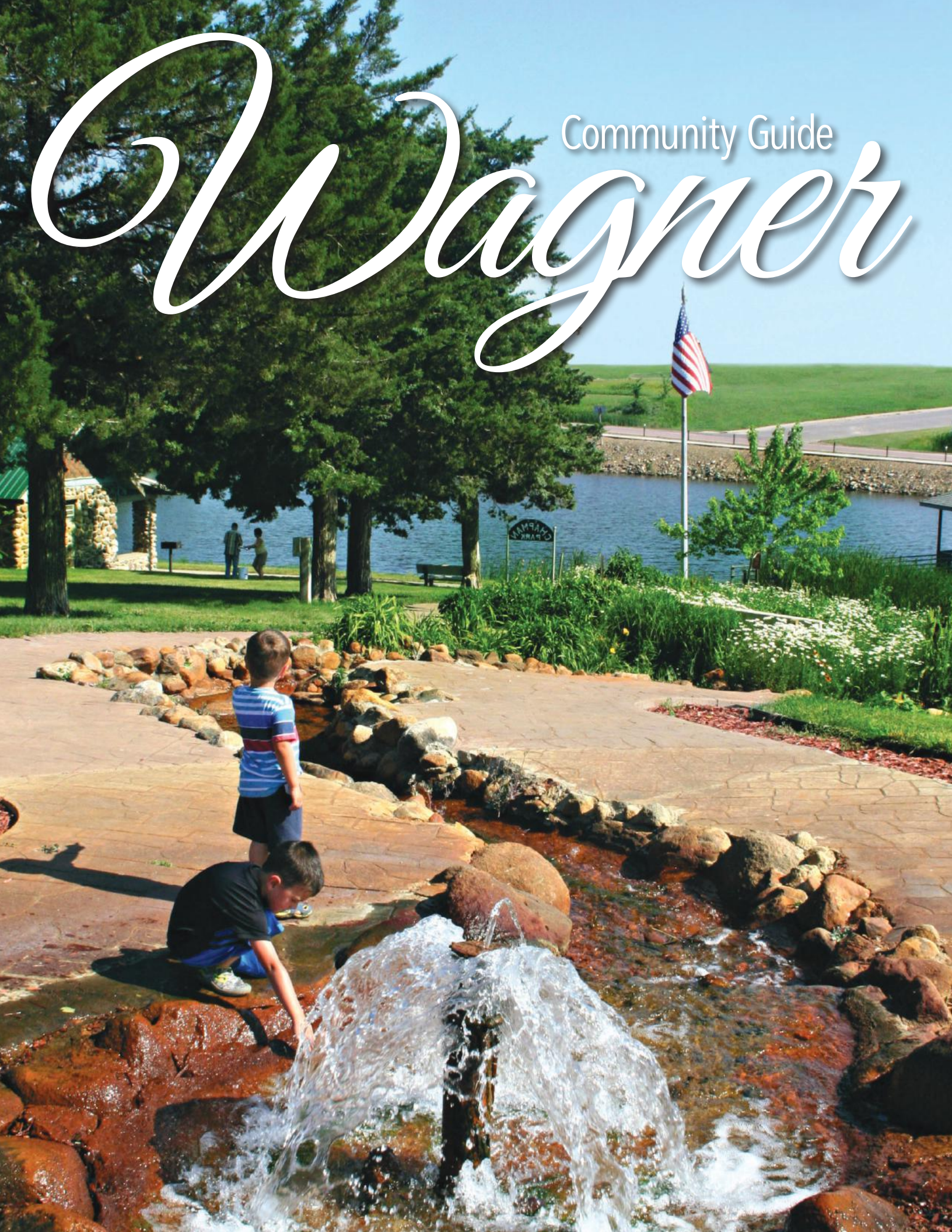
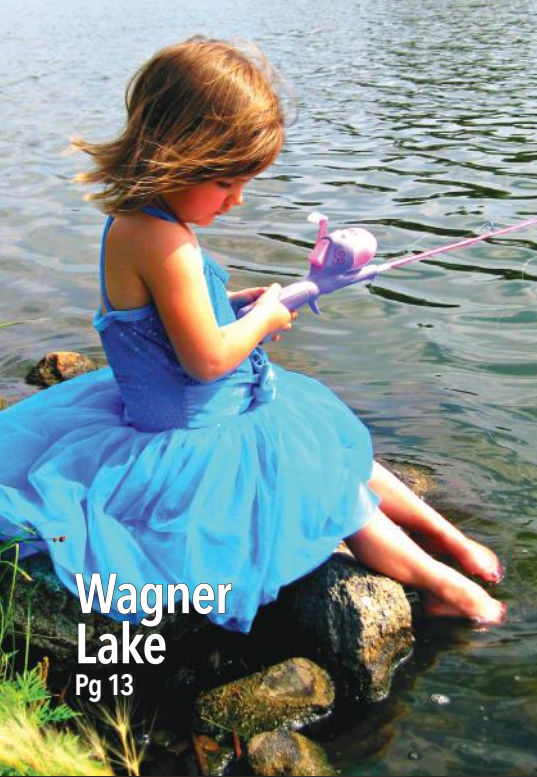


Wagner

Community Guide





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Edited by Kelsey Doom

Special thanks to all members of the community who have contributed their assistance with this publication.

Sponsored by:



Phone : 491.4051

Wagner Area Growth - www.wagnerareagrowth.org

Welcome,



Mayor Don Hosek

As the mayor of Wagner, I extend a big “Welcome” to our great city. Stop in at City Hall located on Main Avenue and visit with our finance office staff and our economic development coordinator right next door.

Geographically, Wagner is located on SD Highway 46 and SD Highway 50, and is

about a stone’s throw from the Missouri River. Our mixed and diverse cultures gives this city its identity—from Czech to Yankton Sioux—and what beautiful cultures they are.

If you are visiting Wagner for the first time, please check out our city’s business atmosphere with destination shopping on Main Avenue, our medical facilities, and the Wagner Community School where we offer pre-school through 12th grade. The Charles Mix County Historical Museum is located within walking distance from the City Park and promises to take your mind and conversation back in time. The Wagner Lake and Chapman Park is located on the west side of Wagner and offers picnic and playground facilities and is located within walking distance from our motels. Two fine grocery stores, both offering catering services, are available seven days a week for your convenience. And please don’t forget to check out our churches. We have many denominations represented with a great congregation for each.

This in brief, is Wagner, and I am proud to call it home.

Sincerely,

Mayor Don Hosek



Chairman Robert Flying Hawk

Anpetu Kin De Cante Was'te Nape Chiyuzapi Anpetu Waste! (Good Day! I greet you all with a heartfelt handshake!)

As the Chairman of the Ihanktonwan Oyate, End Village Nation, also known as the Yankton Sioux Tribe, I would like to extend an invitation to visit us at the Yankton Sioux Tribal Headquarters. The Yankton Sioux Tribe is rich in its history, culture, and traditions, as well as its beautiful scenery.

A few of our main attractions include our Buffalo Pasture and Struck by the Ree Monument, both located in Greenwood. If you are interested in taking a tour of the Buffalo Pasture, please stop by or call our Buffalo Handlers at 605-384-3641 ext. 1043. Walk through history with us as you enter the Fort Randall Casino and Hotel by visiting our small museum of artifacts and pictures of our head chiefs.

The Yankton Sioux Tribe operates Martyr Indian School and college Ihanktonwan Community College. Local churches in the area include the Cedar Presbyterian, Wesleyan Chape, Martyr Catholic Church (and Episcopal).

We are pleased to announce the recent opening of New Hope Dialysis Center. We are now servicing our tribal membership as well as the local communities.

Thank you for stopping by the Ihanktonwan Makoce (Land of the Friendly People)!

Pidamiya (Thank you),

Robert Flying Hawk, Chairman
Yankton Sioux Tribe

Tar Paper Town

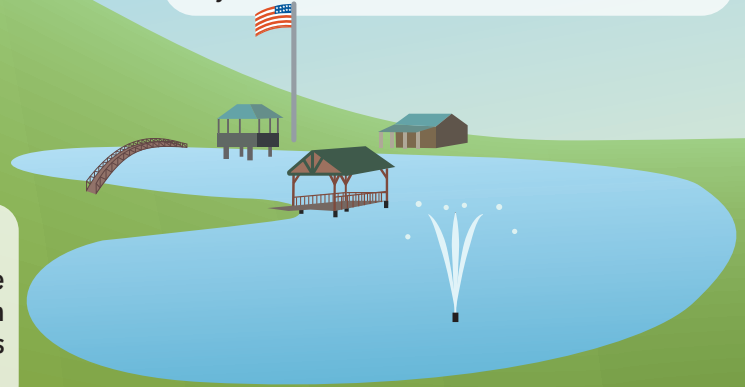
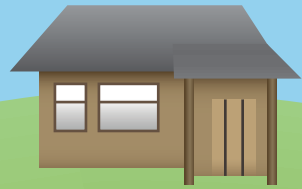
In 1896, Walter W. Wagner established a tar paper covered store with postal rights granted by the United States Government, and effectively founded Wagner. The Yankton Sioux Natives called the town "TISPANA" or "Tar Paper Town".

