is passionate about hospice and our small, core staff offers consistency to patients focusing on the person as a whole as well as their family and friends circle."

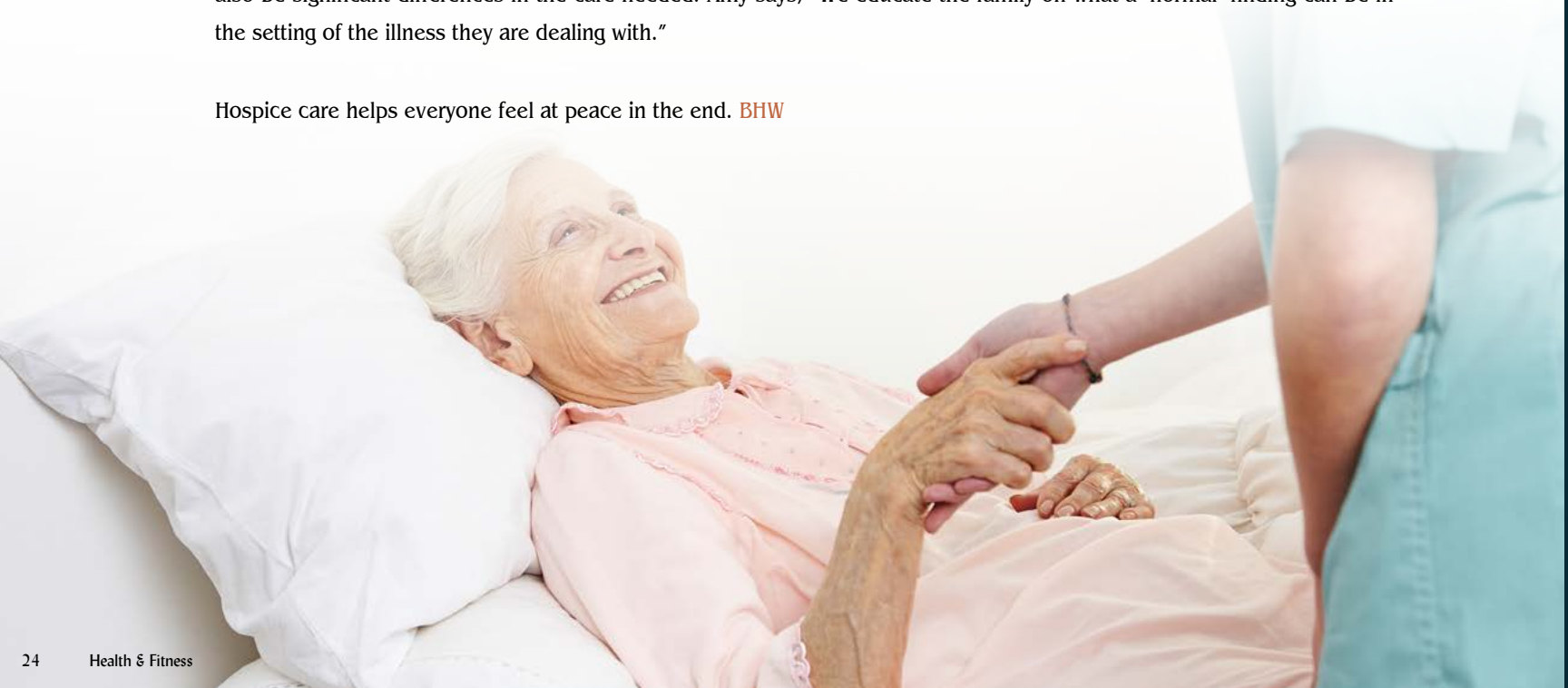
Based in Rapid City, Stillwater Hospice also provides services for the communities of the Northern and Southern Hills as well as the Ellsworth AFB.

One of the most important steps in the process is early evaluation and identification of possible needs. Amy says, "We can scope out signs of decline in a person with a known terminal illness by looking at increases in falls, increased sleep, decreased appetite, weight loss, difficulty swallowing or speaking, poor mobility, etc."

