

Southern Hills Publishing, Inc.

Publishers of the Custer County Chronicle, Hill City Prevailor-News, Western Trader

P.O. Box 551 - Custer, SD 57730
Phone (605) 673-2217 - Fax (605) 673-3321

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names
Department of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota Pierre, SD 57501

JUN 22 2015

To chairwoman June Hansen, vice chairman Jay D. Vogt and members of the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names Eileen Bertsch, Steve Emery and Joe Nadenicek:

We are submitting a packet of articles, editorials and a column written about the proposed renaming of Harney Peak.

The Custer County Chronicle, as well as many members of the community are against the renaming of Harney Peak, whether it be Hinhan Kaga, Black Elk Mountain or any other name. We feel there is no need to change the name of a prominent South Dakotan feature that has had its name for 160 years.

Hundreds of Custer County and Pennington County residents, including members of the Custer County Commissioners and Custer City Council, have all agreed the name should remain Harney Peak and nothing else.

It would be in the best interest of Custer County, Pennington County and the state of South Dakota to keep the name of Harney Peak. We hope you agree that it would be frivolous and irresponsible to change the name of a well-known and recognized South Dakota landmark.

We maintain there is no compelling reason to change the name of Harney Peak.

Sincerely,



Charley Najacht

Publisher, operator of Southern Hills Publishing
Custer County Chronicle, Hill City Prevailor News



Partnering for success

Opinion

Tesla rally a welcome event

The latter part of 2012, Rod Hoffman of Evergreen, Colo., was thinking about buying a new Mercedes Benz for around \$100,000. The retired engineer then started looking into an all-electric Tesla car in about the same price range.

He weighed his options and decided to go with the Tesla, which requires no fuel, oil or liquids of any type, save windshield washer fluid. He ordered the car in December 2012 on the internet, clicking on the options he desired on his black Model S rear-wheel drive.

"It was the most expensive thing I ever bought on the internet," Hoffman said with a grin. The car was delivered to his home in March 2013, three months later, and he wrote a check. "That was it," he said.

As I sat in the driver's seat last Friday, it is obvious that the car is a technological wonder and finely-crafted work of art. From its 17-inch information and navigational screen to its leather interior with real wood grain accents, it is all you can ask for a luxury car.

For What It's Worth

By Charley Najacht



Its all-aluminum frame and body would make it an extremely light car, were it not for some 7,000 small lithium ion batteries that are stored in an antifreeze-type fluid about four inches thick at the bottom of the car. It is these batteries that push the weight of the car to 4,800 pounds.

The Tesla came with its share of energy-saving related rebates, \$6,000 from the state of Colorado and \$7,500 in a federal alternate energy vehicle tax credit. These rebates and tax credits lowered the price of the car a bunch.

Hoffman explained that the car gets the equivalent of 100 miles per gallon on the road. There is no fuel to buy, no spark plugs, no oil and no mufflers. If an owner paid for electricity, it would add up to three cents per mile. From Denver, he recharged at Tesla free electricity stations in Lusk and

Cheyenne, Wyo., on his way to Custer.

Let's talk performance. "Do you want to go for a ride?" Hoffman asked me. We quickly exchanged places in the car and we took it for a spin. The car can go from 0-60 in an impressive, neck snapping four seconds.

"The new ones can do it in 3.1 seconds," Hoffman said. "That's faster than a McLaren F1!" The new Teslas are all-wheel drive and have an electric motor to drive the front wheels and another motor at the rear to power those wheels. The two electric motors generate the equivalency of 700 horsepower.

Braking is simple. If you are on an even plane and take your foot off the accelerator, the car will simply glide to a fairly quick stop. It's kind of like braking with an electric golf cart. He said he hardly ever uses his brakes.

When he had the car serviced at 15,000 miles, the tires were rotated, windshield wiper fluid was added and his windshield wipers were replaced. The

car came with a four-year, 50,000-mile standard warranty. For another \$2,500 you could have the warranty extended to eight years and 100,000 miles.

"It's truly like driving an i-Pad, it's so smooth," Hoffman said. The American-made car is assembled in a former Toyota truck plant in Fremont, Calif. Many of its components come from Mercedes Benz cars.

The aeromatically designed car (even the outside door handles retract into the body of the car) is rated 99 out of 100 by Consumer Reports. The one shortfall they found was a lack of any handgrabs in the car's interior.

Hoffman and his brother-in-law, Custer Chamber executive director Dave Ressler, got their heads together last year to organize the first Tesla rally that saw 10 cars make their way to Custer City. This year there were 45 cars that made the trek here from as far away as California (five). The goal is 100 cars next year. That would be something!

Question of the Week:

Why do we celebrate Memorial Day?



Tristen Thurman
— "Because we miss those who died."



Hayden Virtue
— "Because we miss others."



Carly Borkowski
— "Because our family is really, really special."



Jayse Noem
— "For the people who protect our state and country."



Daniel Ferraro
— "For those who died and are in heaven."



Aspen Scherer
— "Because people miss each other."

point ge is fusing

Names came up with a recent series of name change for meetings was held April Black Elk Peak and es recommended at the

with a proposed name taga, which supposed- This reportedly is the by native people. We this name came up at

rd passed on the pro- cause Harney Peak is Area and would be too oo much like Harney come to think of it, just Peak would be confus-

ames "was created by end replacements for atures and to process names for geographic web site. When the a Native American to ecause he said Indians ng wheels were set in

hical point east of the southern Pennington ss Area of the Black is name change busi- nyone knew anything the geographic land-

verneur K. Warren in en. William S. Harney, k Hills area in the late hat Harney does not k because of his lead- tle of Ash Hollow.

ers who attacked 250 m, along with some lost 27 killed in what r. The military attack 9 soldiers and a civil- ous year in Wyoming.

ide of these numerous the Indians. Atrocities arney was following d carried them out as

will take another vote

Opinion

Our Viewpoint

Harney Peak should not have its name changed

The S.D. Board of Geographic Names held a public meeting in Custer last Tuesday morning, April 28, at the Custer County Annex to consider a proposal to re-name Harney Peak. The highest geographical point east of the Rocky Mountains is located in southern Pennington County in the Black Elk Wilderness Area of the Black Hills National Forest.

