



June 2024
Second Quarter

Fire in the Hole Scroll

Inside this issue:

BITW Recap.....	1
BITW Sessions.....	2
BITW Awards.....	3
BITW Thanks.....	4
Blast from the Past.....	5
Safety Reminders.....	6
Funnies.....	6
2024 Graduates.....	7
10 Visuals.....	8-9
Kevin Morgan.....	10
BHC Contacts.....	10

"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't—you're right."
~ Henry Ford

"The future depends on what you do today."
~ Mahatma Gandhi

"Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you're willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it."
~ Lou Holtz

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"Resounding Success" Summarized Best in the West Conference 2024

The Best in the West Drill and Blast Conference concluded with resounding success, leaving attendees energized and inspired. Over 300 attendees, exhibitors, speakers, students, and sponsors came together for three days of valuable training and networking at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center in Spearfish, South Dakota, in April 2024.



The conference was planned and hosted jointly by the Black Hills Chapter ISEE and the Northern Plains Chapter ISEE. This was the 35th Annual Conference and will be remembered as another fun and successful event!

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

Pre-conference events included the Paul Muehl Scholarship Trap Shoot and the Crazy Horse Mountain Tour. The Bob Martin Memorial Golf Scramble was cancelled this year.

The **Paul Muehl Scholarship Trap Shoot** was held at the nearby Spearfish Rifle and Trap Club, and included lunch and awards. The trap shoot was "brisk" with an occasional snowflake or two, mixed with a smattering of rainfall here and there, and the wind was blowing enough to throw the clays around a bit to create some difficult shooting conditions. Spirits were maintained with good camaraderie, a few good-humored barbs, and of course getting some trigger time. The food was catered by PooterQ



◀ L-R: Neil Rothenbuhler (winner), Elijah Williams, and Jason Rockwell

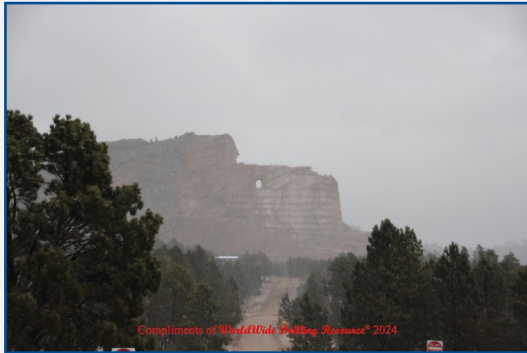


▼ L-R: PT, Mark Burke, Eric Weyer, Baron Fidler, and Rodney Burget

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Cont'd: BITW Events, Sessions & Speakers



Compliments of WorldWide Drilling Resource® 2024



◀ Participants of the Crazy Horse Mountain Tour still enjoyed their experience despite the weather.

Photo credits:
WorldWide Drilling Resource and Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

Original Barbeque in Belle Fourche and was top shelf as usual.

The top shooter was Neil Rothenbuhler, and Daniel Fithian won the “Most Chance to Advance” award. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Paul Muehl Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all the participants, station sponsors and prize sponsors.

The **Crazy Horse Mountain Tour** group had a great time getting a close-up view of the mountain and touring the indoor exhibits. The weather was overcast and cold with a few snowflakes, but attendees still saw the progress of the carving and got some great photos. Thank you to Jeff Hermanson, the mountain crew, and the staff of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation for hosting this favorite annual event.

REGULATORY SESSION

The Regulatory Session and panel discussion kicked off the BITW Conference. Regulators



Compliments of WorldWide Drilling Resource® 2024

▲ Baron Fidler (standing) introduced Janeen Smith (middle) who moderated the Regulatory Panel and discussion.

Photo credit: WorldWide Drilling Resource

in attendance and on the panel included Bill O’Brien (ATF Industry Liaison), Scott Narreau (State of Colorado, Division of Oil and Public Safety), Reo Barney (Wyoming DEQ, Land Quality Division), Preston Ripplinger (North Dakota Public Service Commission), Alan Roberts (MSHA South Dakota), and David Maynard (MSHA Wyoming).

The regulatory session was moderated by Janeen Smith, the current ISEE President. It was a very informative session!