Starting the process to qualify early is beneficial to all parties involved, and in most cases, hospice care is covered under insurance.

End-of-life care can look very similar, but just like illnesses that present differently, (i.e. Alzheimer's vs cancer), there may also be significant differences in the care needed. Amy says, "We educate the family on what a 'normal' finding can be in the setting of the illness they are dealing with."

Hospice care helps everyone feel at peace in the end. **BHW**



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IF YOU FORGOT HOW TO DRESS
DURING THE PANDEMIC SHUTDOWN...

By Dorothy Rosby



An acquaintance came toward me while I was wearing a new jacket. Naturally I assumed she was going to compliment me on it. She didn't. She told me I should remove the price tag.

I once went to work wearing one black pump and one blue pump. And one time I showed up at work with my skirt unzipped. In my defense, the shoes were the same style, just different colors. And the zipper was in the back where I couldn't see it and the skirt was at least buttoned.

I'm telling you this to explain why the pandemic shutdown was a good thing for me. I can't dress myself. It also explains why I'm lucky I work at home. My work wardrobe consists mainly of pajamas and exercise clothes and not much can go wrong with those. Plus I never know when I might want to exercise—or nap.

Of course, I do occasionally have to venture out and since the pandemic released its grip, that's been happening more often. So I decided it was time I brush up on fashion dos and don'ts. Fortunately, there's a lot of advice on that great fashion consultant in the sky, the internet.

As someone who once wore two different colored shoes, I was happy to see that a lot of it has to do with footwear. It is true that shoes make the outfit, though I still think you should wear pants.

A style blogger called the Answer Angel was against wearing stockings with dressy sandals, but she did admit that a lot of people in the fashion world disagree with her. I was glad to read that because I've always answered the question myself

with a decisive "that depends." If the sandals are lined with a soft fabric that doesn't stick to your feet, no stockings are necessary. But you should definitely wear stockings if the sandals stick to your feet and cause you to make a thwacking sound as you walk.

Someone wrote the fashion blog, Ask Megan, wondering if it's appropriate to wear flats at a black-tie wedding. This question was timely for me because I've had several weddings lately. Megan said flats are fine as long as they're dressy. This was good news to me since I haven't trusted myself in anything but flats since that day long ago when I fell down a flight of stairs wearing a pair of platform shoes.

Besides I've had foot surgery—not because I broke anything falling down the stairs. I don't even own any high heel shoes. If you do, I suggest you base your decision about wearing them to a wedding on whether there's a wedding dance afterwards. Dancing in heels is almost as hard as dancing in hiking boots which I've done, but not at a wedding.

Someone else asked Megan if it's okay to wear white jeans in the winter. Megan said it's fine as long as you wear them with something wintry—maybe a sweater or earmuffs.

I don't wear much white and I don't plan on stocking up on it either. My rule has always been never wear white if there's a chance you could spill. And for some of us, there's always that chance.

And speaking of stocking up on clothing, a friend told me that after wearing nothing but sweatpants during the

pandemic shutdown, she hardly recognized her clothing. She said it was like someone sneaked in and filled her closet with new clothes—that don't fit.

I know what she means. But for me, it's more like someone sneaked in and filled my closet with old clothes. All I've purchased since I started working at home four years ago is socks, underwear and a couple pairs of sneakers.

That's why I was interested in a story called The Essentials of the Business Casual Wardrobe. I lean more casual than business, as you'd expect of someone who wears pajamas to work. But I do occasionally attend events that even my nicest yoga pants aren't appropriate for.

The article said a woman's business casual wardrobe should include blazers, blouses, button-down shirts, polos, sweaters, trousers, slacks, khakis, and pencil skirts. I thought trousers and slacks were the same thing and that khakis were just tan slacks. At any rate, I do have some and I call them all pants. But I don't have any pencil skirts, though I do have pencils. I don't plan on buying any pencil skirts either, because a lot of them have zippers in the back.

Dorothy Rosby wrote this column while wearing bedroom slippers. BHW



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Natural Wine, Food, & Community with Brooke Warner

By Krystal Bresnahan



Spend your summer nights at downtown Rapid City's best-kept secret: bb's Natural wine bar – a place you can start out sitting beside strangers and end the evening sharing bottles with new friends.

