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On his way to set another record, extreme adventure enthusiast Bill Burke stops in Springfield School board meeting Monday in Springfield

by Alex Boehman
 Bill Burke - A man of many accomplishments! At the ripe old age of 81, Bill Burke set off on a trek down the Missouri river to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail in reverse. This isn't Bill's first rodeo in a canoe or as an extreme adventure enthusiast, but this is his first time canoeing any part of the 2,341-mile long stretch of the Mighty Mo, the longest river in North America.

Bill's achievements go way back. Bill graduated with a law degree from Stanford Law School, specializing in domestic and international capital market transactions. Bill's career has led him to work all over the world, including Los Angeles, Newport Beach, Hong Kong, Tokyo and New York. Bill has successfully argued cases in the California Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court, and has earned five Lifetime Achievement Awards for his work in legal writing and law reform.

Bill's achievements also venture outside of his career. Bill and his wife of 61 years, Sharon reside in Costa Mesa, California where they successfully raised four children, who in-turn have given the couple 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. One conversation with Bill, and you will quickly find that out of all his many accomplishments, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren are what bring him the most joy and happiness.

Bill made a promise to his family that at the age of 60 he would retire from his law career. And in 2003, Bill kept that promise. However, after hearing of his plans after retirement, Bill's family may have wished he had kept working!

Bill isn't the type of guy to sit around on the couch while time passes by. "When I first retired in 2003, I decided it was important to take up some kind of safe and sedentary hobby, like golf or tennis. After much thought and research, I settled on high altitude mountaineering. I took a high altitude climbing course in the Cascades and then returned to climb Mt. Rainier." Said Bill.

From there Bill went on to summit Mt. McKinley (20,310 feet), the tallest mountain in North America; then Aconcagua (22,837 feet), the tallest mountain in South America and the highest mountain the world outside of Asia; and then Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,339 feet), the tallest mountain in Africa.

Bill's family caught on - without telling them of his long-term goal Bill planned to summit the tallest mountain on all seven continents and Oceania. And he did just that! Bill went on to summit Mt. Elbrus, Europe (18,510 feet); Vinson Massif, Antarctica (16,067



Bill Burke departs Springfield from the Springfield Marina around 10 a.m. October 31 (courtesy photos)

feet); Mt. Kosciuszko, Australia (7,310 feet); Carstensz Pyramid, Indonesia (16,023 feet); and finally, Mt. Everest, Asia (29,035 feet). By doing this, Bill became the only person in the world over the age of 60 to accomplish all seven summits.

By summiting Mt. Everest from the south side in 2009, Bill became the oldest American to reach the summit of Mt. Everest (the Top of the World) and return alive. Bill attempted to summit the north side of Everest in 2010, 2011, and 2012, getting within 1,000 feet of the summit each time, but each time having to turn around for various reasons.

In 2014, Bill summited Mt. Everest from the north side, breaking his own record, by once again becoming the oldest American to reach the Top of the World! To this day, Bill is still the oldest non-Asian to summit Mt. Everest from the north approach.

Shortly after successfully completing Mt. Everest for the second time, the Government of Nepal opened 104 new peaks in the Himalayan Mountain range. One

of those peaks was named after Bill, Burke Khang. Burke Khang ("Khang" means mountain in Nepalese) stands at 22,775 feet high and is located between two of the most famous mountains in the world, Mt. Everest and Cho Oyu.

A documentary film "Eight Summits: The Bill Burke Story" telling of Bill's journey and achievements took first place in the International Outdoor Film Festival in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 2019. The film was entered in the Mountain Climbing Exploration category and took the top award for "Extraordinary Lifetime Sports Performance."

Since completing the eight summits on Bill's bucket list, Bill needed a new way to continue the thrill, this time a little closer to home! After watching a documentary on the Mississippi River, Bill decided his next adventure was going to be a canoe trip... a solo canoe trip the entire 2,300-mile length of the Mississippi River, from Lake Itasca, Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Bill had never even sat in a

canoe before, let alone paddled one! But after extensive research and training, Bill ventured out on his solo trip down the Mississippi in his canoe named "Ollie Power" and "Livelikedan." Both names have a powerful meaning; one honoring his grandson Ollie, who has an unofficial diagnosis of Angelman Syndrome and has been Bill's biggest inspiration, and Bill's other grandson, Danny, who passed away in a skiing accident in 2018 and was full of life, spirit and adventure. Bill's Mississippi River trip was dedicated to his grandson Danny.