Wagner Home Guard

In 1918, the Wagner Home Guard won first place in a drill team demonstration competition in Mitchell. Their first place award of \$375 was donated to the Wagner Baseball Association.

Chapman Park

In 1935, Chapman Park was completed. The park was the vision of Mayor Lee Chapman and members of the Chamber of Commerce. Businesses in the community helped donate the funds needed to make the park a reality, and it was named in honor of the Mayor for his time and effort.



From Tar Paper Town to a Going Growing City

Founded in 1896 by Walter W. Wagner, the first appointed postmaster, Wagner was called "TISPANA" or "Tar Paper Town" by the Yankton Sioux Natives. Mr. Wagner established a tar paper covered store with postal right granted by the United States Government. The land was homesteaded by a sturdy class of farmers, mostly from older counties surrounding the reservation.

When the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad began constructing the railroad from Yankton to Platte, surveyors moved the site of Wagner from its original location to the current site. This plot consisted of four blocks and was laid out on February 4, 1900.

By 1901, the Wagner State Bank and the Commercial State Bank were both in operation.

In 1907, the city's first election was posted and H.J. Jones was elected the second mayor of Wagner. The Wagner Home Guard Unit organized during World War I and consisted of about ninety members. At the end of the war in 1918, the Wagner Home Guard competed against several other units in a drill team demonstration in Mitchell. The Wagner Home Guard won first place and received an award of \$375. The award was donated to the Wagner Baseball



The original Wagner Community School was built in 1908 and educated kids grades 1st-12th.

Association. The Chamber of Commerce was also instated in 1918.

Two local newspapers, the Wagner Eagle and the Wagner Post, combined in 1924 when purchased by Lorenzo Corey, Attorney. Shortly after, on April 20th, 1928, the Knights of Columbus was instituted in Wagner. Through the years, the Knights of Columbus have made many donations to families and organizations.

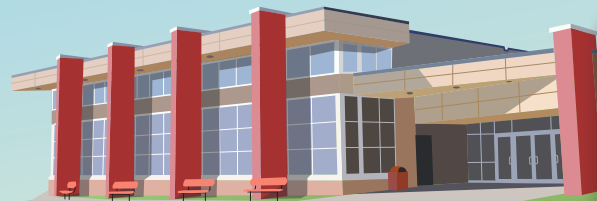
Bank failures in the late 1920s and the resulting depression of the 1930s greatly impacted the community.

Teachers pay dropped to \$50 a month. However, the Chamber of Commerce was resilient and remained active throughout this time.

In 1933, Mayor Lee Chapman and members of the Chamber of Commerce dreamed up the idea of transforming a piece of seldomly used pasture land into a beautiful lake and recreation area. Construction was largely funded as a WPA project, and work was completed just two years later. The park was named Chapman Park in honor of the Mayor for his time and effort.

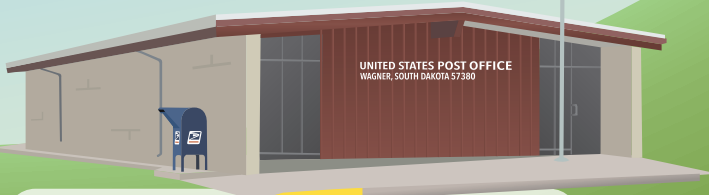
On December 12, 1947 the Wagner Community Hospital was established and began construction on a new hospital which was opened in 1949. Until this time, the Duggan Hospital was located

History of Wagner



Wagner Community School

In recent years, Wagner Community School has gone through several major remodeling transitions including the remodeling of their elementary and middle schools, kitchen and cafeteria, science and art areas, and the addition of a business area, auxiliary gym, and geo-dome.



Post Office

In 1960, the United States Post Office and parking lot relocated to its current location. The post office has been moved to four separate locations and was originally located in the Walter Wagner Store.

on Main Street.

In 1952 Attorney Owen Wipf and his associate Kenneth Cotton established Wipf and Cotton Law Office.

Throughout the late 1950s the Chamber of Commerce in partnership with other groups in town helped raise enough money for a swimming pool located on the north end of Main Street.

The United States Post Office and parking lot moved into its current location in 1960. The post office has been moved through four separate locations since its founding in the Walter Wagner Store.

In 1964, shortly after Ed Staudenmier became a partner with Glen James, the Stroth Hotel was torn down and the business moved to their new location. That same year, the Good Samaritan Society Corporation established their location in Wagner.

On October 3, 1967 the Wagner Saddle Club was formed at the Spot Cafe. The club was organized to better horsemanship, sponsor horse events, and bring people of this interest together. The club built one of the better rodeo arenas in the state of South Dakota.

As of November 5, 1967 Wagner telephone users no longer needed to place their calls through the operator.

In 1974, Don Piroutek sold the Continental Insurance Agency to the Frei Agency and deeded his two-story portion of the Barkl Building (corner of Main and Second) to the Rotary Club.

In 1976, the current Wagner Community Hospital was



Vene Eitemiller and Wayne Ramsdell moving the "Old Methodist Bell" to the United Methodist Church in 1976.

completed and opened to the public after several years of planning.

In June 2009, Wagner Community Hospital opened its new addition consisting of a new main entrance, four provider medical clinics and physical therapy area.

In recent years, Wagner Community School has gone through several major remodeling transitions beginning in 1999 with the introduction to an auxiliary gym.

Next in the year 2000, their middle school was remodeled followed by the early learning center in 2005 for children for pre-kindergarten students.

In 2009 the school expanded their kitchen and cafeteria area as well as the addition of the elementary and high school offices. The following year their Business office was completed. The school also added to their science and art facilities in 2014, introduced the Geo Dome in 2015, and their

elementary classrooms in 2016.

In 2015, the juvenile detention center finished their remodeling.

Over the years, Wagner has enjoyed steady development. Today the Yankton Sioux and European immigrants live and work together making life better for the entire community.

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Yankton Sioux Tribe History Relevant to the Wagner Area

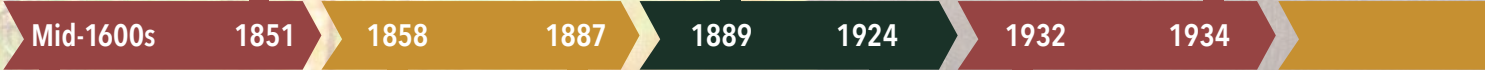
Smutty Bear, Chief of one of the historical seven council fires of the Ihanktonwan Oyate signs the Fort Laramie Treaty on behalf of the Ihanktonwan & the Great Sioux Nation. The Fort Laramie Treaty was to bring peace between the non-natives and the Sioux.



Smutty Bear, Chief of the historical seven council fires of the Ihanktonwan Oyate (Yankton Sioux Tribe).

South Dakota achieves statehood.

Indian Reorganization Act curtails the future allotment of tribal communal lands to individuals and provided for the return of surplus lands to the tribes rather than to non-native homesteaders.



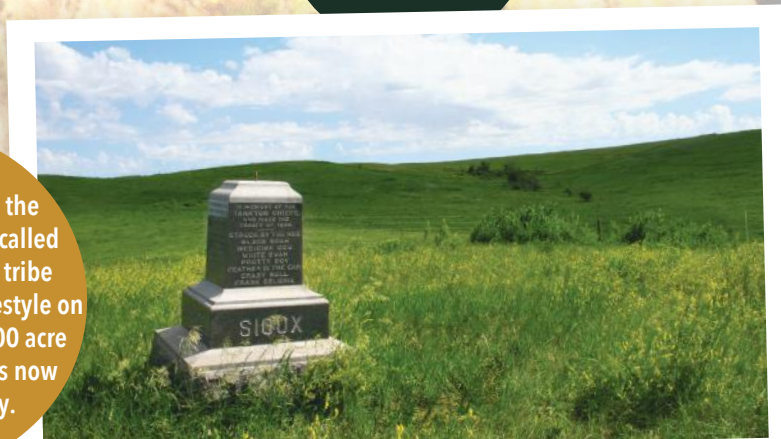
Dakotah people make first contact with Europeans.

Yankton Sioux sign the Yankton Treaty, which called for the removal of the tribe from their nomadic lifestyle on the plains to a 400,000 acre reservation in what is now Charles Mix County.

