“Excited to support the growth and expansion of SDPB’s news coverage and powerful reporting.”

- Kathryn, Pierre, SD

“SDPB, especially South Dakota Public Radio, is a big part of our lives. We are very thankful for its news coverage and programs like Fresh Air and In The Moment. Before COVID I hardly watched television at all but during COVID I have been enjoying shows like Ken Burn’s on Ernest Hemmingway and the program on Oliver Sachs.”

- Charles, Rapid City, SD

2021

LOCAL CONTENT & SERVICE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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. Every school year, 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.
2020 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.

- 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.

“Love the programing. And as a teacher it is helpful for me to grow my background knowledge and have relevant current examples to work from.”

- Lisa, Rapid City

“I just finished watching Prehistoric Road Trip and wanted to watch more PBS! Plus, I am a teacher and use PBS and NOVA resources all the time - gotta support one of my favorite classroom resources.”

- Kristen, Spearfish, SD
LOCAL IMPACT

- In FY 2021, SDPB broadcasts 1,529 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 No Cover, No Minimum, On Call with the Prairie Doc. Every month, 275,000+ South Dakota households regularly tune in to SDPB TV & Radio.

- SDPB.org attracts 1,704,917 users with 5,855,392 individual page views – increases of 11% and 18% respectively over FY20.

- SD.net, the South Dakota Channel for South Dakota’s Boards and Commissions, legislative and state high school activities live streams and webcast 1,430 events — a total of 2,061 hours — to 461,395 unique users.

- Friends of SDPB sets a record high for overall revenue based on a new business model focusing on elevated donor experiences on giving platforms.

- 2,820+ educators/parents subscribe to SDPB’s Education Update e-newsletter & 6,629+ educators/parents to SDPB’s PBS LearningMedia service.

- Over 19,000 people subscribe to SDPB e-newsletters and SDPB Magazine. Digital magazine is read by 52,707 individuals. SDPB’s science and STEM videos for classroom application attract nearly 531,945 views, bringing the number of educators and at-home learners who rely on these vital resources to over 1.5 million users.

- The monthly reach of SDPB’s social media platforms averages over 2.1 million, including engaging 3,702,305 users and 694,133 views of SDPB’s digital shorts in March 2021 alone. Over 151,000 people follow SDPB’s Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Flickr platforms.

“I love the programming and want to keep it going. A little afraid of all the changes going on and want to support news that is important and a source that is stable.”

- Barb, Yankton, SD

“Public Radio and Television is something that my wife and I had in common and what we initially started talking about when we first met. We want to support it!”

- James, Sioux Falls, SD
July 2020 marked the halfway point of the first year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Face-to-face events were canceled or postponed and would be for the remainder of the fiscal year. South Dakota Public Broadcasting combined its mission and technical ability to give South Dakotans the opportunities to carry on with some of the events they had grown accustomed to. We also assisted with the creation of new ways of sharing content.

In its 50th year, the Laura Ingall’s Wilder Pageant in De Smet fell victim to the pandemic. As COVID concerns grew, they explored options, including a drive-in performance. Instead, they returned to their roots and offered their annual drama as a radio play. SDPB steps in and allows the actors to present the show live via web stream. Thousands watch from all around the world – opening new opportunities for the presenters and the audience alike.

SDPB participates in the 11th annual Neutrino Day science festival in association with the Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead. SDPB Education Specialist Steven Rokusek, aka “Science Steve,” recorded experiments that were made available to virtual participants. The pandemic prevented gathering in-person, and the event took place online. Free virtual activities consist of tours of the facility, contests and giveaways, a virtual art exhibit reception, and Native American activities. The online event also featured science talks and stand-up comedy with Earth’s Premier Science Comedian Brian Malow.

SDPB premieres Amazing Grace. The original documentary profiles Grace Steinberg Day, who in the late 1940s was the lone woman among 175 men who attended the University of South Dakota Law School. Enduring taunts and unwanted attention, 19-year-old Day attended law school and graduated a semester early. Post-graduation, Day faced similar resistance to female lawyers in the professional world. When law firms refused to hire her based on her gender, Day started her own practice in Missouri, where she and her husband raised their children. Day retired in her late 80s and passed away in 2016.

SDPB’s TV Production and Engineering teams were on-site for a week of shooting and interviews for the 2020 South Dakota State High School Rodeo Finals in Fort Pierre in June. The event was edited and presented on SDPB-TV in July.

The South Dakota State Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre has collected, digitized, and made footage from a 1961 history “classroom” broadcast available to SDPB. The film, Images of the Past: 1961 Governor’s Forum, was created in 1961 as part of the state’s celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of Dakota Territory and features interviews of former South Dakota Governors, including Governor William H. McMaster (by letter), Governor Leslie Jensen, Governor Merrill Q. Sharpe, Governor George T. Mickelson, Governor Sigurd Anderson, Governor Joe Foss, Governor Ralph Herseth and then-Governor Archie Gubbrud. Not seen since 1961, SDPB brings this important history to light.

SDPB’s No Cover, No Minimum features live recorded performances of national and local artists from the 2019 Sioux Falls Jazz & Blues JazzFest at Yankton Trail Park.
Karen Psiaki of Summerset, SD, a Friend of SDPB since 2006, and her friend James (Jim) MacInnes, a 90-year-old classical pianist and conductor, met in 2009 at Black Hills Piano Gallery in Rapid City. A saleswoman, computer programmer and singer, Karen relocated to the Black Hills from New Jersey in 2006. Prior to moving to Rapid City and directing the Black Hills Chamber Orchestra for 15 years, Jim led the well-traveled life of a classical composer and musician. Fulbright study in Germany.

Teaching position at UCLA-Los Angeles, a season with the San Francisco Opera, assistant conductor of the National Ballet. In the 1970s, he was music director and conductor of the Lake Charles Civic Symphony in Louisiana.

“One of my last concerts there was the Beethoven Ninth,” says Jim. “When we finished that performance, I felt I'd achieved the top. Beethoven has the joy theme embrace the other melody in a double fugue, and it was almost uncontrollably brilliant and wild. You can't get above or even equal to the Beethoven Ninth.”

Jim graduated from Julliard. His teachers have included Walther Pfitzner, a well-known composer from Black Hills State Teachers College (now BHSU).

Back in 2006, Jim became Karen's accompanist, teacher, and friend. Together they performed programs at venues like the Lead Opera House. “It was great when I met her because we found we had the same kind of musical background, interests and tastes,” says Jim. Karen appreciated that Jim embraced enjoyment over technical nit-picking. “The greatest joy to me in music is making a beautiful sound,” says Karen.

Loss of eyesight and a fall led Jim to assisted living, where he has been since 2017. Arthritis means he no longer plays the piano. “But prior to COVID quarantining, Karen would visit Jim and perform at Good Samaritan Society in New Underwood. Jim happened to be watching Great Performances at the Met's Madame Butterfly on SDPB during Karen's visit and together they absorbed and critiqued.

Since the quarantine, Jim and Karen watch separately and share a phone call after. The GP at the Met opera Wozzeck was a recent favorite.

“When I can't sleep at night, I think of Beethoven's sonata or a Beethoven symphony or sometimes Brahms to run through my head,” says Jim. “Karen and I are still very good friends, of course, but I haven't seen her for a while because we're locked in here. And I think that's going to continue for a while. But we'll watch and talk whenever we can.”

[Excerpted from an article in July's SDPB Magazine. Jim MacInnes began playing piano again after this article was published. He passed away Nov. 16, 2020.]
SDPB documentary *Simple Justice: Suffrage in South Dakota* premieres on the centenary of the passage of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote.