Bill O’Brien (ATF) was presented with a custom blasting box to thank him for his many years of service and to celebrate his upcoming retirement. He has been on the Regulatory Panel at the BITW for many years and has always provided excellent information. He will be missed. Enjoy your retirement, Bill!

SPEAKERS

There were excellent presentations given by industry representatives, drillers and blasters, students, scientists and engineers, which covered a broad range of relevant topics. Up to 13.5 hours of blasters’ recertification hours were available if all were attended.

Thank you to all the speakers and chairpersons!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Proceeds from the BITW Conference support explosives and mineral industry student scholarships, which perpetuates

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Cont'd: BITW Scholarships, Awards, Auction

the mining and explosives industry. This year, \$16,000 in scholarships were given to ten mining students as a result of the conference and auction. An additional \$1,000 scholarship was given in memory of Joe Wood (a long-time Black Hills Chapter Member) to **Luke Guzman**, a student at SDSM&T.



▲ Student scholarship winners who were present at BITW. *Photo credit:* WorldWide Drilling Resource

Scholarship recipients included:

- * **Alan Arthur** (Montana Tech)
- * **Alex Bolduc** (SDSM&T)
- * **Alejandro Camacho** (University of Utah)
- * **Sam DeMelo** (Montana Tech)
- * **McKoy Gebhardt** (Montana Tech)
- * **Luke Guzman** (SDSM&T)
- * **Nathan Haglin** (Montana Tech)
- * **Max Nack** (Missouri S&T)
- * **Eliza Watson** (University of Utah)
- * **Dozick Zablocki** (Montana Tech)

Thank you to Scholarship Committee Chair Baron Fidler and all the scholarship application reviewers.

Per Baron, "I appreciate the focus and effort to support our scholarship recipients. Many hours are contributed by the scholarship application review team, as this panel of six ensured we had an accurate and fair rating system used to select the recipients. We do our best to provide financial support to as many student applicants as possible. With this said, none of the financial support we distribute would not be possible for all the conference attendees, the

golfers, the clay shooters, the auction organizers and all of us that attend the dinner auction and support the items generously donated by many. A humble thank you to everyone for their contribution to scholarship contributions. I still recall my time at the Best in the West Conference to receive a scholarship. Thank you."

AWARDS BANQUET AND AUCTION

The Annual Awards Banquet and Scholarship Auction was an opportunity to recognize contributions to the industry, enjoy good food and conversation, and raise additional funds for student scholarships.

The Supplier Appreciation Award, a custom blasting box from **Blasters Tool & Supply**, was won by **Nelson Brothers**. Their business card was drawn from a basket by **Victoria**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ►



◀ Baron Fidler (left) presents the Supplier Appreciation Award to Tony Troughon (Nelson Brothers). *Photo credit:* WorldWide Drilling Resource



▲ Left to Right: Paul Sterk, Newbie Award Winner Hiranthie Stanford, and Baron Fidler. *Photo credit:* WorldWide Drilling Resource

Cont'd: BITW Thanks Sponsors & Contributors



◀ A big thank you to the exhibitors at the Best in the West Conference. They fostered a fun and informational Exhibit Hall. Thanks for sharing your businesses with us!

Photo credit:
WorldWide Drilling Resource

Richardson of ISEE. The Newbie Award was given in great style to **Hiranthie Stanford** of ISEE.

The evening wrapped up with a live auction featuring auctioneer **Walt Partridge (Partridge Auction Services)**. It was a fun evening! Thank you to everyone who donated and bid on items! Your support is appreciated!

SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

THANK YOU to the sponsors and contributors for their financial gifts and gifts-in-kind, including:

Buckley Powder Company
Coeur Wharf
Crazy Horse Memorial
Dyno Nobel
Go Wireline LLC
Integrated Geotechnical Solutions
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Joe Wood Memorial
LDE Corporation
Legra Engineering, Inc.
MTI Group
Nelson Brothers
Nobel Insurance Services
Nomis Seismographs Inc.
Partridge Auction Services
Quick Supply Company
RDO Equipment
Rothenbuhler Engineering
Sayre Associates, Inc.
Spearfish Holiday Inn
Stemlock Inc.