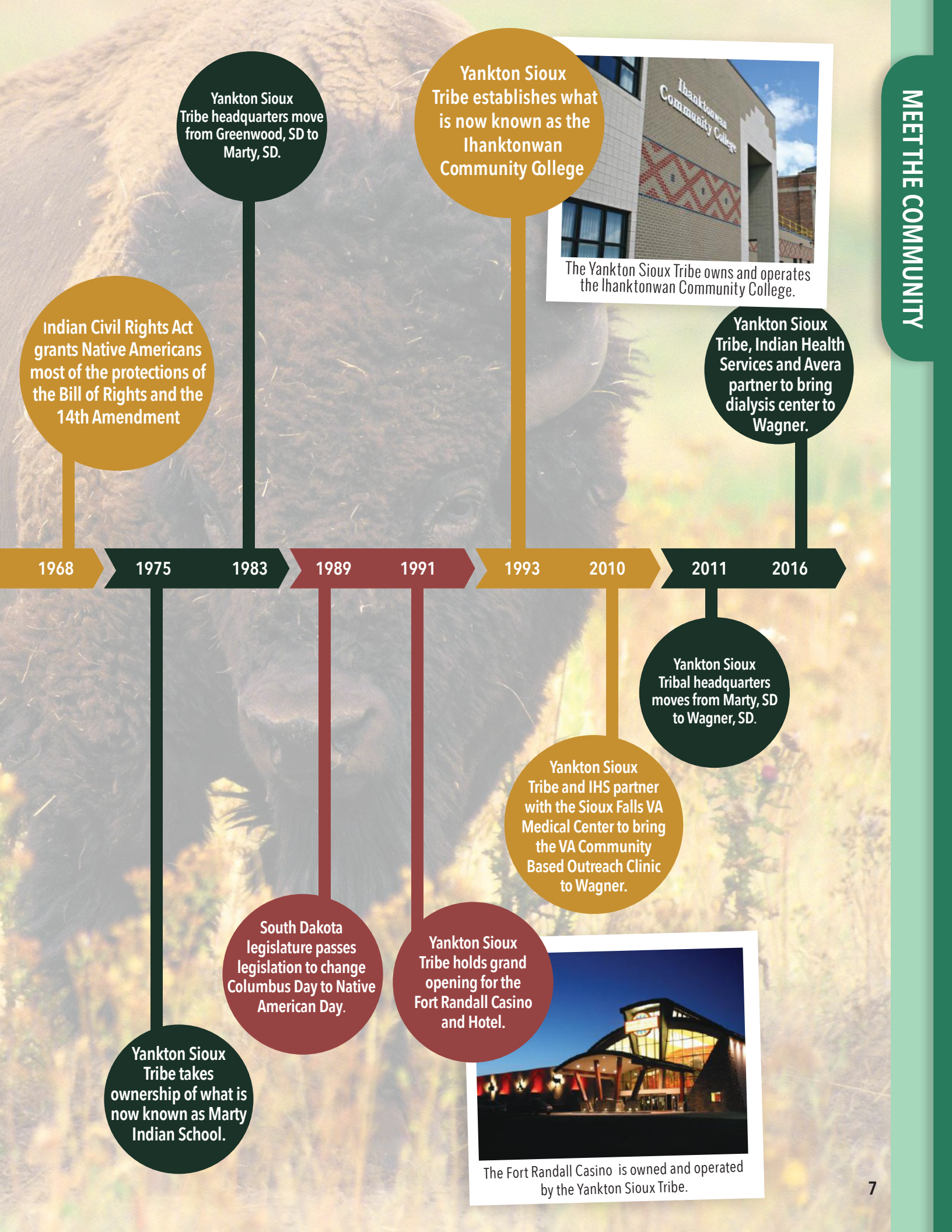
Dawes Act is implemented by Congress. The Act requires that, in order to retain land, Native people must accept individually deeded land parcels instead of communal land ownership. Once each federally recognized Native received allotment, the remaining reservation land was open for homestead to non-natives.

Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S.

Yankton Sioux Tribe adopt a constitution and by-laws.

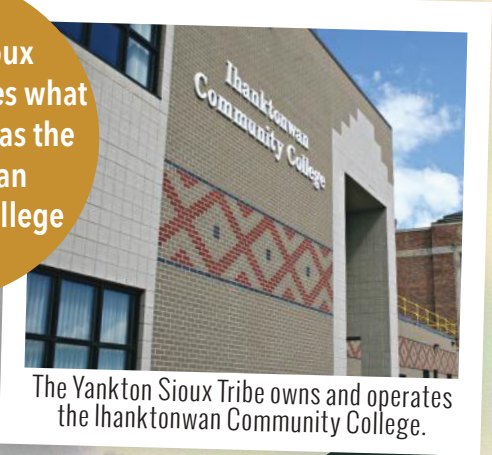


The Yankton Sioux Treaty Monument commemorates the treaty between the United States of America and the Yankton Tribe of 1858. The monument can be found on a hill ¼ mile north of Greenwood, SD.



Yankton Sioux Tribe headquarters move from Greenwood, SD to Marty, SD.

Yankton Sioux Tribe establishes what is now known as the Ihanktonwan Community College



The Yankton Sioux Tribe owns and operates the Ihanktonwan Community College.

Yankton Sioux Tribe, Indian Health Services and Avera partner to bring dialysis center to Wagner.

Indian Civil Rights Act grants Native Americans most of the protections of the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment

1968 1975 1983 1989 1991 1993 2010 2011 2016

Yankton Sioux Tribal headquarters moves from Marty, SD to Wagner, SD.

Yankton Sioux Tribe and IHS partner with the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center to bring the VA Community Based Outreach Clinic to Wagner.

South Dakota legislature passes legislation to change Columbus Day to Native American Day.

Yankton Sioux Tribe holds grand opening for the Fort Randall Casino and Hotel.



The Fort Randall Casino is owned and operated by the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

Yankton Sioux Tribe takes ownership of what is now known as Marty Indian School.



The Kjeldgaards

“We could never have loved the earth so well
If we had had no childhood in it.”

- George Eliot, *The Mill on the Grass*

For parents to be in their children’s’ memories tomorrow, they must be in their lives today. That’s a philosophy that the Kjeldgaards have taken to heart. And they have decided that Wagner is a perfect place to raise their family and build those life-lasting memories.

Tye and Kendra met in Mitchell after Tye moved for work and while Kendra was going to college at Dakota Wesleyan. Tye, originally from Tekamah, NE, grew up on a family farm. His interest in agriculture brought him to South Dakota State University where he graduated with a major in Ag Business. Kendra chose Dakota Wesleyan to continue playing basketball in college. There she became a secondary education major with an emphasis in social studies. In August of 2002, the couple moved to Wagner.

“I student taught here in Wagner,” explains Kendra. “And I also wanted to be in a diverse multicultural setting. When I graduated, I wanted to work in a setting like this. I wanted to go teach down at Marty when I became a teacher - I wanted to work in the places that there’s a high teacher turnover rate and the places that people just don’t always want to go teach.”

“And I could live anywhere with my job,” adds Tye. “So we moved down here.”

At first, the two had differing reactions about their new home. To Kendra the experience was something totally new while Tye found Wagner to be more familiar than he had expected.

“The town reminded me of where I grew up,” he reveals. “Wagner is a similar size. A nice rural agricultural based community – which was a big deal for me and raising kids. It also had the multicultural setting where I grew up as well.”

“It’s a great place for kids. I like being in a smaller town. I think it’s great for raising a family! And we love being by the river. We’re an outdoor family - so it’s a perfect spot for us,” Kendra says.

A major attraction to a family such as the Kjeldgaards is the Wagner Community School. A multicultural school system that builds a great deal of real world experience no matter where life takes you. Tye and Kendra have watched Wagner grow over the years and have found the town to be extremely enjoyable.

“There’s just a lot of things to do,” says Tye. “There’s a lot of things here that can actually bring a family together, tighter by doing things on your own here - like camping and yardwork. And there’s a lot of things in our own community that are fun to do, and you get to know other people and be involved in the community.”

As a family, the Kjeldgaards look forward to watching the town progress and as parents, Tye and Kendra look forward to building memories with their kids.

“That’s why we do our camping, and our boating, and his hunting,” says Kendra. “It’s all memories that you know you only have a certain time with your kids to make - and then it’s gone. So, all the memories that we can possibly make here, that’s our goal. I want to squeeze everything we can out of this home.”



Chamber of Commerce



**NEARLY 100
BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS AND
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS!**

The Wagner Chamber of Commerce is a community business organization and has served its members since 1918. Strengthening the local economy is our number one priority. We do this by promoting our community, providing strategic networking and partnering activities, and supporting entrepreneurialism in any way we are able.

The Wagner Chamber of Commerce has an ever-evolving list of events put on throughout the year, a few are listed here:

- Trick-or-Treat on Main Street
- Holiday Outdoor Decorating Contest
- Labor Day Weekend
- Farm, Home, Garden & Sports Show
- Wine, Dine & Unwind Chamber Fundraiser
- Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt
- Holiday Shop Cards
- Crazy Days
- Fort to Field 50 Paddle Battle
- All School Reunion
- Holiday Bucks



City Basics



The hard work of the 2016 5th grade Destination Imagination group results in three new beautiful trash receptacles at Wagner Lake, installed with the help of City Maintenance staff.

Wagner is a focal point for shoppers and workers from a large area. As a progressive and growing city, Wagner is home to excellent school and healthcare systems. The community is a tight knit family with the “small-town feel.”