SDPB hosted a live screening of *The Vote*, a PBS documentary on the history of women’s suffrage, with remarks and Q & A by USD history professor Molly Rozum. Participants were able to see a preview of the upcoming American Experience documentary and ask questions to Rozum in real time.

Alexander Heffner is the host of *The Open Mind* on PBS. He has covered American politics, civic life, and Millennials since the 2008 presidential campaign. Alexander Heffner took over hosting duties of *The Open Mind* after his grandfather’s retirement. It remains the longest running program in the history of American public television. Alexander joined us for a virtual conversation about politics and the prospects for the 2020 election.

SDPB, participating in the PBS American Portrait initiative, shares submissions from South Dakotans. The pandemic caused many to participate and more deeply consider the questions PBS proffered. “What gets me out of bed in the morning is creative place-making in rural America,” said Kyler from Spearfish, SD.

As another school year approaches amid COVID-19, educators, parents, and students face a multitude of uncertainties. SDPB created *SDPB Learners Connection* and other free, online K-12 ed resources to help South Dakota students and teachers at-home and in the classroom.

With the world shut down due to COVID, the annual Sioux River Folk Fest was canceled. SDPB recorded the 2019 festival and *No Cover, No Minimum* features music from the previous year’s event. Included are:

- Albert & Gage – Wife and husband musical duo bringing sweet harmonies and powerhouse playing.
- Dakota Roots Revival – Multi-instrumental traditional music at its finest. Barbaro – A lively and award winning “newgrass” band from Minneapolis.
- The Way Down Wanderers – Drawing on bluegrass, classic rock, jazz, and spoons solos.
- The Red Willow Band – A moving reunion of Red Willow’s core members and friends play fan favorites.

Friends of SDPB welcomed its 12,000th member. Dena Sievers, a math teacher at Aberdeen’s Holgate Middle School, says “I was the person that you talk about: who listen to NPR and watch PBS, but don’t donate. But public broadcasting is an essential part of how I get my information. In times like this, I trust it. I don’t go without it anymore. I eventually got to the point that it was time for me to contribute!” She received a goody-bag for being a milestone member.
SDPB’s new documentary, Simple Justice: Suffrage in South Dakota about the long, winding road to the 1919 ratification of the 19th amendment in South Dakota, premieres August 10. The “simple justice” in the title of SDPB’s new women’s suffrage documentary is derived from a quotation from John A. Pickler: “...simple justice demands that woman should have the ballot, and in this opinion, I am warmly seconded by my wife, who desires to vote, as I think all sensible women should.”

But the circuitous route that led to women’s right to vote in South Dakota is anything but simple and, some may argue, not terribly just. The Picklers, early and active supporters of women’s suffrage, are one case in point that feature in SDPB’s documentary.

Alice Alt Pickler and her husband John arrived in Dakota Territory from Iowa in 1883, with a bevy of other Iowans in search of fertile farmland. Alice was a University of Iowa graduate. John had been a major in the U.S. Army, 3rd Iowa Cavalry, where he was placed in command of a regiment of Black troops. After the war, John got a law degree.

In Faulk County, the Picklers thrived financially with Pickler’s Law, Land & Loans Office, processing many new land claims. They built a stately home in Faulkton, now owned by the Faulk County Historical Society, where they raised four children and hosted national figures like Susan B. Anthony, Teddy Roosevelt, and Grover Cleveland.

Throughout the first decade of the 1900s, Alice was state president of the South Dakota Equal Suffrage Association. She also supervised the South Dakota Women’s Christian Temperance Union. Teetotaling was a cause for which her husband went on to introduce bills, first as a territorial legislator and then as the first U.S. Representative from the newly minted state of South Dakota.

After years of advocacy – both for temperance and suffrage – the tables dramatically turned with America’s involvement in World War One. In an emergency legislative session to create war measures, Governor Peter Norbeck adds a clause to the women’s suffrage bill, now known as the “Citizenship Amendment,” that women can vote but unnaturalized immigrants cannot. The idea was to German immigrants as scapegoats. That move changed South Dakotans’ minds, finally, to support women’s suffrage.

[This excepted article appeared in SDPB Magazine’ August edition and provided context to viewers of the locally produced documentary.]
As part of a Corporation for Public Broadcasting Coming Home: Connecting to Community rural planning grant, SDPB and USD’s Chiesman Center for Democracy hosts a community conversation with members of the Native American community, including Vi Waln, Parmalee; Michele LaPointe, Mission; Doree Her Holy Cane Jensen, Wounded Knee District; Galen Laroche, Pine Ridge. SDPB staff and and Dr. Shane Nordyke, Chiesman Center Director, guided the virtual conversation.

In the Moment with Lori Walsh presented daily features and interviews with all candidates for the South Dakota state legislature. Meet the Candidates was a vital link for candidates and voters in the run-up to the 2020 elections.

Partnering with local historian and artist John Mollison and the Distinguished Cross Foundation, SDPB produced a live stream conversation with famed Tuskegee airman Gen. Charles McGee. Titled Old Guys and Their Airplanes (OGTA) Debrief, Gen. McGee talked of patriotism, service, and personal honor – a message well received by scores of classrooms that watched the virtual event. Within the first 48 hours of the live stream, there were 10,190 views. [McGee passed away in 2022 at the age of 102.]

In Play Sports with Craig Mattick premieres in September on SDPB.org. The semi-monthly podcast includes in-depth conversations about the players, programs and legends who shape the sports landscape in South Dakota. Craig Mattick and guests discussing the latest developments in South Dakota high school sports, as well as local professional and collegiate sports.

As a part of SDPB’s ongoing coverage of health and education, SDPB’s Jackie Hendry interviews outgoing dean of USD Sanford School of Medicine Dr. Mary Nettleman, and incoming dean Dr. Tim Ridgway.

Live streaming of SDPB-TV’s main channel began in September. This means South Dakotans can watch our main SDPB-TV channel live wherever and whenever they like – on their phones, tablet and laptops, in addition to their TV set. Streaming of SDPB1-TV joins live streaming of PBS Kids 24/7 channel.

A Special SDPB Election Digital Series You & Your Democracy featured Rapid City’s Chuck Parkinson for civics short takes. Each episode explores values, principles, and institutional guardrails that make up a democratic republic.

For the first time in its history, the annual Buffalo Round-up at Custer State Park is streamed live. SDPB presented the event where approximately 1,300 buffalo are herded and brought to pens as a part of maintaining a strong and healthy herd.
The South Dakota map Melissa Hamersma Sievers taped to her desk is generously studded with yellow, orange, and green dabs. They mark towns to which she’s traveled in her 18 years as an SDPB content producer and videographer. “I haven’t been to Edgemont yet, so the extreme southwest corner is a little bare,” says Hamersma Sievers. “And the northwest corner, I’m trying to track down a story there.”

It’s clear the highlights mean more to Hamersma Sievers than mere dots on a map. “Next time I’m in my office, I need to remember to highlight Clear Lake!” exclaims Hamersma Sievers. “I hadn’t shot in Clear Lake before, so that was really exciting to get to a new community.”

This September is Hamersma Sievers’ third season as producer of Dakota Life, SDPB’s flagship video-magazine program. The new season, the 23rd, looks a little different. “Dakota Life has always showcased our diverse population,” says Hamersma Sievers. “But we’re a very rural state, and we’ll still have stories from Rapid City and Sioux Falls, but we really want to highlight our rural communities.”