Sterk Underground
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Tread Corporation
Visit Spearfish
Wallace Technical Blasting
WESCO Explosives
WorldWide Drilling Resource

APPRECIATION

Thank you to the following companies and individuals for your time and hard work in the planning and execution of the BITW:

- BITW Planning Committee: Tyler Artz, Darcey Baker, Megan Buurma Marvin, Garth Evers, Baron Fidler, Dylan Haddix, Thom Hunter, Carrie Jaeger, Jim McNulty, Randy Russell, Paul Sterk, Tony Troughon, Purushotham Tukkaraja, and Eric Weyer
- Spearfish Holiday Inn staff
- Attendees, sponsors, contributors, exhibitors, and speakers
- Those who donated auction items, door prizes, and registration bag items
- WorldWide Drilling Resource for promotion and pictures at the conference

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date now and plan to attend the 36th Annual Best in the West Drill and Blast Conference on **April 23, 24, and 25, 2025**, at the Spearfish Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Spearfish, SD. Online registration will begin in November at www.bitwconference.org.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Quarrymen, Stone Cutters, and Sioux Quartzite: Sioux Falls' Mining Heritage

By Brian Gevik for SDPB "Images of the Past". Published May 23, 2022. Found online at www.sdpb.org/blogs/images-of-the-past/quarrymen-stone-cutters-and-sioux-quartzite-sioux-falls-mining-heritage/

Quartzite isn't used as a building material very much anymore but the demand for quartzite is greater than it's ever been. Today, the rock is used mainly for asphalt and concrete aggregate. It is an extremely hard stone - nearly as hard as diamond - and it is extremely durable.

A vast deposit of the stone stretches from southwest Minnesota into eastern South Dakota. In some places, like Garretson's Split Rock Park, the stone is exposed. In other places, the deposit rests several hundred feet below surface soils.

"The streets [in Sioux Falls] are lined with pink. Pink gold as it once was referred to at the time. It's an aggregate now. And there's kind of a difference between aggregates and what was known as dimensional quarrying, where you were hand cutting blocks that were going to end up in buildings, or you're putting paving stones together. And you did get paid by the number of those you could produce, one to two cents, depending how the order was going," said Kevin Gansz, Curator of Education at Siouxland Heritage Museums.

"But today it's aggregates that are going into asphalt, that are going into concrete. But just take a look around our community and look at the growth that's going on. New construction, houses, driveways. I just learned that there's more concrete in the Amazon building that was just built here in Sioux Falls than is in the Empire State Building. And that's all utilizing our stone that's right here."

To read the rest of this interesting interview, click on the link above!



▲ Stone cutters in an East Sioux Falls Quarry, ca. 1888
Photo credit: Siouxland Heritage Museums



▲ Paving Phillips Avenue, 1880s
Photo credit: Siouxland Heritage Museums



Federal Building, Phillips Avenue ►
Photo credit: Siouxland Heritage Museums



Blast Event Safety Reminders

Reminders from the MSHA website, with a few additional thoughts.

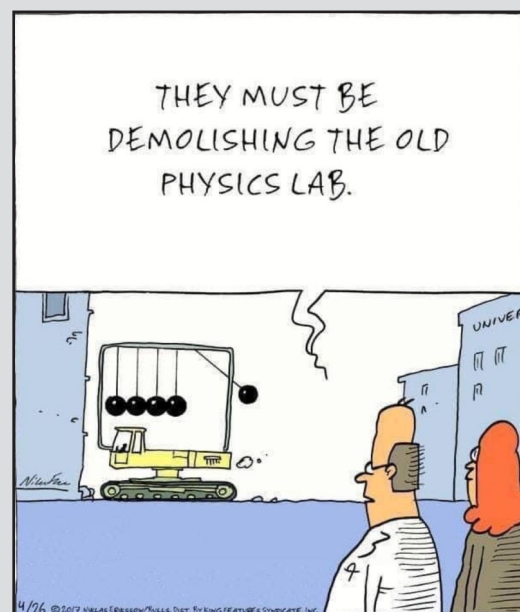
CHECKING the Blast Event

- * ALWAYS measure the resistance of cap circuits and blasting caps with a blasting galvanometer.
- * NEVER let a battery used to charge a blasting galvanometer come into contact with blasting cap wires.
- * ALWAYS use a multimeter to test for stray current and current leakage.
- * NEVER have any electric wires or cables near blasting caps (except the lead line) when getting ready to connect the lead line to the circuit.

