

Artist of the Year to be honored at Tea



Artist Jill Holien, the 2016 Artist of the Year at the Suzie Cappa Art Center, will be honored at the Suzie Cappa Royal Tea on Sunday, May 1.

Jill is a full-time artist at the center, has worked in a number of mediums including painting, needlepoint and basket weaving, but she's best known for her colorful sculptures made with Styrofoam heads, which she paints then adorns with colored pipe cleaners, yarn, and other materials. Carla Julius, an instructor at the art center, says Jill's sculptures are very popular. "The customers are always drawn to her heads. Hair stylists love them and Jill has done many special orders for people." Carla says Jill's sculptures have been purchased by people from around the world.

Jill has participated in theater and dance productions through Flutter Productions and Barefoot Dance Studio and continues to take classes through both organizations. Kay Anderson, Jill's mother, is very proud of her daughter. "When Jill was little, all the doctors were telling me all of the things that she couldn't do. When

she was 31, she was in her first dance recital, and I sat in the audience and cried because they told me she would never do that. All the things that were spoken that she would never do, she has done. She has fulfilled everything that a mom wants for

her child."

The Artist of the Year is chosen each year by the Suzie Cappa Art Center Advisory Committee and honored at the annual Suzie's Royal



2016 Artist of the Year, Jill Holien.

Tea. This year's tea will be held on Sunday, May 1, 1:30-4:00 p.m. at the Suzie Cappa Art Center, 722 St. Joseph in Rapid City. Tickets are \$50. For more information contact Tara Wilcox at 605-718-6207. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit Flutter Productions.

In this issue

Active lives

Native Cultural Awareness focus at BHW.....Page 3

Art corner

SCAC artist's work on Chamber Directory.....Page 2

A Word From Our CEO

Smart Balance.....Page 7

Daily living

Thermoplastic makes more independence possible.....Page 4

People First Grant assists family with transportation.....Page 6

Kudos

Three inducted into Hall of Fame.....Page 2

Artist of the Year to be honored at tea.....Page 1

Making a living

Hydroponics brings new opportunities.....Page 3

Twenty-five years at the EAFB Commissary.....Page 7

Mark your calendar

Retirement party for Colleen Ronning.....Page 2

Electronics recycling event.....Page 8

Thank you

Sturgis Buffalo Chip to support gym renovation.....Page 3

Meyer & Dana support BHW.....Page 3

BHWF receives SD Community Foundation grant.....Page 4

BHWF benefits from Cannon legacy gift.....Page 4

You're invited!
Retirement Party
for
Colleen Ronning
April 8, 5-8 p.m.
Suzie Cappa Art Center
722 St. Joseph

The public is invited to join us in honoring Colleen Ronning as she retires from Black Hills Works after 42 years of service to people with disabilities.



Colleen Ronning

Colleen began her 42-year career with Black Hills Works as a pre-vocational instructor, assisting individuals with disabilities to learn vocational skills. She later became a case manager, then the Director of Case Management, the Admissions Coordinator, and finally Vice President of Support Services. In this capacity, she has led the employees that make up our community support and admissions departments and operate our Suzie Cappa Art Center. In all of her roles and throughout her successful career, Colleen has been directly involved in assisting the more than 600 people with disabilities we support to achieve their dreams. She has played an integral part in the movement to bring people with disabilities into the community where they can have opportunities to seek and reach their potential and serve as leaders in their own right.

Diane Flahaven-Neu will assume Colleen's position. Diane started with Black Hills Works in 1994 as a case manager. She later moved into a position as residential supervisor before becoming finance manager in 2006.

Three inducted into Hall of Fame



Carla Streeter, Marie Greenfield-Sahli, and Barb Larsen, the newest inductees into the Black Hills Works Hall of Fame.

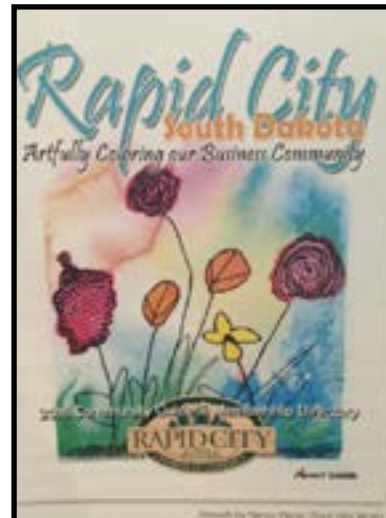
Congratulations **Carla Streeter, Marie Greenfield-Sahli, and Barb Larsen**, the newest inductees into the Black Hills Works Hall of Fame. They were honored at a surprise luncheon on **Wednesday, December 9**. The three were nominated by their supervisors, then selected by past Hall of Fame winners. They each received \$1000 and a plaque. The Hall of Fame was created to honor Black Hills Work's top employees, those who are leaders, maybe not in title, but by their actions. They are selected based on their commitment to our mission, vision, and values, and their adherence to our standards. Being selected for the Hall of Fame is Black Hills Works' ultimate recognition of an employee's contributions to our agency.