Wagner is situated along Highway 46/50 in east river south central South Dakota. The Fort Randall Dam located on the Missouri River is only 12 miles away and offers great fishing, hunting, boating, and camping opportunities. Also just 10 miles away is the Yankton Sioux Fort Randall Casino and Hotel.

The city is governed by a mayor and six council members who meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall on Main Street. The City of Wagner employs 13 individuals full-time and increases to 22 in the summer months.

The Finance Office is located at 60 South Main Ave. and is open 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Their office is closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. for lunch. Contact the finance office at 384.3741 if you have questions or concerns regarding the following:

- Water/Sewer Billing
- Building Permit Applications
- Ordinances
- Voter Registration

Airport

The Wagner Municipal Airport has an FAA approved 3,500-foot runway. Their 100' x 60' hangar houses a general aviation lounge for the convenience of pilots and guests, as well as overnight and year-round storage for pilots' planes.

Added conveniences of the Wagner Municipal Airport are 24/7 fueling for visiting pilots and planes passing through the area, an airport courtesy car, and a private coded entrance to the airport hangar for security purposes.

The fixed base operator is Dakota Aircare Inc. We do aerial spraying and aircraft maintenance. Give us a call at 384.5858.



EXPLORE WAGNER



Library

The City Library has more than 10,000 volumes on hand with computer and Internet services available to the public.

Hours

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Wagner Public Library

106 SE Sheridan Ave.
Wagner, SD 57380
Phone: 605.384.5248

Emergency Contacts

For All Emergencies call 911.

The Police Department is on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to protect and serve the citizens of Wagner. The Wagner Fire Department consists of a team of volunteer fireman headed by a Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Captain. The department has a fleet of six vehicles: two pumper trucks, two grass rigs, one tanker truck and one rescue van.

Wagner Police Department

60 S Main Ave.
Wagner, SD 57380
Phone: 605.384.3222

Fire Department

805 W SD Hwy 46
Wagner, SD 57380
Phone: 605.384.9999

Ambulance

Community Memorial Hospital
513 SW 3rd St.
Wagner, SD 57380
Phone: 605.384.3611

The Kuhlman



“Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness.”

- Thomas Jefferson

Some of us grew up playing with tractors, and the lucky ones still do. Jeff and Rhonda Kuhlman understand that, and to their family, farming isn't just a job—it's a way of life. The Kuhlman family works together on a multigenerational farm keeping their family history alive for future generations to contribute to and learn from.

Rhonda and Jeff both enjoyed their childhood in an agricultural background and in large families. Rhonda grew up on a farm south of Dante, and Jeff grew up on the farm west of Wagner. They noticed each other early on in grade school, dated on and off again up until they ended up at the same college.

“And that's what sealed the deal,” says Rhonda Kuhlman, smiling.

Rhonda is the physical therapist's assistant at Wagner Community Hospital, and Jeff works with extended family to run the family farm.

“We're blessed to be able to purchase ground from his grandpa and his parents,” she explains. “His cattle operation is here, as well.”

Rhonda recalls some of her earliest memories of Wagner. “The Labor Day Parade—we always picked up my Grandma and took her to the parade.”

“We would come to the grocery store in Wagner. We sound really old school, but that's really the times we would come to town was to get groceries. We would make the rounds to the bank, and all that fun stuff.”

Over the years, the two have seen the community grow and change as they became more familiar with more people in the community.

“Overall, I feel like it's progressive — like we're going places. With our school, and with some of the businesses in town.”

She also says Wagner is special because of its culture. To the Kuhlman family, Wagner is a small town where everybody has each other's back.

“Personally, we experienced a loss in our family by losing a child,” Rhonda laments. “Everyone rushed to show how much they cared. It was shocking how many people supported you and were there for you. Overall, that was huge.”

Living within the community, Rhonda and Jeff say they get the most out of reliving their own memories through their kids.

“I was in gymnastics for a while, track, cheerleading, being around town Saturday nights driving up and down Main Street,” she says. “And, again, Labor Day is always huge and fun!”

On the farm the family works cattle, which makes for an all-day event.

“We embrace it,” she says. “And have big meals around it. It's a huge family deal.”

They look forward to being able to pass down Jeff's Grandpa's land, passing down holiday and other traditions, and watching their kids grow up as a part of the community.

Wagner Lake

Wagner Lake had its beginning in 1933 when the Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Lee Chapman, and the businessmen donated funds to purchase pastureland just West of Wagner. The dam, spillway, and a bridge were a Works Progress Administration (WPA) Project built with county relief works. The WPA was a program for the unemployed that was created in 1935 under President Roosevelt's New Deal.

Today, the results of volunteer efforts are very evident. A new picnic shelter has been constructed, the old bath house has a new tin roof, stone picnic tables are placed here and there, and an artesian well is flowing complete with a rock waterfall and ponds.

The old diving tower is now a gazebo. On September 3rd, 2000 the Wagner Community Memorial Garden was dedicated. It consists of flower plots that are dedicated to a deceased loved one, an organization, or family.

The Garden is on the North side of the lake below the artesian well on rock tiers that volunteers landscaped so many years ago. There are two walking bridges now; one over the waterfall, and a larger one connecting the north and south sides of the lake. A walking/bike trail starts on the southeast corner of the park and goes completely around the lake.

Contact the City Office at 384.3741 for information on renting the picnic shelters at Wagner Lake.



Wagner Community Clinic

Avera



Dr. Lindsey Barthel, FNP-C



Jordan Weber, PA-C



Lindsey Nedved, FNP-C

Clinic hours: Monday–Friday • 7:30 AM–5:30 PM
 605.384.3418 • 513 3rd Street SW • Wagner, SD
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- Debit/Credit Cards
- Mobile Banking
- 24 Hour ATMs

Just to name a few!



Platte—Pickstown—Wagner

NCUA



Hospitals and Health Services

Wagner Community Hospital

Incorporated on December 17, 1947 Wagner Community Memorial Hospital Association set forth on its quest to establish quality, accessible and affordable healthcare for the Wagner region. Through the efforts of Association members, funds were raised and in 1951 a new hospital became a reality.

In 1974, fund-raising efforts once again were undertaken. The successful outcome of this campaign is the current hospital facility which was dedicated in 1976. This was followed in 1982 by the addition of two, six exam room clinics. In July 2000, the Hospital was designated a Critical Access Hospital as certified by Medicare through the SD Office of Rural Health, Department of Health offering cost-based Medicare reimbursement. On May 1, 2002, the Hospital signed a “Partners in Health” agreement with the Avera Health System and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD, to become a “managed” facility of Avera Health. This decision by the Board of Directors allowed for the obtainment of quality management services and networking while the hospital’s ownership and governance remained with the local Hospital Association through its Board of Directors.

Wagner Community Memorial Hospital - Avera is a 20 bed Critical Access Hospital equipped with extensive advanced services, including areas for Medical, Surgical, Pediatric, Intensive Care, Coronary Care, Swing Bed, Physical Therapy, Laboratory and Radiology. The convenient location of the attached clinic allows direct access to hospital patients resulting in immediate and quality service.

In an effort to enhance and expand healthcare services in 2006 the Board of Directors of Wagner Community Memorial Hospital - Avera adopted a strategic plan that includes the addition of an 11,500 sq. ft. clinic, expanded clinic hours, expanded specialty outreach services and a 13,500 sq. ft. renovation and expansion of the inpatient and surgical wings.

Wagner Community Hospital-Avera is guided by its mission to provide care and treatment of the sick, to provide care and support of the aged, disabled and indigent, and to provide for those in need of hospitalization regardless of race, color, creed, or ability to pay.

Indian Health Service

The Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The provision of health services to members of federally-recognized tribes grew out of the special government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes. The IHS is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for Indian people, and its goal is to raise their health status to the highest possible level. The IHS currently provides health services to approximately 1.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to more than 557 federally recognized tribes in 35 states.

Indian Health Service

Our Mission

To raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level..

Our Goal

To assure that comprehensive, culturally acceptable personal and public health services are available and accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Our Foundation

To uphold the Federal Government’s obligation to promote healthy American Indian and Alaska Native people, communities, and cultures and to honor and protect the inherent sovereign rights of Tribes.



HWY 50

Wagner
Lake

Indian Health
Services

Wagner
Community
School

Wagner Community
Memorial Hospital-Avera

Yankton
Sioux Tribe
Headquarters

National Guard Armory



Hwy 46

City of Wagner Offices



Main Street

Airport



The Community of
Wagner

Kara, Mick & Connor

“Americans loved, and still love, the notion of the small town as a manageable, nonthreatening, friendly, finite community...”

- Ted Anthony, Associated Press

A little Mayberry livin’ can go a long way as new residents, Kara and Mick, have found since moving to the area in July of 2013. The warm reception they experience and closely bonded community they found made them feel right at home and the two plan on staying for years to come.

Kara and Mick Hanan met while attending South Dakota State University where Mick was getting his Master’s degree and Kara was doing general study.