While the above are good reminders, may not be as relevant today with reduced use of electric detonators. It is critical to check the connections within each blast pattern. Some ideas are to ensure all connections are facing the same direction such as parallel to the crest, that all connections are double-checked and material is used to anchor these connections to ensure wind does not change their position. Many times a misfired hole is caused by human error with the assumption the other person made the connection or that we made the connection correctly even though we were distracted in conversation with another crew member.

INITIATING the Blast Event

- * ALWAYS make certain the blast area is clear of miners and equipment.
- * ALWAYS use audible warning signals and verbal and hand signals to make sure the blast area is clear.
- * ALWAYS be sure the blast area and all access roads are adequately guarded.
- * ALWAYS provide and use adequate protection from flying rock.
- * If protection is not available then ensure you are located at a proper distance from the blast event and in a good location where material is not going to travel should there be a flyrock event.



What's Happening

Reports & News From Around the Industry

Congrats to the Spring 2024 Graduates

South Dakota Mines Academic Achievement

Per "Mines News" published at www.sdsmt.edu/news on May 30, 2024:

South Dakota Mines has honored 721 students in the Spring 2024 semester for academic excellence. The university named 639 students to the Spring Dean's List, and 82 students to the Spring 2024 Academic Recognition List.

"The number of students achieving academic excellence this semester is a testament to the dedication of our students in learning and applying the curriculum, our talented faculty leading the classrooms, and our comprehensive tutoring and other student success initiatives at South Dakota Mines," says Mines Dean of Students Joseph Dlugos, Ph.D. "Many of the students on this list graduated on May 4, and we can't wait to see how they impact their industries and communities."

Montana Tech Announces Graduates

Posted by Amanda Badovinac on the "News" page at www.mtech.edu/news on May 7, 2024:

Montana Tech presented 345 degrees and certificates to 322 students at commencement on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

150th Graduating Class at Missouri S&T

Posted by Velvet Hasner on the "News and Events" page at www.news.mst.edu on May 20, 2024:

Missouri S&T's first graduating class in 1874 consisted of three students. This May, Missouri S&T celebrated with over 1,100 students in the Class of 2024 at three ceremonies. Graduates wore green and gold commencement cords to commemorate the special occasion.

A Graduate's Perspective

Harold Nesbitt, a recent SD Mines graduate, posted his thoughts on LinkedIn. Text and photo from Harold, used with permission.

"Three years and five months ago I began my studies at SD Mines. While a very rewarding journey, it was, at times, immensely difficult. One of the most challenging aspects of this endeavor was transitioning from a Navy Chief to just another student. I was to find out rather quickly that at SD Mines, no one is just another student. The faculty and staff were always there for me when I was in need. My fellow students, two generations removed from my Gen X, were equally helpful and welcoming. I could not have done this without them.

You are never too old to try something new or to reimagine yourself. I've learned

a lot. I got through classes I would never have believed just a few short years ago. My internships were top notch and exciting in many ways.

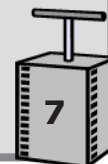
Thank you to the Mining Department, and all the faculty that taught this old dog new tricks, especially those who had patience when my stubbornness was impeding my ability to grasp some concepts. Thank you to my young colleagues for studying with me.

Thank you to South Dakota School of Mines and Technology for being an awesome school with challenging programs. Thank you also for your veterans programs.

I'll be back to complete my master's degree but for today, I'm proud to say I walked with my bachelor's of science in mining engineering and management."