Starting this season, Dakota Life ventures even deeper into the state’s some 77,000 square miles. Each episode will be anchored by a host community. Larry Rohrer, SDPB’s Director of Content and long-standing face of the program, steps outside the studio to shoot segment transitions from key locations in the host community.

In September, De Smet inaugurates the refreshed format. “De Smet is a wonderful town,” says Hamersma Sievers. “They’ve got a progressive industrial park, a number of folks in the surrounding area commute to De Smet to work. They raised a lot of money to put up a community and wellness center. That is pretty remarkable for a small town.”

Hot Springs hosts in October. Content producers, mindful of the impact COVID-19 has on interviews and shooting schedules, have been out in the-field banking stories. “I am always on the lookout for stories about interesting people, places and things around the state,” says Hamersma Sievers. “The reason I like Dakota Life so much is that the people we visit with are passionate about whatever it is that we’re visiting with them about. I feel like every episode of Dakota Life pays tribute to those who came before, but then there’s a variety of people that are exploring and trying to do things differently, too. So many of the stories are about tenacity and connection to the land. South Dakota has some really interesting people within its population and it’s a treat when they agree to visit with us.”

Melissa Hamersma Sievers, known to friends and colleagues as “Missy,” passed away nearly a year later, in August of 2021, from lymphoma and West Nile Virus. She was 42.
The South Dakota Festival of Books goes virtual due to the pandemic. All events take place online, including workshops, presentations by authors, and live-streamed readings. SDPB, a charter sponsor of the annual event, include conversations with Pulitzer Prize winner Art Cullen and Jerri Bell, Managing Editor at The Veterans Writing Project, hosted by SDPB’s Lori Walsh.

SDPB hosts a screening and discussion about Zitkála-Šá. The short film was one in the series titled Unladylike 2020 and was followed by a discussion led by Lori Walsh and panelists Charlotte Mangin and Sandy Rattley of Unladylike 2020, and Dr. Jane Hafen from UNLV, an author and biographer Zitkála-Šá.

Dakota Life: Greetings from Hot Springs features the beauty and majesty of the annual Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival. Also reviewed are the cross-state bicycle race and a collaborative effort of farmers, city, state and federal officials to improve water quality.

After a spring season of canceled events, the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) resume hosting sports events. SDPB presents live coverage of championship and All-State events. Coverage in October include photos and results of Girls Tennis, Boys Golf, Cross Country, and the annual SDHSAA Journalism Fair. Live coverage include streaming and televising Boys and Girls Soccer and the Competitive Cheer and Dance Championships.

With the impending elections, SDPB offered live political forums for candidates for U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and proponents and opponents of statewide ballot initiatives. Events are televised and streamed.

In the Moment continues daily discussions with candidates for the South Dakota Statehouse in the Meet the Candidates series. Discussions about the upcoming election also were featured on segments titled Political Junkies – featuring newspaper editors from across the state, and On the Other Hand – a civil discussion in which a retired newspaper columnist plays devil’s advocate regarding issues in South Dakota.

The 2020 elections are also topic number one on South Dakota Focus, SDPB’s weekly televised public affairs program. Political experts and college educators sifted through the issues that inform how citizens vote.
This year Latino (increasingly referred to with the gender-neutral “Latinx”) are projected to be the country’s largest voting-eligible ethnicity. Because voters in Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Florida could determine the next United States president, engaging these state’s sizable Latino voters is a high priority for both parties. But Latino Vote: Dispatches from the Battleground, premiering this month on SDPB, demonstrates the folly in wooing voters based on cultural assumptions. Recent data and polling are demonstrating traditional views around voters of color and their conservative or liberal leanings are anything but monolithic.

Taneeza Islam is the Executive Director of South Dakota Voices for Peace (SDVP). SDVP formed in 2017 in response to that year’s state legislative session, which Islam says included several anti-Muslim and anti-refugee bills. SDVP formally incorporated when anti-Muslim and anti-refugee events persisted in South Dakota, says Islam. Since then, the organization has grown to provide free legal representation for children in immigration court and immigrant domestic violence survivors. SDVP also undertakes education, advocacy, and civic engagement for and about South Dakota’s refugees and immigrants. “We don’t delineate between ethnic origin when it comes to this work,” says Islam. “But clearly our largest immigrant population in South Dakota is Latinx. We serve all of our immigrant communities, documented and undocumented. I would safely say 90% of our clients are Latinx.”

SDVP’s mission extends to Get Out the Vote work, including providing messaging in multiple languages. This year, SDVP received additional funding to hire a consultant who is helping SDVP become more strategic in engaging eligible voters throughout South Dakota’s immigrant communities by gathering voter profiles. Islam believes SDVP may be the first organization to organize Get Out the Vote work specifically concentrating on South Dakota’s Latinx, North African, Muslim, and Black voters in South Dakota.

For a rural state of 557,509 registered voters, the projected numbers are substantial: perhaps as many as 10,500 Latinx/Hispanic, 3,220 Muslim Arab and South Asian, 1,998 Middle Eastern and North African, and 1,300 Black/African American voters live in South Dakota.

SDVP is keenly aware that one approach does not resonate with all. To get a clearer picture of these voters, SDVP is engaging first- and second-generation immigrant and refugee children. These comprise South Dakotans in their 20s, as well as an older group in their early to mid-30s who typically moved here as refugees, grew up in the state, attended college and/or served in the military, and are working. “They’re multilingual, they understand the culture, they know how to approach their communities and talk about voting,” says Islam. This includes factors that may dissuade them from going to the polls.

SDVP is building its capacity in recognition of the reality that, like the 19th century Norwegians, Germans, Czechs and Swedes or 1980s-era Vietnamese immigrants who came to the area, immigrants become South Dakotans. “It’s important to be statewide because our immigrants are statewide,” says Islam. “And at the end of the day, when it comes to civic engagement work, I’m a firm believer that we should all be voting.”

[Excerpted from an article that was written by SDPB staff and appeared in the October 2020 SDPB Magazine.]
According to 2017 data from the South Dakota Department of Health, 11% of South Dakotans have been told by a doctor that they have diabetes. At 17%, American Indians demonstrate a significantly higher prevalence of diabetes than white South Dakotans at 9%. **November is Diabetes Awareness Month.** Through special dedicated programming, SDPB examines the local impact of diabetes on South Dakotans and highlights effective treatment and prevention. Programming including diabetes discussions are In the Moment, South Dakota Focus, On Call with the Prairie Doc and the PBS program Blood Sugar Rising.

Join SDPB on a sojourn around South Dakota with a starting point in Lemmon. This intriguing Perkins County town is home to Lemmon Petrified Wood Park, metal art sculptor John Lopez, and the Boss Cowman Rodeo and Celebration. **Dakota Life: Greetings from Lemmon** airs in November.

November is **Native American Heritage month.** Our television schedule included many titles about tribal stories and issues from across the nation, including reference to tribes located in South Dakota: Blood Memory follows the journey of Sandy White Hawk, a Sicangu Lakota adoptee from the Rosebud Reservation; We’re Still Here focuses on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, three generations of Lakota consider the ways their past affects the present and shapes their future; Ohiyesa: The Soul of an Indian follows Kate Beane, a young Dakota woman, as she examines the extraordinary life of her celebrated relative, Charles Eastman, aka Ohiyesa; Warrior Women is the story of Madonna Thunder Hawk, an AIM leader who shaped a kindred group of activists’ children, including her daughter Marcy; five years in the making, Rising Voices/Hóthaninpi tells the story of a powerful threat to a Native culture – the extinction of the Lakota language itself; in The Horse Relative, artists James Star Comes Out and Keith Braveheart (Oglala Lakota) share stories of Native lives intertwined with the sacred horse culture.