Carla has been with Black Hills Works since January 1997 and during that time she has worked in a variety of residential environments. Marie was hired at Black Hills Works in February 1994 and promoted to payroll manager in 1996. Barb Larsen started at Black Hills Works more than 30 years ago as an associate instructor in housing. From 1987 to 1996, she worked in the vocational area as both an instructor and job developer/job coach. But since 1996, she's been a service coordinator in Community Support Services.

Artist's work on Chamber directory



Congratulations Nancy Weiss whose work was selected for the cover of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Community Guide & Business Directory.



Native Cultural Awareness focus at BHW

Twelve percent or 77 of the 638 people served by Black Hills Works have Native American heritage. The Cultural Awareness Initiative was established in June of 2015 with five goals in mind:

- To be more diverse and more welcoming
- To increase hiring and retention of culturally diverse staff
- To provide person-centered services to people from culturally diverse backgrounds
- To network with community leaders and organizations
- To increase understanding of our local Native American cultures

The Cultural Awareness Initiative committee has made amazing progress in the short time they've been in existence. They have made connections with many Native American journalists, educators, human service providers, and other leaders. They have added cultural prompt questions to our person-centered planning process. They have helped provide tickets to the Lakota Nation Invitational basketball tournament, made contact with Oglala Lakota College regarding CNA training, and built cultural awareness into our staff training, both for new and seasoned staff. The committee has plans for many other ways to address their five goals in the future.

Like
Black Hills Works
on Facebook
and follow us
on Twitter
@blackhillsworks

Buffalo Chip to support gym renovation

The Sturgis Buffalo Chip announced a pledge for South Dakota Special Olympics and Black Hills Works. The announcement was made January 16 during the Buffalo Chip Challenge, an industrial education and scholarship program that partners students with leading industry professionals. Each year student teams work to customize motorcycles that will compete with pro builders from around the country. Student participants are eligible to win scholarships from funds raised during the annual Legends Ride held during the rally. The Buffalo Chip will be pledging \$100,000 over the next four Legends Rides to go toward renovating the Black Hills Works gymnasium to be better suited for Special Olympics. The gym will be made more accessible to the hundreds of local athletes of both the "Rapid City Storm" and "Rapid City Flame" teams. Thank you Sturgis Buffalo Chip!



Tyler Brink (right) poses with Rusty Jones of Rusty Jones Customs at the Buffalo Chip Challenge Bike Build.

Meyer & Dana support BHW



Dr. Richard Meyer, Brad Saathoff, and Julie Beach, office manager at Meyer & Dana Orthodontics, which chooses an organization to support each quarter.

Hydroponics brings new opportunities

Donald Oliver works with Gregson Gardens on our new hydroponic gardening partnership. Hydroponics is the process of growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid, with added nutrients but without soil.



Donald Oliver works with Gregson's Gardens at Black Hills Works.

Donald started working with the Gregson's on January 19 and planted 600 seeds on his first day! On his second day, he planted 1,000 seeds! Job Developer Amanda Harvey says the Gregsons are thrilled with Donald's work and enthusiasm and his eagerness to learn. Donald currently works Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Amanda says he is looking forward to warmer weather and more hours.

Thermoplastic makes more independence possible

When it comes to helping people live independently, the Technology Team has a lot of tricks up their sleeves. One of the most adaptable ones is called InstaMorph. InstaMorph is a lightweight thermoplastic which acts like clay when warm; when it cools, it's an exceptionally strong plastic. InstaMorph becomes moldable at a relatively low temperature and solidifies at room temperature. This property makes it perfect for an assortment of adaptive aids, and the technology team has used it to create adaptive styluses and paint brushes, a custom walker glide, custom leg braces, and sensory toys. Below, Jeff Vermundson uses an adaptive device created by Richard Harrington. The device makes it easier for Jeff to insert his laundry card into the washing machine.

You can find out about other assistive ideas at our *Creating Possibilities: Inspiring Creative Minds* conference May 26-27 at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. See www.blackhillsworks.org for more information.