After graduating and living in Missouri for a few years the couple decided to move a little closer to their families in Minnesota. “I’m from Marshall, Minnesota and he’s from Fergus Falls, Minnesota,” explains Kara.

Mick found a position at the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a Wildlife Biologist in Lake Andes, and Kara found work with Vicky Koupal, owner of Town & Country Beauty Salon. After renting in Lake Andes for a few years the two were ready to buy a home in Wagner.

Coming from rural settings, both Mick and Kara immediately took a liking to their

new small town. “The town I grew up in was similar to this,” says Kara. “I just like how everybody’s tight knit. And I’ve really seen that more working at a shop. At Town and Country, I’ve seen that a lot more—everybody cares about everybody.”

“I just like how everybody’s tight knit. And I’ve really seen that more working at a shop.”

- Kara Hanan



“I like the almost - Andy and Mayberry-type lifestyle here...” Mick explains. “Like you know the Andy Griffith Show. Everybody’s just like that small town - everybody knows your name - kinda thing. You go into the grocery store, you see this person, that person. You know them by name, you know their kids, you know everything about them. I like that.”

Mick enjoys the fishing and hunting opportunities the area offers, as well as his position with the Wagner volunteer fire department. Kara like the social side of the community—the annual wine tasting fundraiser, especially.

Kara and Mick are looking forward to watching their kids grow up in Wagner as they continue to build more friendships with people in the community.

“For me, I like the hunting and fishing that’s in the area.”

- Mick Hanan

Outsiders often leave Mayberry with enduring remnants of love and good wholesome humor. In Mick and Kara’s transition to Wagner they too have been charmed by the kindness, affection and respect found in the community of Wagner.

Editor’s note: the evening this interview was held, Kara was experiencing contractions. Little Connor Hanan was born the next morning, happy and healthy.



Wagner Community School



Wagner Community School boasts the largest square footage under one roof for Pre-K through 12th grade schools in the state. The facility is state of the art but what happens inside is even more amazing. The culturally diverse population of around 1,000 is comprised from the communities of Wagner, Marty, Greenwood, and Dante.

Because the school holds students at all grade levels, parents benefit by coordinating their children who may be at different grade levels from sporting events to the commutes to and from school. Lunch programs are all under one roof and the school culture remains totally cohesive. The school also has nine bus routes, including two routes for preschool students, averaging approximately 600 miles a day; over 3/4 of the student population ride a bus each day.

Class sizes average between fifteen and eighteen students to ensure all students succeed. In addition to small class sizes, Wagner Community School stays up to date to a great degree with technology. High school students have a computer that they can take home, 7th and 8th grade students have computers that stay at school, and younger students have access to a computer all day long.

Wagner Community School has implemented a model inclusionary program, allowing all students to learn together in the classroom. You can also see this on the playground, where equipment has been installed allowing children to play.

The community and school board are committed to keeping a state of the art facility which promotes inquiry based learning. The elementary, middle school and high school have been remodeled to include state of the art technology, additional art rooms, and science labs that integrate inquiry based learning.

Three large additions including a kitchen/cafeteria, Early Learning Center and an auxiliary gym have improved the school. The cafeteria allows for an open eating area which creates an environment of healthy eating and conversation. The Early Learning Center (ELC) educates 136 preschool students and over 100 kindergarten students. The services offered in the Early Learning Center ensures that all students have a great educational beginning. The addition of the auxiliary gym allows for additional physical education classes and sporting practices and events.

A learning space unique to Wagner Community School is it's outdoor learning space, the geodome, complete with an aquaponics program. The geodome is located just outside of the school and is a home for fish, birds, reptiles, and several planting beds where students can grow various plants and vegetables. The aquaponics program is a self-sustaining system where waste produced by the fish provides nutrients for the plants also grown in the geodome. The dome shape is incredibly strong and windfriendly, able to withstand over 130 mph winds and over 8 feet of snow in a single storm. The greenhouse can be used year-round and features automatic vent openers to prevent the dome from overheating. This geodome allows kids to work in harmony with the seasons to plant, grow, and harvest-reconnecting them with nature and the miracle of life. The outdoor learning space also includes a school garden and food plots to attract wildlife.

Wagner Community School's hands on learning philosophy helps to compliment structured learning in an environment where students are able to learn by doing. Its belief in a working school, over school work has functioned to prioritize and produce outstanding facilities in every area of study. All school decisions are made focusing on its mission, *"Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day"*.

Jimmy, Jane & Javana Sanchez

"I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible."

- Ghandi

The strength of a community rests in nourishing the roots of its culture. As Jimmy and Jane Sanchez believe, when we understand and embrace diversity, the adventures we open lead to new paths of discovering the unique manifestations of the human spirit.

Both Jimmy and Jane spent a great deal of their youth in the Wagner area. In 2000, Jimmy Sanchez went to California where he lived for about 13 years.

"For someone growing up in a small town, that's really kind of frightening you know," he explains. "I started to do martial arts and got my black belt in Gracie Jiu-Jitsu in 2009. I've had it for a while. And I like to consider that I was the first Native American Black Belt in the United States...because there's not too many Gracie Jiu Jitsu Blackbelts in general."

After earning his black belt, Jimmy started a martial arts academy in San Diego. With 100 kid students and 80 adult students, Jimmy Sanchez successfully ran the gym for seven years. In 2013, Jimmy sold the gym to a business partner and returned home to start working.

"I missed the small, friendly atmosphere that we have here," says Jimmy Sanchez. "Over there some people can be cold. Cold shoulder. It's a kind of shark tank. When you come back to Wagner, everybody says 'Hi.' You can have conversations."

Jimmy started at the Boys and Girls Club. Within around two to three months, he fell ill with West Nile.

"West Nile put me in the hospital for a little over six months. Blood transfusions, in and out of coma, and paralyzed from the waist down," he reveals. "I'm lucky for what I did have was strength, a martial arts background, and my Christian faith. That all really got me through it."

While still recovering and shortly after kicking out his cane, Jimmy met Jane.

"I was still recovering and had very low self-esteem," he says. "She loved me at a time when I didn't think anything or anybody cared. So that's how I knew that she was a keeper," Jimmy said, a smile on his face.

Jane went to college in Brookings where she earned a degree in apparel merchandising. As she was finishing her online classes she moved with her father, Van B. St. John III, a world renowned artist, to Rapid City where she picked back up her love of artwork and jewelry making.

"At the end of the summer, my mom texted me saying that a space was open in the Main Event building that Sandy was renting out, if I wanted to open up a boutique there... and as soon as she said it I just knew that's what I was going to do," Jane says.



Business started slow at first, but as Jane on Main got her name out there she found a great deal of local support. After a few years, she found a new location still conveniently located on Main Street.

"I had faith in our local people here," explains Jane. "That they would follow me to the new location, and that it would grow."

Jane says that there is and will continue to be plenty of opportunity in the community for businesses to thrive.

"You can tell the community is trying to push forward and grow aesthetically. Be a little more competitive, and it's really staying alive," she explains. "There's an attitude that if you want something to happen, it could; if you have an idea you can make it happen."

Both Jimmy and Jane see a bright future ahead for the community of Wagner stressing an emerging bond between Native and non-Native American cultures.

"I think it's very important for everybody to embrace the traditional ways of the Native American culture," says Jane. "Because it is very powerful. It's very important to keep that alive within our community."

They explain how the two cultures have become co-dependent, complimenting one another within the community allowing limitless possibilities.

"I'm starting to see cultures working together to make a better town and community now," states Jimmy. "Not living in the past, but moving to the future. The sky's the limit for Wagner because with the two cultures that live here anything can happen!"



Boys & Girls Club

Founded in 1998, the Boys & Girls Club of the Missouri River Area (BGCMA) has been in the forefront of youth development working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social and family circumstances on the Yankton Sioux Reservation and surrounding rural communities. The Club provides a safe environment for youth to develop ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals and participate in life-enhancing programs and character developing experiences. The BGCMA is well positioned in southeast SD and has demonstrated the ability to create a culture of achievement and meet the needs of its youth daily. Services are provided in Wagner and Marty.

Our Mission

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Purpose

To promote the social, educational, health, leadership, and character development of boys and girls during critical periods of their growth.



Boys & Girls Club Provides

A safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals. Life-enhancing programs and character development experiences. Hope and opportunity. Diversity. Unity through Multi-Cultural Exploration.



Shop and Dine In

Advertisement

Visitors to Wagner will be impressed by our business districts located on Highway 46 and along Main Street. A trip to Wagner wouldn't be complete without visiting the local shops and business located in these areas.

Main Street is home to a varied selection of shops for both our community members and our visitors. Several unique apparel stores line the street along with professional services who maintain their offices here. Community members find convenient banking, grocery, and pharmacy shopping on main street in addition to sources of recreation and entertainment. As soon as you build up an appetite during your visit, stop in at one of our local eateries where they offer gourmet coffees, baked goods, and hearty lunches.