Open the doors to western South Dakota's only natural wine bar to find a warmly lit room painted in bright pink and orange full of lush plants and elegant floral paintings. Take in the funky artworks including an eccentric rug hanging under the neon glow of the bb's Natural bar sign on Saint Joseph Street, and if you have the chance, grab that coveted window seat.

Questions from first-time wine drinkers are welcome here. Just ask Brooke Warner, co-owner of bb's Natural and neighboring restaurant Bokujo Ramen.

"When people come to bb's, I want them to feel welcome, relaxed, and connected," Brooke shared. "I think that last one is the most important for me. There's an opportunity for people to connect with each other as well as feel connected to the world at large through the drinks and foods we offer."

This mission to bring natural wine offerings to western South Dakota started behind the scenes as Brooke sipped wine in the backyard with her husband Justin. Through some home sampling, she convinced him that natural wine was worth a new business venture. Today bb's Natural is one of only two natural wine bars in the state.

So, what sets natural wine apart from other wines?

"Natural wine is really just a return to how wine was made before we introduced the use of chemicals in agriculture," Brooke explained. This means natural winemakers avoid pesticides, focus on fewer or no additives and use simple methods like handpicking grapes.

And not all natural wines taste the same. There's a wide range of flavors from classic profiles to super funky, so Brooke encourages guests to "expand your palate, expand your mind!"

"My path to the wine world was two-fold: working at The Modern in New York City under wine director Belinda Chang and then being an avid reader of Marissa A. Ross," Brooke shared. "At The Modern, Belinda would lead a tasting every line up before service, which I found incredibly intimidating at the time, but now I am super thankful for having experienced it and learned from her. And when I first moved to NYC, Marissa was a comedy blogger based in Los Angeles and later became Wine Editor for Bon Appetite magazine. Her blog evolved into writing about wine and specifically natural wines. She

made wine seem not only approachable but also fun.”

Brooke learned from her mentors that enjoying natural wine doesn’t require professional training in fine wine and beverage service. “It’s really about appreciating the effort that went into making this.”

Tasting wine can be a great practice in slowing down to enjoy the moment. Newcomers can create their own tasting experience with the build your own flight option. Choose four fabulous wines from the ever-changing list and test taste two-ounce pours to learn what you like. Non-alcoholic options are also always in stock including locally made kombucha from Scobi in nearby Hot Springs, SD, bitter aperitifs, herbal sodas, and Proxies non-alcoholic wine by the bottle.



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What's on the menu?

Sample these unique dishes and more to find your favorite food and drink pairings.

1.



3.



2.



1. Try the seasonal toast, a tasty slice of sourdough bread handmade by The Sour covered in creamy Burrata cheese and seasonal toppings like fresh asparagus, arugula, and roasted pistachios.

2. You can't leave without diving into this savory Steak Tartare dish made of local ground beef from Wall Meats, rich seasonings and topped with a raw egg yolk.

3. Seafood lovers can't resist the Tin Fish Dish featuring a rotating selection of fish and full flavors beautifully presented with a side of crunchy toast.

Ask your server about the most popular dishes not pictured here: Truffy Pop and Goth Hummus Plate.

Each plate serves up a new experience often inspired by what foods are in season and available at the local Black Hills Farmers Market. Not sure what comes first when ordering – food or wine? Embrace the changing menu and ask the staff for suggestions.



Brooke said she feels lucky to have the right people working at bb's Natural who are curious and committed, and she makes sure to treat team members well and pay them fairly. "I love the camaraderie of working with a team, creating an atmosphere and setting the vibe of a space, and introducing guests to new experiences," she said. "One of my first jobs was hosting and bussing tables at Botticelli's here in Rapid, and although I've worked a handful of jobs outside of the food and beverage industry since then, something about the restaurant world always pulls me back in. Justin and I are willing to teach our team as much as they want to learn about hospitality, wine and food."

