

Established Sept. 6, 1878; the only newspaper in the world solely interested in the welfare of Gary, SD and vicinity.

Gary Historical Association

www.experiencegarysd.co

A Monthly Insight into news of the past and present



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National Registrar Part III - State School for the Blind

The former South Dakota School for the Blind complex in Gary was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. It was, at that time, a collection of eight buildings that had served as the state's educational and rehabilitation facility for blind children from 1900 until 1959.

It is situated on the former Deuel County Courthouse Square in the northeastern part of the city. In 1894 Doane Robinson, editor of the Gary Interstate, proposed that the blind of the state should be educated in state. Robinson went to Pierre and proposed



Photo Circa 1901

this idea to the Legislature. The city would donate the former courthouse and an acre of land. Senator Hebal of Deuel County introduced the bill to locate the School for the Blind in Gary and the legislation was passed in 1895. The state felt that the courthouse would not be large enough for all the students and requested a larger building be constructed by the town of Gary. Ground broke on the new building on July 28, 1899. The rock foundation was nearing completion by John Adams on August 18th. J.H Little from Ortonville held the bid to build the asylum and complete it by November 10, 1899, which he and his crew did. It was decided to put in a steam heating plant and a 250-barrel cistern as well as a windmill for the well. The Grand Opening of the South Dakota School for the Blind in Gary was held March 1, 1900. Gary had donated 4 acres and a new brick building 3 stories by 40 feet square as well as the wooden courthouse. This brick building was connected to the existing courthouse by a porch. In 1901, another building was approved by the state - also 3 stories by 40 feet square. The city and the railroad donated additional land.

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National Registrar

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Fairchild Farmgirl

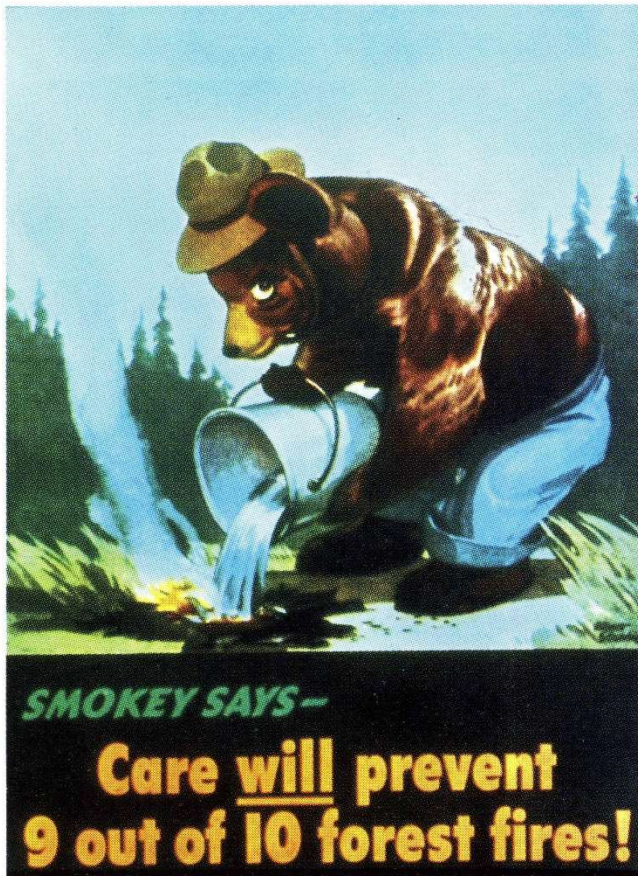
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This Old House

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Fire! Fire! Fire!

