

'Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month' proclaimed in Spearfish



Mayor Dana Boke, seated third from right, proclaimed March "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" in Spearfish and presented the proclamation to the Northern Hills Training Center Wednesday. *Courtesy photo*

By KAIJA SWISHER
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SPEARFISH — To encourage everyone to focus on the abilities of all people, Mayor Dana Boke proclaimed March "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" in Spearfish and presented the proclamation to the Northern Hills Training Center Wednesday.

Boke read the proclamation at the Northern Hills Training Center to a group of staff and

those served by the agency, which serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The proclamation states, "The most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone's active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individuals' contributions ... Opportunities for citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities to function as independently and productively as

possible must be fostered in our community."

"I encourage all citizens to support opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community, including full access to education, housing, employment, and recreational activities," she said.

The Northern Hills Training Center is headquartered at 625 Harvard St. in Spearfish and provides residential services, pre-vocational/vocational ser-

vices, medical services, and support coordination to the people it serves.

Chris Davis, community relations coordinator at Northern Hills Training Center, explained that in 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month." During the month, the training center seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of com-

munity life, as well as awareness to the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live. The awareness month covers three main areas: education, employment, and community living.

Davis said that Northern Hills Training Center appreciates the support they have received from Spearfish and surrounding communities over the past 42 years.