This approach to "teach and learn together as we go" extends to guests, too, and features a monthly book club meet up (follow @bbsnatural on Instagram for details), and upcoming collaborative events with local partners like Uprooted, The Yoga Studio, and more. You can also enjoy a bottle of natural wine with your meal at Bokujo Ramen – an option popular for groups renting out the karaoke room for a one-of-a-kind dining experience.

New this summer – and just in time for patio season – you can soak in the sunshine and enjoy a glass of wine outside. bb's Natural now offers first come, first serve outdoor seating and an awning is coming soon.

When it comes to change, Brooke admits she might be addicted. Her tip to making big life or business decisions: Envision what life would feel like if you succeed. Will you be happier than you are now? Because if you fail things will probably just go back to how they were. Right?

When asked what she's most proud of along her career journey, Brooke says she has a hard time using the "p" word. "Honestly I'm really proud that my partner and I have built spaces that I believe feel welcoming to everyone."

And as a woman in business inspiring a growing community of wine-lovers to gather and spend time together, Brooke offers some words of wisdom to others: "Imposter syndrome affects us all, don't let it hold you back. You don't have to know all the answers to start doing something. Reach out to other women you admire in the community. Be open to partnerships and collaborations, and brave enough to learn as you go." BHW



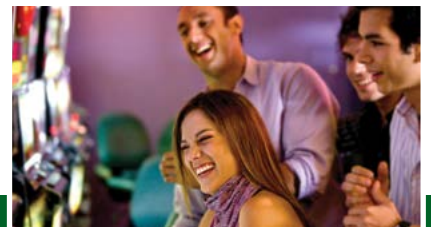


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Moments Missed

By Abbigale Winter



There is nothing quite like hearing my son giggle, seeing his imagination grow, or witnessing him learn a new word. Missing out on those moments can be devastating. Missing out on them on a regular basis can be heartbreaking. Being a working mom comes with many challenges, however, the one that is constant is being away from the little soul that holds my heart. This is something that many moms face daily as we work to help financially support our families.

I feel like I have a constant fear of missing time with my son, and yet I believe it is natural to feel this way. I want to be there for all the beautiful moments he experiences and the simple moments of his everyday life. People are constantly saying things like, "Life is short" and "They grow up so fast." While true, these statements add extra pressure and anxiety around missing time with him; I'm sure many moms can relate.

I dreamed of all the moments I would be able to experience with my kids. However, my dreams could never live up to what it has been like. I could have never imagined the pure love I feel now for my own son. The fierce protectiveness that overcomes me when I feel he is in danger or the absolute joy when I see him happy. I could have never imagined what it feels like to leave him in the care of others or miss out on spending time with him, or in other words, the mom guilt that I inflict on myself while working.

The funny thing is he enjoys his time away from me. That is difficult to admit, but it is true. He loves the individual who cares for him, is excited to see his friends every day, and learns things I never thought to teach him. His imagination is constantly growing from observing older kids play creatively at daycare. He often comes home and begins to play a game I can only imagine he learned from his friends. He is finding his voice and expressing his feelings and yes, learning to yell, "NO!", stomp his feet, and scream at the top of his lungs - but that is all a part of his development and a side that is fun to explore together.

There are so many great aspects about being away from my son that are important to treasure too. I spend my days with adults, mostly sitting and working on my computer. I then get to go pick my son up



from daycare. The excitement on his face and the fierce hugs I receive instantly mend any heartache I endured being away from him. I get to go home with him and hear his giggles, chase him around the house, and heal from a day of adult language and sitting. The time I spend away from him helps me appreciate the time I do have with him.

Being a mom is hard and comes with many challenges, we all know this. It doesn't matter if we work, stay home with our kids, or work remotely and stay home with them. It's all hard; there is no right way to be a mother. Sure, there may be handbooks but these are not rules, rather merely just suggestions. Each mother is different, each baby is different, and every family is different. What works for one family is not going to work for another. What causes one mom to feel agonized and guilty may not cause another mom to feel the same. It's part of the beauty of motherhood.