The Gary Fire Department has been quite busy this past month. The Annual Fire Department "Dance" and fundraiser was held on March 16th featuring Dueling Duo and a gun raffle. But it wasn't all fun and games that week for our volunteers - there were four grass fires lit between March 13 and 16. The fires were lit west of town on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, burning grassland and a few bales in the road ditch. Saturday's fire burned over 200 acres of DNR habitat 2 miles southeast of Gary. The fire flared up later in the day and the fire department had to return to knock it down again. Even though no real damage was done with these fires, our volunteer fire fighters give their time and risk their lives to protect our lives and property and actions such as these should not be ignored. Pay attention to who's driving around the country roads and what they may be up to. If you see something or know something, contact law enforcement.

22-33-9.3 Reckless burning or exploding--Felony.

Any person who intentionally starts a fire or causes an explosion, whether on his or her own property or another's, and thereby recklessly:

- (1) Places another person in danger of death or serious bodily injury; or
- (2) Places a building or occupied structure of another in danger of damage or destruction;

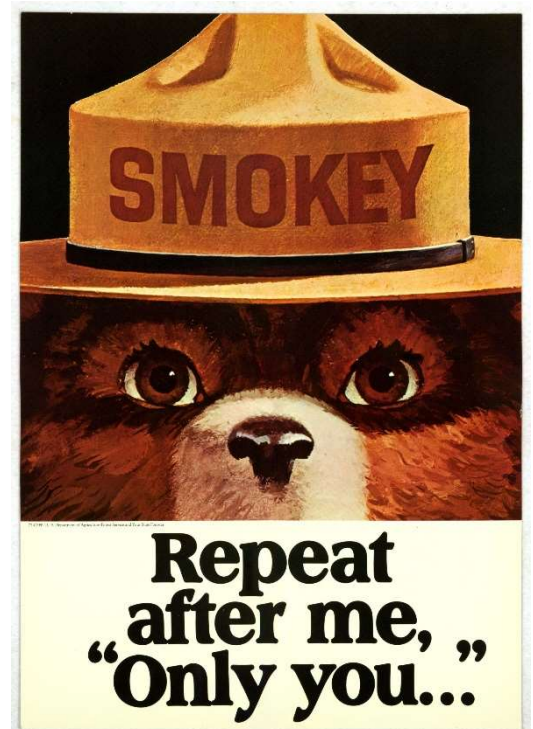
is guilty of reckless burning or exploding. Reckless burning or exploding is a Class 4 felony.

This is also a reminder to supervise any open fires including bonfires and trash burns. Remember to properly extinguish fires at the end of the night or before leaving an area.

And the Winners Are!!!

Since We're Already on the Topic -
Fire Department Raffle Winners

John Homan - Browning Maxus II Hunter 12ga
 Marilyn Nelson - Browning XBolt STS Stalker 308
 Dylan Veen - Rossi R92 357 lever action
 Heather Homan - Remington 870 12ga
 Arden Eilers - Remington 700 SPS 22-250
 Gary Hudiburgh - Ruger American 6.5 Creedmore
 Wayne Viessman - Ruger American 30-06
 Jerry Keimig - S&W M&P 15 223
 Bruce Melby - Winchester SX4 20ga
 Stuart Almos - Winchester SX4 12ga



A Look Back...**100 years ago, April 1924**

Joyce Swanson fell on stove register and severely burned her hands
 Engine of east bound freight leaves track
 Will Stoltenburg to manage elevator another year
 Herrick Hotel closes
 L.A. Humbert moves studio building to his farm
 Three-year-old Harvey Dawson's hand gets caught in gears of cream separator
 Auction: Norman Einly
 Marriage: Mildred Doris Carton & George W Lytle
 Births: Girls to Mr. & Mrs. Art Sherburne
 Mr. & Mrs. Art Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Christiansen
 Deaths: Clara Johnson – Betty Sherburne

75 years ago, April 1949

Golf Club meets
 Most of Gary teachers to return
 2 rural fires– Marion Simonton and Wilson Shackelford
 T.W. "Bill" Hinsvark elected mayor
 Gary to honor early settlers
 Seniors who's who–Marilyn Sanden–Mildred Peden
 Birth: Son to Mr. & Mrs. Ray Johnson
 Deaths: Mrs. J.A. Ganser – Mrs. Ufka Sweeter – Robert Swenson

