



Dreamcatcher

A publication of the Todd County School District, Mission, SD 57555

VOLUME 30 - ISSUE 4 - DECEMBER 2020



© Kernit Grimshaw

This self portrait of Kernit Grimshaw and his beloved fur baby, "Bear," is a testament to his love of life and all living things. Kernit spent endless hours photographing our students, their families, and Rosebud Reservation activities, as well as those of surrounding communities. He was a huge fan of the Todd County Falcons, documenting nearly every competition in every sport. This issue of the Dreamcatcher (beginning on Page 10) is a tribute to this man who gave so much of his talent and love to us. Ride On, Dear Friend!

Todd County School District Staff Directory...



BOARD OF EDUCATION...

Debra Boyd, President.....	828-2366
Shelley Means, Vice President.....	319-0808
Michelle Allen, Member.....	319-0532
Tim Cournoyer Sr., Member.....	840-1215
Sage Fast Dog, Member.....	828-6466

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE/BUSINESS OFFICE...

Carol Galbraith, Superintendent	
Chad Blotsky, Business Manager	
Kendra Fernen, Receptionist.....	856-3501
Rosie Bizardie, Secretary.....	ext. 2106

CURRICULUM CENTER...

Jane Shelbourn, Federal Programs Director	
Wayne Frederick, Family & Community Engagement Coordinator	
Krista Morrison, Dir. of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment. ext. 2118	
Bryan Burnette, Dean of Students	
Wanda Prue, Secretary.....	856-3502, ext. 2113

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT...

Richard Medema, Human Resource Director.....	856-3501, ext. 2105
--	---------------------

PAYROLL DEPARTMENT...

Barb Seidschlaw, Clerk.....	ext. 2109
-----------------------------	-----------

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE...

Judy Medearis.....	856-3501, ext. 2107
--------------------	---------------------

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION...

Anna LaDeaux, Director	
Timolin Murray-Young, Secretary.....	856-3513, ext. 2411

TRANSPORTATION & MAINTENANCE...

Brad Bartling, Director	
Gwenda Jackson, Secretary.....	856-3509, ext. 2801

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE...

Randy Pirner, Principal	
Mike Hammer, Assistant Principal	
Connie Browning, Secretary.....	856-3503, ext. 2202
Shelly New, Receptionist.....	ext. 2201

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES...

Chuck Wilson, Director.....	856-3503, ext. 2210
-----------------------------	---------------------

ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL...

Teana Heinert, Principal	
Marie Reagle, Secretary.....	856-3544, ext. 2402

MIDDLE SCHOOL...

Dana Haukaas, Principal	
Chris Mosner, Assistant Principal	
Sandy Assman, Secretary.....	856-3504, ext. 2303

GUIDANCE & COUNSELING...

Valerie Larvie, Guidance Secretary.....	856-3503, ext. 2203
Barry Bailey, High School.....	856-3503
Becky Heath, TCES.....	856-3506
Carrie Reinders, Rosebud.....	747-2411
Mary Nylander, Spring Creek.....	747-2541
Beth Burnette, Middle School.....	856-3504, ext. 2314
Jennifer Kornely, Middle School.....	ext. 2315
Rosebud Brushbreaker, Elementary Schools.....	ext. 2504
Sunni Busch, Transitional Counselor.....	ext. 2225
Gwen Wenig, High School.....	ext. 2213

FAMILY SERVICE WORKERS...

Nancy Kornely, Resource Center.....	856-3505, ext. 2425
Becky Eddie Moosman, Middle School.....	856-3504, ext. 2313

HE DOG SCHOOL...

Desi Taggart-Luedke, Interim Principal	
Emily Barnett, Secretary.....	747-2438

KLEIN SCHOOL...

Teana Guerue, Principal	
Tess Canet, Head Teacher.....	378-3854

LAKEVIEW SCHOOL...

Roberta Bizardie, Principal	
Kayla Walkling, Head Teacher.....	429-3339

LITTLEBURG SCHOOL...

Teana Guerue, Principal.....	856-3506
Cindy Bachelor, Head Teacher.....	378-3881

OKREEK SCHOOL...

