

Established Sept. 6, 1878; the only newspaper in the world solely interested in the welfare of Gary, SD and vicinity.

Gary Historical Association
www.experiencegarysd.com

A Monthly Insight into news of the past and present



Gary (605)272-5233

This paper printed for you by
DNB NATIONAL BANK
Gary and Clear Lake SD
We want to thank them for this service!



Clear Lake (605)874-2191

A Time To Celebrate!

First Lutheran Celebrates 100th Anniversary

On July 28, 2024, First Lutheran Church, Gary, South Dakota, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the congregation. Sunday morning worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Em. Dallas Miller of Grand Marais, Minnesota, a son of the congregation, serving as the guest preacher. Rev. Douglas Free of Rapid City, South Dakota, the WELS Dakota-Montana District President, will preach for the 4:00 p.m. anniversary service. Members of the community are welcome at both services.



The earliest documented Lutheran worship service in Gary was held in late 1910 in the home of William Switzenberg. The group, later organized as the German Lutheran Society, held their services in the Presbyterian Church. They were served by several resident pastors as well as Ohio Synod pastors from Goodwin, South Dakota, and Canby, Minnesota, until the outbreak of World War I made German language services problematic. Services were started again in a rented theater in the fall of 1920. These were discontinued a few months later, however, when the pastor, who had been coming from Canby, accepted a call to Wisconsin.

The number of Lutherans in and around Gary continued to grow in the early 1920s. The George Precht family arrived in 1921 and the Gustave Bartsch family arrived a year later. Both began traveling to Altamont, South Dakota, for worship. This no doubt played a role in persuading the Wisconsin Synod pastor there to hold a German service in Gary on June 20, 1923, at the Methodist Church. He continued holding services—in German as well as in English—at first twice a month but soon every Sunday. After a year of regular services, the conditions seemed favorable to form a congregation. On July 27, 1924, seventeen charter members organized First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gary, South Dakota.

Services were held first at the Methodist Church and then at the South Dakota School for the Blind. In October of 1924, the voters directed a committee to investigate the renting of the Presbyterian Church. The following January, discussion was held about moving a building into town to use as a church. Two months later, a committee was appointed to draw up plans and

**Independence Day
Celebration**
Page 4, 7-9

Fairchild Farmgirl
Summer?
Page 3

National Register
Part V: Cochrane Road Bridge
Page 6

find prices for building a new church. The cost must have been out of reach for the fledgling congregation, because in July, a motion was adopted to wait until at least the spring of 1926 before building.

In July of 1926, the Lutherans learned that the Presbyterian Church might be for sale. In September, the voters of First Lutheran approved the purchase of the building and its furnishings for \$1,500.00. The sale was finalized in November, with the removal of some chairs from the building becoming a sticking point in the negotiations. The congregation dedicated its “new” church June 19, 1927.

This church building was enlarged in 1948 with the construction of an expanded chancel and the addition of a choir loft. An entryway and classrooms were added to the structure in 1969. Various other projects over the years updated the look of the church interior as well as improved the functionality of the church basement.



In 1990, the congregation received a sizable bequest from the estate of Henry and Greta Beste. In February of the following year, the voters approved a recommendation to use the money for building a new church. Final approval for construction was given April 7, 1991. The use of pre-made panels from Enercept, Inc. of Watertown, South Dakota, allowed most of the work to be completed by members. Wet weather that kept farmers out of the fields allowed them to volunteer at the church. “Rain

has made church grow” was the headline of an article about the building project in the Watertown Public Opinion. A wedding and the first service were held in the almost-completed structure the weekend of August 17-18, 1991. The building was dedicated on November 3. A lighted steeple and bell tower, part of the original design, were completed later.

First Lutheran’s first two pastors also served the Wisconsin Synod congregations in Altamont and Goodwin. Because of the increasing workload, an assistant missionary was extended a one-year call in 1932 and became the first resident pastor of the Gary congregation. He also helped with the services that had just been started in Clear Lake, South Dakota. His successor continued this arrangement until he was extended a permanent call in October of 1934. Two years later, the Clear Lake congregation realigned with the Hidewood and Havanna Township churches.

For a little over a year, the pastor served just the Gary congregation. In December of 1937, the congregation in Altamont asked if the two churches could form a dual parish. This arrangement continued until the synod’s mission board proposed a realignment of Altamont and Clear Lake, with Gary again operating on its own. The Gary voters approved this proposal, but requested synod subsidy to help pay the pastor. This was approved by the mission board, and the subsidy continued until 1952, when the congregation voted to become self-supporting again.