Jeff Vermundson demonstrates the adaptive device Richard Harrington of our Technology Team made for him using InstaMorph.

BHWF receives SDCF Grant

The Black Hills Works Foundation is one of 13 South Dakota nonprofits to receive funds from the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF). The \$9,866 grant will be used to expand our hydroponic gardening venture with Gregson's Gardens and make it accessible to people supported employed there.



Front: Donald Oliver, Shad Bebout, Todd Gregson. Back: Kelly Gregson, Brad Saathoff, and Beth Massa from SDCF.

BHWF benefits from legacy gift



Jack and Ruth Cannon

Black Hills Works was one of seven organizations named beneficiaries of a permanent endowment fund established by Jack and Ruth Cannon through the South Dakota Community Foundation. Jack and Ruth both grew up in Rhode Island, but Jack's service in the Army Air Corps brought them to the Midwest soon after they married.

After his discharge from the Army in 1946, Jack began a 40-year journalism career. In 1953, he was hired as a staff writer for the Rapid City Journal where he rose through the ranks to become Sunday Editor, Associate Editor and Editorial Page Editor before retiring in 1986. Ruth was an administrative assistant for Norwest Bank presidents for 33 years. Both were very involved in our community.

Other organizations who were named beneficiaries were Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation, South Dakota Children's Home Society, Storybook Island, Black Hills Playhouse Foundation, Behavior Management Systems Endowment, and LaSalle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island.

Thank you for your generosity Donations received November 1, 2015-January 31

Allen, William & Cheryl
American Legion Post 22
Anderson, Shon & Tori
Anderson, Wayne & April
Antior, Robert & Judy
Application Technology on behalf of
Troy Fenenga
Baker, Darrel & Jackie
Baker, Edwin
Beck, Michael & Amy
Benson, Jerry & Jennie
Bertsch, Leonard & Bonita
Beshara, Robert & Marcia M.D.
Beshara, Tony
Black Hills Federal Credit Union
Black Hills Power, Inc.
Black Hills Regional Eye Institute
Black Hills Reptile Gardens, Inc.
Bodeson, Joseph & Tammy
Boland, John & Linda
Boyer, David & Mary
Braden, Ann
Brenden, Harold & Cheryl
Brugger, Kent
Bsharah, Norman
Burchill, Patrick & Lucy
Canete, Allen & Kimberly
Canyon Lake United
Methodist Church
Capra, Michael & Connie
Carrier, Mary
Cassidy, Irene
Civitan Club
Clarkson Family Trust
Collins Companies
Conley, Mike
Dave Schmidt Agency
Detwiler, Andrew & Joanne
Donnelly, Doug & Shirley
Door Security Products, Inc.
Duhamel Company Inc.
Duhamel, William & Judy
Dunmire, Miriam
East Middle School
Eberhard, David & Francesca
Eisenbraun, Stephen & Gayle
First National Bank
Fleming, James & Jodi
Fromm, Stuart
Fullerton, Jacquolyn
Gabrielson, Rich & Suzanne

Geoffrey, J.
Godber, Jeff & Holly
Gowen, Richard & Nancy
Graese, Clifford & LaVonne
Graham, Hugh
Green, Richard & Cecelia
Greni, Sterling & Vivian
Gresch, David & Dorothy
Hafner, Daniel & Becky
Hamilton, Richard & Jeannette
Hanley, James & Kathleen
Hanscom, Mae
Hansen, Greg & Pamela
Hasvold, Sharon & Mark
Hengen, Orville Sr.
Hengen, Steve & Ann
Hicks, Terry & Marie
Hilt, Joe & Bonnie
Hilton, Michael & Cynthia
Hohm, Dean & Jean
Holmes, Michael & Cynthia
Howard, John & Constance
Ichiban
Independent Optical
J Scull Construction
Jenner, Dennis & Leanna
Johnson, Charles & Mary Beth
Kelley, Bob
Ketel Thorstenson, LLP
Kirk Funeral Home
Knutsen, Roger & Janice
Kopp, William & Julie
Krause, Marty & Bobbi
Kreb, Kevin & Denise
Kuehn, D.K.
Larson, David
Lehmann, Karell
Lerdal, Mary
Liebelt, Orand & Ruth
Lindquist, Van & Pamela
Lindquist-Scoville, Adam & Stephanie
Linehan, James & Patricia
Lux, Jo Ann
Manley, Joanne
Martin, Velna
McGuire, Mike & Lori
Mckie, Mark & Kristol
Messersmith, Jordan & Marilyn
Meyer & Dana Orthodontics
Midwest Marketing, LLC
Moken, Michael & Debra