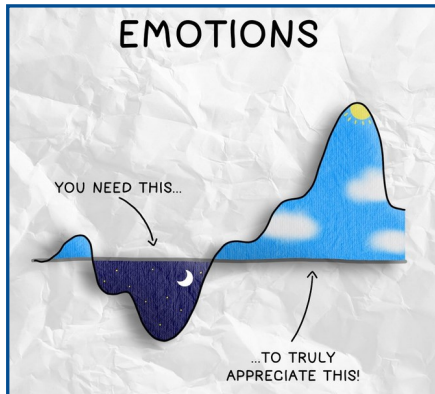
▲ *Harold Nesbitt on his graduation day in May 2024 from SD Mines*



10 Visuals That Will Change The Way You Think

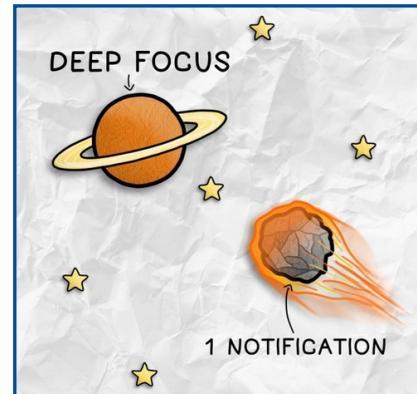
Change your perspectives to change your outcomes

Posted on LinkedIn by Chris Donnelly on June 5, 2024. Graphics from "Wisdom Made Easy" by Michael J. Boorman at www.WisdomMadeEasy.com.



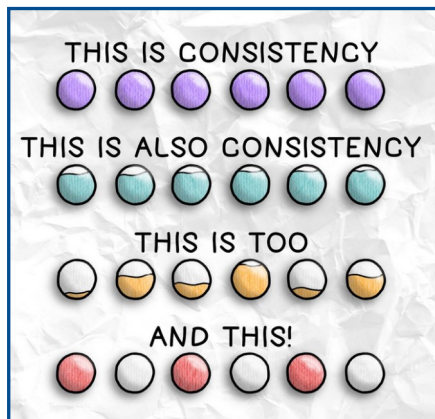
▲ **Feel every emotion.**

Understand that sometimes it's okay to not be okay. Remember that the bad days make you appreciate the good days.



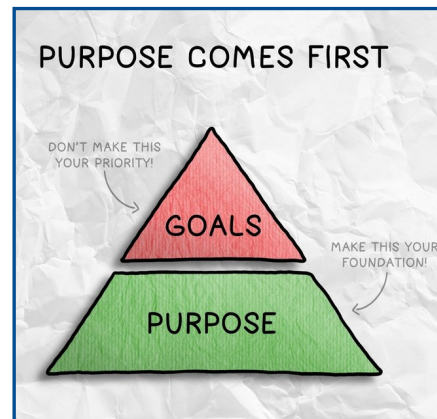
▲ **Phones destroy deep focus.**

All it takes is one notification to ruin your deep focus. Keep your phone in another room to achieve true uninterrupted focus.



▲ **Consistency isn't a one size fits all.**

Consistency can present itself differently for everyone. Understand your personal patterns to adjust and plan accordingly.



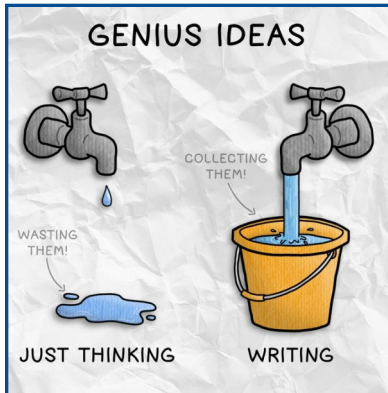
▲ **Purpose comes first.**

Your purpose is the foundation of your future success. You will not be able to reach your goals without establishing purpose first.

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Remember:
When you change your perspective,
you open the door to countless
new opportunities..

Cont'd: 10 Visuals That Will Change The Way You Think



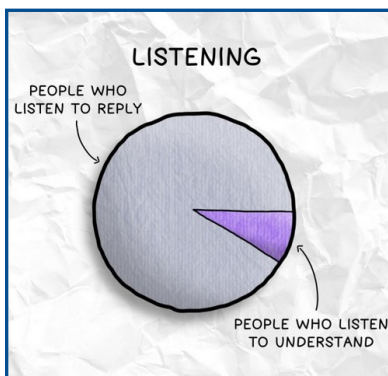
▲ Thinking vs Writing

99% of our ideas are forgotten within 1 hour.
Write down your thoughts and revisit them at a better time.