In 1971, the congregation in Hendricks, Minnesota, asked Gary to join with it as a dual parish. This arrangement lasted until 1979. In 1999, after an extended vacancy served by the pastor from Gary, the Hendricks congregation again became part of a dual parish with First Lutheran. This pairing continues today.

In its early history, the congregation did not need a parsonage because the pastor lived first in Altamont and then in Goodwin. It rented homes for the assistant missionaries until 1936, when the congregation closed the deal to purchase the home north of the church as a parsonage.

Continued on page 5.

Fairchild Farmgirl

What? It's July? Believe me, I'll be equally stunned come August first, but wow...July always means that summer is half over and fall is looming.

Speaking of July, how's your garden coming? Our flowers are nothing short of stunning and I mean it. They're growing great, but so are the weeds. I've finally got buds on the dahlias and I cannot wait to see what they look like. We grew about 90% of our plants from seed, so it's been pretty cool to see what they look like.

Even though we have a great crop of plants, we are still planting stuff. I can't help it, it's like a sickness and I'm not even kidding. Tedd, the youngest that I'm gardening with will go past the office and if he sees me looking at seeds, he gives me a talking to that usually amounts to the usual 11 year old talking to their mother and I order the seeds anyway, but when he saw the 2500 carnation seeds and cupcake zinneas, he started to complain.

"Mom! These aren't even going to be ready by frost. You need to stop!" That I do son, that I do. So I digress, I did promise him after they gomphrena seeds came, that they were the last. For sure. I mean, I'm not going to lie to him, right?

The vegetable garden was kind of an after thought...I mean we are having so much fun with the flowers and Tedd has become a self-proclaimed "flower farmer", that we didn't think that those boring old veggies would be any fun at all. But when Ron came in for a late breakfast and told us that he had finished retiling the vegetable patch for a 3rd time and he wanted it planted "today". We thought we better. We also had 45 minutes to plant before the rain came. I don't know who had a bigger sigh, Tedd or myself, but we got it done. We put in so many beans, we will be eating and selling green beans for weeks.

Oh and back when planting up at the house had commenced (the veggie garden is behind the bunker next to the field), we put in some potatoes in some mineral lick tubs. Well we are happy to announce that they have grown, looked beautiful and all harvested. We had some great meals, and we even sold some at market. Last Saturday, Tedd came with me to the market where he sold our beautiful daisies we grew with royal blue centers and dwarf marigolds. This week he doesn't have much to sell up in Watertown, but in Canby for the first market, he's got some beautiful gladiolus to sell. We're trying to decide if we just sell the spears separately or as bouquets with other flowers.

Tedd's older sister's ran the Clear Lake farmer's market for us while we were in Watertown, and hopefully we'll have enough flowers for Clear Lake and when we start selling in Minneota. I will say this: what a learning curve flowers have been! Vegetables have been pretty easy throughout the years (except onions...man I cannot grow them!) but flowers, are a new game! It has been so interesting. I've been loving it, and really Tedd has too. I think for him, it's been loving the money he's making, since all his siblings have jobs and regular paychecks. They come home with something and he's wanting to get something too. I'm just glad that he's a hard worker like his siblings, he enjoys gardening, I've got a gardening buddy and he's got a savings account...because the first week he went wild and spent \$40 on snacks for him and his siblings. He was like their very own sugar daddy.

Until next time,

Fairchild "wait until green bean harvest hits, then you'll know work" Farmgirl



AMERICAN LEGION 109 CLUB
1107 COTEAU ST. GARY, SD 57237 • 605-272-5662

SATURDAY, July 26th
SERVING | 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE CALL: 605-272-5832 OR 605-237-5190

Follow us on Facebook:
Gary SD Post 109 Supper Club

GATE CITY GENERAL

A little bit of everything...

Monday - Saturday
8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Grocery • Hardware • Gifts
227 1st Ave. • P.O. Box 25 • Gary, SD 57237 • 605-272-5779
www.facebook.com/GateCityGeneral • GateCityGeneral@gmail.com

Another Amazing Independence Day Celebration in the Books

Gary's Independence Day celebration started on Wednesday, July 3rd. The Community Club went all out, as they do every year. If you know a Community Club member - make sure to thank them because they work extremely hard organizing all these events. The 3rd started with Youth Events: the kiddie parade, sack races, egg races, water balloon toss, turtle races and the traditional kiddie tractor pull. While the kids played, so did the adults - at the Tractor Pull at Buffalo Ridge.