Mudge, Robert & Deborah
Munro, Joseph & Margie
Musegades, Kent
Nearhood, Bruce & Kim
Nelsen, George & Lois
Nelson, Duane & Lynn
Northwest Pipe Fittings
O'Keefe, Shari
Olson, Alta Jean
Pelly, Mike & Kathy
Pete Lien & Sons, Inc.
Peterson, Arliss
Peterson, Dale & Nancy
Pickering, Heather
Popp, Dennis
Prestjohn, Jason & Jessica
Project Solutions, Inc.
Randall, Kevin & Katherine
Reed, Marian
Rehorst, Beula
Rice Honda-Suzuki
Rice Valley View Properties
Ronning, Colleen A.
Rosby, Dorothy & Wayne
Saathoff, Brad & Karri
Scanlon, William & Ruth
Schmid, Chris & Marilyn
Schroeder, Donald & Lois
Seefeldt, Dave & Patricia
Selle, Helen Jane
Serna, Grant & Andrea
Short, Frank & Mary
Sietsema, Larry
Slater, Brad & Jennifer
Sly, Burton & Jacqueline
Solano, Valerie
Stanley J. Johnsen Concrete
Sunding, Marvin & Marlis
Sutliff, Willis & Patricia
Taylor Family Foundation
Thompson, James & Ruth
Tinant, A.K.
Van Liere, Donald & Donna
Wells Fargo Wealth Management
West River Electric
Whitcher, Gregory & Nancy
Wilcox, Dick & Melanie
Wilhelm, Jerad
Williams, Mark & Cathy
Zadziwon, John & Catherine

In Honor
Virginia Emley
Von Seggern, Patricia

Suzie Cappa staff
Bailie, Vicki

In Memory
Marilyn Hazlett
Interfaith Community Foundation

Raymond Huber
Liebelt, Orand & Ruth

James, Alice & Winfield Kibben
Kibben, Roxanne

Tony Schatz
Liebelt, Orand & Ruth

Ted & Blanche Steinback
Steinback, Paul & Bonnie

Larry Thovson
Moore, Vicki

In Kind
Applebees
Bates, Marilyn
Black Hills Harley
Bobbie Blumer
Botticelli's
Brady, Meta
Canvas 2 Paint
Carol White Fitness
Colonial House
Cottrill, Ken & Cori
Crazy Horse
Curry Masala
Diamond Vogel
Edible Arrangements
Elks Theatre
Famous Dave's
First Gold Hotel
Fischer Furniture
Herman, Janae
Jolly Lane Floral/Greenhouse
Ketel, Gregory & Sheila
Kno Place Upholstery Company
Lasting Memories Studio
Little Red Styling Hood
Liv Hospitality
Lowell Barr
Meiron, Doug

Midwest Marketing, LLC
Mystique Edge
Page, Anita
Parkside Chiropractic Center
Peck, Marvin & Dorothy
Perdues, Inc.
Pickering, Heather
Red Rock Golf Course
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
Scheels All Sports

Scull, James & Mary
Shaviq Studio & Gallery
Shooters
Sound Pro
Strider Sports International, Inc.
Von Hendricks, Claudia
Waller, William & Vida
Wilson, Roger & Diane
Women of the Moose #1221

People First grant assists family with transportation

Christopher and Annette Rivett were the recipients of a \$2,500 mini-grant from People First which they used to purchase a safer and larger vehicle for themselves and their two sons. The purpose of the mini-grants is to provide additional opportunities to individuals with disabilities to live to their full potential and access additional resources. The grants are focused in the areas of advocacy, medical needs, improved independence, education, employment, personal development, or a community project for people with disabilities.

Service coordinator Lisa Lotz and her husband James assisted the Rivetts in the selection process of a 2007 Dodge Grand Caravan purchased from Bow's Motors. She had high praise for the dealer and their staff. "We looked at several cars, kicked a lot of tires, and they were very fair, honest, and decent with pricing." Lisa said Annette and Chris had trouble with their previous vehicle on many occasions and she is grateful they will now have reliable transportation. "They are like family to me and I am thrilled this worked out so well. I feel good knowing they are safe and happy."

Along with the grant, Christopher and Annette got a small loan and were able to drive the car home on January 20. Annette's family has not yet met her youngest son, so the family is planning a visit to see family in Wyoming.

People First is an organization devoted to helping its members learn to advocate for themselves and others. This is the second year of their grant program. They hosted an award reception at the Suzie Cappa Art Center on January 15 to announce the 2016 awardees of their mini-grants. Also receiving grants were Autism Society of the Black Hills, Our Camp, Margaret Parker, and Western Resources for Independent Living for chairlifts.