50 years ago, April 1974

Couples party April 2
 Franks's Welding new business in Gary
 Work started for 8 plex housing unit
 Senior of the week: Mike Nosbush–Steven Fritz–Sharon Helmberger–
 Birth: Girl to Mr. & Mrs. James Keimig
 Marriage: Annette Olson & Grant Hustad
 Death: Theodore "Ted" Pothoff

25 years ago, April 1999

Old municipal well filled and covered with cement
 City is now part of rural water system
 SoDak garden celebrates 45 years
 Gary Area Community Club sponsors Easter egg coloring contest
 Death: Donald Schulte

Township Supervisor Retires

“Neither rain nor snow nor worn out culverts and bridges will stay the supervisors of Herrick Township from their appointed rounds.”
 Congratulations goes out to Monte Winrow on his retirement from 27 years of public service as a supervisor for Herrick Township. Gone are the times of dealing with snow-blocked roads, washed-out roads, road repairs, government bureaucracy, FEMA, and maintenance of many sorts. It's obvious that it is a myth that the only way out of this position is to die! Now all his Sunday drives around the township will be just for pleasure. Thank you for your service to the community and enjoy your retirement!



Brian Thomas has stepped up to fill the vacant position, joining Michael Hunt and Dennis Toft as supervisors, along with Rick Severson as clerk and Mike Hinsvark as treasurer.

Fairchild Farmgirl

Welcome to my gardening rabbit hole I've been delving deeper into day by day with my son Tedd. Hi everyone! I've got my cup of coffee and I'm ready to visit with you, my favorite people. Last month I told you I wanted to get to gardening again. Do you remember?

About two weeks ago I had the dreaded question asked by my son Tedd. "Mom, I want a job, what can I do for money?"

Too young for a job. I used to feel so bad for my kids that would ask that. Now, I'm like, "lets put our heads together and figure out just what an 11 year old can do." I asked, "would you want to clean lawns in town? No one wants to pick up dog poop." I got the look...no he doesn't want to do that! "Gross mom!" Well, the rule of thumb is, if the majority of people don't want to do it, you can really fill a niche" I told him. He wouldn't budge on the dog poop, not going to do that. He thought mowing lawns would be good. I told him the object of the game would be to put the least amount of money into his business...(kind of like a box of plastic bags and a pooper scooper, but who am I right?) I'm also not going to haul our ancient mower into town each week.

We went through another couple options, but then a lightbulb turned on in my head. "Garden with me!" I exclaimed to the boy. "We could have cut flowers and produce. We could try to sell to restaurants as well as farmers markets and stores." With a solemn, "I guess" and a downward look, he agreed. "It'll be months before we make any money though, mom." Yes son...and we'll have to work for that money. I'm going to date myself a wee bit with this next sentence. 'That's whats wrong with kids nowadays. They want instant gratification.' It's kind of true and you know it. Mine are no different and sometimes, I'm the same way.

Now I remember when I was a kid and my parents were so poor living out in the country squeaking out a living having a few milk cows

and my dad having his own business. They had a ¼ acre or so of a garden. Sometimes even bigger. To say I hated gardening as a kid would be an understatement. I loathed it. We spent HOURS per day weeding.

Moving onto my kids, they hate gardening just like I did. But there's hope. Our oldest daughter likes it. What do you know? I never thought anyone would.

So we had our planning night, Tedd and I. We're going to do a method called Bio intensive cropping. Where our rows are 30" wide and the name of the game is to put the crops close enough together that they get the airflow they need but the leaves will touch and create a canopy to keep the weeds away. We'll see how this goes. Also, were going to heavy mulch and plastic where we can, to have hours of weeding a thing of the past, so Tedd may actually like this.

We've started bean plants and peas already. This weekend we are planting 450 radishes, and covering with plastic.

I'll keep you up to date, but the most important thing is this: from my angle, even if nothing grows, I'll be spending time with my youngest and as I've noticed with all our other kids, time with them is SHORT. I need to make the most of it.

Until Next time,
Fairchild Farmgirl

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This Old House: Where did this home originate?

It comes from the Vernon Blaine farm site, currently owned by Barbara Blaine Vanstrom and located six miles northeast of Gary. Barb has built a new home on the farm but wanted someone to be able to use the existing house. She tried to sell the home but, taking into consideration the costs to relocate it, decided to give it away.

William and Anna Blain were married in Algona, Iowa in 1910 and immediately moved to a farm owned by Anna's father Henry in Manfred Township, Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota. Anna was the sister of C.H. (Charles Henry) Bailey, father of Oscar, Virgil, and Leroy Bailey of Gary. William and Anna's son Vernon was born at home in 1911 and daughter Vera in 1922. They also had a baby daughter who died in 1920. The new home was built in 1925 to replace a much smaller, original house on the farm. Lumber was sourced from the nearby Burr lumberyard. It is of the



Craftsman style, a modest sized home with overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails and simple gable brackets. It has a front facing dormer wide enough for two or more windows. A covered porch is also part of the Craftsman design although those homes located in the northern climates are likely to have enclosed porches as does the Blain house. This house was very modern with indoor plumbing, electricity, and a central heating system burning coal and wood. William died young from pseudo

leukemia at the age of 52 in 1930 having only lived in the new house for 5 years.

Vernon was only nineteen and took over the farming operation at that time. He married Erdine Harlan on July 19, 1939, and the couple made their home with his mother, Anna, on the farm. Their daughter Barbara was born at home in 1944, attended by Doc Pinard, and Josephine was born two years later in the Canby Hospital. Erdine worked off the farm at the local welfare offices in the area as well as the secretary and typing instructor at the South Dakota School for the Blind in Gary. Vernon was well known for presenting outdoor movies in the area and for his portable sound truck. Anna continued to make a home for her family until her passing in 1969. Vernon Blaine lived his entire life on the farm in Manfred Township, passing away June 1, 1999. His wife Erdine passed April 9, 2011.

I always find a mystery when researching for an article. This time the mystery is the spelling of the name "Blaine". William dropped the "e" and spelled his name Blain. The census records for his family in Iowa have it spelled "Blaine". Barb Blaine Vanstrom has no explanation as to why her grandfather dropped the "e" or why her father Vernon added it back.

So, what is the future for this home? Angel hopes to maintain the original character of the home and will be carefully bringing it into this century. They will rebuild the back porch which was removed prior to the move due to extensive water damage caused by a flat roof. They plan to remove a wall between the kitchen and dining room to open the floor plan. The plastered walls and ceilings are in very good condition and will be retained. Windows, siding, insulation, so much more to be

decided on. I, for one, am thankful for the efforts to save a very well-built home and look forward to the finished home.

State School for the Blind (Continued)



The wooden courthouse was moved to the west and a third building was constructed in 1903 to connect the first two brick buildings. These three brick buildings made up the Administration Building used for offices, class rooms, kitchen and dining rooms, and teachers' living quarters. More land was donated to the school until there was a total of 37 acres.

In 1910, the Girls' Dormitory measuring 40' x 80' was built west of the Admin Building. This is a two story brick building rising from a cement foundation. It housed an auditorium with stage, music studios, and classrooms on the lower floor and dormitory rooms on the second level. The Boys' Dormitory was constructed in 1925 to the north of the Girls' Dormitory. It is a two story, 40' x 100' building constructed of poured concrete faced with brick. This building housed class rooms and industrial labs on the first floor with dormitory rooms above.

