



IT IS HAPPENING AGAIN

SHOWTIME LIMITED EVENT SERIES
TWIN PEAKS The Return MAY 21

DON'T MISS THE RETURN OF TWIN PEAKS AND CATCH UP ON THE SHOWS THAT HAVE EVERYONE TALKING!



©2017 Showtime Networks Inc. All rights reserved. SHOWTIME, THE MOVIE CHANNEL and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. You must be a subscriber of SHOWTIME to receive SHOWTIME ANYTIME and SHOWTIME ON DEMAND. SHOWTIME ANYTIME is available through participating TV providers. "Twin Peaks": ©Twin Peaks Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. "Ray Donovan," "I'm Dying Up Here" & "Billions": ©Showtime Networks Inc. All rights reserved. "Homeland": ©Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All rights reserved. "Guerrilla": ©Sky UK Limited. All rights reserved.



GET SHOWTIME® and THE MOVIE CHANNEL™

for only **\$8.95** per month for 12 months

CALL 1-855-888-7777 TODAY OR VISIT GOLDENWEST.COM!

Limited offer expires 6/23/17. Monthly Cable TV and equipment fees are additional. Any introductory premium service subscription offers are good only for the time specified; thereafter, standard monthly premium service fees apply. Expanded Basic Cable is required to receive optional services featured. Offer does not apply to premium services already subscribe to by customer. Offer may apply to standard installation/connection on one TV set in wired serviceable areas; other installations/connection or relocation fees may apply to additional TV sets. Offer may vary and other restrictions may apply. Not all services available in all areas.

HORIZONS

A Golden West Customer Newsletter | May 2017



Bringing New Life to the

Hot Springs Theatre

One-third of the theatre partners, Karen Meston and Jerry Brammer

What You'll Find Inside:

Feature Story pgs 2, 3 and 7

Get a Scholarship!
Give a Scholarship! pg 4

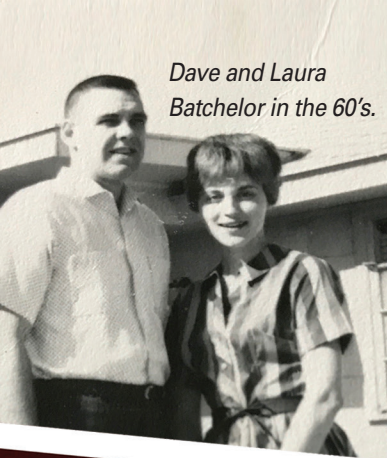
Vacation Planning Pointers pg 5

Summer TV Watch List pg 6

Thank You for Paying it Forward pg 7



Golden West is a Member of the SD Telecommunications Association



Dave and Laura
Batchelor in the 60's.

Bringing New Life to the Hot Springs Theatre

In the summer of 1957, Dave was a teenager from Hot Springs looking for a girl to call his own. Laura was a girl from East River working concessions at Wind Cave for the summer. Encouraged by a friend to check out the new girl at the cave, Dave mustered up the courage to ask Laura on a date.

Luckily for him, she accepted and they went on a date at the Hot Springs Theatre, to a black and white picture starring Susan Hayward called "I'll Cry Tomorrow."

Safe to say that first date went well because this summer Dave and Laura Batchelor will be celebrating fifty-seven years of marriage!

Like the Batchelor's story, many romances began with a date to the movies. Built in 1929, the Hot Springs Theatre was a beloved source of entertainment in Hot Springs for over eighty years. Unfortunately, in 2013 the theater shut its doors for good, due to low attendance, the lack of a digital projector and a deteriorating building. The locals instantly began to miss their theater, but a few of these movie fans began to talk, determined to bring back the movies in one way or another. Thankfully, their talk turned to action and in April of 2017, the Hot Springs Theatre once again opened its doors.

In 2016, over a cup of coffee, Dave Batchelor and Hot Springs resident John Pence began kicking around

the idea of purchasing a digital projector to help the theater owner. Dave and John approached the owner about this new projector, but he was not interested. "He was more interested in selling the theater, so we thought about it and ended up developing a business plan," said Dave. Dave and John also began looking for other interested investors and found a couple of Hot Springs residents who shared their vision. They formed a limited partnership, Hot Springs Theatre, LLC, and purchased the movie theater in November 2016. Made up of Dave and Laura Batchelor, John and Dusty Pence, and Karen Meston and Jerry Brammer, they refer to themselves as "The Three Couples."

The Three Couples jumped into this project, with their eventual goal to give the theater to the people of Hot Springs. They began to execute their business plan, with John Pence acquiring a business improvement grant from the city of Hot Springs. "On top of that we received a matching fund from an "angel" to redo the entire face of the building," said Karen. Although the exterior renovation would not begin until the summer of 2017, things seemed to be falling into place.

However, the interior renovation of the building became a bigger challenge than expected. "The building was neglected for many years," said Dave. "The amount of work needed to bring it up to code was huge." John added, "We had no idea the building's plumbing and electrical were in such bad shape."

Sketch of planned renovation to theatre's exterior.



With the help of local contractors and volunteers, they rolled up their sleeves and went to work.

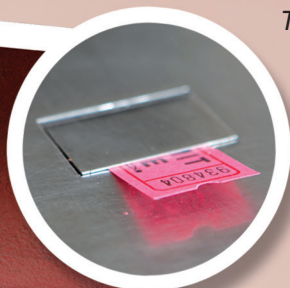
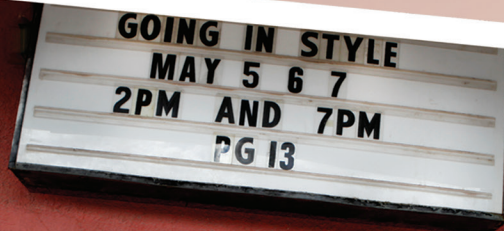
They set out to update everything inside, but also maintain the building's historical art deco style. "We bought a digital projector, fixed the restrooms, cleaned all 270 seats and installed twelve new speakers," said Karen. There were even a few pleasant surprises along the way, like a pair of previously obstructed rock mosaics discovered on the sides of the ticketing booth. "There also used to be no heat in the theater in winter," said Karen. "You'd have to wear a down jacket and bring a blanket for your lap, but we located a working furnace in the building

and plan on using it!" The biggest piece of the renovation was the brand new movie screen they had installed. As Dave humbly put it, "We have the largest screen in the Black Hills, bigger than the Elks Theatre in Rapid City, but only by a foot or so."

With the renovation under control, The Three Couples moved to their next challenge, learning the movie business. "We've all been movie goers but not movie operators, and there's been a steep curve learning the movie business," said Dave. "Just getting movie posters was harder than I expected." Picking which movies to show also had its challenges, but they plan to show first-run (new) movies a couple weeks after the premier date. As Karen explained, "The studios require you show a movie for two weeks on first-run, but with one screen and a small population we think a different movie each week is the best way to go." A website to promote the theater is also in the works, but for now, Karen is using social media to keep people informed. "Our Facebook page has the movies we're showing, and our theater phone has an answering message listing movies and show times," explained Karen.

As movie fans themselves, The Three Couples put a lot of thought into creating a better movie going experience. "For many people, they're here for the experience, not just the movie. They come to see the big screen, smell the popcorn and enjoy an evening out," explained John. Crisp, buttery popcorn to go with a movie is something that Dave takes serious, and finding the right brand became a mission of his. "We use Morrison Farms popcorn from Nebraska; it's really good and we top it with real butter," said Dave. Having a comfortable experience was essential to Karen, which is why she pointed out that every other row of the old narrow seats were removed. "There is plenty of legroom with space to walk in front of you, and for shorter people like me the person in front of you won't block your view," said Karen.

With the Hot Springs Theatre ready to re-open only five months after The Three Couples purchased the building, there was one more thing John wanted to do. Before opening to the public, John just had to give the new projector and sound system his own personal test run. **Continued On Page 7:**



Jerry Brammer working
the old-fashioned
ticket booth.

HORIZONS
Volume 17, Number 3
The **Horizons** customer newsletter is published bimonthly by Golden West Telecommunications.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Golden West, PO Box 411
Wall, SD 57790.

Katie Fleming, Editor
www.goldenwest.com
1-855-888-7777



Karen Meston enjoying
plenty of leg room and a huge viewing screen.



Get a Scholarship! Give a Scholarship!

Whether you've started your post-secondary career and need a little help, or you are interested in helping the leaders of tomorrow pay for school, there are opportunities available.

Get a Scholarship! If you, or your student, have begun post-secondary studies and are looking for added financial help, check out the South Dakota Telecommunications Association's (SDTA) Memorial Scholarship. The SDTA Memorial Scholarship is for a student (or their family) who is a subscriber of an SDTA member company, like Golden West.

SDTA awards \$1,500 to three students who have completed at least two semesters (24 credit hours) of course work at any accredited post-secondary school in South Dakota. Preference is given to students studying fields within the communications and broadband industry, such as:

- **Technologies – Computer Programming, Satellite Communications, Network Technician, etc.**
- **Computers – Network Administration, Internet App Development, etc.**
- **Engineering – Electrical, CAD, Software, Industrial, etc.**
- **Communication Arts – Graphic Design, Multimedia Development, etc.**
- **Business – Marketing, Human Resources, Accounting, Economics, etc.**
- **Technology Education**

To apply, visit sdtaonline.com/resources/sdta-scholarship. **Application deadline is May 31, 2017. Scholarships will be awarded for the Fall semester.**

Give a Scholarship! Through the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF), supporting higher education in South Dakota has never been easier. With the click of a mouse, you can support an existing scholarship or create your own, all with the experienced help of the SDCF!