Live coverage of the **SDHSAA Football and Volleyball Championships** take place in November. Coverage includes televised and streamed games from 8 classes of football and 3 classes of volleyball.

Because children don’t come with instruction manuals, **SDPB is partnering with a company called Bright by Text.** Bright by Text provides free tips, information, and resources to help all parents and caregivers give every child a bright beginning. This text messaging service delivers actionable information from trusted early childhood experts to parents and caregivers of young children — Free activities, games and resources for people who care for children prenatal to age 8. from prenatal to age eight — to support healthy child development and build strong, resilient families. It serves as one more tool SDPB provides to those who are responsible for raising young people.

For those who missed live music performances during the pandemic, SDPB partners with the **South Dakota Symphony Orchestra** to live stream their November concert. Live from the Washington Pavilion at SDPB.org the concert is titled The Genius of Mozart and includes Symphony No. 35, “Haffner”; Symphony No. 36, “Linz”; Symphony No. 38, “Prague.”
In historical terms, the obvious answer is that towns connected to the world by a railroad survived and towns without a rail connection died. But there’s more to it than that.

A lot of things factor into how rural people and places thrive, from institutions like schools and churches to basic infrastructure like good farm-to-market roads. We tend to take a lot of these things for granted today. Looking at history, think about when there was no electricity outside of towns and cities. The rural electrification work of the 1930s through the 1960s changed virtually everything about rural life. There’s the very literal reality of wires connecting remote farms and ranches to a reliable power provider and there’s also the fact that rural people connected with one another to make electrification happen. They formed co-ops and they figured it out.

People without some connection to the basic amenities of the world and to their neighbors are living in the middle of nowhere, whether it’s South Dakota or anywhere else. People who have those connections can say they’re really living in the middle of everywhere regardless of where they live.

The topic is significant because of South Dakota’s rural character. Half of all South Dakotans live in rural areas — even more than that depending on what you consider rural. Along with electricity and telephones, people in the country need decent roads, mail service and, ideally, a local newspaper focused on very local news and information. It isn’t just that local newspapers let people know what’s going on.

Everybody who’s paying attention knows that most rural areas and towns have been losing population since about the late 1970s. Along with that you’ve seen rural school consolidations and the loss of some rural churches because there just aren’t enough people to keep them going. Maybe looking at how economic and social connections have evolved over the years can shine a little light on the road ahead.”

There’s relevance to today’s circumstances. Just a farm without electricity on the early 20th century was hampered, today cell phone service and access to broadband internet is very important. The documentary does just look at the past, but asks relevant questions about the future, and what it will take for smaller communities to grow and thrive. That’s especially relevant now because COVID-19 is forcing people who are already a little isolated to become more isolated.

[Excepted from an article about SDPB’s local documentary The Middle of Everywhere: Connecting Rural South Dakota which premiered in November.]
Sixty-eight years ago, during the Korean War, U.S. Navy pilot Royce Williams survived what is perhaps the longest aerial dogfight in U.S. military history. He would face seven Soviet MiG-15 fighter jets for one 35-minute battle. After the engagement, military leaders were concerned the incident might mark a devastating increase of tensions between the U.S. and Soviet Union. Williams was ordered to keep silent about the events of November 18, 1952. A Silver Star recipient for his action, today a Medal of Honor is being pursued. SDPB streamed OGTA Debrief with Royce Williams, a native of Wilmot, SD, live from San Diego.

SDPB presented online coverage of the SDHSAA All-State Oral Interpretation Festival. The 2020 state high school oral interpretation festival took place virtually, with participants submitting their performances online. SDPB offered photos and results of the event.

As part of SDPB’s comprehensive coverage of state government, the network broadcast Governor Kristi Noem’s Budget Address live on TV, Radio and Online, with a repeat that evening on SDPB-TV.

Dakota Life Greetings from Canton features the history of Augustana University, the noted author Ole Rolvaag, and Nobel Prize winning physicist E.O. Lawrence. The show also reviews the Hiawatha Insane Indian Asylum, a controversial and notorious mental hospital established in 1898. During the 1910s, a ski jump set up by Augustana students became a training ground for record-setting athletes bound for winter Olympics competition during the 1920s. The program also visits a Christmas tree farm and an annual holiday craft fair.

SDPB-TV offers holiday music from local groups and organizations, including Holiday Bluegrass with the Teels, Augustana Christmas Vespers 2020, University of Sioux Falls 57th Madrigal, and 2020 Mount Marty Christmas Vespers.
in her article “Everything I Know About Surviving in Quarantine I Learned from The Long Winter,” (Boston Globe, April 17, 2020), writer Lizzie Skurnick pep-talks pandemic-weary readers with pearls of wisdom gleaned from Laura Ingalls Wilder’s survival story of the 1880-81 winter in Dakota Territory:

Rule No. 1: "It's Going to Be a Hard Winter" In times of crisis, you listen to the authorities. Before the storm solidifies, a “very old Indian” arrives by pony at the general store to inform “you white men” of De Smet that “heap big snow come.” The incoming storm, he goes on, will last seven “moons.”

This wildly offensive, walking stereotype was, of course, created out of whole cloth by Wilder, but she was also right. In times of trouble, pay attention to the wisdom you’re offered. If the doctors say we must stand six moons apart, stand six moons.

Skurnick's article touches on truisms about Wilder and settler stories well-known to many South Dakotans: yes, Wilder’s books are both well-loved and problematic; and, yes, in many ways rural Middle Americans may have a leg up when it comes to social distancing and going without.

Skurnick, a Black and Jewish essayist who writes extensively about Wilder and the Little House books, is one of many contemporary writers and cultural observers featured in American Masters — Laura Ingalls Wilder: Prairie to Page.

The film features never-before-published letters, photographs, and family artifacts. Directed and produced by Emmy® Award winner Mary McDonagh Murphy, it includes original interviews with Pamela Hill Smith, whose very successful Wilder biographies Pioneer Girl and Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Writer's Life were published by South Dakota Historical Society Press.

Also appearing are Caroline Fraser, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her autobiography Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, Wilder historian William Anderson, and authors Louise Erdrich, Roxane Gay, Lizzie Skurnick, and Linda Sue Park, author of Prairie Lotus, a YA novel about Hannah, an aspiring young dressmaker in Dakota Territory who navigates cultural crossroads as the daughter of a Chinese immigrant in a White frontier-town near the Ihanktonwan reservation.

In a year marking the 85th anniversary of the publication of Little House on the Prairie, American Masters — Laura Ingalls Wilder helps capture the writer’s lasting and multiplex impact on the larger world.

[Wilder, who lived for a number of years in Dakota Territory, is celebrated annually at the Laura Ingalls Wilder pageant in De Smet. This original article appeared in the December issue of SDPB Magazine.]
On Call with the Prairie Doc is a revered one-hour, live medical questions program entering its 19th year. Funded by the Healing Words Foundation, a nonprofit developed for enhancing health and diminishing suffering by communicating useful information, based on honest science, provided in a respectful and compassionate manner. Topics in January included How Our Place in the World Affects Our Health; When the Heart Speaks: Heart Murmurs & Carotid Bruits; Gender Dysphoria; and Hepatitis, Cirrhosis, and the Health of Your Liver.

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.