Teana Guerue, Principal.....	856-3507
------------------------------	----------

ROSEBUD ELEMENTARY...

Marlys Walkling, Principal	
Beth Hogan, Secretary.....	747-2411

SPRING CREEK SCHOOL...

Roberta Bizardie, Principal	
Betty Sokol, Secretary.....	747-2541

TODD COUNTY ELEMENTARY...

Bobbie Cox, Principal	
Jody Jackson, Assistant Principal	
Cheryl Whirlwind Soldier, Assistant Principal	
Danielle Valandra, Secretary.....	856-3506

WANBLI WICONI TIPL...

Teana Guerue, Principal	
Marie Reagle, Secretary.....	856-3544

DISTRICT-WIDE HEALTH...

DeAnn Eastman-Jansen, Director of Nursing.....	856-3504
Roxanne Redday, TC Elementary LPN.....	856-3506
Bobbie Leneagh, Disrict Nurse LPN.....	856-3503

FOOD SERVICE...

Thetis McCloskey, Director.....	856-3514, ext. 2705
---------------------------------	---------------------

PUBLIC RELATIONS & DREAMCATCHER EDITOR...

Phyllis Littau.....	856-3530
---------------------	----------



From the Superintendent...



As the COVID pandemic continues to cause upheaval in our normal school schedules, the lack of face-to-face classes in our particular district is having harmful results. Some of our students feel they are paying the price for online classes, that online school is optional, and they have fallen behind.

This seems to be the thought of many students nationwide who are in this situation. They not only feel they are lacking in education, they miss their classmates, the day-to-day freedom of contact with their friends and their teachers (a monitor is no substitute).

Students need to know that the online system is not optional. This IS their education. It is what we currently have, through no fault of our leaders here, and this is what they have to do to continue their education.

We have seen more success at our smaller schools. Expectations are set and communication is easier than for a

larger facility. But it falls on us, as leaders, to determine why our kids are feeling the way they do. They shouldn't. We understand the challenges of online education, but the expectation is participation and completion of assignments by the student(s) to show academic progress. This is a must for their future.

Good news for TCSD Staff. On December 1, 2020, there were no longer any positive COVID cases among our nearly 400 staff members. Hopefully, the worst is over. Hopefully, the kids can come back to their classrooms.

This issue of the

Dreamcatcher is dedicated to Kernit Grimshaw. Kernit was a lifelong Mission resident and he loved the Todd County Falcon's. His fabulous photographs of our students and their families, in particular the Falcon teams, is a gift. There are no words to cover its value.

Pictures on the following pages are but a minute part of his contributions to Todd County and the Rosebud Reservation, with never a cost to anyone. He did it because he loved his craft and the kids.

Godspeed, Kernit Grimshaw

- Carol Galbraith
Superintendent of Schools



New to the Crew...



Emily Barnett
Secretary
He Dog School

Originally from Massachusetts, Emily initially found her way to Rosebud via an AmeriCorp Vista position. Since then she has worked

primarily within the He Dog, Parmelee and Upper Cut Meat communities. She really enjoys working with the youth in those communities and hopes to continue to play a positive, supportive role within their lives.

Emily feels proud and grateful to work with the staff at He Dog and is excited to see the new school be built.

Emily loves animals, music, watching movies and learning about different cultures and history. In her free time Emily likes to read, be creative, spend time with nature and enjoy time with her partner and her cat, Lu.

PreSchool Referral Screening Dates...

Screenings for new preschool referrals this school year will be held at Exceptional Education (Resource Center) in Mission. Appointments are available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dates are:

Friday, January 15, 2021

Friday, March 19, 2021

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Families should contact Nancy Kornely, 856-3513, for background and referral information and to make an appointment time for screening.



Dreamcatcher

A publication of the Todd County School District, Mission, SD

Published by
the Todd County School District
P.O. Box 87, Mission, SD 57555
605-856-3501

Board of Education:
Debra Boyd - President
Shelley Means - Vice President
Michelle Allen - Member
Tim Cournoyer - Member
Sage Fast Dog - Member
Superintendent - Carol Galbraith
Business Manager - Chad Blotsky
Dreamcatcher Editor: Phyllis Littau
email: Phyllis.Littau@k12.sd.us

The Dreamcatcher is a monthly publication for patrons of the Todd County School District. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX or Section 504, Affirmative Action and the Americans With Disabilities Act, should be referred to Richard Medema, Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 87, Mission, SD 57555, 605-856-3501, or to the Regional Director, Dept. of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 1244 Spear Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80202-3582.

TCS D Board hears info on Internet access, P-T Conferences, winter activities request, No LNI, TC Employees to receive pre-Christmas bonus...

MISSION - At the November 9 TCS D Board Meeting, Superintendent Carol Galbraith reported on plans to ensure students have access to internet for their virtual classes. TC's Tech Team is working on several different approaches to make sure all families are connected. Information on various pathways to connect was in the November 4 Todd County Tribune, and the November issue of the Dreamcatcher, as well as public service announcements on radio and local tv. Letters are being sent to eligible households.

The Superintendent also noted that Exceptional Education will cease all in-person learning the District until Thanksgiving, and then re-evaluate.

Updates on Parent-Teacher Conference show Middle School was able to contact 236 of 418 students, so far. Parents are mailed weekly grade reports so they can see if the student is doing their work. Middle School also does All Calls for Attendance.

Todd County Elementary contacted 75 to 80% of its' families, and is working hard to find everyone. The return rate on their work is disappointing. Seventy percent of TCES households have signed up for the Governor/State K-12 Program for Internet access.

Littleburg used time

slots for P-T Conferences via Zoom or phone, with 81% contact. Klein had 100%, Okreek 78%, Achievement 92%, Rosebud 95%. Spring Creek was 95%, He Dog 70 to 90 %. Littleburg had a good return rate with Schoology.

High School Athletic Director Chuck Wilson and three coaches asked the school board to reconsider its decision to have no winter activities due to the COVID pandemic.

Wilson said he understands the pressure on the Board. As President of the Board of Directors for the Lakota Nation Invitational, he said, he had just been through three months of trying to organize the 2020 event.

"In the end it did not work," he said. "Those involved could not reach an agreement. "There will be no LNI this year.

"We even considered an LNI Basketball Tournament only," he continued. "We knew we could keep it safe in the Civic Center, but problem is, people would be outside four days, and certainly not be staying in that motel room."

"It has been seven months since our kids have had any activities, and other schools around us do," he said. "It is hard for the TC kids to understand. The South Dakota High School Activities Association is moving forward with winter sports for the state too."

Wilson, Girls Basketball

Coach Bob Boyd, Boys Basketball Coach Kellan Herman, and Wrestling Coach Marcus Nelson offered a scenario of safety procedures for Boys Basketball, for example:

On a normal day the kids would enter the building, masks on, temps taken, answer questions, use hand sanitizer. Equipment would be thoroughly sanitized before and after each use. Numerous suggestions were made regarding both practice and actual game safety measures.

"I want basketball like no other. It is my passion," Boyd stated. "There are safety concerns, but if we have these activities, I guarantee the kids will get their grades up. They want to be with their friends. They are craving that. A lot of our students have already left us. If you want to keep these top students, you have to do something to keep them. It is hard for them to see other schools playing."

"Girls Basketball practice starts Thanksgiving week, Boys Basketball November 30," Wilson noted. "These kids have been out of activities so long it would take at least 30 days to get them back in shape. We could just come in and condition and see how it rolls, with no games until after the first of January, anyway."

Wilson also mentioned Middle School Music Director Brock Persson, who thought it

would be a good idea just to be able to play music, maybe during school hours. National Honor Society could be handled virtually.

"There is so much we can do as a school district to get through this thing," he said. "I know it is tough for you guys, but look at these kids, and you'll know we need to do something."

Board Vice President Shelley Means asked High School Assistant Principal Mike Hammer if the lack of extra-curricular activities has an effect on the amount of work turned in by the students.

"Our numbers are pathetic," Hammer replied. "If graduation was today, we would have 20 graduates."

Board Member Tim Cournoyer asked if the Board would be ready to accept the responsibility of what might happen by having winter activities and not in-person classes.

More discussion continued on the issue, including bus etiquette, spectators or not, live or virtual games.

In other matters, the Board:

- heard a presentation from Foster Cournoyer (2017 TCHS Alumni), representing the 4Rosebud organization. He brought a petition, signed by 200 persons, asking the District to strengthen the Lakota Language, Culture &

History curriculum.

- hired Desiree Luedke as Principal at He Dog Elementary.

- accepted, with regret, the resignation of DeAnn Eastman-Jansen RN.

- Board Member Sage Fast Dog requested data showing the amount of work coming back from each student, "So we can get an idea of where we are at each school," he said.

Following a brief Executive Session, Superintendent Galbraith announced that a \$1,750.00 bonus has been approved for every permanent Todd County School District employee. The bonuses will be given on December 15 for employees of record on December 10. Is it too early to say "Merry Christmas?"

Board Members also thanked staff for their dedication:

Member Michelle Allen - "Thank You to all staff for what you are going through. We know what you do for our students and for energizing the District."

Member Sage Fast Dog - "Thank You staff. Just keep on reaching out to parents and kids. Find ways to give feedback to the kids so they know what they are doing to meet their goals and objectives for this year. We can't control the way things are, but we do know how to deliver education and are really good at borrowing from each other to make sure our students are successful."

Member Tim Cournoyer - "Thank You staff. I am proud of you all."

Vice President Shelley Means - "We have come a long

way since last March, and you continue to do your very best for our students. Thank You again, it's been a tough nine months. Let's wrap up 2020 and keep plugging away."

Superintendent Carol Galbraith - "Our staff members are unbelievably flexible, and

their determination to reach out to families and kids is amazing. We really appreciate it. We need to continue that through these trying times so we can make sure our students succeed and get the academics they need. It is so important that they know we are there

when they reach out to us."

President Debra Boyd (via phone) - "We are all in this together. Thank You Staff! Goodnight Everyone."

Everyone - "Goodnight Deb."

- Phyllis Littau
TCSD Public Relations

TCSD Board of Education receives ASBSD Award...



MISSION - The Todd County School District Board of Education recently received the ASBSD (Associated School Boards of South Dakota) ALL Award for the 2019-20 school year. The award is to recognize school boards for their dedicated service to the students of South Dakota. The award is earned by commitment of board members not only in attendance of regular board meetings, but also through activities and training opportunities offered by ASBSD, and demonstrated leadership through local, state, and national meetings, committees and assemblies.

Groundbreaking held for new He Dog School...

Monday, November 23, 2020 was a red letter day for He Dog School and Parmelee Community. The first shovel-full of dirt was turned in preparation for a new school replacing the old He Dog facility. These photos, by Rose Elk Looks Back, show officials and students representing the occasion. the Todd County School District, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Parmelee, and other communities gathering for the occasion. More detailed information on the project will be forthcoming in the next issue of the Dreamcatcher.



Blessing the Site...



He Dog Students participate in the Grounbreaking for the new school...



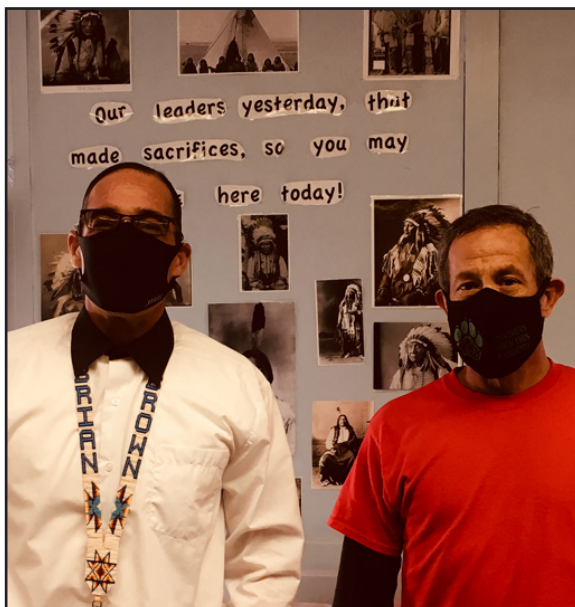
Among those participating in the groundbreaking were, from left - Parmelee Community Chair Lisa Shot With Two Arrows, Parmelee Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council Representative Eileen Shot With Two Arrows, Todd County Board of Education Vice President Shelley Means, TCSD Business Manager Chad Blotsky, Board Member Michelle Allen, Board Member Tim Cournoyer, Board President and former He Dog Teacher and Principal Debra Boyd.

Below, from left - Boyd, Means, Allen, Cournoyer (who did his part in memory of John Ed Murray. 40-year employee at He Dog School), Blotsky.



Rosebud Reports...

Family Support Table...



Two Rosebud Elementary veterans, Brian Brown and Brett Burnette, observing Veteran's Day...



Wopila to our students and families for all the work they've done!

To show our appreciation we have created a Family Support Table. On the table are items families could use such as books, mittens, caps, laundry soap, snacks, dryer sheets, hand sanitizer, masks, toothpaste and tooth brushes, dish soap, etc.

Please stop by and pick up the items your family needs.

TOGETHER WE CAN!

Rosebud's Very Own Tipi...



Rosebud Elementary students could participate online with the assembly of our tipi. Pilamaya to Mr. Greg Grey Cloud and the Rosebud Elementary Staff for their assistance!

Rosebud Showing of the Trees - Outside!

Remember When...

Rosebud Elementary's 9/11 tree was planted by our students on September 14, 2011. Every student wrote a poem, letter, or words of support for the 2,977 people that died in the 9/11 attack. These letters were planted with the tree.



Showing of the Trees has moved outside this year at Rosebud Elementary. And instead of lots of small trees, we have one HUGE tree outside with a Panther head on the top! Remember that tree? It is the 9/11 tree, all grown up and celebrating Christmas this year with our students. We continue to remember and show support to our Front-Line Responders and our Essential Workers, as they assist us through this pandemic, and when you drive by Rosebud Elementary and see our lighted tree, remember, we thank you!



Kernit Grimshaw was the ultimate Falcon Fan. He loved the Todd County Falcons, following their teams year-round to all their competitions, from Cross Country to Track, Football to Wrestling, and everything in between.

Kernit Grimshaw was a photographer extraordinaire, portraying our young athletes and academic stars as well, with all their abilities, in captivating pictures.

But most of all, Kernit Grimshaw was a father figure to these students. He was always there for them and they seemed to gravitate to him.

I met Kernit in 1986 when I began working in Mission. He was Bank President at the local bank.

Kernit had not yet begun his quest for the perfect photos of his young subjects, but it soon became his passion. Before long, other surrounding schools were also privileged to have his photos of their student athletes.

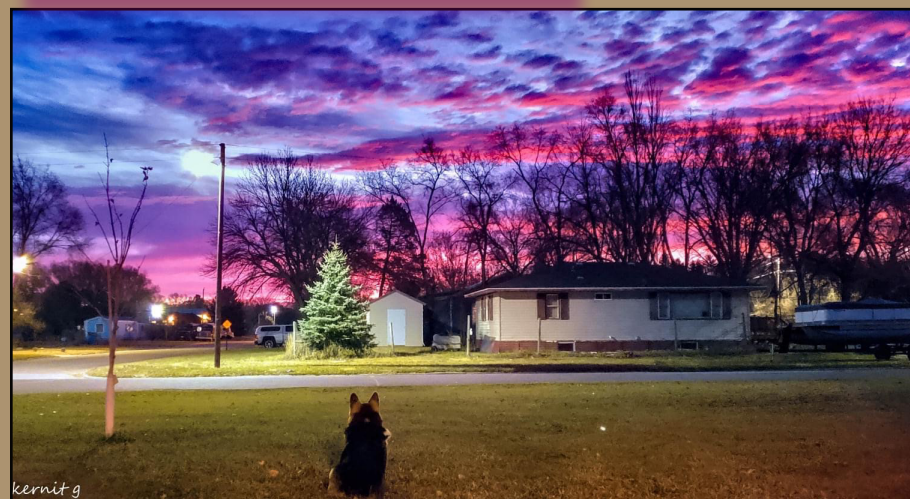
Kernit's photos have graced many pages of the Dreamcatcher and were also used the last several years for the Todd County School District calendars.

This issue of the Dreamcatcher is dedicated to Kernit's memory. Besides photos of him and his beloved Corgi, "Bear," his incredible photos of students and families can be seen again through his camera lens, beginning on page 12.

Please pause a moment to thank Kernit Grimshaw for all he has done for our youth.

-Phyllis Littau
TCSD PR

In Memory of Kernit Grimshaw...



Kernit Eugene Grimshaw 1949 - 2020

April 11, 1949 - November 17, 2020

As the sun's rays break through the clouds of another day, a man we deeply love and cherish is now watching the view from another perspective.

Kernit Eugene Grimshaw of Mission passed away on November 17, 2020, due to COVID-19.

Kernit was born in Valentine, Nebraska on April 11, 1949, the son of Dorthy and Walter Grimshaw. He was a 1967 graduate of Todd County High School and a lifetime resident of Mission, who dedicated his considerable talents to his family and his community.

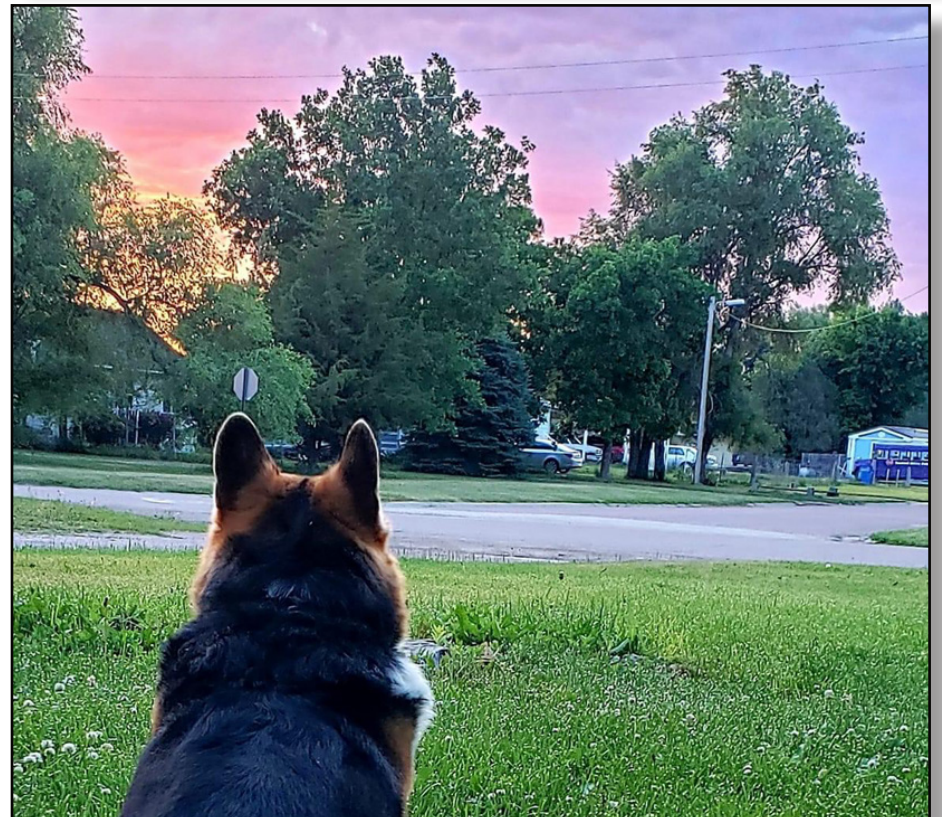
Kernit was a student of hard knocks and divine grace, who never quit learning and exploring. He loved to share his knowledge, opinion, hugs and photos with everyone who was lucky enough to cross his path. He was fiercely loyal to his family, band of brothers, area sports teams and the best loved dog in the whole world, "Bear."

A banker extraordinaire, for over 51 years, Kernit held court and council at 112 N. Main. The bank's name may have changed a few times but Kernit as a stalwart fixture never did. He began his career in banking at the age of 14, sweeping up after hours, and by the age of 27 was made the Mission branch manager, and soon became bank president. Known for common sense and a level head, he was a mentor to many young bankers who dubbed him "The Godfather".