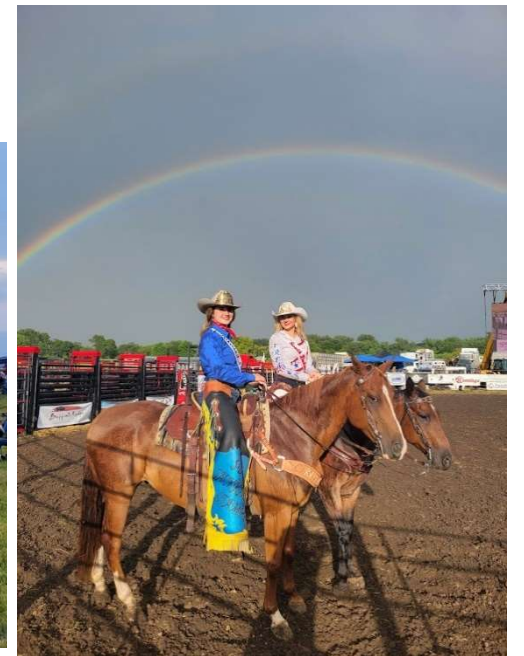
The Gary Historical Association held their annual ice cream social featuring soft-serve ice cream this year. After lunch at the Rock Room or the Community Club Burger Feed, the kids, even the big ones, careened downhill in GHA's Soap Box Derby. The Watermelon Eating Contest, also sponsored by the GHA, took place right before the annual Gary Development's duck race and then everyone headed uptown to get a pulled pork sandwich or root beer float at the 109 Club before watching the Firefighter's Water Fights. We finished the day with a fantastic fireworks display by Fireworks City.



More events were scheduled for the 4th of July. They were a little more low-key because "you have to spend time with your relatives at some point" or recover from the 3rd. The Four Moons Rising Rendezvous southwest of Gary was open to the public and the main drag was the site to watch the Grease Monkey Car Show & Burnout Competition.



On the morning of July 5th the "Medallion" was found dashing many a hunter's hopes. Congratulations Citrowske clan.



Friday, July 5th was the first night of the inaugural Gary PRCA Rodeo. It was a beautiful night on the hillside and the competitors and stock were top-notch.

Saturday, July 6th was also crammed full of events: a 7K FUN walk/run at Lake Cochrane, a successful Pancake Breakfast at the Legion Dance Hall, 3-on-3 Basketball Tournaments at the awesome basketball court at the Gary Park (thank you Gary Givers), a Kid's Obstacle Course, Golf Cart Parade, PRCA Rodeo (with a double rainbow), and the Gary Givers Street Dance featuring Rhino.

And today is Sunday, July 7th for these authors - and once we get the Interstate put together for you, we're taking our day of rest. Pictures on pages 7-12.



Winners of the Medallion Hunt: Chelsea, Abby, & Bryce Citrowske

A Look Back...***100 years ago, July 1924***

Notice to farmers- a load of twine has arrived at Farmers Elevator
 Grading on road south of Gary progressing quite rapidly
 Series of revival meetings being held at Methodist Church
 Teacher certification exams will be given at courthouse
 Out of state fishermen need fishing license
 Free movies every Wednesday night during summer months

75 years ago, July 1949

Ted Pothof sells trucking business to Elmer Rehder
 Mrs. AC Sherburne honored for 20 years of 4-H work
 Construction of over half mile of paving in Gary
 Olaf Anderson lost barn, hay, and sheep due to fire from lightning
 Births: Girl to Mr & Mrs Harvey Nelson
 Boy to Mr & Mrs Harry Melby
 Marriages: Hilda Sander & Donald Johnson
 Delores Reihe & Robert Ward
 Death: Mrs Anna Larson
 Auction: Ganser Estate

50 years ago, July 1974

\$108,500 housing loan approved
 Fun day set for July 3rd
 Kay Oswald, Girl State representative, speaks to Auxiliary
 First Lutheran has 50th Anniversary
 Birth: Girl to Mr & Mrs Gary Sander
 Deaths: Joseph Cullinan and Joe Frank
 Marriage: Marilyn Helmbolt & Lloyd Nord

25 years ago, July 1999

27th Annual Gary Championship Rodeo
 Farm safety camp held
 Maras Sisters and Jacob embark on 5 state tour
 Birth: Boy to Mr & Mrs Kevin Bray
 Auction: Estate of Reinhold Miottel

100 Years Continued

In 1967, the second house north of the church was purchased to as a home for Gary's pastor. Already in 1971, discussions were held about building an addition to the house. Instead, in January of 1973, the voters approved the building of a new parsonage on a site adjoining the baseball field. Construction began that summer and continued through the winter. The dedication was held March 3, 1974. Over the years, extensive improvements have been made, but this house—now over fifty years old—still serves as the congregation's parsonage.

Pastors who have served the congregation over its history include: Herbert Lau (1924-31), Donald Rossin (1931-32), Fritz Reuter (1932-33), Helmuth Rutz (1933-39), William Lange (1939-47), Harold Hempel (1948-53), Roy Reede (1953-56), Gerhard Eckert (1958-64), Warren Steffenhagen (1964-67), Gerald Geiger (1968-72), William Allwardt (1972-75), Edgar Gieschen (1975-81), and Dale Neyhart (1981-89). Bruce Mueller was assigned to the congregation in 1989. As the congregation celebrates its 100th anniversary, he will mark his 35th anniversary in the ministry as well as 35 years of serving in Gary.



National Register Part V – Cochrane Road Bridge

The lost is found. Well, it really wasn't lost, I was just looking in the wrong spot. Spanning a small inlet at the southwest corner of Lake Cochrane is the old Cochrane Road Bridge. Located in the northeast corner of Norden Township of Deuel County is an abandoned highway structure that once carried a local, unpaved road around the lake.

After the road was rerouted to higher ground slightly to the west of the bridge, the structure passed into private ownership. It is currently part of the lakeside parcel that includes the cottage immediately to the south. The structure is a single-span stone arch bridge built of unworked fieldstone, primarily granite. Springing about four feet above grade, the arch spans approximately six feet. The stonework is quite crude, displaying heavily mortared joints at least two inches in width. The arch vault is coated with a concrete sheath bearing formwork impressions, indicating that the voussoirs (the rocks which create the arch) were probably laid up dry on the centering and then covered by the pouring of concrete – a standard technique for rural stone arch bridge construction in the early twentieth century. The exact date of construction is not known but it is estimated to have been built in the 1910's. Although in deteriorating condition, the structure retains good integrity.



The Old Cochrane Road Bridge was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the “Historic Bridges of South Dakota” Multiple Property Nomination. It was entered into the Register on December 9, 1993. This bridge is individually eligible for the National Register under Criterion C Architecture-Engineering, Function-Transportation. It is the only surviving example of a stone arch bridge in South Dakota that was built prior to the New Deal program. Among the 11 stone arch bridges inventoried in South Dakota, ten were built during the New Deal era and all ten are located in Turner County, where approximately 185 masonry arch bridges survive as a result of a massive New Deal masonry arch construction program. The date of construction of the Old Cochrane Road Bridge has not been determined, but the Deuel County Commissioners Records indicate that the county built at least one other stone arch highway bridge during the first decade of the twentieth century. Given its type of construction, the Old Cochrane Road Bridge probably dates from the same period.

A sign at the site tells the story of the Cochrane Road Bridge as known by local lore. Constructed in 1916 by John Thompson, husband of Bertha Cochrane and son-in-law of Byron Cochrane, its purpose was to allow a safe path for cattle to reach Lake Cochrane water without crossing over the township road but rather through the arch bridge. This stone arch bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest such bridge in the State of South Dakota.

The New Deal was a series of programs, public work projects, and reforms enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt between 1933 and 1938 to rescue the country from the Great Depression. The programs included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Farm Security Administration (FSA), and the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA). These programs provided support for farmers, the unemployed, youth and the elderly. Many roads and bridges were built through these programs.

Continued Next Month...

Gary's Independence Day Celebration



Kiddie Parade
Winners



Face Painting



Watermelon Eating Contest



Tractor Pull



Kids Games



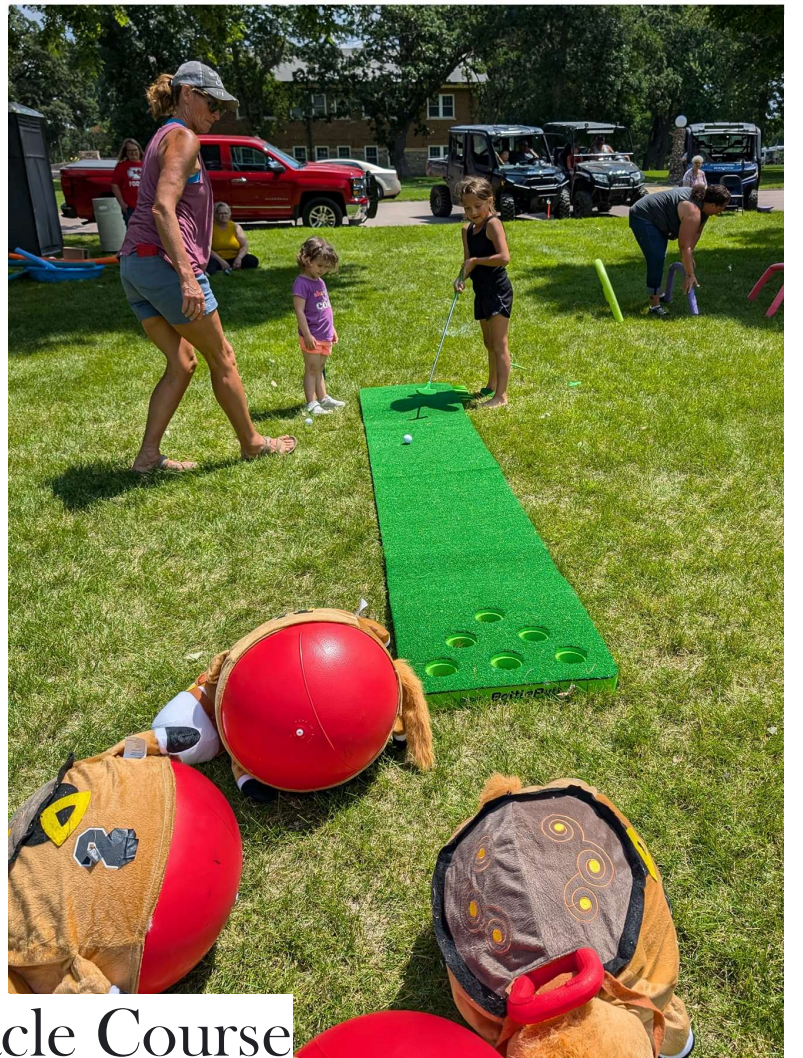
Turtle Races



Historical Soap Box Derby



Kids' Obstacle Course



Annual Gary Development Duck Race



Golf Cart Parade



3 on 3 Basketball Teams



Bingo at the Park

Curtis F. Wiese

Curtis F. Weise, age 89, of Gary, SD, passed away Friday, June 28, 2024, at the Avanta Nursing Home in Milbank, SD. Private family services will be held at a later date.

Curtis Frederick Wiese was born January 8, 1935, in Gary, SD, to Fred C. and Nellie (Swanson) Wiese. He was raised in Gary, where he graduated high school. He was united in marriage to Shirley Warwick in August of 1956. Curt entered the United States Air Force, where he honorably served his country from 1954 to 1974 as a radar technician and a recruiter. During this time, he served in Spain, Germany, and various places around the United States, including Alaska.

Following retirement from the Air Force, he worked as a crop adjuster for the US Department of Agriculture, where he worked from 1975 to 1998.

On September 3, 1995, he was united in marriage to Peggy Dobbs. They lived in Lead, SD, where he enjoyed retirement. After Peggy passed away on May 27, 2015, Curt moved to Watertown, SD, where he lived for six years before moving to Gary, SD.

He was a 51-year Peden-Cole American Legion Post #109 member in Gary, SD. He enjoyed panning for Gold in the Black Hills, owning racehorses, and going to the racetracks. He also enjoyed the yearly turkey bingo outing, playing cards, hunting, gardening, and riding his scooter.

He is survived by his two daughters, Ginger L. (Richard) Swol, Lindstrom, MN, and Vicky L. (Timothy) Bekaert, Gary, SD; four grandchildren: Amanda L. (Jason) Meyer, Matt A. (Misty) Bekaert, Kimberly D. Swol and Christopher S. Swol; four great-grandchildren: Katryna L. Meyer, Kyra L. Meyer, Destiny K. Bekaert, and Lee A. Bekaert; two brothers: Marlyn K. Wiese, Vancouver, WA, and Keith L. Wiese, Dewey, Arizona; and nieces and nephews. Curt was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Wiese; son, Lee Allan Wiese; grandson, Justin D. Bekaert; parents, Fred and Nellie Wiese; and brothers, Frederick, Jerry, and Roger.

**Tamara (Tammy)
Joyce Haag**

A Celebration of Life for Tammy Fairchild Haug is planned for Saturday, July 13th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the American Legion 109 Club in Gary, South Dakota. Cookies and bars will be served at this time. Please join us as we celebrate her life.