A hilly forest hideaway on the plateau of South Dakota’s eastern Coteau des Prairies, Newton Hills State Park near Canton houses picnicking and camping sites, skiing and hiking trails, and bountiful wildlife watching. Dakota Life visits the state park and environs in January. Meet Dr. Beth Jensen, a family medicine physician. She turned her family’s sustainable acreage into “Glean for Good,” where visitors can usually get their hands dirty and learn about living off the land. SDPB takes you out onto the range and introduces you to brand inspector J.R. Holloway of Faith Livestock Auction. And we venture to the grasslands of Brule County near Kimball where the Konechne family hosts pheasant hunts for guests from around the world.

Anyone who grew up or trekked through rural South Dakota has experienced the community nexus that is the local store. Even chains like Common Cents and Kum & Go take on the soil, smells, and missing dog flyers that make these little bodegas on the prairie vital retail and social hubs. Wish You Were Here is a musical travelogue featuring Bison-based musician and rancher Eliza Blue, with Lemmon-area musicians Todd and Judy Larson and Mason Dauwen, shot and produced by Sioux Falls photographer Christian Begeman. The first stop is the Hoover Store off Highway 79 in Butte County.

South Dakota Focus is live in Pierre to cover the opening of the legislative session. Hosting of the program is assumed by Jackie Hendry. Previous host, Stephanie Rissler, a 23-year SDPB employee, left SDPB to assume a new role at the end of December 2020.
“Moving a hand carefully around the uterus I began the fascinating business of sorting out the tangle which is just about my favorite job in practice. I had to bring a head and two legs up together in order to deliver a lamb; but they had to belong to the same lamb or I was in trouble. It was a matter of tracing each leg back to see if it was a hind or a fore, to find if it joined a shoulder or disappeared into the depths.” – James Herriot, All Things Bright & Beautiful

That single paragraph of Scottish veterinarian James Herriot's second book is something I pull from my mental reference library each lambing season. His stories provide not just entertainment but an education, of sorts. A sizable portion of the animal husbandry skills I use today on our small farm come to me courtesy of a childhood spent immersed in Herriot's Yorkshire veterinary practice. Reading Herriot is how I learned to untangle a jumble of lamb limbs while elbow deep inside an ewe, about giving beer to a grumpy sow (only works if she is a happy, sleepy drunk and not a mean drunk!) and how to work cattle without modern cattle-working facilities. A little James Herriot education goes a long way when you grow up and decide that filling your farm with livestock would be the perfect way to absorb every moment of free time for years to come.

In the first four years we owned Dalarna Farm, I had the good fortune to combine my literary education from Dr. Herriot with a real-life practicum taught by our local veterinarian, Dr. Larry Lounsbery. Already 50 years in the field when I first retained his services for an elderly barn cat, “Doc” came to my rescue more times than I care to count. Whether it was rescuing a choking sheep or saving our family dog from an allergic reaction, he met each emergency with the same calm and care Dr. Herriot always brought to his books.

Dr. Lounsbery has since retired, but as with Herriot's stories, I carry his counsel with me as each day brings new joys and challenges to our little farm.

[This article is excerpted from the January 2021 edition of SDPB Magazine. Written by Heather Benson, SDPB's Social Media Manager, it recounts her experiences as a hobby farmer and how she appreciates the abilities of veterinarians. Published in anticipation of the premiere of All Creature Great and Small.]
In partnership with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, **SDPB launches Sesame Street in Communities.** (More on page 28.)

SDPB continues to honor veterans and tell their story. Presented live from Custer High School, we stream a film and Q & A with the Custer, SD native Marty Mahrt, a decorated Vietnam War pilot.

Coverage of the legislative session’s 2nd month continues. **SDPB streams, broadcasts and archives** the legislative issues and actions that comprise elective state government. 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.

Just over one thousand folks strong, Freeman graces Highway 81 in Hutchinson County. Since 1959 it has hosted the popular German celebration Schmeckfest and the South Dakota Chislic Festival. **SDPB’s Dakota Life visits Freeman** and shares the community’s history. Meet Freeman’s earliest settlers, including some of the Mennonite Germans from Russia who immigrated to the area seeking religious and social freedoms. Immigrants from northern Europe also established enclaves in and around Freeman, and the story of how those diverse ethnic and religious groups learned to work together, while still maintaining their cultural identities, defines the character of Freeman today.

**High school activities ramp up in February.** SDPB covers SDHSAA State One-Act Play Festival February 4-6 from the Performing Arts Center, Brandon; the Gymnastics Championships February 12-13 at Watertown Civic Arena and Boys & Girls State Wrestling Championships February 25-27 from Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City. Content is streamed and televised.

**On Call with the Prairie Doc** topics in February Otolaryngology: Beyond Ear Tubes and Sinuses; Health Literacy – How to Avoid “Who’s on First” When Talking with Your Doctor; It’s Not Just the Sweets: The Three-Legged Stool of Diabetes; and Vaccines Are for Everyone.

**Wish You Were Here** travels to the peaks and prairie grasses of Slim Buttes in Harding County.

**South Dakota Focus** discusses the legislative session and takes on a new format under host Jackie Hendry.
Although Carr’s first tenure in South Dakota was brief, it’s fair to say it was life-altering. At Rapid City’s Faith Temple, Carr met Bishop Lorenzo Kelly. A former bank manager, Kelly, his wife Evelyn, and their three sons moved from Evanston, Illinois to Rapid City in 1982 to help establish Faith Temple.

Back in 1990, Carr was reassigned from Ellsworth to Okinawa. As his Air Force service came to an end, Carr was at a crossroads. “I asked the Lord, ‘Okay, so what do you want me to do?’ When the Lord said South Dakota, that’s not what I wanted to do. I gave the Lord several chances to change His mind. And He never did.”

Carr served alongside Bishop Kelly until Kelly’s death in 2016. Carr has since taken up the mantle as pastor for Faith Temple and as bishop for South Dakota, which includes overseeing Life Abundant in Sioux Falls, currently led by pastor Samuel Allen.

Faith Temple’s congregants number around 150 and are from varied walks of life. While established in the traditions of Black churches, it is important for Carr to make distinctions between Faith Temple as a Black church and the make-up of its worshipers. “Our congregants aren’t mostly Black. We advertise as a multicultural, multiracial, multiethnic church. We have doctors, lawyers, businesspeople, and we have people on financial aid. Where we qualify as a Black church is in our music and our preaching style. Our denomination is a predominantly Black denomination and we’ve had two Black pastors. For a long time, we were labeled around town as the Black church. But we’ve always stayed away from that label because we want people from all backgrounds coming to the church. Our diversity is one of the things we’re most proud of and we would not have it any other way.”

*[This article is excerpted from the February 2021 edition of SDPB Magazine and was written to accompany the PBS program The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song.]*
Coverage of the legislative wraps up in March. **SDPB streams, broadcasts and archives** the legislative issues and actions that comprise elective state government. **South Dakota Focus** provides and overview of the concluded legislative session.

**SDPB presents live coverage** of South Dakota State High School Basketball Tournaments. Girls play March 11-13 and Boys play March 18-20. Both tournaments feature live coverage of all three classes presented online and on TV, simultaneously broadcast on three channels. Each tournament features 12 games, so over 6 days we offer live coverage of 72 games totaling over 145 hours.

Besides sports, fine arts and music also share the spotlight. **SDPB streams and records the All-State Band grand concerts.** Over 125 students from across the state form two bands and perform music from a variety of genres.