Just north of the Administration Building is the Physical Plant built in 1911. This single story brick building housed the system that supplied steam heat to the dormitories and the Administration Building. A laundry for the institution was added in 1915. The brick buildings were built in the Classic Revival style of architecture as was common with the state institutions built around the turn of the century . A system of tunnels were built in 1935 which joined the 4 brick buildings of the main campus allowing students to move from one building to another without going outside in inclement weather. The other buildings making up the campus were wood framed and consisted of a garage, chicken coop, hog house and a barn. The chicken coop and garage were reportedly built from the lumber of the wooden court house when it was dismantled. A new dairy barn was built in 1935 with a clay tile main level and a gambrel roof hay loft. The campus was quite self-sufficient raising their own food in the gardens and barns. Produce was stored in the root cellar which has now been converted into a wine cellar. The students learned the expected 'Three R's' as well as vocational training in weaving, piano-tuning, broom-making, chair-caning, and industrial work.

Enrollment in the 1940's averaged 35 students and in the 1950's averaged 44. The school was closed in 1959 and moved to Aberdeen, SD. In 1966, the facility was converted into a retirement center and apartments called "Shady Rest Lodge". The

public laundromat was moved to this location in 1972 and the Senior Citizens also organized that year, meeting at the Shady Rest. The retirement home closed in 1977 and the property sat vacant for 30 years subjected to the elements and vandalism. In 2007, entrepreneur Joe Kolbach purchased the property and made plans to renovate and repurpose the campus. It has been converted into a destination event center including a hotel and campground as well as the Rock Room Bar and Restaurant. The current owner plans to add a spa to the facility in the coming months.

Information for this article came from the National Register of Historic Places application, Bill Stone's Gate City to the Dakotas, Gary, South Dakota 1872 -1997, and archived issues of the Gary Interstate.



Lyndon Helmbolt, 73, passed away on March 28, 2024, at Stamford Hospital in Stamford, CT. He passed peacefully after a battle with cancer.

Lyndon “Sonny” Helmbolt was born March 25, 1951, in Clear Lake, SD to Clyde and Agnes (Jensen) Helmbolt. He was raised in Gary, SD and graduated from Gary High School in 1969. He briefly attended South Dakota State University before starting work in Volga, SD, in residential construction and as a salesman for Ahlfeldt Chevrolet.

While residing in Volga, Lyndon and former spouse, Noreen (Dailey) McAdaragh, had three sons, Troy, Cory, and Shawn, who they adored.

Lyndon moved to Stamford, CT, in 1985 and continued his career in residential construction. He was employed by Carlson Construction, where he became a partner, and eventually started his own residential construction company Jeflyn Construction in 1999. He worked daily for Jeflyn construction until the time of his death. In his professional life, Lyndon was respected for his hard work, integrity, and dedication. He inspired others with his kindness and commitment to excellence.

Lyndon enjoyed sailing on the Long Island Sound, specifically on sailboats Soupbone III and IV based out of Halloween Yacht Club in Stamford, CT, with a special crew who meant a lot to him. He was also an avid sports fan, especially fanatic about the UCONN Huskies, SDSU Jackrabbits, and New York Yankees, but would spend hours and hours watching any sporting game or event.

Lyndon is survived by his sons, Troy Helmbolt of Norwalk, CT, and Shawn (Crystal) Helmbolt of Brookings, SD; five grandchildren, Taylor (Tanner) Jones of Sioux Falls, SD, Tanner Helmbolt of Rincon, GA, and Preston, Tate and Lincoln Helmbolt all of Brookings, SD; three great grandchildren, Parker, Owen and Cole; one brother, Roger (Cindy) Helmbolt of Watertown, SD; one sister, Marilyn Kray of Clara City, MN, four nieces and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clyde and Agnes Helmbolt; an infant son, Cory Helmbolt; brother, Marvin, and infant sister, Linda Jo; and brother-in-law Peter Kray.

