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These NSU students are collecting data for a sociological study of Faulkton. From the left are: Brittny Schanzenbach (Selby), Jamie Horner (Maple Grove, Minn.), Melissa Imberi (Eureka), Jenna Higgins (Maple Grove, Minn.), Hilary Peterson (Aberdeen), Alyssa Thyen (Waverly), Dr. Jim Seeber (NSU), Kendra Bornhoft (Tyler, Minn.), Brittany Des Lauriers (Doland), Ambria Loban (Huron), Brandon Black (Aberdeen) and Elliott Gray (Aberdeen).

NSU sociology students to present Faulkton findings at special meeting

This semester at Northern State University, Dr. James J. Seeber has had his students working on a special project in Faulkton. Dr. Seeber is an associate professor of Sociology and the head of the Gerontology program at NSU, and has had his sociology students gathering information about Faulkton.

Dr. Seeber and his students will host a public meeting on May 2, at 3:15 p.m. at the City Hall to present their study findings to the public.

"We will have copies of the final report to give to folks that day," Dr. Seeber said. "We appreciate all of the help you have been to our research, and will welcome anyone wishing to attend the meeting."

"Our areas of study for which a

two or three person team interviewed one to four persons in each area were: Business, Education, Healthcare, Government and Religion and Community Organizations," Dr. Seeber said. "We did not undertake a needs assessment, but instead, we were doing what I would consider an exploratory or impressions study. The students developed their own interview schedules based on discussions in class about the important elements of small rural communities."

The questions the students sought after ran the gambit from local economics to social demographics.

"We are still in the process of putting the several sections of the interview reports together and in that process are watching

for common themes or issues," said Professor Seeber. "It appears that there is a challenge in finding decent available housing for families who might come to Faulkton, especially if a new business of any size at all should locate there. It seems like there might be some differences in view between the school and the sheriff about the seriousness of alcohol and drug abuse in the community. I also wonder if there is an unrecognized problem, for seniors and handicapped in that there is no community van that could provide the mobility both within Faulkton and for travel to needed health and other services in other places (Huron, Aberdeen, etc.) We'll have more to offer about our findings at the meeting, in May I'm sure."

City sewer system has serious problems, citizen input favors infrastructure repairs

The city council held a special meeting on Monday, April 23 as a public forum about the city's sewer system. Approximately 20 citizens attended.

Mayor Tim Bormann called the meeting to order and introduced both Jay Koch and Terry Helms of Helms and Associates, the city's contracted engineers to the gathered citizens.

Koch then began his presentation of current plans that Helms and Associates had drafted for the city.

Here is the problem in simple terms. The sewer system has been steadily degrading over time. What's more, the storm sewer system leaks or directly drains into the sanitary sewer. According to the EPA and State

law, that can't happen. Too much water is flowing to the sanitary waste lagoon.

Koch outlined an initial proposal to map the city's sewer system using televised cameras inside the pipes as well as make the repairs and changes necessary along 8th Ave. so that the storm sewer will no longer drain and leak into the sanitary sewer. This basic proposal is estimated at approximately \$900,000.

As plans for sewer repairs moved forward all smaller sewer pipe mains that were 4 and 6 inches would be replaced by new 8 inch PVC pipe and clay pipe that needed repair and reinforcement would be given a CIPP (Cured In Place Pipe) inner coating. This coating is pressure

sprayed into a pipe and creates a plastic seal around the outer edge of the pipe, sealing leaks and improving sewage flow.

Alternate proposals were also presented, the worst case scenario being a total replacement cost project numbering at 7.4 million dollars. Alternate proposals broke that number into two phases with the hope of getting better grant or loan packages.

In any case, the city is looking seriously at raising sewer rates, which are currently the lowest in the State of South Dakota at \$11 per month, to \$22 per month right away. This would enable them to begin the process of

City sewer public meeting
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F.H.S. spring concert will be performed on April 30

Faulkton Junior and Senior High School students will present their Spring Concert this Monday, April 30. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium under the direction of music teacher Karen Wagner.

The music will include:

High school choir: "Come Rejoicing" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water". Bridge will include solos by Michael Lee and John Cassens.

High school boys choir: "The Pink Panther".

High school girls choir - "It's My Party Medley", includes It's My Party, Breaking Up is Hard to Do, The End of the World, and That'll Be the Day.

Junior high choir: "Gotta Get To Class" and "Learn It With A Song". The JH Choir has been studying musical theater this semester and has been working on a musical called "Harmony High". These two songs are from that musical, complete with lines from characters Michael - Cole Brand, Michele - Sophie Kelley, Junior - Tess Heidenreich, Geography Teacher - Jesse Carlson, History Teacher - Joseph Holsing, and Math Teacher - Connor Brand. "We hope to perform the entire musical during classtime sometime before the end of the year," Wagner said.

At this concert, only the high school band students will perform. All elementary and junior

high band students will perform at the Friday, May 11 elementary concert.

"The high school band will be doing a repeat of our March 31 jazz concert so anyone who didn't have the opportunity to attend that event will get to hear them," Wagner said.

They will be playing: "Honk" - featuring Lane Brown - bari sax; "Take the 'A' Train" - solos - John Cassens - alto sax, Emily Meyer - trumpet; "Play That Funky Music"; "My Heart Will Go On (Love Theme from 'Titanic') - featuring John Cassens - alto sax; "Vehicle" - solos - Taylor Melius - trombone, John Cassens - alto sax; "Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

RECORD NOTES

Weather

	H	L	P
Tues., April 17	65	35	.47
Wed., April 18	51	41	.19
Thurs., April 19	45	35	.10
Fri., April 20	62	40	.07
Sat., April 21	64	33	
Sun., April 22	62	43	
Mon., April 23	78	45	

Tom Bartholomew, Observer

The total amount of moisture in 2012 is 3.89. Total moisture to date in 2011 was 7.42.

For current weather conditions: climate.sdstate.edu/awdn/current/realtime.asp



FHS hosts a family feud in Hatchet Holler

The FHS All-School Play being performed this Friday is Hatchet Holler, a hillbilly comedy in two acts. It will be performed this Friday, April 27 with a 1:30 p.m. matinee and a 7 p.m. evening performance at the Faulkton Legion Hall.

The FHS All-School Play cast members are, front left, Sami Carlson, Katie Redden, Ashley Waldner, Emily Meyer, Shannon Schilder, and Taylor Melius. Back row: Dade Monroe, Zach Price, Wes Kalkman, Conner Hardie, Kaitlin Heitmann, Ethan Barondeau, and Kyle Ortmeier. Not pictured: Molly Lee, Michael Lee, John Cassens and Alex Eschenbaum.

"I definitely picked this play for the laughs," said director Tomelyn Taylor. "It features two feuding hillbilly families, the romance of star crossed lovers, thrills and mystery all rolled up into comedic antics."