Over 500 elementary-age school children attend the **Young People’s Concert** hosted by the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra. The event is a daylong lesson in music appreciation and serves to encourage children to listen to music with a discerning ear and take up musical performance as a creative outlet. SDPB streams the event to schools that cannot travel to Sioux Falls, and to anyone who wants to participate. The recording is edited for broadcast on SDPB-TV.

In conjunction with the Levitt Foundation and Sioux Falls’ Levitt Shell, **SDPB hosts** guerilla-punk-Balkan-brass band **Lemon Bucket Orkestra**, as members share an evening of music and conversation online.

As the pandemic continues to diminish attendance at live musical performances, **SDPB partners with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra** to stream their March performance live. Viewers experienced the SDSO’s fantastic wind section in Mozart’s groundbreaking **Gran Partita** and celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter with the shimmering SDSO’s strings in Haydn’s **Seven Last Words of Christ**.

**On Call with the Prairie Doc** topics in February Otolaryngology: Beyond Ear Tubes and Sinuses; Health Literacy – How to Avoid “Who’s on First” When Talking with Your Doctor; It’s Not Just the Sweets: The Three-Legged Stool of Diabetes; and Vaccines Are for Everyone.
When the *Jazz Nightly* hosting position opened at SDPB I jumped at the chance and was thrilled when I got the job. In a way I’d come full circle. My life in radio began as a jazz radio host at the student station KAUR-FM when I was a freshman at Augustana University in Sioux Falls.

I grew up listening to jazz on SDPB Radio and I’m fortunate to be a part of that continuing tradition. There aren’t many radio stations dedicated to jazz, but I’m proud that we are among them. The enduring support of jazz by listeners demonstrates how much of an appetite there is for jazz in South Dakota. This seems surprising to some who don’t live here. A few years ago, I interviewed a Latin jazz percussionist who I found out later was amazed that there was any interest in jazz in South Dakota. Part of me was insulted by his assumptions of my home state, but I was also amused by whatever stereotypes he seemed to have of people here.

I’ve experienced the enthusiasm for jazz during live *Jazz Nightly* shows featuring local musicians at our new studios in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. We’ve packed the studios with audiences energetically cheering and applauding the performances. It’s rewarding to see such a fervid response. More than one of the guest musicians have told me how much fun they had playing for such an appreciative audience. It’s also part of the mission of *Jazz Nightly* to provide a forum for local musicians. It’s the most important thing I can do on the program. Without an audience, local jazz can’t flourish.

It’s disappointing that live *Jazz Nightly* shows have been canceled during the Covid-19 pandemic, but I’m looking forward to presenting local talent again whenever things start getting back to normal.

Of the myriad of things I’ve done in public radio, it’s difficult to pick one that’s my favorite. But certainly, hosting *Jazz Nightly* must be at the top of the list. I’ve loved and listened to jazz all my life. Nearly every day is like Christmas as I open packages of the latest jazz releases. It’s especially exciting when I hear new music that really grabs me from musicians I was previously unfamiliar with.

Jazz is woven into the fabric of American history and in many ways it’s the musical embodiment of the American ideal. I’m grateful to have the opportunity to share the rich history of jazz and the legends who created it and to let listeners hear how contemporary players are expressing themselves through jazz and pushing the music in new directions.

I’m thankful to South Dakota Public Broadcasting for giving me so many unique opportunities. I can’t imagine any other place that would’ve encouraged and allowed me to explore so many different roles, projects and shows. I hope listeners have enjoyed what I’ve done over my 15 years with SDPB as much I have.

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[This article is excerpted from the March 2021 edition of SDPB Magazine and was written by *Jazz Nightly* host Karl Gehrke on the 15th anniversary of his employment at SDPB. Karl had hosted a talk show, an eclectic music program and has presented Big Band Spotlight during his tenure.]
Passing South Dakota’s anniversary of the first cases and deaths from COVID-19 SDPB continues its daily reports, discussions, and live coverage of the impact of COVID-19 on South Dakota. Coverage includes updates from SD Secretary of Health Kim Malsam-Rysdon and Governor Noem and ongoing conversations on In the Moment with medical professionals throughout South Dakota.

The state’s only live, one-hour medical program is On Call with the Prairie Doc. In April, the rotating hosts of On Call encourage viewers to Ask Anything, learn about Eyes: A Window To Your Health, discuss Addiction, understand the importance of Protecting and Repairing Your Bones, and understand Telemedicine.

In April Dakota Life offers greetings from the Corn Palace. Established in 1892 to celebrate the fall harvest, the structure has gone through several iterations, eventually being redesigned to resemble the original Moorish kiosks and minarets. In addition to its signature murals which are updated each year, the crop art castle hosts concerts, basketball tournaments, and an Oscar Howe Gallery. The famous Yanktonai Dakota artist designed the palace murals from 1948-1971.

Wish You Were Here, SDPB’s musical travelogue finds itself at the Stone Church in Firesteel, SD.

SDPB is pleased to partner with Levitt at the Falls to bring world class musical performances directly to viewers via live stream. Ranky-Tanky, a Grammy Award winning, Charleston, SC-based quintet performs timeless music born from the Gullah culture of the southeastern Sea Islands.

Friends of SDPB, South Dakota Public Broadcasting's fundraising and advocacy non-profit partner announces the Sound Vision campaign – an effort to raise $13-million to provide long-term support for programming, SDPB’s remote studios in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, and boutique studios in Spearfish, Aberdeen, Brookings, Pierre, and Red Cloud.

World-renowned pianist Emanuel Ax launches the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra’s centennial with Beethoven’s “Emperor” Concerto. This performance is the finale of Mr. Ax’s week-long SDSO residency including concerts at local schools, hospitals, and community centers. The performance, live-streamed by SDPB, features Piano Concerto No. 5, Op.73 “Emperor” and Symphony No. 7 by Ludwig van Beethoven.

“I have been a member for a while, and worked for the network for 16 years, so I have a long-term investment in SDPB. During the past few weeks with the COVID-19 pandemic, however, I’ve been reminded how much I rely on SDPB to bring me NPR news. I also want to support my friend who work at the network and thank them for all of the extra work I know they’re doing right now to keep people informed. This is important work, and a service to the rest of the state.”

– Janet, Vermillion, SD

“A small thank you for In the Moment as my lunchtime companion during the past covid work from home year.”

– Carolyne, Brookings, SD
In 1936, Ernest Hemingway accepted an invitation to hunt pheasants at Girton Lodge near Wentworth, SD. Unfortunately for the lodge owners who hoped to boost tourism by hosting big name hunters, Hemingway agreed to the 10-day trip only under the condition of anonymity. Save for a few, most South Dakotans were not aware the writer was in-residence until well after Hemingway, his wife, Pauline Pfeiffer, and son had departed the prairie.

But Hemingway’s hunting trip is not South Dakota’s sole connection to the storied author. Hemingway’s first book, Three Stories & Ten Poems (1923), was published by Robert McAlmon, Hemingway’s modernist contemporary and European travel companion. The son of a Presbyterian minister, McAlmon grew up in Wentworth, Volga, and Madison. Much of his published work, including the novel Village: As It Happened Through a Fifteen Year Period (1924), is based on McAlmon’s youth in Lake and Brookings counties.

McAlmon departed South Dakota around the age of 18 or 19, served briefly in the military, and lived in the Twin Cities, California, New York, Mexico, and Paris. While in New York, McAlmon became part of Greenwich Village’s avantgarde literary community, and founded the magazine Contact with his friend, the poet William Carlos Williams.