Take a drive on Highway 46 in Wagner and you'll notice all the fantastic restaurants to order a delicious meal at any time of the day. Mechanics and gas stops have all placed their businesses in this high traffic area. Other hometown stores are also located here which provide home and gardening tools and equipment.

We welcome you to take part in our exciting business districts during part of your visit to Wagner.

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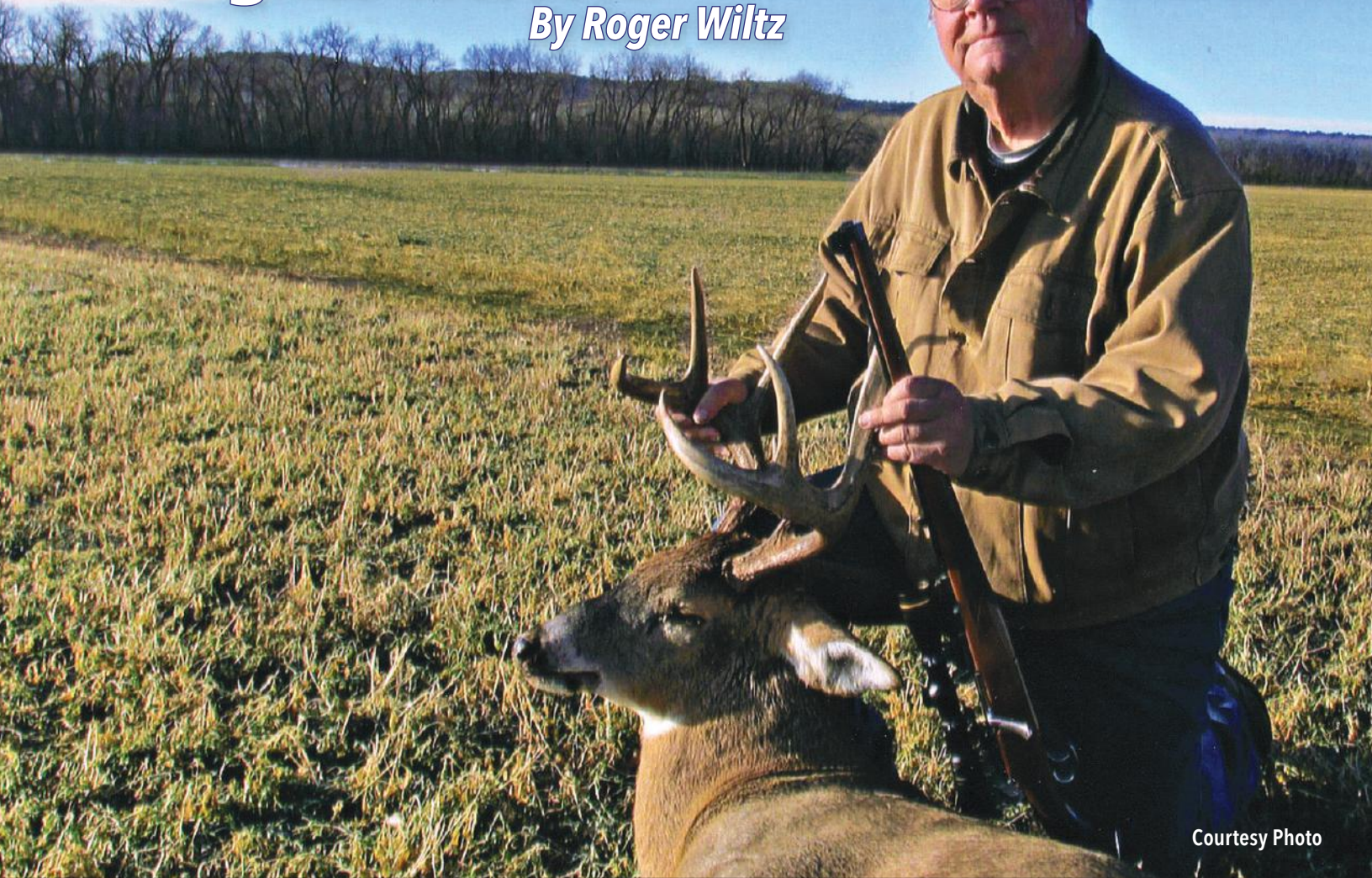
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Fins, Fur, and Feathers A Wagner Trifecta

By Roger Wiltz



Courtesy Photo

The Fins

A mile of rip-rap lies on the north face of the Fort Randall Dam, 12 miles west of Wagner. I generally launch my boat at the St. Francis Bay boat ramp and make the short run over to the above-mentioned rip-rap. With an amber-colored Gitzit tube jig tied directly to the end of my six-pound test monofilament line, I'll slowly back into the rip-rap and turn the transom slightly out so that I run parallel to the boulder-strewn bank in reverse. Without a steel leader, I'll lose an occasional tube jig to a toothy northern pike, but more frequent strikes will off-set the losses.

I usually switch on my depth finder although I really don't need it. I want to vertical jig directly over the line where the yellow boulders become a rich emerald

line. It's about 6.5 feet deep. I'll lower the jig, get the speed up to about 1.2 MPH, and prepare for a jarring strike. We're talking smallmouth bass! I've learned that in that mile-long stretch, some areas are better than others.

On that eight foot length of line the smallies will burrow into the boulders, rocket two feet above the surface, and fling the tube jig into my face as often as not. They average 14-16 inches, but that 18 inch smallie does come along. You wonder what it takes to get him to the surface. Ten bass later you know that life can't get any better.

I'll keep one or two smaller ones for the freezer. While I'm leaning over the live well, a bass clamped between my thumb and fore finger, I lay the rod on the seat. The tube jig dangles just beneath the surface. Suddenly the rod tip dives toward the bottom! The in hand bass flies, and I dive

onto the rod! In spite of breaking every rule of Smallies 101, a fat football of a fish is in the net. I measure. Twenty inches! My feet will seemingly float over the ground for the rest of the day. Try this action that lasts from mid-May 'til mid-June.

When it's about an hour to sun down, motor over to the Svatos Point area, either side, and pull the boat onto shore. Now exchange that Gitzit smallmouth lure for an eighth or quarter ounce jig. I like chartreuse in color. By its head, slip a minnow over the barb of the hook and cast straight out from shore while standing on the bank. Let the jig sink to the bottom and slowly work it back over the banked structure. Fish it until they quit hitting around dark. We're talking walleyes! Sometimes smaller 'eyes will pick the minnows from the jigs with frustrating accuracy, but eventually you'll hang up a limit of larger fish.

The Fur

It's 4:00 a.m. I'm up before I need to be, but I'm not going to mess this up. I'm as excited as I was on my first deer hunt fifty years ago. I hope it will be that way ten years from now. It's wool socks, two pair of long underwear, my lucky sweater, coveralls, and my insulated boots. My orange vest and jacket are already in the pickup along with my rifle and tripod. The box on the kitchen counter holds gloves, stocking cap, ammo, knife, water bottle, and my "Any Whitetail" deer tag. Betsy wishes me luck as the box and I go out the door.

I head south out of Wagner. Twenty minutes later I park behind the trees in a field of bean stubble. Chuck, my host, guide, and former student won't be here for half an hour. I crack the window and listen for coyotes. A restless turkey gobbles. In spite of my poor hearing, I think I can hear the river gurgle.

This is the third time we've met here. Last evening we passed on a buck better than most I've taken over the years. Chuck knows what lives down here. I put four rounds of .30-06 ammo into my rifle's magazine and close the bolt over the top round. I won't work that bolt again until Chuck signals me to do so.

Headlights. I get out of the Dakota, slip into my jacket and cap, sling my rifle, and grab my tripod. I follow Chuck across the stubble. Fifteen minutes later we cross a fence and climb over dead falls in a ditch. Fortunately Chuck has a small flashlight. In ten minutes we "become a part of the deadfall cottonwoods" on the west side of an 80 acre bean field. I sense The Missouri off to my right.

Pink ribbons materialize in the eastern sky. Raucous screeches explode from the south. Chuck mouths the word "mountain lion!" He would know. I wonder if lion presence will spook the deer. Fifteen minutes later, seemingly from nowhere, a string of does and fawns move toward us along the northern edge of the bean stubble.

A buck, perhaps a hundred yards behind the herd, trails them cautiously. The does turn toward the southwest corner of the bean field and cross in front of us. Chuck studies the buck through his binoculars and whispers, "He's only a four-point, but he has mass, height, width, and size." I hold out my hands and shrug my shoulders. Chuck gives me a "Thumbs up."

I've already nestled the rifle into my tripod's yoke. Chuck mimics working the bolt. I load my Steyr-Mannlicher carbine and anchor the crosshairs on the deer. I'm guessing 125 yards. No need for holdover. I set my rear trigger. I breathe deep, exhale, and touch the front trigger. The buck staggers. "Hit him again!" yells Chuck. The buck folds. While I'm not a high-five guy, I fail to control the wetness in my eyes.