Though he is gone, his spirit will live on in the hearts of those who were blessed to know him. A celebration of Lyndon's life will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd, from 10am to 12pm, at Bosak Funeral Home in Stamford, CT. A second celebration will be held in Gary, SD on Thursday, May 30th, from 2pm - 4pm. More details for the South Dakota gathering will be shared later. Donations in his honor may be made to the American Cancer Society.



William "Bill" Stebor, age 76, of Gary, SD, passed away Monday, March 4, 2024, at the Sanford Canby Medical Center. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Houseman Funeral Home, Birk Chapel in Canby, MN is entrusted with the arrangements.

William Thomas Stebor was born on February 4, 1948, in Warroad, MN to Walter and Delores (Lettengarver) Stebor. Throughout his life, Bill was a dedicated and loving husband, his passion for adventure and experiencing new places was only matched by his love for his wife, Carol. They were a team, always by each other's side, creating countless memories during their travels together. Bill's love for thrills and excitement was also evident in his love for NHRA drag racing. He would often spend weekends at the racetrack, cheering on his favorite drivers and soaking in the adrenaline rush of the sport. But his love for sports didn't end there - he was a dedicated fan of the Minnesota Vikings and enjoyed hockey and attending baseball games with Carol.

Despite his love for travel and sports, Bill also had a deep appreciation of nature and spent much of his free time outdoors. Whether it was fishing, camping, or simply relaxing in a chair enjoying a cigar, he found solace and joy in the simplicity of the great outdoors.

Bill's dedication to his career was also a part of his identity. He worked for Target for most of his professional life, starting in Minnesota and eventually relocating to California. He was a hard worker and took great pride in his job, always striving to do his best and provide for his family.

But above all, Bill's greatest joy in life was his family. He was a devoted husband of 40 years, father, grandfather, and uncle who cherished every moment spent with his loved ones. He was a pillar of strength and support for his family and was always there to offer a helping hand or give guidance and advice when needed.

His passing has left a void in the hearts of all who knew him. He joins his beloved wife Carol, whom he lost just weeks before his own passing. But his legacy of love, adventure, and dedication will forever live on in the hearts of those he touched. Bill will be remembered for his infectious laughter, his kind heart, and his unwavering love for his family and friends. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

He is survived by sons: Troy (Shelly) and Scott (Denise); daughter Stacey (Tim) Miller; sisters: Carol Barger, Linda Stebor (Kristi), Joann (Kevin) Miller and Diane Mudgett; 10 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews with their children and Carol's siblings: Bruce (Diane) Melby, Curt (Mary) Melby, and Lorna (Craig) Otto and Pam Melby.

He was preceded in death by parents Walter Thomas Stebor and DeLores Stebor (Lettengarver), wife Carol Jeanne Stebor (Melby) and brother Gary Stebor.





Steven M. Schanning, age 68, of Gary, SD, passed away Sunday, March 17, 2024. Funeral Service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Canby, MN with Rev. Levi Bollerud and Father Ron Huberty officiating. Burial followed at the St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery in Canby, MN. Visitation was from 4-7 pm with a 7 pm Masonic and Prayer Service on Friday, March 22, 2024, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Canby and resumed Saturday one hour prior to the service at the church. Houseman Funeral Home, Birk Chapel in Canby was entrusted with the arrangements.

Steven Michael Schanning was born on November 27, 1955, at the Montevideo, MN hospital to Ervin and Ramona (Kulla) Schanning of Canby, MN. He was baptized and confirmed in the catholic faith. Steve attended St. Peter's Catholic church until 7th grade then attended Canby Public High School and graduated in 1974. He then went on to Canby Votech for Welding Sciences.

Steven was united in marriage to his high school sweetheart, Susan Cole on April 8, 1978. To this union, they were blessed with three wonderful children, Christopher Glenn, Greta Lynn and Laura May. Steve and Sue raised dairy cattle and farmed northeast of Canby until December 1987. They then moved to their present home by Gary where they raised hogs and beef cattle.