Here McAlmon also met and accepted the marriage proposal of the writer and heiress Annie Winifred Ellerman, daughter of billionaire British shipping magnate Sir John Ellerman. Annie, who took the pseudonym “Bryher” after her favorite island off the coast of Cornwall, not only funded Contact but also writers like James Joyce (McAlmon’s drinking companion), Edith Sitwell, and the American imagist poet Hilda “H.D.” Doolittle.

In 1921, McAlmon and Bryher joined the Lost Generation of expatriate writers in Paris – Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Langston Hughes, et. al. – where McAlmon set up the publishing house Contact Publishing Company, subsidized by the Ellerman family fortune. In addition to publishing Hemingway, McAlmon and Contact published books by Williams, Stein, Bryher, H.D., Ford Madox Ford and others.

McAlmon met Hemingway on the Italian Riviera on a visit to see Ezra Pound. McAlmon funded and joined Hemingway’s first trip to Spain and, subsequently, his first glimpse of a bullfight.

The frenemies, in the parlance of today, had their ups and downs. “There’s a competition between them,” says USD Professor Molly Rozum. “McAlmon’s grown up in South Dakota and Minnesota, and Hemingway’s very concerned with manliness and kind of writing about the Midwest. They’re both interested in writing in these modern forms. There’s tension between them over what it means to be manly.”

Nonetheless, Hemingway, writing to McAlmon from Austria, praises his friend and ostensible rival’s novel: “Village is absolutely first rate and damned good reading. We’ve all read it down here and everybody thinks it’s a knock-out.” McAlmon’s contribution to Hemingway’s fledgling career is becoming more widely known as scholars bring McAlmon to the fore.

McAlmon left France after the 1940 occupation. He continued to travel, write, and drink until contracting tuberculosis and settling in Hot Springs, California, where he died in 1956. The Robert McAlmon Papers, including letters, manuscripts and photos, are at the Beinecke Library at Yale University.

[This article is excerpted from the April 2021 edition of SDPB Magazine and was written as a companion to the Ken Burns series “Hemingway,” which was broadcast on PBS in April.]
The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Children annual memorial ride began in 2013. The ride originates at the Santee Reservation in Niobrara, Nebraska, travels to Fort Thompson and on to the state capitol in Pierre to honor victims. The Missing and Murdered is a locally produced film, broadcast by SDPB, that tells the history and follows the journey of the riders of today.

The state's only live, one-hour medical program is On Call with the Prairie Doc. In May, the rotating hosts of On Call present The Healing Power of Art, Oh! My Aching Back, and Listen to Your Gut.

May’s Dakota Life visits Fort Pierre. Known as the oldest continuously occupied white settlement in South Dakota, Fort Pierre is home to natural and historic sites: the mouth of the Bad River, the Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Center, the Verendrye Monument establishing France’s purported claim to the Louisiana Purchase, rodeo grounds and the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Museum, and the Fort Pierre Chouteau National Landmark, one of the largest Great Plains trading posts in the 1830s.

As the National Music Museum emerges from a 2-year renovation, SDPB partners with them to offer digital content and live discussions and performances of Old Guitars and the Musicians Who Love Them. The series SDPB goes behind the scenes of the collection at the National Music Museum in Vermillion to spotlight historic instruments in their collection. A screening includes performances by local musicians who love playing them.

Wish You Were Here, SDPB’s musical travelogue finds itself at the Kokomo Inn Art Gallery in Lemmon, SD. Artist John Lopez displays his own art, and creations from colleagues across the northern prairie.

As the school year comes to a close, so do sports and fine arts events presented by the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA). In May SDPB presents coverage of Boys Tennis, the Boys and Girls High School Track & Field Championships, and the All-State Jazz Band Concert.

SDPB’s popular garden program, South Dakota Home Garden returns in May. These digital presentations, under 6 minutes in length, feature opportunities to learn tips and tricks for growing blooms and blossoms in South Dakota’s short but sweet growing season. Presented online and on SDPB-TV.
Buffalo are returning in greater numbers to the Sicangu Lakota Oyate. A project of the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO), Wolakota, meaning “to live the Lakota way of life,” is building a bison herd on 28,000 acres of Rosebud Sioux Tribal lands. The multiyear build-up phase includes plans that convert the former working ranch known as Mustang Meadows from cattle to a 1,500-strong bison herd, as well as a workshop and gathering space. Wolakota is also exploring a processing plant, cultural and ecotourism and educational outreach.

The regenerative buffalo range is taking shape on land that was formerly under non-Indian ownership and control and is within the boundaries of the tribal nation. The plan is to build Wolakota into the largest Native-owned and managed buffalo range in the world.

REDCO is partnering with organizations like the World Wildlife Fund and the U.S. Department of the Interior, working to ensure the herd is grown sustainably and tended in a culturally appropriate manner, including a diverse range of animals such as older females and bulls who regulate and govern the herd. Buffalo from Badlands National Park, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and Montana’s American Prairie Reserve have been relocated to the Sicangu Lakota Oyate. Wizipan Little Elk (Sicangu Lakota), REDCO Chief Executive Officer, explains the origins and mission of Wolakota.

“The relationship between Lakota and buffalo is one that is inextricable. Buffalo cannot be separated from Lakota and Lakota cannot be separated from buffalo. We’re one and the same people.

We consider buffalo to be our ancestors. When the buffalo were taken from us, it was a massive blow. When the genocide was committed against the Lakota and against other indigenous peoples, there was also a genocide committed against buffalo – a very specific and concerted effort to wipe out buffalo from the land. With colonial expansion, they knew that if they were able to eliminate buffalo from the land that it would then be easier to take our land and to move us onto the reservations.

The buffalo were everything to us. They were our food. They provided our clothing, our shelter, our ceremonial items. They were our teachers on how to organize ourselves and our society – on how to treat one another with kindness and compassion, on how to protect children, on how to honor our elders.

This is an opportunity to not dwell on the past, but to acknowledge it and move forward with new vision and with new light into a future that is healthy for our people, for our region, and for the planet. The greatest opportunity that we’re going to have with the Wolakota project is the ability to form meaningful relationships with buffalo and to bring them back – not necessarily into our daily lives, but perhaps into a part of our monthly or annual lives. We will have an opportunity to see them, to interact with them, and to form that relationship.

This herd doesn’t belong to any one individual, one nation, or even one generation. This herd belongs to our people, the buffalo people, and it belongs to our future generations.”

[Excerpted article from SDPB Magazine providing background for one of the segments seen on the May edition of Dakota Life.]
The world starts opening up as COVID numbers dip and vaccinated people emerge from social isolation. Though not over, South Dakotans decide to host and participate in events in-person. SDPB is there for some, and offers online experiences for those who continue to isolate.

Our partnership with the Levitt Shell continues. **SDPB provides online experiences** for the series of free concerts, including:

- **Ranky Tanky** - A soulful mix of the low country Gullah traditions with large doses of jazz, gospel, funk and R&B.
- **Lucas Hoge** – The Hubbell, NE native is a contemporary country artist with a polished, pop-influenced sound but a down-home attitude.
- **Dallas Chief Eagle** - A recognized master of the Lakota hoop dance.
- **Bo DePeña** - Bo draws from the legends and his own experiences to delight fans with thoughtful lyrics and high energy shows.
- **Mae Simpson Band** – Original, high energy funk and soul out of Minneapolis.
- **Goodroad** - Local favorites who play everything from Johnny Cash to Metallica to originals.
- **The Two Tracks** - This Sheridan, Wyoming quartet serves up genre-bending Americana.

SDPB is at the **605 Summer Classic** music and beer-tasting festival, June 19 in Sioux Falls.

