

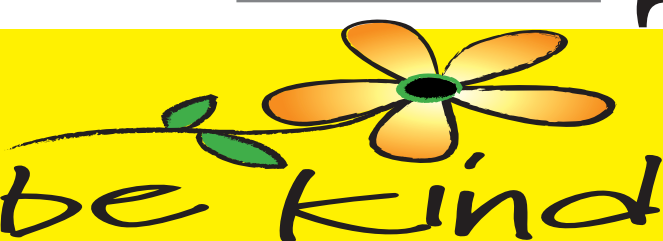
The South Dakota Mail

"Vox Populi"

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Top left: Tim Weidenbach with Remi; Right: Orion Ruden gives Remi a kind pat on the head; Bottom: Kansas Middletent & Tim Weidenbach, with Horizon staff, McKenzie Bormann, Tami Weich and Susan O'Keefe



"Be Kind" Assembly at PHS Teaches Students Valuable Lessons

The "Golden Rule" of treating others like you want to be treated was the main theme of the Plankinton School assembly held on Thursday morning, October 26th in the Dave Grode/Pat Philips Memorial Gymnasium.

Split into three groups, lower elementary (PK-2nd), upper elementary (3rd - 6th Grades), and Jr./Sr. High (7th - 12th Grades), the students heard from Tim Weidenbach and Kansas Middletent of Higher Power Sports of South Dakota, a non-profit charity

based in Parkston, SD, that serves students, coaches, and communities through the power of faith and servant leadership, on the value of being kind to others in order to receive kindness in return.

Along with "Service-Dog-in-Training" Remi, a Golden Retriever, the students heard how important it is to know that, just because we may look and act differently, we all want the same things in life, and mutual respect is the best way to achieve that goal. We must look for opportunities to be kind each and every day, in all of our interactions with one another.

Mr. Middletent, of Lower Brule, SD told the group that the Golden Rule applies to everyone, no matter who you are, or where you come from. He said it's easy to make friends, and the best way is to be a friend. Relating a lesson he learned from his Lakota grandmother, he said that spending time and sharing a meal always leads to a greater understanding of what another person might be going through in their life. He taught the students a lesson in working together to make a difference. On cue and in unison the audience members gave a single clap, learning that every small action, turns into a strong result. In Lakota culture, Kansas stated, "the pow wow drums are like a heartbeat" that each individual in the group drums separately, but they all come together as one voice.

Introducing the students to Remi, Mr. Weidenbach said the service dogs are utilized as "emotional buffers" to show that, even if you are

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City Seeking Lifeguards-- Planning for More Competitive Wages

With locals donning their winter coats, swimming seems a far away notion.

At its October meeting, the Plankinton City Council, began preparing its plan to hire lifeguards for next year's pool season.

The board discussed increasing the wages, to attract more applicants.

The pool averages 7 to 8 guards for the season, with a head and assistant head guard, as well as substitute guards.

Mayor Brad Kehn told the Board, "We need to be more competitive on our pay and get the information out there earlier."

Gayle Van Genderen of the SD Mail asked the Board why it requires 3 lifeguards to be on duty at all times, since the Red Cross guidelines call for one guard to every 25 swimmers, and sometimes there are only a handful of people in the pool, as this would ease some of the staffing burden?

Last season there were guards that took larger amounts of time off due to school related travel events, causing other guards to work over time.

Mayor Kehn said he does not like for employees to have to work overtime and it would be important at the time of hiring to relay the communication to the guards if the low swimmer numbers dictate guards could be sent home early.

"Being up front with them is easier than saying later, 'Oh yeah, we are going to start sending you home'."

Councilperson Jason Schurz said some guards could be hired on a part time basis.

Councilperson Carl Bode suggested having two lifeguards on duty at all times to have one person to back the other up that way, "Two sets of eyes are keeping track of everyone that's in the pool."

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Plankinton's Landmark Receives Attention and Support from Outside of Deadwood Historic Fund

Historic Preservation Officer with the City of Deadwood, Kevin Kuchenbecker was a Plankinton visitor this past Thursday, October 26th.

He was on official business, as he spent time at the historic Sweep Van Dyke Hotel and with the

Plankinton Preservation Society board members, presenting them with a grant award to refurbish the veranda roof.

After taking a hotel wide tour he told the group, "This building is a treasure for your community and a landmark on your Main Street!"

Kevin said he was very impressed at seeing how this project came together by all of the blood, sweat and tears that were put into it, and how the entire community has a stake in it. "The Heritage Rooms upstairs are really an amazing testament to perpetuating the town's history. I see a lot of

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Plankinton Preservation members, l. to r. J.P. Studeny, Rosalie Brink, Kathy Guindon and Jack Maretté thank Kevin Kuchenbecker (second from right), Deadwood Preservation Officer



Above: Pretty Princess Ryleigh Ramler

Treats Galore!

Old Man winter raised his unwanted head with highs in the low 30's and forced the annual Plankinton Methodist Church's Trunk or Treat event indoors last Sunday transforming it

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