This Charles Mix County Missouri River bottom south of Wagner is one of those few South Dakota pockets that hold true trophy whitetails. While I've killed good five-point whitetails in Bon Homme, Brule, Clark, Corson, Gregory, Jerauld, and Lawrence Counties, my two best whitetails come from Charles Mix. It's a neat place to call "home."

The Feathers

Most any time during November or December, I can go out and get a pheasant by kicking around in a patch of good cover. It's satisfying, and it's good exercise, but it doesn't compare to doing the same thing with a group of friends. Pheasant hunting was meant to be a social affair. It's all about camaraderie.

For the past few years we've hunted at John's on opening day. I've come to know John's guests, and we've become friends. Keith is one of the guys I really look forward to hunting with. I'd call Keith a professional bird hunter. His dog trailer, a Cadillac-like K-9 affair, hauls hunting dogs of every description. Hunting with good dogs work is an incredible experience. When Keith speaks, his dogs listen. Keith's dogs don't lose birds – something that will tarnish any hunt.

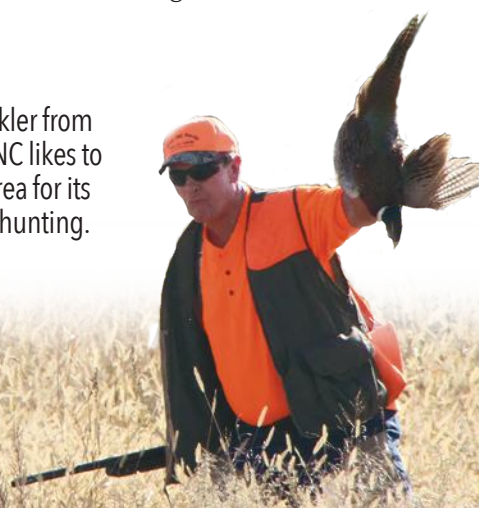
Around two o'clock, when the ten of us needed four birds to fill out, it was back to the house for lunch. We had worked hard, and that break was welcome! Cold pop, chips, soup, and sandwiches – it doesn't get any better. Then it was back to a remaining stretch of Choteau Creek bottom where we filled in twenty minutes.

During that 2015 season's opening day, I didn't shoot very well. It shouldn't bother me, but it did. We would also hunt Sunday and Monday. Sunday was very warm, and we took a mid-afternoon break as much for the dogs as ourselves. Again we were close to our limit, and we would finish the day in a twenty acre patch of CRP. A column would push from east to west, and I'd block the southwest corner. The spot proved to be magical.

A high-flying bird was coming my way. Shouts of "rooster" filled the air. I folded him. A second bird came. "Rooster" they shouted. I folded him. Now the advancing column had reached John and me. A rooster flushed in the fence row and came my way. He ran the gauntlet, shot after shot missing. When he was south of me and going away, I fired. He folded and fell where his buddies lay. That guy who didn't shoot very well the previous day was a fast fading bad memory.

Time to clean birds. One can't put a price on hunt like this. I could see the Wagner elevators and water tower on the horizon. What do I like best? The smallmouth bass? The deer? The ringnecks? It comes down to whatever I'm doing at the time.

Mike Winkler from Hudson, NC likes to visit the area for its pheasant hunting.





Labor Day Celebration

Wagner is famous for their annual Labor Day celebration. The end of the summer brings about one of the most exciting times of the year with three tremendous days of delicious food, exhilarating entertainment, and good ol' all-American family fun.

The festivities always include a wide variety of events for everyone to enjoy. Whether on bike or by foot, visitors can take part in the Road Race sponsored by the National Guard. Or take a nice drive around the area on the Poker Run. For children there is a Kiddie Parade, Kids Pedal Pull and Money Sand Pile. Each year a Labor Day Queen contest is held and a new Queen crowned.

The celebration extends to the Wagner Speedway where the Wagner Fire Department hosts the Figure 8 Race. The Wagner Saddle Club sponsors a spectacular rodeo each year.

Throughout the weekend, many will flock to the Festival in the Park where they can shop for crafts and grab a snack. For those who love a good barbeque, be certain not to miss the annual Rib Cook off.

The highlight of the weekend is the parade. Thousands of people attend so it's advised to arrive early and find a good place to sit along the parade route. Each year the parade takes on a new theme keeping each celebration fresh and unique. A Parade Marshall is traditionally chosen to lead in the parade representing the community.

The Labor Day celebration in Wagner has been a tradition since 1900. The first year was celebrated on July 4th but the date soon was changed to Labor Day. It's festivities have been firmly established with the only exception in 1946 when it was cancelled due to the polio epidemic that was spreading throughout the country.

In the early years of Wagner, the festivities included air ship flights, baseball games, Native American War Dances, and horse races. Throughout the years, the Labor Day celebrations have evolved. It's been well documented that each consecutive year's celebration has been even bigger and better than the last.

By the 1930s, the Labor Day events were including foot and horse races, boxing matches, the Kid's Parade, and parachute jumps. In 1943, Labor Day featured a big bond drive. There was a big Victory Parade featuring the soldiers from the Sioux Falls Army Base which included jeeps, navy officers, and the Sioux Falls Army Air Base Band. \$40,000 in war bonds were sold. In 1945, captured war equipment was on display along with a Treasure Hunt with 2,000 pennies.

The 1961 Labor Day Celebration introduced the first Labor Day Queen Contest and was also the Dakota Territorial Centennial. In 1967, early pioneers, all over the age of 80, were asked to ride in the parade in cars marked "Pioneer".

During the 1970 rodeo performance a tornado hit Wagner at about 7:30 p.m. The townspeople pitched in to have everything cleaned up and the parade ran as scheduled the following day.

The year 1989 marked the South Dakota Centennial and Governor George Mickelson was present for the parade and dedication held in the City Park.

The 100th Labor Day Celebration was kicked off in 1999 and held in the year 2000. A Centennial Committee was assembled to work in cooperation with the usual Labor Day Committee to plan the important event.



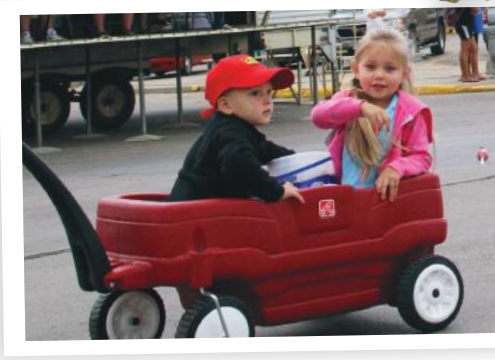
Today, the Labor Day Celebration continues to be bigger and better with each passing year as main street is transformed into a carnival complete with food stands, a variety of rides, and plenty of rides to keep the whole family entertained.

Regularly held activities include:

- Show and Shine
- Bean Bag Tournament
- Kids Fishing Tournament
- Live Music
- Veterans Labor Day Ride
- Wagner Speedway



The First Labor Day Queen, Joan Buus is pictured above with her sister and fellow candidate Ellen Buus in 1961.



Activities

Bucket List

1. Attend a Wagner Red Raider event and take in the good old fashioned school spirit. Go Big Red!
2. Complete a full hand during Labor Day's Annual Poker Run. You can't win if you don't play. Must be 21 years of age to enter.
3. Bag the daily limit of rooster pheasants three days in a row in three different locations.
4. Sample the local Native American cuisine — a favorite being an Indian Taco with fresh fry bread!
5. Pick a weekend and camp out at one of the local campgrounds in a minimalist fashion. Don't try and haul a substitute for everything in your house. Instead, get away from it all by being prepared to rough it and adapt what nature has to offer. One small to medium bag per camper in addition to your basics, and consider banning electronics.
6. During deer hunting season, take home a buck over 130 inches.
7. Finish any one of the 5K runs held annually in the area.
8. Attend one of the annually held traditional Pow-Wows, and immerse yourself in Native American culture. Known as the Ihanktonwan Dakota Oyate, or Dwellers of the End Village, the Yankton Sioux Tribe has a rich historical heritage to explore.
9. Enjoy a burger made with local beef.
10. Enjoy the peace and quiet. The peacefulness Wagner has to offer on a summer's day or a frosty winter night can be pretty fantastic. Feel safe. You're at home.



Photography by Denelle



Fort Randall Pow-Wow

During the first weekend in August spirited drumming and singing will fill the air near the Fort Randall Casino where the Fort Randall Pow-Wow features competitions in categories such as traditional, fancy and jingle dress dancing. During the intertribal dance, viewers get an opportunity to enter the dance ring. Vendors will also be present providing sample foods such as Indian tacos, fry bread and "wojapi" (wo-zha-pee), a fruit sauce or jam. Additional Pow-Wow celebrations also occur throughout the year.



Fort Randall Casino & Hotel

Owned and operated by the Yankton Sioux Tribe, the Fort Randall Casino & Hotel is located a short distance west of Wagner on Highway 46. Fort Randall offers some of the hottest gaming action in the Dakotas. Their Four Directions Restaurant is known for great meals and deals, and the three story hotel adjacent to the Casino hosts rooms tastefully decorated in Native American art, fabric and symbols.