The Rivett family takes their Dodge Caravan for a spin.

Smart Balance! A word from our CEO



Smart Balance. It's not just a butter substitute. We work hard to ensure our services are relevant for the people we support and their families, as well as in alignment with all federal and state regulations. Many rules and regulations driven by the Federal government and states that are not as rural as South Dakota. What makes sense in a different part of the country and for certain people with disabilities, does not always make sense for people here. The challenge is to find a smart balance.

WIOA: Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act

Challenge us to employ people the most integrated environments as possible.

Our Plans:

We've developed opportunities and facilitated relationships that help move people up the ladder of employment.

- In our hydroponic greenhouses, people work for Gregson's Gardens. Others operate their own micro businesses. This helps supply our community with healthy, organic, pesticide free produce.

- Our new bakery social enterprise which will be opening soon, will provide opportunities for people to learn bakery, customer service, and food service skills in real life work that can ready them to move to a community business. This also helps supply our community with locally produced products made with good, wholesome ingredients.

- EchoWorks which offers electronic recycling services helps people learn job skills that ready them for community jobs while also meeting a community need of keeping electronics out of our landfill and safely/securely destroying sensitive information on hard drives.

- Our job development staff is getting more into the creative side of figuring out what types of things a person could be successful working in by using the Discovering Your Personal Genius techniques. This can help us match people with businesses to meet some of their more unique needs by employing people in niche roles within their business.

HCBS Settings

This dictates how the setting we provide our services in can look and function. Essentially, they cannot be settings that can have the effect of isolating people with disabilities from the rest of the community.

Our Plans:

- Opening more housing like the recently opened townhouses at Antelope Ridge, where the housing is integrated and part of a neighborhood and not congregated too close together. This also provides living arrangements that are in smaller settings with 2-3 people living in a unit rather than the larger group homes that have 10-15 people living in a unit.

- Working to raise money to build smaller apartment buildings that would house 8 people in a combination of single efficiency and double bedroom units. There would be several of these spread out.

- Working to move the Learning Institute into a more integrated, community-use facility. Our Flutter Mixed Ability Theater and our efforts to turn our gym into more of a community gym where more people without disabilities use it for mixed use purposes are both steps towards this goal.

- Working to find other ways to integrate work settings that have traditionally been limited to people with disabilities and their staff into combined use facilities.

25 years at the EAFB Commissary



In February, Susan Guest celebrated her 25-year employment anniversary at the Ellsworth Air Force Base Commissary.

Congratulations Susan Guest on her 25-year anniversary at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Susan works for BH Services, stocking shelves part-time at the commissary. She says when she started at Ellsworth, she worked in the meat room and also did custodial work before taking on her stocking position. Susan says the friends she works with there are one of her favorite parts of the job.

Susan is a busy lady. Along with her part-time job at Ellsworth Air Force Base, she also works with a custodial crew which cleans business in Rapid City. Both of her jobs require her to work late evenings, but she says the hours suit her.

Susan has also been a volunteer at the Humane Society of the Black Hills for many years. She has logged over 500 hours caring for cats. In 2015, she was named the Humane Society's Volunteer of the Year.

BLACK HILLS WORKS
P.O. Box 2104
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709
(605) 343-4550

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rapid City, SD
Permit No. 67

Clear your home of unused electronics

Echo-Works, our new electronic recycling division, will soon be placing new collection bins in various locations throughout the city. Look for the yellow and black collection bins and drop off your computers, televisions, cell phones and all those other electronic items cluttering up your home and office. Our first bin is located in the lobby of Black Hills Works main building at 3650 Range Road in Rapid City. Meanwhile, there will be a public collection event on April 23. Location to be announced.



Address changes?

Please check your address label carefully and send your address changes to:

Dorothy Rosby
Black Hills Works
P.O. Box 2104
Rapid City, SD 57709

You can also email your changes to drosby@bhws.com or call 605-718-6205.

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email, send your email address to drosby@bhws.com. It will not be shared with other organizations.

The Works is published quarterly by the Black Hills Works Foundation. The Black Hills Works Foundation is dedicated to supporting comprehensive, quality services for people with disabilities. The Foundation is committed to ensuring those services now and in the future. Comments and questions are encouraged and may be addressed to Dorothy Rosby, Editor, Box 2104, Rapid City, SD 57709, or call (605) 343-4550. You can also email drosby@bhws.com. Visit us at our website at www.blackhillsworks.org.