The peak was named by Lt. Gouverneur K. Warren in honor of Gen. William S. Harney, who commanded military troops in the Black Hills area in the late 1870s. Dr. Valentine McGillivuddy is believed to be the first to climb the 7,242-foot summit. He served as an Army surgeon on several campaigns and later as Indian Agent at the Red Cloud Agency. His ashes are buried on Harney Peak.

Myron Pourier, past fifth member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and director of Black Elk Development, and the great-great-grandson of Black Elk, and Basil Brave Heart, 81, a Korean veteran, met in September 2014 and committed themselves to the name change initiative, according to a March 30 news article in the *Lakota Country Times*.

Brave Heart maintains that Harney does not deserve to have his name on the peak because of his leadership role in the Sept. 3, 1855, Battle of Ash Hollow or Battle of Blue Water Creek, as it is also known, that took place in present-day Nebraska. Harney led a force of 600 soldiers who attacked 250 Sioux warriors, killing 86 of them, along with some women and children. The soldiers lost 27 killed in what has been called the First Sioux War.

To understand how this happened, we have to go back to Aug. 19, 1854, when 29 soldiers led by recent West Point graduate Lt. John Grattan and a civilian interpreter, were killed by some Lakota Sioux in present day Wyoming when the soldiers entered their 1,200 warrior-strong camp attempting to arrest an Indian who was accused of killing a cow from a Mormon caravan.

A horse or a cow was offered in retribution by the Indians, but the lieutenant insisted on having the guilty Indian arrested and taking him back to the fort. The Indian refused to go with them. Things got tense and a nervous soldier fired his weapon, killing a Sioux. Grattan and the entire group of soldiers were killed, all over the argument about a \$25 missing cow. This incident came to be known as the Grattan Massacre or the Grattan Fight.

When news of this military loss got back to the War Department, plans of retaliation were formulated to punish the Sioux. Col. William S. Harney was recalled from Paris in April 1855 and sent to Fort Kearney where he was given command of 600 troops made up of four mounted companies and five infantry companies.

They set out on Aug. 24, 1855, on their mission to find and punish the Sioux who were involved in the Grattan Massacre. On Sept. 3 Harney's command found and engaged 230 Sioux at Ash Hollow, and the rest is history.

We certainly understand why the Sioux would be no fans of Gen. Harney, or any U.S. soldiers, but there were so-called massacres on both sides during the Indian Wars. We have to ask, where will all of this re-naming of historical places take us? We have already made changes to anything with the name squaw or negro in it. After Harney, what is next, Custer?

There were no saints on either side of these numerous encounters between the military and the Indians. Harney was following orders from the War Department and carried them out as any soldier is expected to do. We don't agree with the change to Black Elk Peak or any other renaming of Harney Peak. There already is a Black Elk Wilderness Area where Harney Peak is located.

We don't need to change the name of this historic landmark just for the sake of change or political correctness. There is no compelling reason to change its name.

It's decision time: What would you do?

Let's play "Pretend" today, dear readers. We will set a scenario for you after which you will have to make a decision. Grab a cup of coffee and prepare to struggle mightily.

To begin with, you are not a set-for-life retired couple, living in the woods with deer and turkeys in your backyard and a breathtaking view of the Black Hills through your living-room window. Actually you are a couple struggling to keep it together. And what you see through the window is pretty much what your neighbors across the street see when they look at your place.

You want nice things for your two kids. They need new shoes and some school clothes. You'd like to send them to a summer camp just once. But you have a house mortgage payment and the place needs work. The front steps are in decline and should be repaired. The roof needs shingling, thanks to last year's hailstorm. There's a leak through the ceiling in one of the kids' bedrooms when it rains hard.

The man of the house, injured in an accident at work last year, has had a couple surgeries which insurance didn't totally cover, so the bills have piled up. Mom works downtown from early morning into the afternoon, so Dad makes sure the kids are off to school on his way to work, which gets him home at supertime or later. He has picked up a part-time job for Saturdays in a friend's business to help ease the crunch.

But something always comes up and more often than not, there is more month left at the end of the money, rather than vice versa.

On one Sunday as Dad is trying to fix one of the kids' 6-year-old bicycles and Mom is working through



Small Talk
By Parker Knox

the week's laundry, a car with out-of-state plates pulls up along the front sidewalk. From it emerges a man carrying a briefcase. Mom sees him through the window as she is folding clothes and towels. "Oh, Lord," she thinks to herself. "Now what?"

The man from the car asks for the man and the woman of the house by name.

"May I come inside for a moment?" he says.

So you and your spouse warily sit at the kitchen table and eye the visitor as he sets before you his briefcase.

"Open it, please," he says.

What you see when you snap open the briefcase makes your mouths drop. The briefcase is full of bundles of dollar bills, more money than either of you has ever seen in one place in your lifetimes.

The man begins to explain, "This briefcase contains \$101,000. The money is yours to do with as you wish."

You and your spouse look at each other. You look at the guy standing before you. Of course you want to know why.

"All I can say is that someone thinks you deserve this money," he says.

Your minds have already been racing out of control, thinking of what this money could do for you and your family—fix the house, repair the cars, get some things for the kids, set aside a bit for emergencies, pay down the mortgage.

"However," the man says, and when he does, reality snaps you and your

mate from your euphoria. "However, there is a decision you have to make. You can keep all of the money, no questions asked. Or you can keep one-half the money and give the other half to another deserving family. Or you can choose to give it all away to them. You have 24 hours to decide."

But first, the visitor hands you an envelope, inside of which you find a narrative about a family, the Caseys, in Omaha. Burned out of their home in a fire, they—father, mother, three kids 12 and younger—are renting another place. Some items were saved, but they have had to go into debt to secure clothes and furniture. Both parents work and the father has taken on extra shifts. One of their vehicles was recently rendered useless in an accident, struck by a driver without insurance.

"These are the people whom your money would help, should you make that decision," the man says. "I will be back tomorrow night to hear your decision."

And with that, he takes the briefcase and drives away.

You sit at the table with your head in your hands, looking again at the story of the Casey family.

Do you and your spouse immediately begin to say things like, "Is this really our money?" and "Do we deserve to keep all of that money?" Or do you say "This was given to us, wasn't it? Why should we share it when we need it so badly?"

You wrestle with your decision through a sleepless night. When the man's car arrives out front the next night, your hearts are pounding.

"Are you sure this is what we're going to do?" you ask.

"Yes, it's our decision."

Your spouse replies.

We would like to know what your decision is. When the man asks, you tell him. He nods affirmatively.

"All right; that is your decision. And that decision stands. But I have one more thing to tell you. We have arranged to fly you to Denver and we are flying the Caseys out there, too, so you can meet them."

A day later at a Denver hotel you and your spouse come face to face with Mr. and Mrs. Casey from Omaha. You assume that, if that was your decision, you will get to see part or all of "your" money given to the Caseys, or, if it was your decision to keep all of the \$101,000, you will be given the chance to explain your actions.

But the man with the briefcase has one more stunner to spring on you.

"What none of you knew is that we gave a briefcase full of money to each of you two families," he said. "Each of you was given the same choice—keep it all, keep half of it or give it all away to the other family. We are here to reveal your decisions."

Could this be awkward? Embarrassing? Rewarding? What was your decision? What was their decision?

Would this be a nice problem to have? In some ways, perhaps. In other ways, certainly not. But this sort of story is the premise of a reality series called "The Briefcase" coming to CBS-TV late in May. Each week two new families will be introduced and their agony—as well as their decisions regarding the money—will be in full view.

I suspect that you and I will, by the time the show goes off the air, be thankful we don't have such a decision to make. Meanwhile, back to work for you and me. There are bills to pay.

Question of the Week: Do you think Harney Peak should have its name changed?



the Mount Rushmore region as a single entity instead of a collection of individual towns and economies.

"It's about jobs and the creation of new opportunities and business," Usera said, adding the focus is to retain, attract and grow businesses and industry.

Usera said it's important that donating entities realize that any growth throughout the Hills trickles down to their communities and businesses in a positive way.

"It's not about 'what's in it for my county,' or 'what's in it for my city,'" he said. "It's about what's best for the region."

In other news from the May 27 meeting, the commission:

- Discussed its animal control ordinance, as Battle Mountain Humane Society, the entity now contracted to do animal control for the county, wants a new contract between itself and the county, as it feels the current one is overly simplistic and does not give adequate direction as to what to do with the animals in a variety of situations.

A new ordinance has been drafted which deals mostly with domestic animals, leaving the enforcement of animal control of such animals as cows to be conducted according to state statute. The new ordinance could potentially require all dogs in the county to have current rabies shots. The ordinance was tabled until the June 10 meeting.

- Heard from county highway superintendent Gary Woodford, who said the constant rain has put

washboards and potholes in roads throughout the county and made blading the roads virtually impossible.

"The only good thing is we haven't had any dust complaints," Woodford quipped.

Highway staff has been busy dealing with after effects of the constant rain, including water from creeks overflowing roads and causing damage, as well as debris floating onto roads.

- Tabled a request to occupy county right-of-way at the behest of county attorney Tracy Kelley, as the request was not on the agenda or posted for the required 24 hours.

"Sometimes we push those things through, but we need to be more careful," she said.

- Heard from Bob Weyrich, the western agricultural development representative for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, who updated the commission on the county site review analysis the county signed up for last year. The program will see the county surveyed to determine what locations in the county, based on its resources and ordinances, are conducive to economic development, and agriculture-related business in particular.

Because funding for the analysis is limited and nearly every county in the state signed up for it, the surveys are being done on a first-come, first-served basis, with most of the studies being done East River at this time. Because of that, Weyrich said, it will more than likely be next summer before Custer has its analysis conducted.

THERE'S A NEW ELECTRICIAN IN TOWN!

Phil's Electric

Phillip Reausaw, Electrician

605-580-5587

philreusaw@gmail.com

2nd Annual Buffalo Gap FRONTIER DAYS

Fri. June 19 & Sat. June 20

Something for everyone!

Bluegrass • Arts & Crafts • Square Dance
Beer Garden • Quilt Show • Buffalo Burgers
Indian Tacos • 5K Run

Call 605-891-9617 for more information.

icking Irish tales of growing up in Limerick and emigrating to the United States. This is the same Frank McCourt who wrote the best-selling Pulitzer Prize winning memoir, "Angela's Ashes." Frank McCourt died in 2009, but the run will also feature an appearance by his real-life brother and co-author, Malachy McCourt, at a special reception on Saturday, June 6. He will speak about co-writing the play and authoring his own books.

The show is being presented to help raise funds for new lighting and sound systems for the Warren M. Lee Theatre at the Black Hills Playhouse.

Graham Thatcher first appeared on the Playhouse stage in 1963 and was a company member there intermittently as director, actor and teacher until 1995. He and Anna Marie met at the Playhouse in 1968 and appeared together in that season's first show, eventually marrying in 1970. She served as president of the Black Hills Playhouse Alumni Assoc. from 1994 to 2013, producing several special fundraising projects and shows. Graham appeared with Frank McCourt in an early production of "A Couple of Blaguards," which enjoyed several

encore runs and rave reviews at the Great American History Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., in 1991. The Thatchers also toured their own production of the show in Arizona, Minnesota and California in the mid 1990s.

Jeff Kingsbury came to the Playhouse in 1983 and has played numerous roles there over the years, most recently as Art Hockstader in "The Best Man," Hysterium in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," Morrie in "Thesdays With Morrie," Cardinal Richelieu in "The Three Musketeers" and Man in Chair in "The Drowsy Chaperone."

Malachy McCourt was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and, from the age of 3, was raised in Limerick, Ireland. He returned to the land of his birth at 20 and worked

Children), Dig screen movies ("Gods and Generals" and "Ash Wednesday"), and television movies (including "You Can't Go Home Again" and "The Dain Curse") and he had a running part in the HBO prison series "Oz." He was a frequent guest on the "Tonight Show," Merv Griffin and Tom Snyder shows and most recently he was a guest on "Conan O'Brien" and the "Late, Late Show."

Malachy is the also the author of many magazine articles, as well as his own memoir, *A Monk Swimming*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller. His other published works include *Singing My Him Song*, *Danny Boy: The Legend of the Beloved Irish Ballad*, *THE CLADDAGH RING: Ireland's Cherished Symbol of Friendship, Loyalty and Love*, *Voices of Ireland (An Anthology)*, *Malachy McCourt's History of Ireland, Harold be Thy Name, Bush Lies in State and I Never Drink When I'm Sober*.

A Couple of Blaguards" will play for six performances with evening performances Wednesday, June 3, through Saturday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. and matinees on Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7, at 2 p.m.

The reception for Malachy McCourt will be Saturday, June 6, from 4:30 p.m. in Haberman Hall, where he will tell more Irish tales and conduct a Q&A from 5-6 p.m. about his experiences writing "A Couple of Blaguards" and his own books. All events are at the Black Hills Playhouse in Custer State Park.

Show tickets are \$25, not included in the 2015 BHP Season Pass. Reception tickets are \$25 and must be added on when show tickets are ordered. They can be ordered by phone at 605-255-4141 or 1-855-584-4141 or online at blackhillspalyhouse.com. For more information contact Anna Marie Thatcher at productions@periaktos.com.

Both Taylor and Shepard have a slew of conditions to follow, in addition to jail time, 10-year probation time, court fees and restitution costs, including attending corrective thinking classes, maintaining

I Ate a Cicada Today

!Hola!

The book "I Ate a Cicada Today" by Jeff Crossan is about a boy who had experiences with many animals and bugs.

This book had short rhyming stories about animals and bugs, where the boy hid them, mailed them, jumped them, watched them, caught them, followed them, covered their (parakeet) mouth because of fowl language!

The boy did things with a leopard, a warhog, a hippopotamus, a turtle, a giant squid, a giraffe, a Rottweiler, a moth, a bird, a ladybug, a worm, an Airdate, a parakeet and a cicada.

The book came with a CD with the author singing the book and with four bookmarks with pictures of animals on them.

Out of the whole book, I really liked the parts about the hidden squid found in the shower by the boy's grandma and the fearless teddy bear watching over the boy at night, ready to knock the stuffing out any monsters.

I read the book to my 5-year-old sister and she liked the same parts of the book, mostly the teddy bear with his bat in hand, ready to smack some monsters. My sister wanted to read the part about the teddy bear again and again. She even reads it by herself now, and she laughs every time.

We didn't like the

bery, with some smashed on rocks or thrown into a nearby pond.

The two men were arrested in connection with the break-in and robbery Monday, Dec. 8.



Que Pasa Book Review
by Jesse Najacht (age 8)

rhyming for the rest of the short stories on the other pages. There were words I didn't know, like briches, girdle, big-boned, etc. After Mom told me what they meant I still didn't think those stories were funny, and some were weird. The story about the worm was weird, because it talked about a worm that was a girl and a boy. Also, there was a reference to ASPCA that I didn't know what it meant, and my mom had to help me understand.

The book ended with the cicada flying out of the boy's mouth, leaving him feeling empty. I felt the same way, and felt like I was hungry for funny rhyming stories, but I felt empty and wanting more.

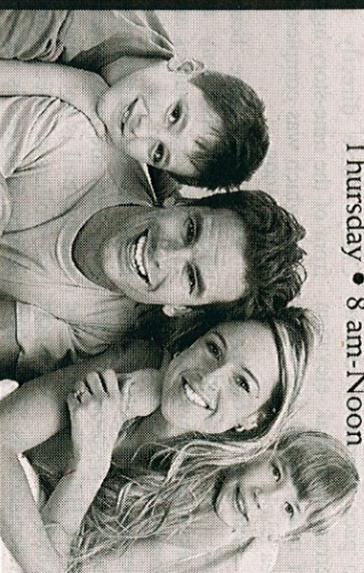
Overall, I didn't enjoy this book, but I learned some new words. I did like the animal fact about the swallow and why they are called swallows, but I think they should be called fat birds, because they eat about 400 times a day!

The songs on the CD were nice, but it didn't change what I thought about the book. My mom is going to save the bookmarks for me and my sister to use in school.

!Adios! Until next time.

34 Years Of "No Pressure" Dentistry

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday • 8 am-5 pm
Thursday • 8 am-Noon



DR. PETE SOTHERLAND

110 N. Chicago Street, Hot Springs, SD 57747
605-745-5776

Worried about your agricultural land tax status?

Call Professional Forest Management for your Forest Stewardship planning needs!

www.Blackhillforestpros.com
Frank Carroll • 605-440-2039

Holy Terror News: Renaming Harney Peak

Recently there has been a lot of publicity and controversy concerning our high point in the Black Hills of South Dakota, which is commonly known as Harney Peak. There is a movement to change the name of Harney Peak. There were public meetings on this subject and if I were in the Black Hills, I would have attended and expressed my opinion. The group making an issue of this name change is obviously the Sioux Indians in South Dakota, often referred to as the Lakota Nation.

I don't claim to be a local historian of the era prior to 1874, when Gen. Armstrong Custer entered and explored the Black Hills. When his group was camped on French Creek for a few weeks, Custer was curious about Harney Peak and he made an effort to climb it. Prior to this time I understand that Gen. Harney and his command traveled north on the east side of the Black Hills and apparently the group was impressed with the high point. Someone decided to name the high peak after their commander, so it has been Harney Peak for 160 years or more.

The Black Hills belonged to the Indians and this was guaranteed by the Laramie Treaty in the 1840s. I understand the Indians would not enter the Black Hills because they considered the ground sacred. They did come to the edge of the Hills and harvested tepee poles.

When Gen. Custer entered the Black Hills, he had a large command which included miners and prospectors. Supposedly Horatio Ross discovered gold in French Creek, but Gen. Custer took the credit. Before Custer there was a small group of prospectors who discovered gold in the Northern Hills. There is a story about Ezra Kind, but I will not go into this at this time.

A group has suggested Harney Peak be called "Black Elk Peak." Black Elk was a Lakota medicine man and they claimed that

**Holy
Terror
News**



By Bob Hayes
keygadfly@aol.com

One home was the Mit Everly home and, if I remember correctly, Waldo Madill, a Mount Rushmore worker, lived in this house. There was a little country school and most of these children lived in Glendale and Otho on Iron Creek and Greyhound Gulch. My Aunt Ellen Hayes taught school in Harney City for at least one year in about 1917 and was paid \$65 a month. Some of the city workers in Keystone make more than this in one day. How times change!

Yes, Harney City had a cemetery; however, there were no more burials in Harney after Keystone's Mountain View Cemetery was established in 1900. I will not tell you where the Harney Cemetery is located. The cemetery has been virtually destroyed by souvenir hunters. All the grave markers, both wooden and marble, have disappeared. Burial records for the cemetery disappeared many years ago. Henry Quiner and his daughter, Ruby, are buried there. Henry was the brother of Ma Ingalls of the little House on the Prairie family.

There was the Harney Hydraulic Gold Mining Co. that operated in the Keystone area long before there was a Keystone. This operation lasted for about one and a half years.

Harney is now heavily populated and is not in the city limits of Keystone. You might say Harney is a bedroom community for Keystone. The voters vote in Keystone. For many years the District Ranger for the Harney National Forest lived in Harney. One of the district rangers was Wendell Harmon, my Scoutmaster. I am an Eagle Scout today because of him.

Forest ranger stationed in the Harney Ranger Station who first took Gutzon Borglum to Mount Rushmore was Theo Shoemaker in 1923.

The Forest in the Southern Black Hills was known for many years as the Harney National Forest. It was eventually absorbed by the Black Hills National Forest, which was active in the Northern Black Hills.

The name Harney is realy prominent in the southern Black Hills. The Harney Hotel was the swanky hotel in Rapid City before the Alex Johnson Hotel was built in about 1928. Rapid City has a Harney Drive Street and a Harney View Street. There is a Harney Street in Keystone. Hill City has Harney Peak Camp Cabins, a Harney Peak Hotel and a Harney Peak Motel. There is a Harney Creek flowing somewhere in the Black Hills.

On my first trip to the top of Harney Peak, I met Byron Hazeltine, who operated the aerial tramway for many years. One day, Mr. Borglum showed up at the platform of the hoist house to be hoisted to the top of the mountain.

Borglum said, "Hayes, do you see those faces in the mountain?"

Dad responded and said, "No Mr. Borglum. I don't see those faces in the mountain."

Borglum's last words were, "They're in there and I just have to bring them out."

When you think about it, those heads were inside the mountains millions of years before these presidents were born.

I worked six seasons at Mount Rushmore as a seasonal ranger, three seasons when I was in college and three seasons after I retired. I recall many times telling the visitors that Harney Peak is the highest elevation between the Rocky Mountains and the Swiss Alps. After all these years, it would not be appropriate to say, "Black Elk Peak is the highest pint between the Rocky Mountains and the Swiss Alps."

I believe the people who are promoting a name

ous minerals were separated and formed, for example: feldspar, mica, beryl, tourmaline, columbite, lepidolite, amblygonite, etc. This magmatic intrusion was called the Harney Peak Batholith. This included the Needles, Mount Baldy and Mount Rushmore.

I have been told that many million years ago, there was as much as 2,000 to 5,000 feet of overburden that covered Mount Rushmore, the Needles, etc. This overburden eventually eroded, leaving the granite exposed as you see it today. The material was settled in a sea and was cemented together. Erosion occurred, leaving what we recognize as the Badlands today. The exposed granite pinnacles in the Black Hills are known as the Harney Range.

I have a Gutzon Borglum story, which involves a conversation between the Mount Rushmore sculptor and my father. My father operated the aerial tramway for many years. One day, Mr. Borglum showed up at the platform of the hoist house to be hoisted to the top of the mountain.

Borglum said, "Hayes, do you see those faces in the mountain?"

Dad responded and said, "No Mr. Borglum. I don't see those faces in the mountain."

Borglum's last words were, "They're in there and I just have to bring them out."

When you think about it, those heads were inside the mountains millions of years before these presidents were born.

I worked six seasons at Mount Rushmore as a seasonal ranger, three seasons when I was in college and three seasons after I retired. I recall many times telling the visitors that Harney Peak is the highest elevation between the Rocky Mountains and the Swiss Alps. After all these years, it would not be appropriate to say, "Black Elk Peak is the highest pint between the Rocky Mountains and the Swiss Alps."

I believe the people who are promoting a name

hornet's nest. I know of many folks who agree with me. History is not fair to everyone. The Native Americans have not been completely ignored. Someone has already mentioned the Black Elk Wilderness, which is located in the Black Hills. We have a Lakota Lake in the Black Hills and we have Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns near Rockerville. I realize the latter is a private business, but it reminds people that the Sioux Indians were on the North American Continent long before the Caucasians were in this country.

If the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names should crater and change the name of Harney Peak because Gen. William S. Harney may be responsible for atrocities committed on his command, it may be opening up a can of worms.

Gen. George Armstrong Custer was no angel. According to historians, men under the command of Custer attacked an Indian village and they killed more than 100 men, women and children. This was known as the Battle of Washita.

I further understand that Custer shot deserters as a matter of routine without the benefit of a trial. This information recently came to the surface on Fox News. They are running a series of programs titled "Legends of the Real West," being promoted by Bill O'Reilly.

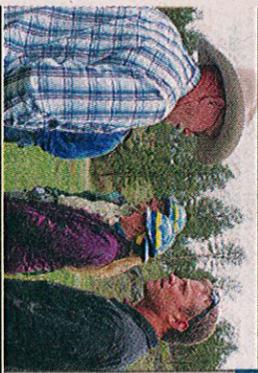
Under the circumstances, if the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names is compelled to change the name of Harney Peak, it would certainly be reasonable to be compelled to change the name of Custer for the same reason. Does anyone have a good name to replace Custer? Of course, this would include the city of Custer, Custer County, Custer State Park, Custer Crossing, etc.

Let's be reasonable and forget about renaming Harney Peak.

Comments on this issue may be sent to the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names at sdbgn.sd.gov or mailed to David.Reiss@state.sd.us.



Custer County Chronicle

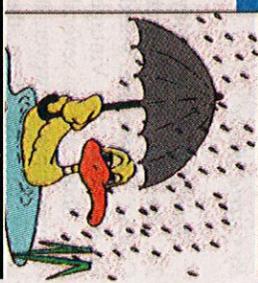


REVISED
Page 3A

MAGIC COMES TO KEYSTONE
Page 6A



HOW WET WAS IT?
Page 6A



Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Custer, South Dakota

Volume 135 Issue 22

\$1.00

NAME CHANGE PROPOSED FOR EMINENT PEAK

HARNEY PEAK OR HINNHAN KAGA?

Peak has long history

By Jason Ferguson

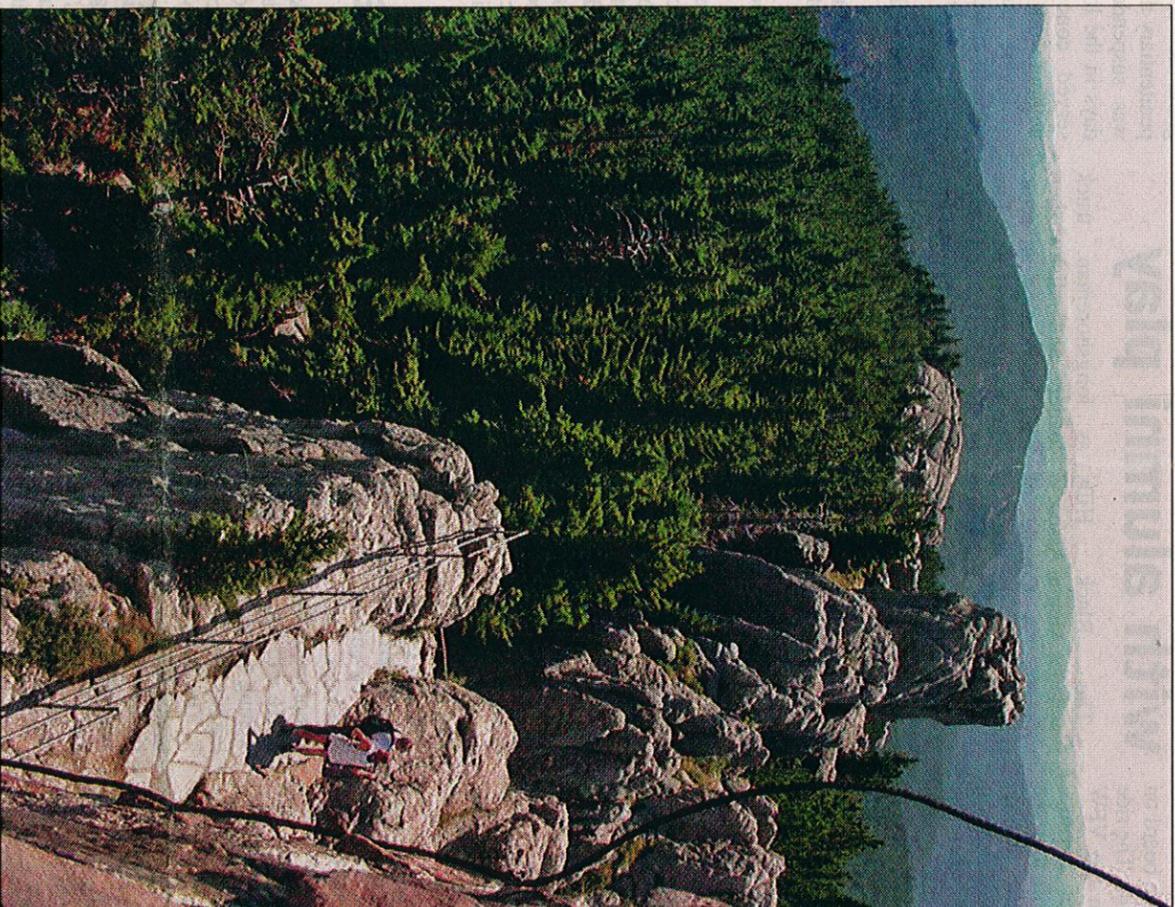
Harney Peak was the site of Oglala Sioux shaman Black Elk's great vision. He had the vision at the age of 9 and later returned with writer John Neihardt who wrote the book "Black Elk Speaks." In it, Black Elk says, "I was standing on the highest mountain of them all and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being."

The wilderness around Harney Peak was named for Black Elk in 1980. The site is considered sacred to many Native Americans.

Harney Peak itself was named for Gen. William S. Harney, a U.S. Army military officer who led troops against the Sioux at the Battle of Ash Hollow, one of the first battles of a 20-year war waged against the Plains Indians. Harney also fought pirates in the Caribbean and commanded the Second Dragons in the Mexican-American War.

The historic fire lookout tower built upon the summit remains as an abandoned shell and is open to the public. The stone lookout tower that rises from the summit of Harney Peak today was actually used as a fire lookout until 1967. The first fire lookout there was constructed in 1920 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the stone one that sits there now was completed in 1938.

All of the building materials, including HARNEY HISTORY/6A



A PEAK BY ANY OTHER NAME — Native Americans formerly knew it as Hinhan Kaga; locals know it as Harney Peak. Its future name will soon be decided and the public is asked for comments. [CCC Photo/NORMA NAUJCHT]

Harney Peak ties recalled

By Jason Ferguson

For many residents of Custer, Custer County and the Black Hills in general, Harney Peak is more than just a geographic location. Long before it became a destination for swarms of tourists looking to hike to the highest point in the continental U.S. west of the Rocky Mountains at 7,242 feet, and even longer before it became the topic of debate over its name—*s a k e , H a r n e y* Peak was a source of *has a lock on that pride, family-place spiritually.*

— Steve Baldwin
County resident

Harney Peak is as much a part of their lives as their job or the place they call home. For some, Harney Peak is family.

For David Hazeltine of Custer, Harney Peak was home for the better part of his childhood.

That's because Hazeltine's father, Byron Hazeltine, was the U.S. Forest Service employee stationed at the tower to serve as the fire lookout for the better part of 20 years. Because of that, Hazeltine spent several years of his life there, first as a child living at the base of the peak (the lookout had living quarters at the peak) and later as a young adult working as a relief lookout.

Byron Hazeltine was the second person to serve as the Harney Peak lookout, beginning in 1942. That meant that during HARNEY MEMORIES/6A

Commissioners piqued at peak name change

By Jason Ferguson

The Custer County Commission has sent a letter to the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) opposing its proposed name change of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga, which means "Making of Owls," the traditional Lakota name for the peak.

The recommendation came after several hearings on the issue, after Native Americans said they felt the name Harney is offensive, since the peak's namesake, General William S. Harney, was a U.S. Army military officer who led troops against the Sioux at the

Would like to see it go to statewide vote

Battle of Ash Hollow, one of the first battles of a 20-year war waged against the Plains Indians. The commission discussed the issue at its May 27 meeting, with the commission restating its opposition to the change and wondering what could be done to stop it.

Commissioner David Hazeltine said there are too many pieces of literature and things of that nature that refer to the peak as Harney for the mountain's name

to be changed.

"I just don't think the feds will go along with it," Hazeltine said, referring to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which will ultimately make the decision as to whether or not the name is changed. "How are they going to change history?"

Commissioner Jim Lintz said he would like to see the proposed name change put to a statewide vote and suggested even possibly

getting the state's association of county commissioners on board with stopping the change. County auditor Nancy Christensen said she would supply the commission with the requirements to see the proposed change put to a vote.

The county also heard from Bruce Rempelberg and Mutch Usara of Black Hills Vision at the meeting, with the two asking the commission to consider bumping up the \$1,500 it gave the entity last year to \$5,000 this year. Black Hills Vision promotes itself as "a regional alliance of the private and public sectors working together for a brighter future with over 115 investors." Among the

Volksmarch is set

The annual spring Crazy Horse Memorial Volksmarch will be held June 6-



Jared Carson

ELECTION 2015

COUNTY/2A

June 17, 2015

JUN 22 2015

Please, please, please,
keep the name Harney Peak
in tact. This continual
practice of changing
names is just "crazy".

Plus, the chosen name,
Hinman Kaga, will most
likely be mispronounced
and forgotten by most
people. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,

Sandi McKenny

"Regarding 'Harney Peak Name'"



JUN 22 2015 amazing awaits

112 E. Montana St

Rapid City, S.D. 57701

June 17, 2015

State Board of Geographic Names
% Dept. of Tribal Relations

Gentleman,

I'm a 93 yr. old lady that came to Rapid City in 1968 & went to work for Richard Broadcasting Corp (KATV Radio) mostly because of the Black Hills Truck-More Memorial (Custer St. Park) Harney Peak, Crazy Horn Memorial & every other attraction in the Hills. Please Don't change the name of "Harney Peak". Our young men in the US Corps helped build it. - It's part of the Hills. Let it be "Harney Peak" save the money! the schools could use more money, so could we all!

Changing the name would also confuse the tourists. I don't like changing things - none of us would like our names changed - would you? Please let "Harney Peak" be!!

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Anna K. Shannon

112 E. Montana St
Rapid City, S.D. 57701

JUN 27 2015

Wed. 6-17-15

Dear Public Relations Person -

Please do not change the name of Harney Peak. It is history and should be left as history -

How many men, women and children were killed by Indians in raids on Wagon trains, settlements, and the like. That too is history but we do not dwell on it. It is over and done with.

Please let it be.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Chase

821 Fox Run Rd.

Rapid City S. D. 57701

JUN 27 2015



Terra Sancta
Retreat Center
Come away and rest in God.

Just a note to give my opinion on Harney Peak.

I think the name should stay the same. It will always be Harney Peak to most people who are familiar with it.

I didn't even know the history behind the naming of it until recently.

Black Elk would have forgiven his enemies & would have prayed for them.

It's not put a lot of money & time into something that is really not that big of a deal. It just makes more sense to spend time & money on bigger issues than this.

Sincerely,
Mary Targher

JAN 22 2015 6-16-15

I've posted on Geop. Names:

I, too, object strenuously to changing the name of Harney Peak to anything else.

Have we lost our collective minds just because someone advised or suggested it should be done after all these years? Who knows? Who cares? Who "throws the first punch"? Like bubbles on the playground: "he said," "he did" - No, "he did" etc. etc. Ditto over it!

How many years has it been known as "Harney"?

Surely you and everyone else have more important concerns.

What about the cost of changed identity? And McWally Atlas, State Maps, Travel Company
Please - DON'T

Tori Martin, Rapid City

JUN 22 2015

To who it may concern about
changing the name of Herney Peak.
We the listed below are against
changing this name of the peak.

Thank you

Burdette Fenner, 4124 Brookside
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Ila Mae Fenner
4124 Brookside dr
Rapid city S.D. 57702

Fred + Bonnie Heese
2811 Country Club Dr.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Ray Palmer
414 Platte St
Rapid city, S Dakota 57702

JUN 22 2015

David Reiss
Department of Tribal Relations
302 E. Dakota
Pierre, S.D., 57501

June 17, 2015

Dear Mr. Reiss:

I am a retired educator and I live in the Black Hills. This is my ninth season as a tour guide for Road Scholar groups in the Black Hills and Badlands.

Seasoned and well-read travelers from all over the United States, these visitors rarely know the name of our highest peak when they first see it. However, when they learn its name, they ask about William S. Harney. Then the embarrassment begins.

Even Harney's primary biographer (George Rollie Adams, Prince of Dragoons) characterizes him as impulsive, vindictive and violent not only toward the Plains Indians, but also to his own troops and in his personal life.

Harney drove his troops ruthlessly. On one march some officers claimed that Harney had no regard for the rules of warfare, that he lacked common sense, and that he disregarded his men's health. When we know his character, do we really want William S. Harney's name on our skyline?

Harney never set foot in the Black Hills. His brutal campaign against the Lakota, culminating in the Battle of Ash Hollow in 1855, earned him a Lakota name meaning "Woman Killer. Imagine the offense to our Lakota neighbors because a spot considered sacred to them bears Harney's name.

Many of my tour clients ask why we settle for this ill-considered name for our grandest peak. Why, indeed?

I strongly support the recommendation of the Board of Geographic Names to rename Harney Peak.

But slow down as we choose a new name. Harney Peak was originally named without consideration of Harney's checkered career.

Let's give up spurious excuses like pronunciation (can you pronounce Denali?). Let's engage West River citizens—white and Native American—in a year-long exploration of language, history and geology. Involve our school children. Let's creatively and wisely chose a new name for our highest peak.

Respectfully,



Donna M. Fisher
12311 Whitetail Road
Deadwood, SD 57732

JUN 22 2015

*Marguerite Kleven
1325 Nellie Street
Sturgis, South Dakota 57785*

Office 605-347-5944

Fax 605-347-6503

Cell 605-490-1553

Email mkleven@rushmore.com

June 19, 2015

David Reiss
South Dakota Board of Geographic Names
% Department of Tribal Relations
302 E Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

To: South Dakota Board of Geographic Names

In recognition of the historical significance of Harney Peak, I ask you to retain that name. There are so many references to this area throughout the history of South Dakota as Harney Peak. I think it is totally wrong to try to change history in this way. Soon it could be very difficult to trust any of the past books and literature and understand. I also don't think there are very many who attach any significance, honor or otherwise to the names already given. Many of the changes that have already been made go against the temper and thoughts of the people of the era and it is wrong to try to attach an issue discrimination at this point in time. This also reflects the history of the given period. In the defense of retaining historical significance, please discontinue the process of messing with the names that were meaningful at the time they were issued.

I think further literature could point out the conflict that had occurred in 2015 pertaining to the name of Harney Peak. This would not them destroy the historical significance of literature that already existed.

Sincerely



Marguerite Kleven
Meade County Resident



DARWIN D. JENSEN
3210 FRONTIER PL.
RAPID CITY, SD 57702

JUN 22 2015

6/15/2015

SD BOARD OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
% DEPT. OF TRIBAL RELATIONS
302 EAST DALPTA
PIERRE, SD
57501

BOARD OF GEO. NAMES.

THANK Y)U FOR THE RECENT NEWS OF NOT RENAMING HARNEY
PEAK.

I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT MY THINKING, BUT
WHY DO IT AND BORE ALL OF YOU.

CONGRATULATOONS ON DOING WHAT I THINK IS THE CORRECT
ACTION.

RESPECTFULLY,

JUN 22 2015

This frenzy to change historical names in order to be "politically correct" is so ridiculous. No matter what they publicly call Harney Peak I will call it Harney.

Shouldn't names be "grandfathered in"?
How silly all this fuss is - and how counterproductive - Don't you know!

Marian O'Daughlin
Rapid City, S. D.

Marian O'Daughlin
AKA: Jorie Jertson
WRITER - ILLUSTRATOR

Available now:
THE HOUSE
and *Mother & Daughter*

www.amazon.com,
www.bn.com, www.xlibris.com
www.borders.com,
or visit your local bookstore.

917 Columbus
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 342-8781



JUN 22 2015

Wilson Potterville June 15, 2015
1716 Branding Iron Dr.
Spearfish, SD. 57783

Dear Sirs:
My wife and I both strongly
request there be no change to the
Name of Harney Peak.

Wilson D. Potterville
Clara Potterville

W. D. Potterville
1716 Branding Iron Dr.
Spearfish, SD 57783-9543

JUN 22 2015



Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C. The SDBGN has adopted a Public Involvement Process which seeks public comment on the existing historic name and offering recommendations and justification for the new name as well as names for unnamed geographic features. The SDBGN follows the United States Board on Geographic Names' principles, policies, and procedures. For further information visit <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>. Any proposed name changes for municipalities, counties or other political subdivisions of the State of South Dakota should be sent directly to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for consideration.

Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaja Paha (Making the Sacred Owl)

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
 Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

This traditional Lakota name is of great significance for those who claim to be among the first Americans.
 Besides, these are other ways to celebrate top militaries, other than naming natural features (Horney Peak, in that case).

Type of Geographic Feature: Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

South Dakota State / Black Hills / Pennington County.

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Black Hills' highest peak.

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

The traditional Lakota name is related to the Lakota tradition and belief. Renaming Harney Peak would be an opportunity to demonstrate the consideration for aboriginal people.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N

If yes, who?

[Empty box for name]

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Acting as an individual.

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Supporting the Basil Brave Heart Tiyospaye's efforts (from the Pine Ridge Reservation) to reconcile US-Euro American with ~~the~~ US-Aborigens.

Submitted by:

Name: du closer

Title (if representing organization or public entity): _____

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: Les Vallées, F-23700 SERMUR

Telephone: +33.5.55.66.18.69

Email Address: jbducloser@hotmail.com

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Submit form to:

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Email: david.reiss@state.sd.us
FAX: 605-773-6592

Website: http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/

Best regards, 