**SDPB sweeps the Murrow Awards.** South Dakota Public Broadcasting won nine 2021 Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for Small Market Radio, including “Overall Excellence.”

SDPB’s well-traveled crew drives to Fort Pierre in June to record the **South Dakota High School Rodeo Championships**. Recorded highlights are edited and presented as a 2-hour special in July.

In conjunction with the SDHS Rodeo, **In the Moment** shines a spotlight on Rodeo and Western Culture in South Dakota. From the people and places that make up the rodeo traditions, to the State High School Rodeo Finals in Fort Pierre, to the politics behind the construction of the new livestock complex and rodeo arenas in Huron.

A new signature segment on In the Moment with Lori Walsh, **the SDPB Bookshelf**, dives into South Dakota’s literary heritage with a look at the state’s iconic, lesser known, and even quirky literary offerings. Their first offering is *Ambrose Bierce and the Black Hills* by Paul Fatout. Published in 1956, the book recounts Bierce’s role in 1880 as general agent for the Black Hills Placer Mining Company, headquartered in Rockerville.

Old Guitars and the Musicians Who Love Them, which offered digital bites in May, is a **full-fledged documentary that premieres in June on SDPB-TV**. (More on page 27)
Old Guitars and the Local Musicians Who Love Them features artists performing on acoustic or electric guitars, talking about their favorites, and demonstrating the unique qualities and sounds that their favorite instruments can produce.

They also talk about the tangible and intangible things that led them to prefer one brand or model of guitar over another. Experienced guitarists may find the artists’ insights enlightening. Beginning guitarists will find them encouraging.

Michael Hilson was born in Yankton and is a guitar instructor in the music department at the University of South Dakota. He's also a performer fluent in several genres, including classical and jazz. Hilson talks about learning to play the guitar and says that although a high-end guitar won’t automatically make anyone a better player, the difference in sound between top-quality and second-tier instruments can be striking.

“You know, when suddenly you have a great instrument in your hand it’s like, ‘Oh. That’s what they’re supposed to be like,’” says Hilson.

Hilson also discusses some of the digital technologies now available to guitar players and how they have or haven't changed music and musical performance.

The documentary also features performances on several of the guitars collected and preserved by the National Music Museum in Vermillion. Arian Sheets is the Curator of Stringed Instruments with the Museum.

Sheets talks about the history of guitar manufacturers like Martin and Gibson, describes guitar materials, design and construction, and explains the significance of certain guitars in the evolution of folk, jazz, rock, and other guitar-centric music.

“There are people who absolutely believe that the vintage instruments have the best sound,” Sheets says. “What it’s probably more like is that it’s a sound that we get used to — we’ve heard these very great musicians within a few years of when these instruments were made. That’s what was available at the highest end of the line and so that sound, albeit a very good sound, is just something we get used to.”

Sheets also believes that we are in a golden age of instrument-building and quality. New technologies allow very precise and uniform construction, so as long as manufacturers use good quality materials, they’ll continue to produce high quality and relatively low-cost guitars. But there will always be a market for vintage guitars.

“I couldn’t say that these instruments are better (than new instruments),” Sheets said. “They’re just, again, going back to the idea of the classics. They’re something that people are used to and something that they associate with the best music in the genres they were played in.”

[From the June edition of SDPB Magazine]
SDPB created Early Learning Initiative (ELI) in 2020. The ELI program has a simple straightforward goal: To ensure that every child in South Dakota begins kindergarten ready-to-learn.

This outreach-based service provides childcare centers and homes free tools and learning opportunities in communities where learners are.

More than 60 percent of children in South Dakota do not attend preschool. In many cases, SDPB and PBS Kids are the only educational resource some children have. With 50 years of trusted educational programming and resources, PBS and SDPB have educated children with high-quality programs based on proven child development themes.

SDPB is poised to connect those resources to those with needs. Today we connect with our youngest learners on television, through web-based learning, via mobile apps, and through text messages specific to the age of subscribers’ children.

In partnership with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, SDPB launches Sesame Street in Communities. Through the program SDPB’s Early Education Team offers free toolkits, print resources and virtual workshops for South Dakota teachers, parents and caregivers.

Working at the national, region, and local levels, Sesame Workshop and SDPB foster relationships with community based agencies, integrating our resources into their existing work to engage families and young children in a deep connection.

- With the help of the Sesame Street in Communities partnerships, SDPB Education
- Offered state-wide training sessions on using the SSIC materials;
- Presented to the SD Early Childhood Education Conference – April 2021;

This is a response we received from Brenda Bernard, Preschool & Elementary Academic Principal at Sioux Falls Lutheran School:

“When we received an invitation to partner with South Dakota Public Broadcasting’s Early Learning Initiative, I knew getting connected with Sesame Street in Communities would be exciting for us as a school and for our families. I noticed early on that we had very common goals in serving families, with a focus on helping families stay healthy and stay connected, while helping our teachers have access to high quality materials that are developmentally appropriate for the ages of kids we serve.

Each week, we receive emails from Sesame Street in Communities which provides compact, but impactful ideas for teachers and families. One of my favorite recent emails was titled “Bendy Brain.” The article gave quick, playful ideas for encouraging flexible thinking which allows us to make the best of bad situations, try out new ways to do simple things, and learn how to see from others’ perspectives. By using these simple techniques, we can help our very young children develop skills of resiliency that they will need throughout their lives. We use these resources in our school newsletters to provide connection for our families also.

With the Sesame Street in Communities resources, we can be assured new ideas will stick in their learning.”

The SDPB Education Team, which includes a former Professor of Education, former Elementary School Principal, former middle and high school Science teacher and current high school educator, travels the state to make educators, caregivers, parents, and homeschoolers aware of the resources we offer.
SDPB TRUSTED NEWS & INFORMATION

“Appreciation for the news shared each morning and your extra efforts to inform South Dakotans in this time of the pandemic.” Penny, Yankton

“I love the information you share both on the PBS TV and on the NPR News. Thank you a million for the great quality information you share. We love both the serious news we need to know and the lighthearted music, entertainment, nature shows, and children’s programs you offer commercial free. How blessed we are to have your continued voice in our world. Sending you all the best from our family!!!” Ty M., Webster

“Really enjoy Lori Walsh interviews--In the Moment--she’s our SD Terry Gross! Also 1A and On Point with the ‘daughters’ of the founding mothers of NPR. Excellent interviewers/host broadcasting the culmination of lots of work producing balanced and thought-provoking news and topics of our world. We NPR junkies have the best sources of information. Thank you to the NPR staff across the US.” Jan G., Alcester

SDPB VALUE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DAKOTA (AND BEYOND)

“SDPB, especially South Dakota Public Radio is a big part of our lives. We are very thankful for its news coverage and programs like Fresh Air and In The Moment. Before COVID I hardly watched television at all but during COVID I have been enjoying shows like Ken Burn’s on Ernest Hemingway and the program on Oliver Sachs.” Charles F., Rapid City

“Our family depends on PBS for great entertainment, unique information and unbiased factual reporting.” Gwen S., Watertown

“I am a native South Dakotan but I did not discover public radio until several years after I graduated from South Dakota State University and left the state. In the intervening years, I have seen how SDPB has sustained my mom’s need for intellectual stimulation and information (She moved to a family farm in South Dakota from Chicago 57 years ago and it was quite a culture shock.). I think SDPB is one of the most important public services a rural state has.” Fern P., Charlotte, NC

“I know how important public broadcasting is to our freedom and democracy. I feel that the news coverage is unbiased and can be trusted.” Leanne J., Watertown