SDCF's extensive list of scholarships, memorial funds and endowments cover the entire state of South Dakota, focusing on a wide variety of degrees and areas of study. Visit their website, sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-donors/scholarship-funds to search the existing scholarship funds by name, field of study or location.

While there, should you choose to create your own scholarship, follow the contact instructions and the SDCF will walk you through the process of bringing the gift of higher education to South Dakota. SDCF will also handle all the regulatory paperwork, to ensure your generous gift will find the students who need it the most.

Vacation PLANNING POINTERS

Summer is almost here and you need a vacation, but how do you start preparing for a trip? Planning and organizing before you hit the road means more time spent enjoying the vacation, and less time reading pamphlets.

Here are some websites, Apps and planning tips to help get you on your way

What to Do?

Chances are you have a set purpose for your trip, like visiting family, attending a conference, catching a ball game or playing tourist. But what do you have planned for the rest of your trip? Don't waste time sitting in your hotel watching re-runs of *Two and a Half Men* when you can make the most of your time! Here are some resources to help you find all your destination has to offer.

- **Convention & Visitor Bureaus (CVB):** Find the CVB of your destination for event calendars, sample itineraries and advice on things to do. Sign up for their E-Newsletter to receive the latest information on what's happening in the area, as well as coupons, tips from locals and more.
- **TripAdvisor.com** (App available): Search this site for everything from hotels and restaurants, to attractions and vacation rentals. See what other travelers have to say before finalizing your plans, and leave your reviews to help someone else plan their vacation.
- **Groupon.com** (App available): This is a must have App if you are looking to find deals and save money on your vacation. Search your destination for half-off meal offers, "buy one get one free" ticket specials and plenty of other great deals. (Tip – Download the mobile App and Groupon will use your location and alert you to nearby deals.)
- **National Park Service (nps.gov):** Most people are familiar with Yellowstone and Yosemite, but there are hundreds of other great parks, historical sites, monuments, trails and waterways to explore. This site will help you find parks near your destination, along with trip ideas, programs for kids and volunteer opportunities.

Where to Stay?

When reaching your destination, where to stay depends on what is planned. Figure out where the most important parts of your trip are and then look for accommodations nearby. Don't spend the whole trip stuck in traffic when you could have planned ahead. Use these websites to locate places to stay:

- **Priceline.com** (App available): Enter a location and dates, and then sort by brand, price, recommendation and guest rating. Narrow a search down further by neighborhood and amenities. Another cool feature is the Map View, an aerial map providing a guide to where the hotels are. (Tip – Find the hotel you want then book your stay directly with the hotel. This way you can earn loyalty points, the price will be the same or better, and you are less likely to have reservation problems.)
- **Airbnb.com** (App available): Rent anything from single bedrooms to entire houses, through this very popular site. Select where you want to stay by reading previous guest reviews, viewing photos of the accommodations and meeting the rental's host. This site also lists unique experiences to try on your vacation, along with dining guides, audio tours and much more.
- **Koa.com** (App available): Maybe you own an RV, prefer the outdoors, or just like the affordability of camping. Just like the other sites, plug in your destination and dates to see all the camping options available. This site also features RV rentals, hot deals and campground cooking ideas.

Whether you're headed somewhere familiar or someplace completely new, these sites should come in handy when planning your next trip. Now, who's ready for a vacation!

Golden West does not specifically endorse any products or services in this article.



Summer TV Watch List

School is out, the weather is warm and you're out enjoying all that summer has to offer. For those rainy days when you're stuck inside, here are some great TV shows to keep you entertained.

From Book to Small Screen

"American Gods" – Starz: Based on Neil Gaiman's novel of the same name, while living in America, the old gods from mythology and lore face rising conflict with the new gods, hatched from modern fixations on media and technology. For mature audiences only.

"Anne" – Netflix: A new take on Lucy Maud Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables, this show centers around a unique, adventurous orphan living on picturesque Prince Edward Island. Suitable for all ages.

"I'm Dying Up Here" – Showtime: Inspired by William Knoedelseder's nonfiction work, this series explores the lives of stand-up comics trying to make it in 1970's Los Angeles. For mature audiences only.

Returning Shows

"Game of Thrones" – HBO: This wildly popular show returns for its seventh season in July. Filled with dragons, epic battles and non-stop drama, fans of this show have been eagerly anticipating this show's return since last summer. For mature audiences only.

"The Night Shift" – NBC: This series follows the lives of the ex-Army doctors who work the graveyard shift in a San Antonio hospital. Suitable for most ages.

"Younger" – TV Land: A forty-year-old single mom reenters the work-force by altering her appearance thanks to a makeover from her best friend.

Competition Shows

"American Grit" – Fox: Host John Cena and four military heroes put sixteen men and women through tough military and survival challenges. Suitable for most ages.

"Penn & Teller: Fool Us" – The CW: Legendary Magic/Comedy act Penn & Teller invite aspiring magicians to try and fool them with a single magic trick, with the winner getting a spot in Penn & Teller's Las Vegas show. Suitable for most ages.

"So You Think You Can Dance" – Fox: Fans of "Dancing With the Stars" may enjoy this search for America's most talented dancers. From ballet to hip-hop, these dancers must do it all to earn the judges' approval and the viewers' votes. Suitable for all ages.

Golden West is not responsible for the content of these shows, please review TV ratings before watching with children.



Thank You for Paying it Forward

During Golden West's 2017 Pay It Forward campaign, our cooperative members stepped up in a big way. Due to their dedication and generosity, Golden West customers have donated \$17,700 to elementary schools in Golden West's exchange!

For every new or upgrading customer in the month of March, Golden West pledged to donate \$50 to an elementary school in that customer's community. While last year's total of nearly \$10,000 was an outstanding display of support, surpassing that total this year confirms that Golden West members are committed to the communities they call home.

The best part about the Pay It Forward donations is that Golden West presents them to each school with the request that the students get to decide how to use the funds. The 2016 donations inspired students to do things like paint a school pride mural, expand a teaching garden, create reading program incentives, and purchase playground equipment and picnic tables.

A new group of students will receive this year's donations, and Golden West will follow up with the schools to see the fun and inspiring ways they plan to use the 2017 funds.

Thank you Golden West customers for this huge show of support for the children and schools in our communities!

Continued From Page 3:

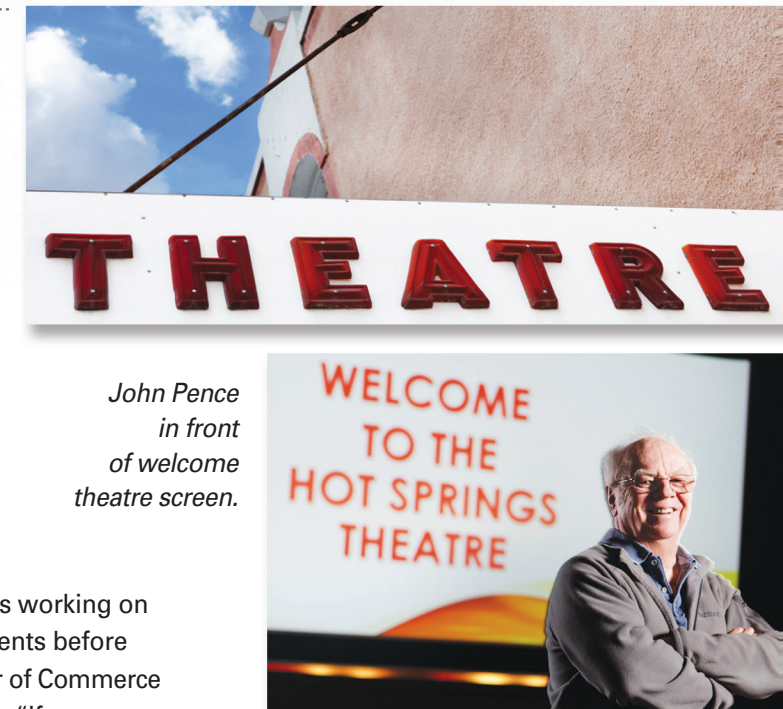
Bringing New Life to the Hot Springs Theatre

"I brought in a James Bond DVD so we could watch the opening scene with all the action. To hear it with twelve speakers and see it on the big screen in such a cavernous auditorium was really exciting," John said.

On April 7th, the Hot Springs Theatre officially reopened with a showing of the movie "Hidden Figures." With six weeks under their belts, the community response has been very positive so far. "I can't walk downtown without someone thanking me for re-opening the theater," said Karen. To say thank you back to the community, John is working on advertising local businesses and showing public service announcements before each movie. "Right now we're airing a short video from the Chamber of Commerce promoting all the different things to do around Hot Springs," said John. "If we can convince people to stay the night, have a meal and check out the other businesses here, it's good for everyone."

Eventually, The Three Couples would like to turn the Hot Springs Theatre into a 501c3 nonprofit organization and give it to the people of Hot Springs. For now, they are focused on keeping the theater up and running, bringing the love of movies back to their community. As for Dave and Laura Batchelor, they are looking forward to going on a date to the movies.

To see what movies are playing and a list of show times, visit [facebook.com/hotspringstheatre](https://www.facebook.com/hotspringstheatre) or call 605-745-4169.



*John Pence
in front
of welcome
theatre screen.*

