



CITY of RAPID CITY

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RAPID CITY RECOGNIZES JUSTIN SPECK AS PART OF “EXTRA MILE DAY”

RAPID CITY—As part of the observance of “Extra Mile Day” nationwide, Rapid City mayor Sam Kooiker is recognizing Justin Speck, artistic director of Black Hills Community Theatre and long-time artistic director of the Rapid City Central High School theatre department.

Proclaiming November 3 as Extra Mile Justin Speck Day, Mayor Kooiker cited Speck’s many artistic and educational achievements and recognitions, noting community appreciation for Speck’s innovation and leadership.

“Extra Mile Day” is a recognition by 524 cities in the United States as part of an effort by Extra Mile America, an organization promoting and recognizing the importance of “going the extra mile” by individuals and groups in communities across the nation.

To highlight the Extra Mile Day efforts, Rapid City recognizes an individual in the community for their service and “going the extra mile”. Previous citizens recognized for the honor were Dr. Mark Harlow in 2013 and Katie Parker in 2012. Speck will be recognized at Monday evening’s city council meeting.

Speck has developed Central’s Drama Club into one of the top student theatrical groups in the state, having won superior ratings 10 years in a row with award-winning original plays and

musicals. He is a Black Hills Playhouse alum and directs Shakespeare every summer at Mainstreet Square. This past year, he was awarded the Region 5 “Heart of the Arts” award by the National Federation of State High School Associations—an honor recognizing the best in a region covering South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. On six occasions, Speck has been chosen Distinguished Educator by the Rapid City Public School Foundation.

"Rapid City has always been known for the hard work, commitment and service of its citizens to their community and neighbors," said Mayor Kooiker. "We have a number of individuals who bring their knowledge, skills and talents to help others. Whether it is working concession stands at a youth sporting event, flipping pancakes at a benefit breakfast, driving seniors to the grocery store or doctor's office or mentoring young people to develop their talents, Rapid Citians go the extra mile.

“Justin has spent years cultivating and developing the artistic talents of our young people and also showcasing his own talents for the entertainment of citizens and visitors to our city. He definitely goes the extra mile.”

Joining Rapid City with Extra Mile Day proclamations and efforts are Aberdeen, Mitchell, Sturgis, Vermillion and Watertown.