I am sure the mom guilt will stay and the missing moments will continue, but so will the valuable time and memories I do get with my son. It's important for me to be intentional about my time with him and slow down to enjoy those moments. There is nothing more rewarding or beautiful than being a mom, which makes every missed moment bearable. [BHW](#)

Abbie and Son
Photo by Riley Winter



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Pet Portraits

with Erica Lane Photography

By Madigan Schmitz





Like many young artists, Erica Lane was always told that she'd never be able to make money from her art, but since stepping into the pet photography scene in 2018, and becoming the Black Hills' only pet focused photography studio, she's never looked back.

Lane grew up in Rapid City, and fell in love with dark room photography while attending Stevens High School.

"As soon as they let me into the darkroom, I basically stayed there. The janitors knew me," said Lane.

After deciding she wanted to pursue photography professionally, she left South Dakota and attended college in California. She graduated with a bachelor's in Visual Journalism, initially planning to be a newspaper photographer, but eventually shifted into the commercial photography scene.

Lane started her own photography business in 2005, but after continually being told that money comes before creativity, she found she wasn't happy and took a step back from her business. After a career shift, and going back to school, Lane decided that what she really wanted to be doing was photography, and in 2014, rebranded her business to Erica Lane Photography.

She was initially photographing people and landscapes, but after attending a class on pet photography at a conference in 2018, Lane's life changed forever.

"I was like, Huh! I have a dog. Why have I not thought of this before?" Said Lane.

As Lane transitioned into pet photography, she drew inspiration from her own dog, Peanut. When Peanut was seven, Lane was taking her down to an animal hospital in Colorado, and wasn't sure if Peanut would be coming home with her. That night, Lane realized her and Peanut had no pictures together that she would be proud to put up in her home. Peanut ended up being okay, but the experience inspired her to capture the important relationships between owners and their animals.

"It's because of her that I really wanted to make it okay for people like me. To some people it's just a dog, but for other people, it's their family. I wanted to create a safe space for people like me, so that people could come and not wonder if the photographer thinks it's silly," Lane said.

Lane was able to create this safe space when she opened up her studio in 2021. It is state of the art, and equipped with everything a pet photographer would need, with a changing room, an accident safe floor, and shelves upon shelves of props and toys.



When shooting pets, Lane prefers to keep her style natural and simple. She really wants the pet to be the focus of the image, rather than the components of the composition. Keeping the colors on the image as true to the subject as possible helps her images stand the test of time.

"Something that is genuine and real is always going to look as it should be," said Lane.

Lane focuses mostly on dog portraits, but is not a stranger to other animals. Having photographed everything from cats, to

pigs, and even bearded dragons, Lane is a lover of all animals and is willing to photograph any of them.

"It's always great to see owners bring in any animal that they love, so I'm always happy to photograph that relationship," Lane said.

Lane holds a certificate as an Accredited Professional of Animal Imagery from Animal Image Makers, which is obtained through entering a competition at the Animal Image Makers conference. To receive the degree, you have to have earned

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Erica Lane





a certain number of points from your images, and she was awarded her certification at the 2022 conference. Of her four submitted images last year, all of them made it into the top ten.

Along with taking the photos, Lane hopes to impart her knowledge to others trying to succeed in the same field, through photography classes she offers at the studio.

"When I was growing up, photographers didn't share information. It was all about secrets. Being a part of (Professional Photographers of America), has really taught me that by holding onto secrets and not teaching, you're doing your whole field a disservice. PPA has a saying that, a rising tide floats all boats, so by helping and educating others, we can all lift up the industry together, and keep things

passing down. There's no point in holding on to a secret if you've got no one to pass it on to," said Lane.

At the core of her business, Lane just wants to create. She began doing photography because she loved art, and that's something that has stuck with her since she was eight years old, and first began shooting with a camera.

"To me it's always been art first, and business third or fourth. I didn't go into it to make a bunch of money. I went into it to make people happy and to make me happy," Lane said. BHW

CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

*CELEBRATING A 75 YEAR TRADITION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE
THE CULTURE AND TRADITION OF NATIVE AMERICANS.*

By Sarah Grassel



After years of watching Mount Rushmore monument come to fruition, the Lakota tribes and Native Americans across the nation wanted nothing more than to remind people of those who inhabited America, specifically the Black Hills, first. They wanted a monument that could stand just as tall and proud to serve a message that showed respect and honor for the culture that was very much alive then and still is today.

Chief Henry Standing Bear approached Korczak Ziolkowski more than 75 years ago appealing to his heart and asking for his help to create Crazy Horse Memorial®. It was his idea and brilliance combined with Korczak's sculpting and dedication that developed into the amazing experience that stands today.



Korczak's work has been passed down through generations, and Crazy Horse Memorial® remains a family project. Growing up, the memorial and the educational grounds became home for the Ziolkowski family.

His daughter Jadwiga explains, "It's all we knew, and we all became dedicated to keeping the promises that my father made."

Jadwiga is one of 10 of the Ziolkowski kids. After Korczak unexpectedly passed away in 1982, his wife Ruth and their children knew they had to keep the legacy alive and continue work to complete the Crazy Horse Memorial. And again when Ruth passed in 2014, the kids carried the dedication and are truly motivated to complete the mountain, educate the nation, and keep the native culture alive.

Ruth said in 2006, "You can't just have the dream. You've got to work for that dream. This is a team effort. It wouldn't be here if we didn't have a lot of great people."

In the last 75 years, Crazy Horse Memorial® has grown immensely. It is continually worked on and developed. Not only the mountain and sculpture itself, but the educational outreach and museum is growing as well.

Jadwiga adds, "There's no completion date for the mountain because you never know what is inside the rock or what you will end up working around along the way."

"When work began, my father would have started with the horse, but my mother said the Indian head would be



the most important to share the message of the memorial," she says.

Altogether, Crazy Horse Memorial® works to achieve education. The mountain sculpture shares an educational message while the campus museum and university spreads the knowledge of the Lakota and other tribes across the nation.

In celebration of the 75 years, Crazy Horse Memorial® is hosting another year of special events and educational performances for the community and visitors alike to visit. Jadwiga smiles, "The purpose has been to enlighten the public about the people, and to open doors for hearts and minds to understand the reason and the passion behind the project."

The mountain brings attention, but the mission is to educate. **BHW**



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- Mahkoche Kin: The Land | July 14, 28, August 11, 25, September 8, 22 | 10am and 2pm
See the Black Hills through a native perspective enriched by the cultural knowledge held by the Lakota People. The 90-minute outdoor walk experience is non-traditional with three stops along the route for presentations and immersive activities.

- Talking Circle Speaker Series | July 13 at 6:30pm L.A. Williams, 30 Years of Radio
Personality: From Sportscasting NBA Games in Dine Language to Managing Tribal College Radio

- Talking Circle Speaker Series | July 27 at 6:30pm Lawrence Swaller, The Lakota Creation Story

- Living Treasures Indian Arts Cultural Exchange | July 2-8 Cynthia Holmes, Medicine Bags

- Living Treasures Indian Arts Cultural Exchange | July 30-August 5 Red Mountain Creations, Shell Etching

- Living Treasures Indian Arts Cultural Exchange | September 3-9 Nagwakwa Jackson, Clothes Pin Dolls

- Living Treasures Indian Arts Cultural Exchange | October 1-7 Mike Lammers, The Importance of Feathers

And don't forget about the Legends in Light Laser show that is presented daily at night (weather permitting). See the story of the mountain in color alongside the mountain itself.

"These cultural performances and classes are making people aware that the culture is not dying. It's still practiced. It's still a way of life, and it's beautiful," Jadwiga says. "We can't lose that. We want to share it with anyone willing to listen."

TIMELINE

- **November 7, 1939** | Chief Standing Bear sent a letter to Korczak asking for help
- **May 30, 1940** | Korczak first met with Chief Standing Bear at Pine Ridge Reservation and made the first model of what he envisioned to honor Crazy Horse and the Lakota culture.