A true Renaissance man, Kernit appreciated fine artwork, low literature and the selected stylings of Bob Marley and Pink Floyd. He was a man of many passions and spent much of his life running, motorcycling, and taking pictures. Over the years he served on the SD Arts Council, and the boards of Winner Regional Hospital, REDCO and Northern Plains Tribal Arts, to name a few.

This last year Kernit embraced retirement to become a "Gentleman Farmer" and delighted in felling trees and mowing his Iowa acreage into walking paths for he and Bear. He enjoyed making daily posts filled with his musings and photos and hearing back from all his friends.

Kernit is survived by his wife, Michele; his children: Joe (Dawn), Jennifer (Travis), Julie (Justin), Elijah, Lottie, Eireann and Sam. His grandchildren: Zachary, Sasha, Naomi, Alexandra, Jillian, Gabriel, Jacob, Nathaniel, Payton and Ethan; and his great-granddaughter Maya. He is also survived by his brothers: Kelly (Linda) and Gregg (Jo). He was preceded in death by his parents, Dorthy and Walter and his sister, Patricia.



















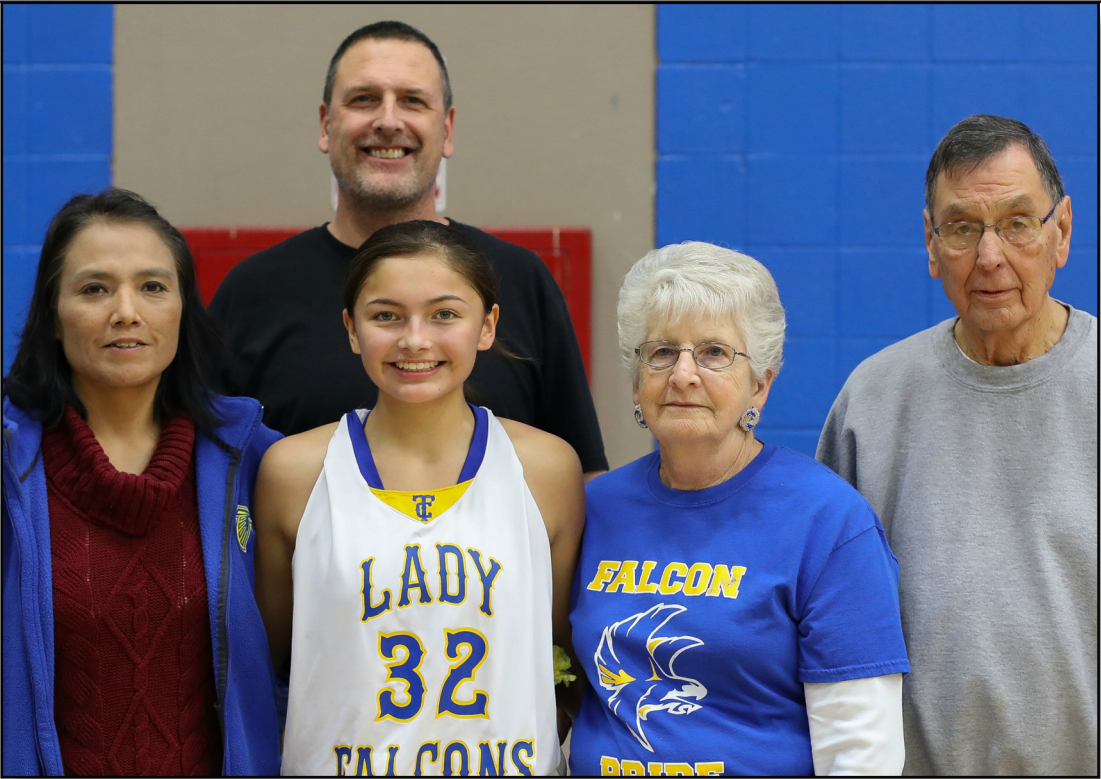






















.....'Stairway to Heaven'.....