Steve was known as a hard worker and handy man. He loved to mow road ditches and work the field. He was known to some as the "road ditch king." He also fabricated many of his own gates and panels for the cattle. He worked for Runnings and the Canby Elevator before becoming the Canby School District bus manager, bus repair man and a bus driver. Steve loved to surprise the secretary ladies with brownies from Casey's and was known to pitch in a helping hand wherever help was needed. He was also known for his smile and giggle. One of Steve's special things to do was to surprise his Susie with flowers just because.

In 2018, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He was a strong fighter and beat that battle and was cancer free for six years. He was proud of that. It's not very often you meet a pancreatic cancer survivor. It wasn't the easiest road, but he always had a smile on his face and never complained.

Steve was a Mason, a Shriner, a 4-H leader for Deuel County, assisted with trap shooting, helped the 109 Legion Auxiliary ladies serve prime rib suppers and enjoyed playing cards. He adored his grandchildren. One of his greatest joys was giving sled rides to them behind the 4-wheeler. He loved spoiling the kids with a special treat and getting to hold them and rock them to sleep. He was the best dad and grandpa/papa anyone could ever ask for.

Left to cherish his memory are wife, Susan; children: Christopher (Alisha) Schanning, Gary, SD, Greta (Adam) Leitheiser, Emery, SD and Laura Schanning, Gary, SD; grandchildren: Bridgette, Allison, Emily and Connor Leitheiser and Kenzie and Adley Schanning; step grandchildren: Dustin and Domnic Perius; sister, Susan (James) Englin, Rapid City, SD; mother-in-law, Lois Cole, Canby, MN; brother-in-law, John (Connie Munk) Cole, Canby, MN; nieces and nephews: Jennifer (Bill) tenBensel and their children: Zachary, Alexander, Tanner and Geoffrey; Josh (Casey) Englin and their children: Oakley and Elijah; Nina Englin; Andrew (Kendal) Cole; Jack Cole; Emma Cole and many other family and friends.



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Gary Area Community Club

BINGO
& Lunch

Sunday | **APR 21** | 2024
 Gary, SD American Legion Dance Hall

Lunch 11 am - 1 pm

Bingo* 1 pm
 10 Games +
 Jackpot Round
Book - \$10
 10 games
Jackpot Card - \$5
 Limit 5 cards per player
 All books and
 Jackpot Cards must
 be purchased by **1 pm.**

Free-Will Donation
 Lunch will be served by the
 Gary Historical Association.
 Takeout orders are available.

Concessions
 Soda & snacks will be available
 for purchase.



The Gary Givers

FUNDRAISER

TRACK THE JACK

THURSDAY NIGHTS
at the Gary Liquor Store

TICKET SALES: 5 P.M. - 7 P.M.
 Drawing: 7:15 P.M. - Must be present to win!
 ** Must be at least 21 years old to participate. **
 2 tickets - \$5 ♥ 5 tickets - \$10 ♥ 20 tickets - \$20



The Gary Junior Auxiliary is selling Raffle Tickets (proceeds going towards future community and veteran projects).

Members will sell tickets until the Gary Legion Poultry Party. 1st place is a patriotic quilt (donated by Karen Keimig), 2nd place is a patriotic wreath that has 16 interchangeable seasonal pieces, and 3rd - 6th place winners will win patriotic windsocks (also donated by Karen).

Tickets are \$5 each. Contact a Junior Auxiliary member if you are interested - the girls will also be present at local events to sell tickets.

If you have any story ideas or questions pertaining to the Gary area that could develop into an article, feel free to email them to ghainterstate@gmail.com.

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Museum Membership**

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www.experiencegarysd.com

It is loaded with interesting information, including,
Bill Stone's book at:

<http://experiencegarysd.com/billstonebook.cfm>

And the Gary High School Orange Book at <http://experiencegarysd.com/garyschoolorangebook.cfm>

Gary Historical Ass'n is on FaceBook
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Pam Hulst.