Copyright © Crazy Horse Memorial

- **January 10, 1943** | Before work could truly begin, Korczak volunteered for service during WWII and accepted the invitation of elders while turning down the government's offer and commission to create war memorials in Europe.
- **May 30, 1946** | Planning officially began. The elders insisted that the mountain be carved on sacred land. Together, Korczak and Standing Bear located the perfect location, Thunderhead Mountain.
- **June 3, 1948** | The first blast began on the Mountain making this year the 75th anniversary of Crazy Horse Memorial®.

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It's a Privilege to Give

By: Abbigale Winter



Lynn Paulson, Founder

Most people are in need of something, whether that be basic necessities or kind words, at some point in their lives. The Privilege to Give group is there to help those exact people. Lynn Paulson, the founder and organizer of this group, first thought of this idea about nine years ago. Her husband was working at a local high school in Rapid City when it came to his attention that a student needed snow boots. He spoke to Lynn about this, and shortly after she created a post on her Facebook page asking if anyone had snow boots they could donate to fit the students' needs. Within minutes she had a pair of snow boots to give this student. Not only one pair but multiples, the need was met, and snow boots kept coming.

When she went to thank the individual who donated the first pair, she told Lynn, "It is a privilege to give". Lynn had never thought of giving in this sense, that it was a privilege to be able to do so. From there, Privilege to Give was created and



It has happened twice where someone was helped and then came back wanting to join the group to return the favor. This shows the impact giving can have on someone's life.

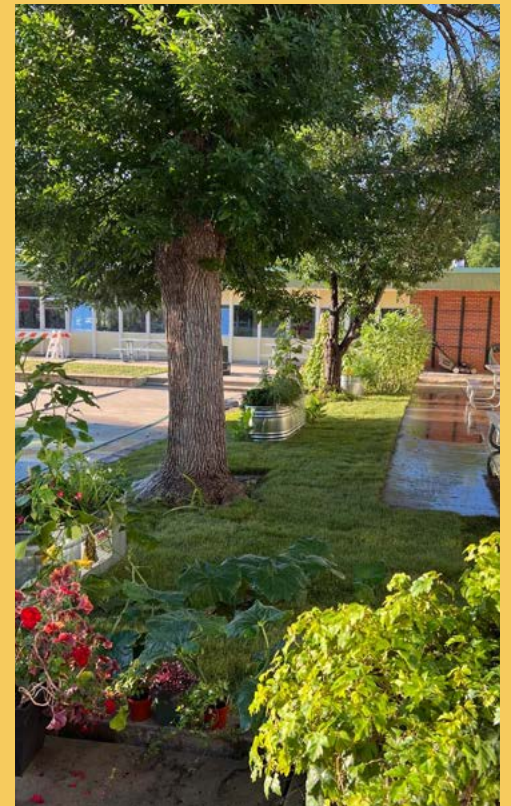
The needs that have been met by the Privilege to Give group vary. They mostly help individuals who may be in need of clothes, food, or other basic necessities. However, they have also done many other projects. They have created thousands of Valentine's Day cards for Meals on Wheels and assisted living homes. At the beginning of the school year, they put together backpacks for kids. The list goes on to include winter gift bags for seniors and new sod at a local middle school.

If a need is met over what is necessary for that individual or group, which happens most of the time, Privilege to Give works with a variety of sources, such as school counselors, to find homes for the rest of the items. For example, when Lynn put out the call for creating Valentine's Day cards for Meals on Wheels, the cards received overly exceeded what was needed for those individuals. The group then organized to deliver the additional cards to assisted living homes. It is common for people in assisted living homes to feel lonely, especially on holidays, so to receive a kind card letting them know someone is thinking about them was a huge deal.

Lynn is passionate about this group, and it impacts her daily. A lot of the people that she hears are in need of something are unaware they will be helped and never even asked for help. Privilege to Give allows someone to reach out on behalf of the individual or group and simply say, "They need help."

"The Rapid City community is one of the most charitable communities out there," Lynn said. "This is not me, I'm just the conduit. It's all these amazing people who answer the call that deserve credit for what happens. Some of the needs take the wind out of my sails."

Having the opportunity to meet those needs is a privilege. BHW





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