Bill completed the 120-day voyage in 2019 at the age of 77, again setting records by becoming the oldest person to complete such a solo trip.

In 2022 Bill decided to walk. He walked the Camino de Santiago, following the Camino Frances route. The Camino Frances route starts in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, crosses the Pyrenees Mountains, proceeds across northern Spain and ends at the Cathedral of St. James the Apostle in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. From there Bill walked to the Atlantic Ocean, visiting various seaside fishing villages of Finisterre and Muxia. The total distance of this Pilgrimage from St. Jean Pied de Port to the Atlantic Ocean was 560 miles.

These days you can find Bill solo-paddling the Missouri River in the Springfield Community Center. Delicious turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings will be served. All are welcome! Dine in or carry out is available, as well as delivery! Please call ahead to reserve your meal. 605-369-2361

Bill started his current adventure in May 2023. Bill is following the Lewis and Clark Trail in reverse, starting near its source in Three Forks, Montana to its confluence with the Mississippi River just north of St. Louis. From source to terminus, the River spans 2,341 miles and passes through 7 states.

Before Bill left, he read the Bible - the paddlers Bible that is, "The Complete Paddler: A Guidebook for Paddling the Missouri River from the Headwaters to St. Louis, Mo."

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Burke - see page 3



Burke Khang



Bill Burke at the top of Mt. Everest

Bon Homme School Board will meet in regular session Monday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. in the Springfield school. Following is the tentative agenda:

- + Call to order
- + Pledge of Allegiance
- + Recognition
- + Delegation-presentations
- + Agenda: additions, conflict of interest disclosures, approval
- + Open forum
- + Consent agenda: minutes, financial report
- + Reports: superintendent, principals, special education, dean of students, business manager, activities director, PBIS-TI

le, student council, technology, school board

Old business
 New business
 + Approve payment of bills
 + Approve volunteer girls basketball coach - Bailey Kortan
 + Approve volunteer boys basketball coaches
 + Approve Amended Comprehensive Plan for Special Education
 + Donation: Joseph Antico-\$50 toward negative lunch accounts
 + Executive session (if necessary) SDCL 1-25-2
 + Adjourn



Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday

ROCS Dining Services - Dakota Senior Meals will be hosting their annual Thanksgiving Dinner this Thursday, November 9 at the Springfield Community Center. Delicious turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings will be served. All are welcome! Dine in or carry out is available, as well as delivery! Please call ahead to reserve your meal. 605-369-2361

Annual golf meeting Tuesday

The annual membership meeting for the Springfield Golf Course will be held Tuesday, Nov. 14th at 7 pm in the clubhouse. The agenda will include this year's activities, future projects and election of officers. We encourage all members to attend! See you on the 14th!

Morning with Mom at school Tuesday

The elementary schools in the Bon Homme School District will host a parent involvement activity. Morning with Mom will be held Tuesday, Nov. 14 from 7:15-8 a.m. during breakfast time.

Students will be given the option of a long john for the breakfast choice. Moms will be offered a free long john. Moms can have a free long john or have the option of having a full breakfast for a cost.

Moms and child(ren) can come to school at any time between 7:15 and 8 a.m.

The goal of this activity is to provide an opportunity for moms to spend time with their children and visit the schools. Also keep in mind that although this activity is called Morning with Mom, a substitute (dad, grandparent, family friend) is welcome to attend if mom is unable.

School Veterans Day programs

Tyndall - 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8

Springfield - 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9

Saluting our Veterans

Bon Homme High School Blood Drive

The Bon Homme High School blood drive will take place Thursday, Nov. 9 in the main gym, from 1-5:30 pm. Set up your lifesaving appointment by calling 800-287-4903, go to lifeserve.info.



OFFICE CLOSED Friday, Nov. 10

The newspaper office will be CLOSED Friday, Nov. 10 in observance of Veterans Day

EARLY DEADLINE for our section of the November 15 Dakota Action Rocket will be at 12 noon Thursday, Nov. 9

Springfield Times - Scotland Journal Tyndall Tribune & Register

BE... THOUGHTFUL KIND GENUINE A BLOOD DONOR THANKFUL

Springfield Community BLOOD DRIVE

Community Center
 807 8th St. | Springfield
 Tuesday, November 14
 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM