LOCAL VALUE

- SDPB is South Dakota’s only TV, radio, and digital media organization that is both state-owned and statewide.

- South Dakota’s only statewide source for over-the-air, commercial-free, educational programming for children- PreK and up.

- South Dakotans’ most reliable, accessible, and extensive multiplatform resource for access to the South Dakota State Legislature, including live feeds, daily reports, and broadcasts from the Capitol.

- The state’s major broadcaster of South Dakota High School tournaments and events featuring high school student-athletes and achievers.

- SDPB covers nearly 50 South Dakota State High School Activities events, including live sportscasts and profiles of students and schools on air, online, and on social media.

- South Dakota’s most significant source of local, in-depth documentaries and history programs.

- Sole provider of over-the-air TV for South Dakota’s most remote and rural areas.

- The statewide Emergency Alert System information provider, alerting South Dakotans to Amber Alerts, Blue Alerts, and Silver Alerts, and in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

- Statewide source for all-ages programming about the living culture, history, and current issues of the Oceti Sakowin, comprised of South Dakota’s nine Native American Tribes.
KEY SERVICES

• Powered by 9 TV transmitters & 6 TV translators and 11 radio transmitters & 9 radio translators, SDPB’s Television, Radio, Digital and Education & Outreach platforms are available across South Dakota.

• SDPB’s 4 TV channels, 2 radio channels, and digital media provide local news, stories, information, and events 24/7, wherever South Dakotans are.

• Gavel-to-gavel coverage of every South Dakota State Legislative session, including in-depth reports on proposed legislation, live discussions of bills with lawmakers and South Dakotans, and ongoing updates of legislative action.

• Localized, trustworthy, first-rate resources for South Dakota educators and caregivers, with state-standardized content, South Dakota-specific history and science curriculum, and outstanding digital content from PBS’ expansive K-12 educational resources.

• Engaging educational outreach to kids and families at schools, events, and educator conferences all over South Dakota.

• Current health and health resources information and reports for all South Dakotans.

• Live and on-demand coverage of hearings and floor debates of the South Dakota State Legislature, Public Utilities Commission Meetings, Boards & Commissions, Supreme Court hearings and many more events. Free downloads of the SD.net app available to all.

• SDPB delivers audio and webcast services to state agencies, boards & commissions and the state legislature, as well as Digital Dakota Network (DDN) locations, phone conferencing and remote fly packs for streaming and recording meetings.

• On-air and online profiles and conversations with local & state candidates for public office and detailed ballot analysis to inform South Dakota voters. Indepth coverage of local and national elections.

• Comprehensive, free, and accessible online archives of programming, information, and reports.

• Cross-platform coverage of nearly 50 South Dakota High School Activities from throughout the state, including live-action, student and instructor profiles, and recorded highlights.

“We watch the news on SDPB every evening. It is our go-to source for news.”

Timothy, Rapid City, SD

“I grew up watching SDPB and want to share the experience with my kids.”

Jacquelyn, Canton, SD
SDPB staff hosted a community conversation event in Milbank to prepare local stories for their upcoming Dakota Life episode.

SDPB joined the Storybook Land Festival in Aberdeen with a booth, activities, and everyone’s favorite blue bird, Buddy. Staff demonstrated local bird sounds, made bird feeders, and shared bird identification charts with kids and parents.

SDPB’s Education Department attended the Sioux Falls School District Early Childhood Recruitment Family Event to share resources from their Early Learning Initiative (ELI). ELI resources are for parents, teachers and caregivers for every aspect of a child’s life.

SDPB’s Science Steve (aka Steven Rokusek, Education Specialist) presented several shows and workshops at public libraries in Yankton, Beresford, and Vermillion. He uses his sciences demonstrations to encourage children to be interested in science.

SDPB presented a series of shorts, Images of the Past: Old Guitars and the Local Musicians Who Love Them, that revealed what guitar professionals appreciate about their chosen instrument. The specials featured artists performing on acoustic or electric guitars, talking about their favorites, and demonstrating the unique qualities and sounds that their favorite instruments can produce.

SDPB welcomed a Director of Education, Marcy Drew. Marcy’s background in education has helped her build a team and partnerships with educators, students, and parents across South Dakota. With the help of Marcy, SDPB created SDPB Learners Connection and more free, online K-12 ed resources to help South Dakota students and teachers at home and in the classroom.

SDPB presented the 2021 South Dakota State High School Rodeo Finals on SDPB-TV. The event was held in Fort Pierre in June.
It was the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis in 1998, piercing brass laced with jazz harmonies played over layers of percolating, infectious Afro-Cuban rhythms filled the venue. In the center of the stage, surrounded by his set of timbales, was the King of Latin music himself, Tito Puente. When Puente opened the concert by kicking off the band with the introduction of “El Cayuco” from his classic Dance Mania album, I had one of the biggest musical thrills of my life. The Tito Puente performance was the pinnacle of a love affair with Latin music that began a few years earlier. It was ignited after receiving a promo copy of the soundtrack to The Mambo Kings, a movie based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Oscar Hijuelos. It’s the story of two brothers who leave Cuba for New York City and try to make it as musicians during the mambo craze of the early 1950s.

The soundtrack featured the music of Tito Puente and other classic and contemporary Latin jazz artists. Although the film never came to a local theater, I found a copy of Hijuelos’ book The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love at Zandbroz Variety in Sioux Falls. While reading the book, I played the movie soundtrack and dug deeper to find classic recordings of the era by Puente, Machito, Tito Rodriguez, and Chico O’Farrill to help bring the novel alive for me. Hearing those polyrhythms played by authentic Latin bands like Puente’s was like jumping into the pool’s deep end instead of just wading around in the shallow end. After listening to and loving the classic bands, I sought out contemporary artists such as Arturo Sandoval, Chucho Valdez, Eddie Palmieri, and so many others. I was fortunate to see Tito Puente in concert when I did. He passed away a year and a half later. His performance in Minneapolis remains one of my most memorable concert experiences. But the Afro-Cuban sounds he helped popularize are just as thrilling as ever, with younger artists like Roberto Fonseca and Alfredo Rodriguez contributing their own voices and approaches to the music.

[This article appeared in SDPB Magazine’s July edition and provided information by Jazz Nightly host, Karl Gehrke and his love for jazz]
I’ve been watching since I was about 5 years old and always wanted to help. Now I can!”

Bryce, Spearfish, SD

“I enjoy the streaming shows as I live out of state.”

Mark, Minneapolis, MN

In August, Fiddles and Friends, a concert series presented by SDPB, featured special guests, East of Westreville, and the musical talents of Kenny Putnam, Owen DeJong, and Tom Schaefer. Three shows took place in Watertown, Sioux Falls, and Rapid City.

With fall approaching, educators, parents, and students still faced the uncertainty of what the school year would be like amid continued COVID-19 cases. SDPB’s Education Department helped school districts prepare by attending several Back to School events to provide resources and advice. In August, they attended:

- Belle Fourche North and South Elementary schools
- Custer School District Elementary school
- Rapid City School District resource fair
- Spearfish School District Mountain View Elementary school
- Piedmont Valley Elementary school

Music Matters, SDPB’s digital music series, explores the origins and inspiration of the musical artists performing at the Levitt Shell in downtown Sioux Falls. Host Apolonia Davalos takes the audience onstage and backstage to explore how and why music matters to our communities. The series can be found on SDPB’s Facebook and YouTube.

SDPB’s Science Steve presented a workshop at the Watertown School District Inservice on August 3rd. Using his fun demonstrations, Steven provides resources for teachers to bring into the classroom.

The second season of Wish You Were Here with Eliza Blue premiered on SDPB. Hosted by folk singer, author, and South Dakota rancher Eliza Blue, the season premiere featured pumpkin and apple picking, poetry from Sean McFarland and Marcella Prokop at their orchard called Blackshire Farms.
Fiddles and Friends returns this August with three live concerts. A fan favorite since its inception in 2015, Fiddles and Friends features the fiddlers three: Kenny Putnam, Tom Schaefer, and Owen DeJong. This year the performances include vocalist Kaija Bonde and beloved backing musicians.

Owen DeJong plays throughout South Dakota with the Poker Alice Band and the Public Domain Tune Band. Tom Schaefer is a former South Dakota State Fiddle Champion and belongs to several regional bands. Kenny Putnam is a member of the Red Willow Band and toured the United States as a member of Roy Clark’s band. Kaija Bonde is a vocalist with the harmony-rich East of Westreville and starred in Always, Patsy Cline.

“These three fiddle players have known each other a long time, are very accomplished in their own styles of professional music and in other careers, and these three guys are like our ‘Three Tenors,’ says Larry Rohrer, SDPB Director of Content and bassist. “It’s just magic. Everyone is great friends, and there’s so much musical talent.”

The group has worked three-part fiddles into classics like “Goodbye Liza Jane,” “I Am a Pilgrim,” “Stumblin,” “Sure Beats Me,” “Battle of New Orleans,” “Sweet Georgia Brown,” and theme music from Ken Burns’ PBS series Lewis & Clark.

[This article appeared in SDPB Magazine’s August edition and provided information about an upcoming event with local artists]
Jackie Hendry, host of SDPB’s **South Dakota Focus**, examines suicide trends in South Dakota and how groups across the state are working to increase access to mental health services. The impactful episode of **South Dakota Focus** aired at the end of September and was repeated in October.

**Dakota Life** *Greetings from Flandreau* premiered with stories from Moody County. Geological formations in Spearfish Canyon and rich Indigenous history were just some of the highlights from the episode.

SDPB streamed the 56th annual Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup on Friday, September 24th. 1,400 bison are brought in each fall by a large group of local and visiting crews.

SDPB’s Education Department attended Meet the Teacher night at Oelrichs Elementary School to provide resources to parents and teachers. The school district serves 128 students in all grades.

SDPB staff held a booth at the 605 Summer Classic in Spearfish. Music trivia with musical icons and PBS themes were some of the event’s highlights.

**Muhammad Ali**, a film by Ken Burns, premiered in September on SDPB. Local boxer Belle Brings Plenty, now 19 and a graduate of Cheyenne-Eagle Butte High School and Kimball Union Academy has gone undefeated since her first TKO at 10 years old. SDPB helped tell Belle’s story online and in the monthly magazine.
Belle Brings Plenty was ten years old when she entered the boxing ring competitively for the first time. She’d trained for her inaugural bout for more than a year, running, sparring, jumping rope, and hitting the heavy bag for 3-5 hours a day. And although Belle grew up in a boxing family and worked out at the Wolves Den Boxing Club founded by her father and coach Joseph Brings Plenty Sr., the reality she encountered in the ring surprised her. “I was doing pretty good,” says Belle. “My opponent was a year older, and I guess I was winning. But after the first round, I remember coming back to my dad, and I just started crying from nerves and emotions. Dad said, ‘Why are you crying? You’re winning!’ I went out second round and got a TKO on the girl.”

Muhammad Ali famously referenced the champion mindset: “I am the greatest. I said that before I even knew I was.” Belle, now 19 and a graduate of Cheyenne-Eagle Butte High School and Kimball Union Academy, has gone undefeated since that first TKO. “With boxing, I’ve learned how to control my emotions,” says Belle. “I still get nervous during that first round. It’s when you’re shaking off the ring rust and getting to know your fighter. But you have to learn how to contain your emotions, so you don’t end up going all out on your opponent and losing.”

Today Belle coaches alongside her father at the Wolves Den in Eagle Butte. “It’s really cool to see a lot of girls fighting nowadays, especially because there weren’t many when I was starting,” says Belle. “I ended up beating him, and it felt pretty good.”

“Training the young girls is a lot of fun,” says Belle. “I get to tell them from experience and show them what they need to know before they get in the ring.

“Boxing changed my whole life. One of my goals is to make my coaches proud of me, to push myself and stay with it, stay with boxing.”

Wicahpi Luta Winona Win Pay Pay Frazier (age 11)
We enjoy listening in the morning and I listen most of the day at work. The weekend programing is top notch, and we enjoy that as well.”

Kayla, Mitchell, SD

Always enjoy SDPB - both radio and TV. Sound, dependable programs with good variety of education and entertainment.”

Sandra, Pierre, SD

Even 18 months after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, events are planned with hesitancy and are done virtually. The 2021 South Dakota Festival of Books, hosted every year by the South Dakota Humanities Council was one of these virtual events. The Zoom and Facebook live event garnered 500 individual attendees who interacted with workshops, presentations, and two live conversations with SDPB’s Lori Walsh.

**Dakota Life** *Greetings from Milbank* features the seat of Grant County and home to about 3,400 South Dakotans. It is known as the home of American Legion Baseball, which was founded in 1925. Another famous Milbank story belongs to the history of the Milbank Grist Mill, built in 1884 and completely reconstructed in 2009.

SDPB presents coverage of all South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) championship and all-state events. Coverage in October included photos and results of Boys Golf, Cross Country, and all-state Chorus & Orchestra. Live coverage included steaming and televising Boys and Girls Soccer and the Competitive Cheer and Dance Championships.

The SDPB Education Department partnered with Sanford PROMISE, a STEM education outreach system for Sanford Research. SDPB Education Specialist Steven Rokusek presented with Sanford PROMISE to share exceptional resources.

**South Dakota Focus**, SDPB’s televised public affairs program, focused on immigration in South Dakota with conversations with Que Pasa Sioux Falls founder Nancy Reynoza and members of the Karen community in Huron. Host Jackie Hendry provides in-depth coverage of topics that are important to South Dakotas.

SDPB staff attended the Wild West Songwriter Festival in Deadwood and produced a 30-minute documentary called Three Minutes Away about the festival and musicians.
Habitat loss, agrochemicals, and parasites chiefly threaten South Dakota’s wild and managed honeybees. According to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s Apiary Inspection Program, approximately 270 beekeepers are registered in the state, with about 30% producing commercial honey. Bret Adee is a partner in Adee Honey Farms with his brother, Kelvin, and his father, Richard.

Adee Honey Farms has over 80,000 hives. Like many commercial apiarists, Adee Honey Farms trucks their bees to winter in California for the annual almond pollination season. Bees cross-pollinate crops like apples and blueberries, but Adee says honeybees benefit self-pollinated crops like sunflowers and soybeans as well. Adee cites a study from Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, professor of entomology at the University of Maryland, that puts last year’s honeybee losses at around 44%.

“When I was a young man, we’d think anything over 5% was a mismanagement problem,” says Adee. “Forty-four percent is crazy if you consider a livestock business with 44% losses,” Adee says some of our agrochemicals weren’t appropriately screened for their impact on beneficial insects by the Environmental Protection Agency. “They approved some insecticides that were very detrimental to our beneficial insects that were very kind to humans,” says Adee. “It was going in the right direction but didn’t look at the big enough picture.”

Adee also says farm efficiency that destroys peripheral forage areas contributes to the stress on bees. “At one time, food like milkweed was everywhere. Now, milkweeds are kind of hard to find.” Amanda Bachmann, Pesticide Education & Urban Entomology Field Specialist at the South Dakota State University Extension Regional Center in Pierre, is particularly worried about the vulnerability of unmanaged bees.

“Not to discount whatsoever how difficult it is to be a beekeeper these days. It’s getting more expensive and more challenging,” says Bachmann. “But I do also try to get people to be more aware of the other 399 kinds of species. Honeybees tend to be active all season. We make sure they reproduce, and we make more queens. Meanwhile, mason bees, longhorn bees, and bumblebees can be tied to only a certain subset of plants that may only be present in a restricted geographic range or even restricted time during the growing season. Bumblebees are like little flying panda bears as indicators for habitat loss and perhaps for endangered and extinction rates for our native bee species.”

[This article is excerpted from the October 2021 edition of SDPB Magazine.]
Dakota Life Greetings from Mobridge premiered with a local preview of the show and conversations between SDPB staff and community members. The show featured a tour of the Scherr-Howe Event Center, which is home to 10 murals from renowned artist Oscar Howe. We also took a ride on the Potter County bookmobile and learned how the Mobridge-Pollock School District is bridging cultural divides.

South Dakota State High School Football Championships took place at the Dakota Dome in Vermillion. All championship games aired on SDPB-TV and photos were posted on SDPB.org. SDHSAA also celebrated 40 years of high school football championships in South Dakota.

South Dakota Focus focused on the revision process for the state’s social studies standards with a conversation with Secretary of Education Tiffany Sanderson. Host Jackie Hendry visited a Native Studies classroom at Whittier Middle School in Sioux Falls to explore how this impacts South Dakotans.

Francis Whitebird, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Harvard Graduate, and fluent Lakota speaker visited SDPB and the In the Moment team to discuss how the way we look at language and linguistics can drastically misrepresent culture. Whitebird received a Purple Heart in the Vietnam War and served as chairman of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education for President George H.W. Bush.

SDPB streamed and aired the 2021 South Dakota High School State volleyball tournaments, live from Summit Arena at The Monument in Rapid City. 36 matches took place in one building.

During Native American Heritage Month, SDPB’s Education Department provided free online teaching materials for parents and educators to help students learn more about our state’s heritage.

On Veterans Day, SDPB examined the life of a combat artist, the legacy of Vietnam, and the significance of the art of war from the perspective of two South Dakota artists: James Pollock and Stephen Randall. The interview and video were posted to SDPB’s Facebook page.

Former South Dakota governor Frank Farrar, who died Oct. 31, was honored in memorial services at the State Capitol. SDPB broadcast and streamed the state memorial service on SDPB-TV, SDPB Radio, SD.net, and on SDPB’s Facebook page.