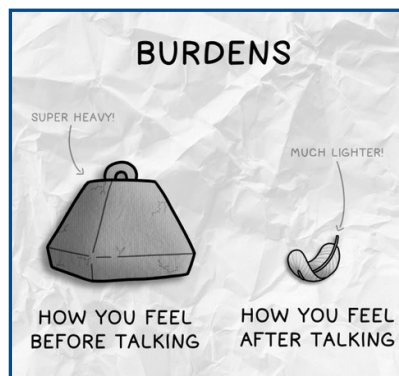
▲ Comparison is the thief of joy.

Don't let life pass you by as you compare yourself to others. Focus on becoming the best version of yourself and let others do the same.



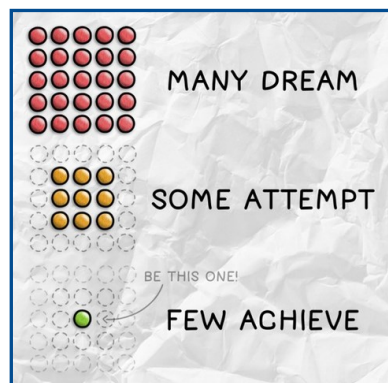
▲ The greatest communication problem

Too many people are just listening to hear things. They should be using active listening not only to hear but to understand.



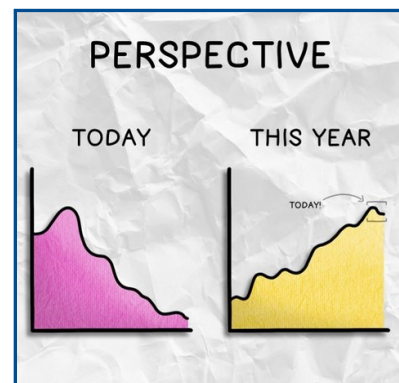
▲ To ease a burden, simply talk

Your burdens can feel a lot heavier when kept to yourself. Talking with someone close to you can help you lighten the load.



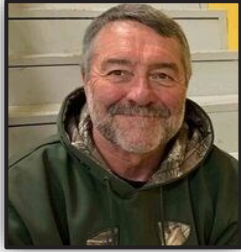
▲ Be an achiever

Many dream, some will attempt, but very few will achieve. Give it your all and be one of the few that truly reach their goals.



▲ Zoom out

It can be easy to be disheartened by a bad day. But it's only when we zoom out we can see how far we have actually come.



In Memoriam: Kevin Morgan

Obituary & photo from Isburg Funeral Homes, www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com

Kevin was a long-time member of the Black Hills Chapter. He served on the Board of Directors for many years, assisted with BITW, and was the BITW Scholarship Committee Chair for many years. He will be missed.

Kevin Robert Morgan, 64, of Spearfish, died Friday, April 26, 2024 in Gettysburg, SD after a battle with brain cancer.

Kevin was born April 3, 1960 in Rapid City to Robert and Leola Morgan. Kevin graduated from Stevens High School in 1978. In 1983, he married Angela Fenhaus. They had two daughters, Amie and Katherine.

Kevin worked as a logger before becoming a driller and blaster for Summit Industries, Yenter Construction and later Buckley Powder. He was a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the NRA and numerous other organizations.

As an avid outdoorsman, Kevin enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping. On weekends, he

could often be found playing a round of golf before tending to his garden. Kevin had a gift of gab and a knack for story-telling. He never missed an opportunity to share his knowledge of family history, tracing family lineage back generations, and remembering names and dates that most could not. Above all else, he was a loving father and proud Papa.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughters Amie (Casey) Lehman of Gettysburg SD, Katherine (Bill) Peterson of Spearfish SD, grandchildren Gabriel, Grace, Liam, Corbin, and Bode, sister Sharon Simon of Mobridge SD, brother Steve (Pat) of Rapid City SD, and many nieces and nephews.

Kevin is preceded in death by his parents Robert (2000) and Leola (2009).

A memorial visitation was held on May 6, 2024, at Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapel in Spearfish.

Online condolences may be written at www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com.

Black Hills Chapter Contacts

Here are the 2024-2025 Black Hills Chapter Officers and Board of Directors. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact one of these members. Your suggestions are greatly appreciated.

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