Tammy was a native of Gary, growing up on a farm south of town and graduating from Gary High School in 1981 before continuing her education at SDSU. She then moved to Minnesota, most recently working at Riverside Electronics. She passed away on January 23rd, 2024.



If you have any story ideas or questions pertaining to the Gary area that could develop into an article, feel free to email them to ghainterstate@gmail.com.

Marilyn's Beauty Salon
 Open 9am-8pm Mon-Sat call for Appointments
 Marilyn {Chaplin} Kompelien
 Stylist-Owner-Manager



809 Ring Ave. N.
 Canby, Mn 56220

507-223-7512
 cell 507-340-1311

Cuts - Men & Women, Perms, Colors

GARY AMERICAN LEGION
 DANCE HALL
Accepting Bookings
 for

- Wedding Receptions & Dances
- Graduation Parties
- Anniversary Parties
- Youth Events
- Birthday Parties

Contact Loran at 507-277-5525 with any questions.
 Or email garylegionhall@gmail.com and request a contract.

Sweet
CORN AND BRAT FEED



Gary, SD
 American Legion Post #109
 Supper Club
 Free Will Donation!

Friday July 26, 2024



2nd place: Patriotic Wreath



1st place: Patriotic Quilt (donated by Karen Keimig)



3rd - 6th: Patriotic Windsocks (donated by Karen)



Showin' Up and Burnin' Out
For Dustin

August 17th
 10am - 2pm
 Car Show
 11am - 2pm
 Gary Legion Hall
 Silent Auction, Bake Sale,
 Contests, & Raffles

3pm - 5pm
 Gary Bar
 Happy Hour &
 Juke Box Tunes

Dustin Meyen-Benefit
 @Dustin-Meyen-Benefit



venmo

*To donate items, labor, or money please reach out to a Committee Member:
 Lesa Darling, Lori Gage, Nikki Giese, Tina Moeller, Darwin Engessor, Jerry Tongen.

The Gary Junior Auxiliary is selling Raffle Tickets (proceeds going towards future community and veteran projects). Drawing at the Gary Legion Poultry Party. Tickets are \$5 each. Contact a Junior Auxiliary member if you are interested - the girls will also be present at local events to sell tickets.

Dustin Meyen and his wife, Kim, live in Gary, SD with their son, Dylan, who just finished kindergarten, and step-daughter/daughter, Katlynn, who is in 10th grade. In May, Dustin was diagnosed with Stage 4 Rectal Cancer and an aggressive Neuroendocrine Cancer, a PET scan also confirmed lesions on his liver. He is currently undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments. They are extremely hopeful that Dustin responds well, inturn he can enjoy many more years. Dustin is self-employed, owning Busted Knuckle Repair in Clear Lake, SD. Due to his illness, he has had to relocate his business to Gary and can only work as his health allows. They are grateful for the love and support that the family has received during this challenging moment in time.

**The Gary Historical Association
Museum Membership**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Comments: _____



PayPal

Have you been to our website?
www.experiencegarysd.com

It is loaded with interesting information, including,
Bill Stone's book at:
<http://experiencegarysd.com/billstonebook.cfm>

And the Gary High School Orange Book at <http://experiencegarysd.com/garyschoolorangebook.cfm>

Gary Historical Ass'n is on FaceBook
Please LIKE us there.

JIM'S MARKET
CANBY • SLAYTON

811 St. Olaf Avenue North
P.O. Box 148
Canby, Minnesota
507-223-5385
www.jims-market.com

YOU CAN COUNT ON US FOR
Quality • Service • Freshness

The Style
Hair Studio LLC

217 1st Avenue
Gary, SD 57237

Jodi Mercer
(605)277-8880

Visit the Museum

Gary Historical
WILL OPEN IF YOU CALL AND
REQUEST A TOUR.
PLEASE CONTACT:
Ellen Schulte
605-272-5295
Carolynn Webber
605-272-5777

dctfu
DEUEL COUNTY FARMERS UNION OIL CO.
Truly Cooperative

Gary Historical Assn's Officers 2022-2023
President – Patti Haas
Vice President – Ellen Schulte
Secretary – Gene Hults
Treasurer – Barb Stangeland

Board Members: Albert Bekaert, Carolynn Webber, and Pam Hults.

AGPLUSTM
Agriculture • Energy • Service

If you have any story ideas or questions pertaining to the Gary area that could develop into an article, feel free to email them to ghainterstate@gmail.com.