

YANKTON BULLET MAKERS

Jason Sejnoha didn't feel like chatting during his vasectomy. Instead, he flipped through photos of copper bullets on his phone until his doctor, Yankton urologist George Fournier, asked what he was doing. They soon discovered a shared passion for assembling their own ammunition, a process known as handloading.



Upon entering the world of extreme long-range (ELR) shooting, in which shooters attempt to hit targets from upwards of 1,000 yards away, Sejnoha struggled to find quality ammunition. So, he took a machining course, bought the necessary equipment and began crafting a solid copper bullet with a higher ballistic coefficient, meaning the bullet lost velocity at a slower rate and retained more energy and accuracy at longer distances.

When Sejnoha left the operating room, he had his first customer. Fournier requested some .338-caliber copper bullets for a cape buffalo hunt in Africa. He was so impressed with their success that he transitioned from customer to business partner. In June of 2014, Badlands Precision was born.



They began a two-year research and development process that produced two lines of projectiles: an ELR bullet dubbed the ICBM, short for "intercontinental ballistic missile," and a hunting bullet called the Bulldozer. Today, Badlands Precision ships hunting and ELR projectiles to custom gunsmiths and handloaders around the world. Sejnoha says that at most Midwest ELR competitions, a quarter to half of the field shoots Badlands bullets. "When the ELR shooters started winning competitions with our bullets, more people started coming to us," he says.

While other brands followed the pricey nature of the sport, Sejnoha and Fournier stayed cost-effective. A Badlands Precision .308-caliber 155-grain target bullet costs around 89 cents, while equivalents made by other brands cost between \$1.50 and \$2 a round.

Sejnoha and Fournier hope Badlands Precision of Yankton becomes the premier copper bullet manufacturer of the country. But their dreams stretch beyond recreational shooting sports. "Our bullet expertise has enabled us to do things with military-style bullets," Fournier says. "Specifically, we would like to supply armor-piercing bullets to special forces groups."

— Katie Hill

HISTORIC DATES

IN SOUTH DAKOTA

FIRST FEMALE DOCTORED

May 2, 1931 ... South Dakota's first licensed female physician and first licensed female pharmacist, Dr. Abbie Ann Jarvis of Faulkton, succumbed to cancer at the age of 76.

TWISTER STRIKES

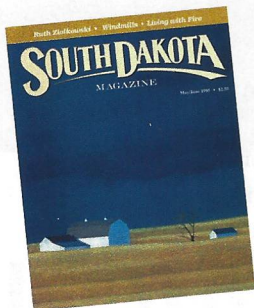
May 30, 1998 ... Six people were killed when an F4 tornado devastated the tiny town of Spencer. Donations from around the country and volunteers from neighboring communities helped the McCook County burg rebuild.

BLACK HILLS GOLD

June 28, 1894 ... While out picking strawberries near Keystone, William Franklin and his daughter, Cora Stone, found a gold-laden quartz chip at the base of Mount Aetna. Franklin laid claim to the site and named the resulting mine the Holy Terror, after his feisty wife.



Dr. Abbie Ann Jarvis of Faulkton



BEST QUOTE 25 YEARS AGO

"Can you imagine starting to work on that mountain by yourself? Building steps up there, carrying up all the equipment on your back? Most anybody would have quit, but he didn't."

— Ruth Ziolkowski, wife of Crazy Horse sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, in our May/June 1995 issue.