I enjoy the high school sports coverage. Thank you for all the volleyball, basketball, and football coverage.”

Michele, Sioux Falls, SD

Thank you to all the SDPB staff who work diligently to bring us news, sports, public affairs programming, and entertainment.”

Janelle, Pierre, SD
At one Friday practice in Garretson earlier this fall, head football coach Chris Long and his players were in a bit of a pickle. With only a week before their first game, the Blue Dragons were on the turf working their Points After Touchdown, or PAT. “We’d had some guys kick in practice a little bit, and they looked like they could maybe do it, but we knew we had to make some changes because one of our kickers was our holder and another was our possible snapper,” says Long. “So, we went to PAT, and we failed miserably. We couldn’t get the ball through.”

Meanwhile, on the grass field nearby, head girls’ soccer coach Amber Williamson and her team were practicing when the two groups switched fields. “Coach Long, as we’re passing between the two sports, says, ‘Hey, we’re struggling to find a consistent kicker,’” says Williamson. “‘Do you have anyone on the soccer team who could kick a field goal?’ Coach Williamson said, ‘Well, I’ve got some girls who’ve got really strong legs.’”

Four soccer players gave it a try. Jenna VanHolland, after only the second or third time, got her timing and footwork down. “I know this is quick to make a decision, but I’m interested if you’re interested.” Jenna, a junior, was. Coach Long addressed the nerves and unknowns in the pregame.

As luck would have it, the game went into overtime. “It transpired that we had the chance to kick the game-winning PAT,” says Long. “We sent her out there. A great snap, a great hold. And then she absolutely drilled that one.” Jenna’s kick won Garretson the game 43-42.

Mom Angela knew it went well when she heard the crowd roar from behind the bleachers. Jenna remembers the before and the after. “My head was totally blank,” says Jenna. “I remember trying not to think about it because if I thought about it, I knew it was not going to go well. I remember walking out in the field, and all the boys were really supportive and then ran out after I kicked it. Everybody was jumping up in the air and was all over me in this huge huddle.”
Thank you for excellent music Christmas programs at this time of year - and good programs all times of year.”

Grace, Brookings, SD

“Thank you for excellent music Christmas programs at this time of year - and good programs all times of year.”

Ashley, Willow Lake, SD

The education team attended the Lakota Nations Education Conference December 15-18. Held in conjunction with the Lakota Nations Invitational basketball tournament, this conference brings together PreK-12 educators from tribal communities across South Dakota. Steven Rokusek was invited to give science demonstrations as “Science Steve” in the exhibition hall throughout the conference, and the Early Learning Initiative had an adjacent booth with information about SDPB educational resources and professional development opportunities. The education team gave two presentations: “Supporting Young Learners Using SDPB Resources,” and “Celebrating Differences and Meeting Challenges: Tools for Supporting Young Children with Autism and Special Needs.”

A cross-studio live musical event was hosted by Jazz Nightly host Karl Gehrke in Sioux Falls. Alexander’s Good Eggs were live in our Black Hills Studio and the JAS Quintet was live in our Sioux Falls Studio with studio audiences for both for the Jazz Nightly Holiday Special.

Dakota Life Greetings from Springfield featured the history of USD-Springfield with interviews from alumni, former professors and the residents of the community. Greg Stockhold was also featured for his work on a 72-foot sailboat, which is bound for deeper waters even though it is being constructed in landlocked South Dakota.

SDPB-TV offered holiday music from local groups and organizations, including Augustana Christmas Vespers 2021, 57th Annual Madrigal Dinner: University of Sioux Falls, 2021 Mount Marty Christmas Vespers and Laura’s Little Christmas on the Prairie.

SDPB broadcast Governor Kristi Noem’s budget address, in which the governor proposes the state budget for the new Fiscal Year. This is an annual occurrence that helps our mission of providing open government to the residents of South Dakota.
BODE, a 30-minute documentary from Rapid City-based producer Randal Iverson, gives a snapshot of Rodney Bode, a painter, and sculptor who created thousands of artworks mostly in obscurity at his Butte County ranch south of Arpan.

A fan of Dances With Wolves, Bode moved to South Dakota from Idaho, ostensibly pursuing the unpopulated landscape and proximity to Lakota traditions. Prior to acquiring acreage in western South Dakota, Bode lived in California. An American Legion baseball player, Bode went on to play for the San Francisco Giants in their farm system but quit after two years, probably due to a conflict with his principles, says his sister Rojean Nunnally.

Bode was drafted into the Vietnam War. Nunnally says her brother disagreed with the United States’ reasons for entering the war and went AWOL, for which he served a year’s prison sentence. Nunnally says the things that happened to Bode in prison “broke him.”

Art and painting helped Bode cope. In South Dakota, Bode and his wife Renee kept many horses and other animals. According to neighbors, Bode’s ability to care for himself and his animals nose-dived after his wife’s death. Mental health advocates were called and Bode was placed in involuntary treatment.

Before his placement in a mental health institution, few had been granted entrance to Bode’s property. Hundreds of portraits, still lifes, and abstract works were discovered inside his home and geodesic dome. Many of the paintings are large and boldly colored. The sculptures are non-representational and composed of scrap metal. It’s thought Bode was self-taught.

Jay Pond and Greg Geiger at Rapid City’s Gallery Six13 curated an exhibit of Bode’s work in October and November, which brought in over $15,000 in sales during its first week.

Bode, now 80 and diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder and vascular dementia, resides at the Human Services Center in Yankton.
I only seem to watch PBS. Whether it is cooking or drama PBS stations are what I prefer to watch.”

Barbara, Sturgis, SD

My wife and I both enjoy the programming and shows available through Passport! We Love It!”

Allen, Sioux Falls, SD

The Early Learning team participated in Children’s Day at the Capitol in Pierre, SD, on January 20, 2022. SDPB joined twelve other organizations that support children and families in South Dakota. Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Social Services Laurie Gill gave a welcoming address, and many people stopped by to learn about how the Early Learning Initiative is helping children, families, and caregivers.

SDPB partnered with Plum’s Cooking Kitchen in Sioux Falls to present a live cooking class featuring Italian favorites and a live audience. The class was streamed on Facebook and SD.net.

Legislative coverage begins in earnest in January. The session begins with Governor Kristi Noem’s State of the State Address. Live coverage of committees and general sessions are streamed live. Coverage of the House and Senate general sessions are also presented on a delayed basis on SDPB-TV each evening.

Dakota Life Greetings from Murdo featured several local stories from the community. The Meghan Newsam Community Celebration, the Fort Pierre National Grassland, and the Jones County Sportsman Club were just some of the stories presented. The premiere on TV was accompanied by a screening in Murdo with SDPB staff.

South Dakota Focus was live from Sioux Falls, where host Jackie Hendry and the SDPB News team interviewed lawmakers and followed legislative issues.

The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra was live on SDPB.org and SD.net. Featured concerts included Radiant Rachmanioff and Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons.

No Cover, No Minimum, SDPB’s original live music series featured four episodes in January: Pertnear Sandstone, James Dean, The Builders & the Butchers, and the Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling.
Veterinarian services can be challenging to access in remote and rural areas, where the buffalo – and dogs, cats, horses, and other animals – roam. Kathleen WoodenKnife of Soldier Creek on the Rosebud Indian Reservation has worked for years to help provide affordable animal care to her community. She has organized numerous low-cost/no-cost pop-up clinics in Mission, enlisting veterinarians and volunteers to deliver wellness checks, vaccinations, spaying/neutering, food, and medicine that serve hundreds of animals for the Sicangu Lakota Oyate.

WoodenKnife dreamed of building a permanent animal clinic in Mission where “tribal communities can access affordable pet health care.” For the last six years, she partnered closely with Dr. Eric Jayne and Sovereign Nations Veterinary (SNV) to connect tribal members with animal care. Jayne, a veterinarian based out of Des Moines, Iowa, founded SNV to provide training and funding for tribes to build and maintain their own self-sustaining clinics locally.

Combining their determination, resources, and love for the four-legged animals, WoodenKnife, Jayne, and SNV partner Dr. Lori Gossard established, with grants and private donations, Wamakanskan Wawokiye Oti, a veterinary hospital in Mission. The Lakota name translates to “Helping Animal Center.” The hospital is located in an existing building in Mission that WoodenKnife and volunteers are remodeling into a clinical facility.

As manager of Wamakanskan Wawokiye Oti, WoodenKnife has helped over 1,500 dogs, horses, cats, and rabbits receive affordable care in 2021 alone. For her, the clinics have always been a labor of love, perhaps never more so than recently. In July 2021, Dr. Jayne was killed in a traffic accident near Grand Forks, North Dakota. “He believed in and was so excited to bring this clinic to our reservation,” WoodenKnife posted on Facebook. “He brought many fellow veterinarians and groups to our homeland to help build this clinic.”

Even in the aftermath of this devastating loss, the care continued. Then in early December, WoodenKnife’s husband of many years, Verdell, made his journey after battling cancer and a stroke. WoodenKnife balanced her husband’s palliative care with the needs of the animals. “Working with the animals is my therapy while this experience changes my life, my future,” says WoodenKnife.

[Excerpted from an article that was written by SDPB staff and appeared in the January 2022 SDPB Magazine.]

HELPING ALL CREATURES
As an SD native, I have always respected SD Public broadcasting for their fair representation of the news and quality entertainment.”

Debra, Hermosa, SD

We especially enjoy watching the high school state volleyball, basketball, and soccer tournaments and All-state band, chorus and orchestra as well as other programming about historical events and people.”

Owen, Huron, SD

The Nosebleeds Film Festival, a local group showcasing art created by filmmakers and students in the Midwest region, hosted one of their monthly festivals at SDPB’s Sioux Falls Studio.

The education team attended several events in South Dakota school districts in February. Early Learning Specialist Amelia Meyer presented SDPB educational resources for classroom use to teachers in Spearfish during their professional development day.

Lori Walsh spoke with Bob H. Miller, a local artist, on In the Moment. Miller opened a new exhibit at the Dahl Art Museum with free admission. Using the same reflective material used on traffic signs, viewers were encouraged to talk around the darkened gallery using flashlights so the art pieces reflect the light and seemingly glow in the dark.

Spearfish junior Taylor Graveman is one of the best high school girls wrestlers in the state. Not only is she a dominating force on the mat, but she holds multiple WORLD RECORDS in powerlifting too. SDPB shared Taylor’s story on Facebook in short video format. The story accompanied SDPB’s live coverage of the State High School Wrestling Championships in Sioux Falls.

Dakota Life Greetings from Custer premiered with stories highlighting the Burning Beetle Festival, Wind Cave, Big Rock Park, and a local restaurant leading the foodie trend in Custer.
Making art that creates a sense of community is a goal of Spearfish-based artist Dale Lamphere.

Dale Lamphere is a name known far and wide, from statues representing the virtues of the people of South Dakota in the rotunda of the state capitol to Dignity standing on a hilltop at Chamberlain to an Arc of Dreams spanning the Big Sioux in Sioux Falls.

In 2021 Dale was busy with two installations. One features work from other artists and adorns the atrium at Monument Health. The other represents school spirit on the Black Hills State University campus in Spearfish. Local filmmaker Randal Iverson followed Dale Lamphere through creating these unique pieces. In Lamphere Studios Community Tapestry and The Hive Randal takes us behind the scenes to see the creative process in action.

“Both of these works presented formidable challenges to Dale and his team,” said Iverson. “For example, Community Tapestry had to be installed in a narrow area located over a tall staircase, quite a feat considering the height of the finished piece. And in the case of The Hive, the entire piece is constructed of very heavy, very solid stainless steel. Not only do these guys have to form it into a flowing structure, but they also have to lift it with a crane and haul it down the interstate without damaging it.”