On October 18, 2020, Kernit posted this message:

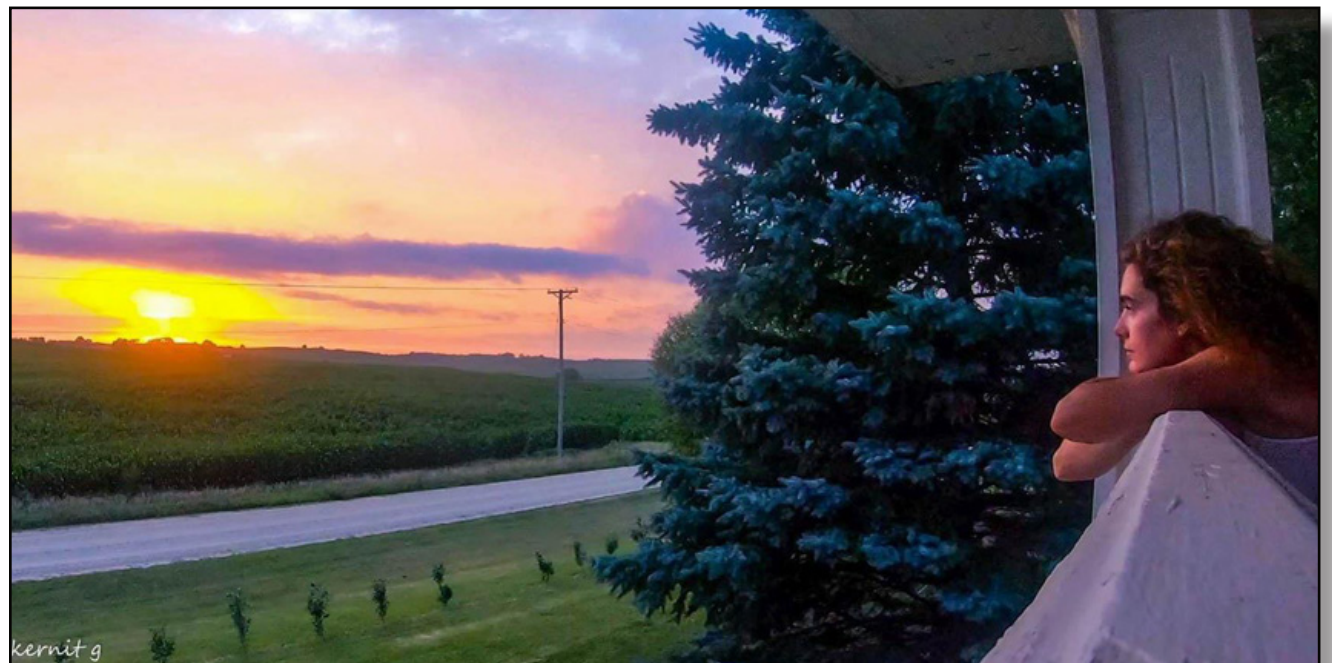
Good Morning to my friends of Earth. Bear and I have been out in the morning darkness, and are now having coffee. The night dishes are done.

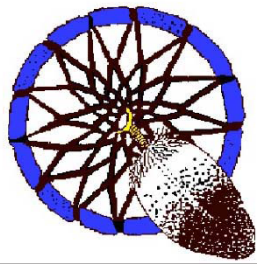
The winds of change are blowing across our land. Winter is coming. But change is always coming.

Who would have thought a year ago we would be facing a health and economic crisis? A year ago we were just getting done with Cross Country and getting ready for the State Meet. Football was winding down and our thoughts were turning to basketball. My, how it has changed!

This photo is one of Eireann Grimshaw's. She is looking to the West where most of our change comes from. Reminds me of the old song, "Stairway to Heaven."

There is a feeling I get when I look to the West.





Todd County School District
P. O. Box 87
Mission, SD 57555

Dreamcatcher

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 202
RAPID CITY, SD
ECRWSS

"Just Waiting"...



Bear waits for his master on one of Kernit and Bear's final morning walks. Kernit shared those strolls around Mission through social media daily. Local residents, as well as those of us who no longer live there, somehow felt we were with them. Just another way Kernit communicated with family and friends through his photographs.