Parks

Wagner has three parks - the City Park in the east part of the city, McCormick Park located in the northwest section of the city, and Chapman Park in the west along the shores of man-made Lake Wagner. This lake provides good bass and bullhead fishing for both children and adults.



Golfing

Randall Hills Country Club is located just 11 miles west of Wagner in Pickstown, which overlooks the beautiful Ft. Randall Dam. The course offers nine holes with two starting tee boxes, grass greens, annual, daily or weekend and holiday rates, a restaurant and lounge, and tournaments.



Baseball Fields

Heinnes Park is located south of Wagner Community School and houses a large baseball and a large softball field for young athletes to practice and show of their skills. Located in the northwest section of the city, McCormick Park hosts a lighted field with bleacher space to seat up to 2,000 people.



Skate Park

Wagner's skatepark is located in McCormick Park and consists of two quarterpipes, a picnic table, several grind rails, a pyramid ramp, and a funbox.



Swimming Pools

Right next door to the skate park is the community pool where swim meets take place as well as opportunity for open swim. The swimming pool has a capacity for 100-200 people and is located at the north end of Main Street. Here there is also a modern bathhouse.



Tomahawk Speedway

Located on South Main Street, the speedway is a 3/8 mile oval dirt track with grandstand seating for 1,800 and concessions available.



Rodeo

The Wagner Saddle Club hosts several events during the summer including: Playdays, Trail Rides, and the annual Labor Day Rodeo.



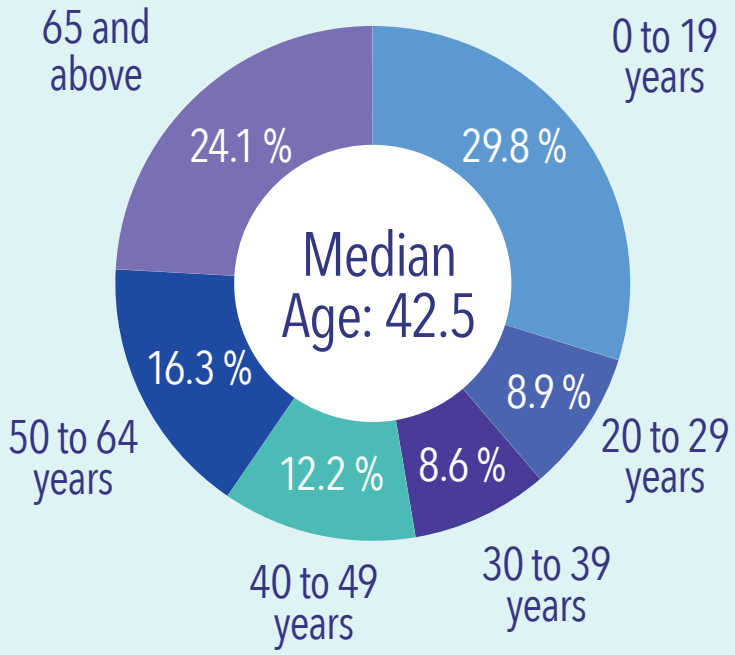
Museum

The Charles Mix County Historical Society Museum is located on Hwys 46 & 50. The main building has panoramic exhibits inside. There are also several historically preserved outdoor exhibits and buildings.



Age Demographics

Housing Market



Average Home Sale Price

\$60,125

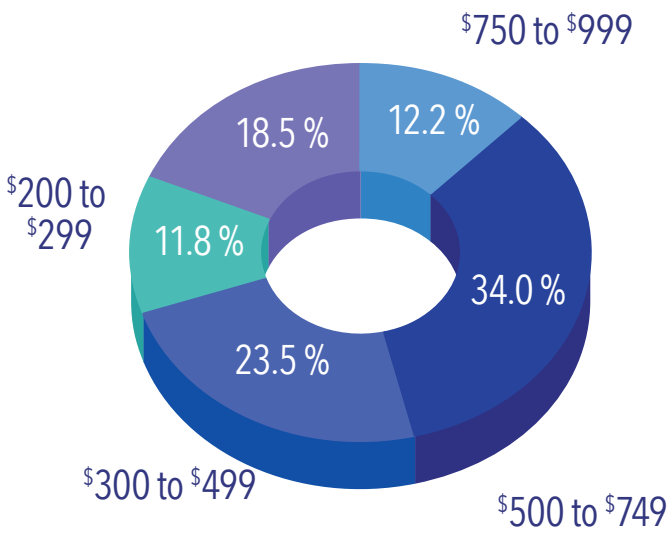
Average Monthly Rent

\$441

Median Household Income

\$34,519

Local Rent Distribution



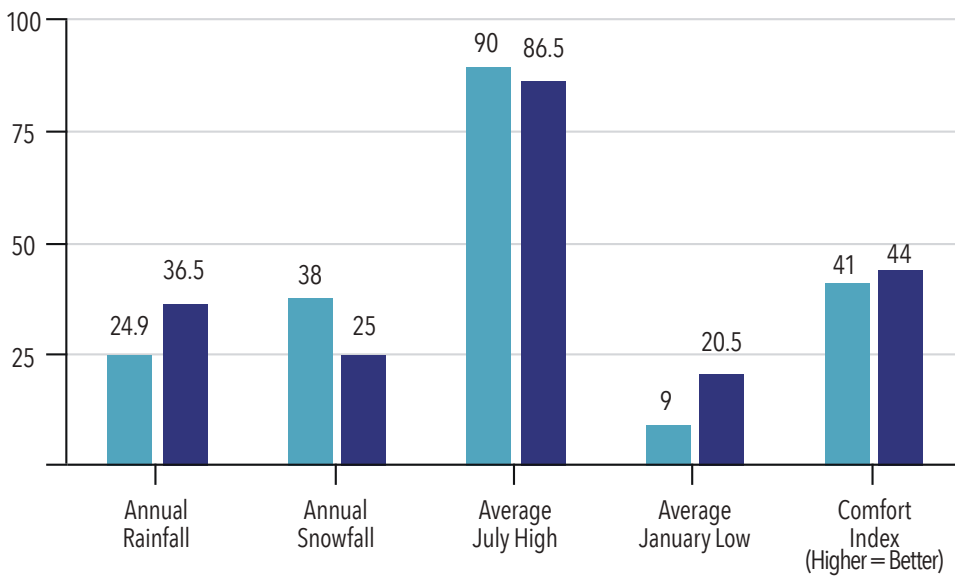
40% of Wagner residents rent a home



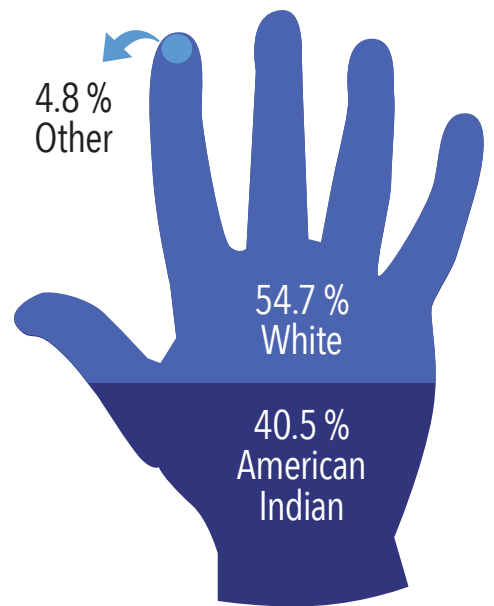
60% of Wagner residents own a home



Climate








Ethnic Diversity



Sources include: United States Census Bureau, Charles Mix County Assessor's Office, Spearling's Best Places. Compiled by Wagner Area Growth, Inc. 12/30/2015

Why we Living in Wagner

1. Wagner has a very supportive atmosphere. If you've got an idea,  the community will be behind you. Whether you're starting a new business or have an idea for a new event — Wagner will rally and help to make it happen!!
2. Wagner is full of patriots. With the 155th Engineer Battalion based in Wagner and having been deployed multiple times, we're proud.  Real proud. 
3. The local governments are very progressive — the City of Wagner and Yankton Sioux Tribe are ready and willing to work with residents of the Wagner area to make the community a better place to live.
4. There is SO MUCH to do! Between local organizations putting on events all year, the casino nearby, state parks all around, the Majestic Missouri River so close and tons of land open to hiking and hunting opportunities, it is your own fault if you get bored! 
5. Agriculture drives our economy, and we love it. We are a "manure is the smell of money, rain makes grain," sort of town where the only skyscrapers are the grain bins at the elevator on Main Street. Getting caught behind a planter or combine is a blessing, because that equipment is what feeds our community! 

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- **Casey's General Store** 524 W SD Hwy 46 • Wagner
- **YST Travel Plaza** 38581 SD Hwy 46 • Pickstown
- **Fort Randall Casino** 38556 SD Hwy 46 • Pickstown

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