Through careful planning, determination, and plain old hard work, Dale and his team created these pieces that everyone can enjoy. Considering the pandemic and challenges faced, Iverson said, “That Dale – led by a suggestion from his wife, Jane – decided to include community artists into his piece for Monument Health is very telling of the man he is. Not only is he a master craftsman and incredibly accomplished artist, but he’s also a humble South Dakotan willing to share the spotlight with others.”
I enjoy watching SDPB television daily and listen to the radio station every weekday. Great programming!"

Darla, Burbank, SD

I continue to watch SDPB programming and radio and am always pleased with the excellence in your productions.”

Laurel, Rapid City, SD

The SDPB education team attended a family night in Rapid City to help parents and educators with the transition from preschool to kindergarten. They provided resources and tips using SDPB’s Early Learning Initiative.

Dakota Life Greetings from Eagle Butte premiered and featured special stories from the local radio station KIPI, one of the first tribal-owned radio stations, and a local boxing gym, Wolves Den, which is in its 200th year of operation. The premiere also included a special screening with local community members and SDPB staff.

During an interview with SDPB’s Megan Feighery, Cat Clifford, actor, stunt man, musician, and artist, describes how he befriended award-winning academy director Chloé Zhao and how he learned stunt work from industry veterans. He creates leatherwork at the Oglala Lakota Artspace in Kyle, South Dakota. The Artspace provides a connection place for Pine Ridge artists to practice their craft and grow their small businesses. As an actor and stuntman, Clifford has credits in Nomadland and 1883.

March is a busy month for South Dakota High School Sports and Activities. SDPB presented live coverage of South Dakota State High School Basketball Tournaments from multiple locations in South Dakota. The girls played in Brookings, Rapid City, and Watertown March 10-12, and the boys played in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and Aberdeen March 17-19. SDPB also streamed and recorded the All-State Band concert and provided images and results from the State Visual Arts Gallery.

In March, the legislative sessions came to an end. SDPB provides in-depth coverage for all South Dakotans to understand and engage in the politics of their state. SDPB’s daily radio show In the Moment features interviews from politicians, experts, and SDPB journalists, including Lee Strubinger and Jackelyn Severin.

As the war in Ukraine continued to make headlines, South Dakotans were learning about where their ancestors came from before settling in the US. Making the connections was made interesting with SDPB’s streaming of Prairie Public’s series Germans from Russia. The documentaries were made available online at watch.sdpb.org.
At the 2022 State of the State address in Pierre, Lt. Governor Larry Rhoden said South Dakota might be one of the only places in the country where unprecedented times have led to such positive results. He was speaking, of course, of our economic vitality and a burgeoning state budget ripe for legacy investments that could benefit generations of South Dakotans.

Though I’m sure some people celebrated his comments and others criticized them, I’m less interested in value judgments at this stage of the pandemic and more interested in how we have taken measures over the past two years.

In the early days of March 2020, I decided it would be vital to mark the milestones of these days: The governor’s first press conference. The first closed school buildings. And, most hopeful of all, the arrival of the first vaccine. I took notes. I kept records. Every day was something new. Every day was so “unprecedented” we had to stop using the word on air lest we sink into the mires of broadcasting cliché.

Today, two years after the first confirmed COVID case in South Dakota, those little floor circles that urge me to give other shoppers space in various stores are scuffed by hundreds of heavy footsteps. The paper hearts supporting healthcare workers have faded and been peeled from windows. My child got sick and came home from college. My child got well and went back to college. Masks went on, were discarded, went back on, and were scorned.

Still, the question remains. How do we measure the past two years? Hospitalizations? Visitor spending? Deaths? Scientific achievement?

Two years in, even if I try, I cannot pretend this pandemic isn’t happening in my backyard. And yet I find comfort in the prayer shawl, especially when I count each stitch as I fall asleep. I find joy in my daughter’s raucous laughter via FaceTime. I find love in a quiet dinner downtown, a glass of wine, and a tender conversation. I find contentment in an open movie theatre with reclining seats.

I think I’ll measure this next year of pandemic times in prayer- shawl-stitches. In radio episodes. In texts from friends. In the holding of hands. In lines of poetry.
SDPB Radio and KUSD celebrated 100 years of sending airwaves to South Dakotans. Much has changed since April 1922, but a lot is still the same. SDPB’s signal is available on-air, online, and through the SDPB app and provides hundreds of hours of local programming and news from across the state and around the world.

SDPB joined a screening of Pioneer Public’s documentary *Sakanica* in Sisseton. Through this documentary, award-winning filmmaker Leya Hale traces the traditions underlying the dress making culture of Lakota and Dakota communities.

A live Jazz Nightly show featuring the Jazz Diversity Project (JAS Quintet) as they talk about the history of jazz music and performed live jazz in preparation for International Jazz Day. The event took place at the SDPB Sioux Falls Studio in downtown Sioux Falls.

SDPB joined the Great Plains Zoo in honor of Earth Day as they hosted an annual Party for the Planet. This event is designed with fun and educational activities to involve parents and children alike and encourages enthusiasm for nature.

SDPB attended the annual Youth and Family Services Kids Fair in Rapid City. Science Steve, Buddy and SDPB’s education team were all there to help encourage lifelong learning and provide materials to parents and caregivers. SDPB staff and several volunteers provided activities, resources, and early learning information at the Youth and Family Services (YFS) Kids Fair in Rapid City. Over two days, thousands of children and families learned about SD birds, made bird feeders, and took photos with PBS Kids characters. Parents learned about using SDPB shows, games, activities, and resources to support their children’s learning.

SDPB’s Education Department held a resource booth and gave several presentations at the South Dakota Early Childhood Education Conference. Their goal is to provide free and valuable resources to educators and make connections in their communities.

SDPB education specialists had an informational table and two presentations at the SD Technology and Innovation in Education (TIE) conference in Sioux Falls. Educators who attended the conference said they enjoyed how interactive and interesting the booth was. The presentations about resources for educators from early childhood through high school were well attended. Approximately 60 educators subscribed to the Learn and Links newsletters during the conference.

SDPB’s monthly magazine show, Dakota Life, featured the community of Winner with a special premiere screening. Stories featured the history of baseball in the area, the community movie theater and playhouse, and poet Yvonne Hollenbeck.

“SDPB is a huge part of our lives.”

*Gail, Brookings, SD*

“SDPB provides high quality programs - a real contribution during these demanding times.”

*Charles, Rapid City, SD*
“It’s just one big playground. And it’s fun!” That’s how Larry Rohrer summarizes his career in radio as a DJ, news director, program director, and 34 years with SDPB. Larry discovered his “playground” when reading announcements to his high school classmates. After a class tour of a radio station, he started working part-time at KELO AM. He still remembers his first sentence ever spoken over the airwaves. “And now the Lutheran hour.”

But Larry wanted to be a newsman. He quit with no plan and, with a week left, got a call to help at KXRB. After a four-hour shift, he was asked to come back the next day. After a few years, he was asked to interview for a job with UPI in Pierre, and the owners of KXRB told him he might as well keep looking. “Everyone should get fired from a media job at least once in their career,” said Larry. He was drawn back to KXRB by new owners, this time as the program director.

After a golf game and BBQ with friends, he was nudged toward SDPB. The following day on his way to work, Larry discovered Morning Edition. “I began timing my drive to and from work to catch Morning Edition and All Things Considered. I couldn’t get enough of it.” He saw for a scheduling and acquisition manager (aka program director). Larry was hired on December 12, 1988.

It’s easy to say Larry has done pretty much everything there is to do at SDPB, from covering parades and galas to top news stories and leading pledge drives. He says he learned a life lesson that he still carries with him from listening to the Ralph Emery show. The guest was Moe Bandy, and he asked Ralph if they were on the air because the guest couldn’t tell by Ralph’s voice. “A light bulb went on for me,” said Larry. “You have to be the same on radio or television as you are off the air. Just be who you are. I never forgot that moment, and I tried to do it ever since. That’s why I’m able to have so much fun. I’m just being me.”

[This article is excerpted from the April 2022 edition of SDPB Magazine and was written by Cara Hetland, Director of Journalism, ahead of Larry Rohrer’s retirement after 34 years at SDPB.]
Downton Abbey: A New Era premiered in May. Two ticketed events were held ahead of the theatrical release of the film in Rapid City and Sioux Falls for members and supporters of SDPB.

The Sioux Falls Studio and the Black Hills Studio hosted live watch parties for the new season of On Call with the Prairie Doc.

SDPB Education had an informational table and presented a workshop called “Resources to Learn and Grow from SDPB’s Early Learning Initiative,” at the Family Childcare Professionals of South Dakota Conference May 6-7, 2022, in Huron. Providers who care for children in their homes picked up items to support playing and learning and subscribed to education newsletters.

South Dakota High School Activities continued in May with the Boys State Tennis Tournament, All-State Jazz Band, and State Track & Field Championships. SDPB staff took photos, recorded results, and streamed content online and on SDPB-TV.

Lori Walsh, host and producer of SDPB’s daily radio show In the Moment, was selected for the 2022 Bush Fellowship. The Bush Foundation identifies individuals whose remarkable vision and drive are transforming communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the 23 Native nations in the area. As a Bush Fellow, Lori worked toward building long-form audio storytelling skills, ensuring the stories are told but the people who lived them.

Dakota Life Greetings from Redfield closed out the television season with a special premiere and conversation at the Redfield High School Auditorium. SDPB producers and staff visited with community members and watched the episode together. Stories included a tour of the historic Carnegie library, a walk through the revitalized downtown area, and a visit to a ranch where a father and son duo train their horses for Hollywood.

When a tornado devastated the town of Castlewood in early May, SDPB provided updates with photos of the damage and interviews with residents. As the community and surrounding areas came together to help rebuild the town, SDPB was there to give in-depth reporting for the rest of South Dakota.
Books are brain food. Just as a child’s appetite for food never ends, their desire for information and answers needs to be provided every day, especially in the summer when they are away from the traditional classroom setting.

Reading books they love is one of the best ways children can practice and maintain skills they learned throughout the school year. Kids will learn more if they enjoy what they read, so let them choose the topics and styles of books they like the most to initiate their curiosity.

Children, especially in early elementary years, are likely to lose the most ground because they are in a crucial process of gaining foundational skills in basic subjects like reading and math. Utilizing your local library summer reading program is one way to keep kids entertained while learning.

“Summer Reading fun has begun!” says Laura Kelly, the Children and Youth Services Coordinator for The South Dakota State Library Association. “Reading is like a free vacation that takes you anywhere you want.”

Visiting the local library, virtually or in person, doesn’t have to be limited to the state’s youngest children. Youth of all ages can benefit from educational activities during the summer to keep their mind active and avoid losing valuable knowledge they spent so much time learning during the school year.

Summer is an excellent opportunity to read a book or series together as a family – even older children enjoy listening to books read aloud. You might also find yourself learning something new with the kids in your life. If you aren’t sure where to start, there are more learning resources provided by SDPB’s Early Learning Initiative (ELI), to be found at [SDPB.org/eli](http://SDPB.org/eli). Interactive learning games, fun printout activities, and PBS KIDS education videos are also available for the days leading up to summer weather when you want to continue learning indoors.
We listen every morning and throughout the day. We love SDPB!”

Bruce & Kim, Rapid City, SD

Thank you for all you do for your listeners. Your programming is life changing.”

Sandra, Sioux Falls, SD

SDPB staff had a table with activities and shared the SDPB-produced documentary *Images of the Past: Swords and Plowshares* at the annual Ft. Sisseton Historical Festival. The documentary highlighted the thousands of Civil War veterans who came to South Dakota after the war. Some came to live life quietly, others helped create the institutions of government, industry, and civic life that define the character of South Dakota to this day.

In 1972, Rapid City was hit with one of the deadliest and most destructive floods in U.S. history. As the 50th anniversary of the flood approached, SDPB produced multiple forms of media including: a documentary, podcast, interactive map, and radio interviews. SDPB also presented a premiere of the documentary prior to the television premiere in conjunction with the Journey Museum and the city of Rapid City as they honored the 50 year anniversary.

Members of the Women Poets Collective held a live reading of their work with Lori Walsh, *In the Moment* host, at the Sioux Falls Studio. Content was recorded and shared on SDPB Radio following the event.

SDPB Staff attended the 605 Summer Classic as one of the event sponsors. SDPB had a table at the event and played trivia with event attendees.

SDPB Education had an informational table and presented a workshop called “Education Resources from SDPB” at the 2022 Principals’ Conference in Deadwood, SD, June 14-15. Principals from across South Dakota learned about how their teachers, early educators, and other staff can access resources and professional development opportunities from SDPB. Many stopped by the booth to talk about scheduling future professional development for teachers and to subscribe to the two educational newsletters, Early Learning Links, and Learn for K12 students.
Rapid Creek brings Rapid City a supply of treatable water, idyllic scenery, and a habitat for fish and wildlife. It also brings floods. The people who lived and worked alongside the water were accustomed to seeing it rise and fall, but they were ill-prepared for the disaster of June 9, 1972. The rain started in the afternoon and continued into the night. Some locations received up to 12 inches. Further north, 15 inches of rain fell in six hours.

Rainwater ran through gullies, gulches, and ravines, collected in creeks and roared inexorably downstream. Rapid City was especially vulnerable, with so many in close proximity to Rapid Creek.

Flash-flood warnings were issued as the evening wore on, and people prepared for high water. But nobody comprehended the full extent of the “monster flood” bearing down on the city. During the last few nighttime hours of June 9, an avalanche of water surged through the town, and the Canyon Lake dam ruptured around 10:45 p.m.

A gauge above the lake recorded the creek’s rise of 13 feet in four hours. Within that span, a burst of nearly 4 feet in 15 minutes. Many described a sudden “wall of water” that threw their world into chaos. The flood swept up propane tanks that exploded as they rocketed down the creek.

Whole houses came loose from their foundations and careened downstream, colliding with trailer homes and smashing into bridges where thickets of debris piled high. Drivers on streets near the creek found themselves afloat. Some people rode out the flood on rooftops or floating objects. Others clung to trees for several hours as water rushed around them. Many were drowned or crushed by the countless items hurtling down the creek.

After it was over, authorities counted 238 deaths, 3,000 injuries, 1,335 homes ruined, 5,000 vehicles destroyed, 15 bridges washed out or damaged beyond repair, and $165 million in total devastation. The flood still ranks among the deadliest and most destructive in U.S. history.
LOCAL IMPACT

- In FY22, SDPB broadcasts 3,944 hours of locally produced programming on politics and public affairs, education and health, science and tech, business and economic development, sports, music, and the arts on SDPB signature programs In the Moment with Lori Walsh, South Dakota Focus with Jackie Hendry, Dakota Life, Jazz Nightly with Karl Gehrke and On Call with the Prairie Doc. Every month, 275,000+ South Dakota households regularly tune in to SDPB TV & Radio.

- SDPB.org attracted 1,933,932 users with 5,874,203 individual pageviews – increase of 13% in users over the previous year.

- Over 2,870 educators/parents subscribe to SDPB’s Education Update e-newsletter & 8,400+ educators/parents utilize SDPB’s PBS LearningMedia service. An additional newsletter, Links Early Learning Newsletter, has over 1,100 subscribers in its first year.

- In FY22 SDPB’s social media platforms reached over 31 million total users, a 24% increase over the 25 million reached in FY21. This includes engaging 1.5-million users and generating 7.5-million video views of SDPB’s digital shorts in that time period. Over 170,000 people are direct followers SDPB’s Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Flickr platforms.

STORIES OF IMPACT

SDPB’s flagship “magazine” television show Dakota Life entered the 24th season with a focus on local communities and local stories in South Dakota.

Starting the process early, SDPB producers and staff visited the 9 communities that would be featured on the upcoming season. Stories were heard in the community conversations that would be included on their episode of Dakota Life.

Brad Van Osdel, Director of Entertainment for SDPB describes the process:

“It’s inspiring to visit with people from each of these towns and hear the passion and excitement they have for where they live. We hope to share that excitement with our television viewers.”

Shining a spotlight on rural towns that aren’t often highlighted helps SDPB create relationships with residents by telling the stories that are important to them.

When production began, SDPB staff used the stories sources from residents to conduct interviews and plan each episode of Dakota Life. Prior to the premiere, a special screening was planned in the community that was free and open to the public.

Partnering with local businesses to help fund the programming for Dakota Life, connections were made to emphasize life in South Dakota’s rural communities by telling the stories that made them.
“I am a teacher and use PBS documentaries to reiterate what I have taught.”
- Susan, Dupree, SD

“The desire to browse your archived materials and a deep love of South Dakota.”
- Stephen, Vermillion, SD

“I love supporting local content and enjoy learning about our state and its people.”
- Josh, Pierre, SD

“I started working as a radio broadcaster in South Dakota in 1975. SDPB remains a standard for excellence in local and regional coverage.”
- Stella, Blaine, MN

“I listened to SDPB on my drive from Highmore to Rapid today and realized how much the station means to me to connect with SD and the world.”
- Anne, Rapid City, SD

“I went to college in Rapid and listened to SDPB on my daily commute to campus. I really appreciated the daily informative and interesting content.”
- Aimee, Britton, SD

“Remembering how often my children watched your children shows and how we all need to support your efforts. Thank you!”
- Harvey, Groton, SD

“My mother inspired me to listen to NPR & SDPB, and I donate every year on her birthday in her memory.”
- Matthew, Sioux Falls, SD

“I enjoy the quality of programs on SDPB. By becoming a sustaining member, I will be able to view shows anytime on Passport.”
- Jacqueline, Sioux Falls, SD