

## OBITUARIES

## Donna Henseler

Donna Leah Henseler, age 85, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Thursday, April 28, 2011, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota.

A private memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Tweeter Henseler officiating. A gathering of friends and family will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, 2011, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home.

Donna was born on March 23, 1926 to the Reverend Paul and Leah (Walker) Millard in Worthington, MN. She attended Worthington public schools, graduating from high school in 1944. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD, her Master's degree in English literature from the University of South Dakota and her Ph.D./doctorate degree in English literature from Michigan State University.

She taught high school English at Lyons & Brandon, SD in the late 1940s and 1950s. She was an English professor at Yankton College from 1963-66 and later taught English and related courses at Mount Marty College in Yankton from 1969 to 1983.

Donna married Kenneth Henseler on August 14, 1951 in Sioux Falls, SD. She and Ken



Henseler

would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this August. Donna was a talented musician with a love of classical, swing and jazz. Donna performed professionally as a vocalist for years. Her jazz combos even had a family flair as Kevin was her drummer for many years, Todd got involved playing his saxophone, and even Ken would join the group on special occasions with his upright bass. Donna wrote music and lyrics for several live theater productions, including a musical, called "Tale of a Trail," chronicling the Lewis and Clark Expedition and performed by the Crofton, NE Area Theater Society. Another of her notable musical theater productions was a children's operetta, "Fairyfoot," which she co-wrote with her sister, Patricia. It was performed by elementary students in Brandon, SD, as well as by the Children's Theatre at the Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville, AR. One of her greatest thrills was watching and hearing her three boys, all of whom became accomplished musicians and who perform professionally in regional bands, as well as going to her grandchildren and great grandchildren's school concerts and dance recitals.

Donna was also an accomplished writer, with short stories published by national publications, including "Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine." She also wrote a weekly column for the Crofton Journal/Niobrara Tribune, "Haven't We Met," for many years. She had also completed an unpublished novel and was working on her second novel at the time of her passing. An avid reader as well, she was rarely seen without a book in her leisure time.

In later years, Donna turned her talents to sewing and quilting, starting her own business named Riverrun Fabrics in Yankton, where she enjoyed selling the latest sewing and embroidery products and training customers in their use. In her spare time, she enjoyed sewing and quilting for special events, family and home; and enjoyed her involvement in a local quilting group. She sewed nearly all her clothes, as well as many outfits for grandchildren.

She and Ken were dog breeders for many years, first raising Bassett Hounds, but eventually getting into Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, of which they were one of the top-producing kennels in the world; not in quantity but quality. Donna showed dogs for a number of years. Their dogs weren't just raised for money, but they were always treasured pets and friends, including their little

buddy, Toby.

She was a member of the Yankton Benedictine Oblates and donated her time to many causes during her lifetime.

Survivors include: husband of 59 years, Ken; three sons: Kevin of Crofton, NE, Todd of Omaha, NE, and Jay (Lori) of Yankton, SD; a sister, Patricia (Don) Koenig of Bella Vista, AR; 7 grandchildren, Emily, Warren, Keenan, Kailee, Kendra, Cody and Madison; 9 great grandchildren, Victoria, Meredith, Connor, Ty, Jasz, Ian, Evyn, Kenzie, Macen and Kendall; and her three amigos/dogs, Toby, Polly and Sam.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, who died at birth.

Memorials may be directed to the Heartland Humane Society, Yankton branch, the Yankton Area Arts Association, and the Yankton County Historical Society.

To post an online sympathy message to the family please visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

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Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

## Elizabeth Brandt

Funeral services for Elizabeth "Betty" Brandt, 94 of Avon, SD will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 2, 2011 at Zion Lutheran Church in Avon, with burial in the church cemetery, rural Avon. Visitation will be at the church Sunday from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by a 7:30 prayer service.



Brandt

In lieu of flowers, memorials will be directed to Lutheran Hour Ministries, Zion Lutheran Church and the Yankton Homeless Shelter.

Elizabeth Anne "Betty" Brandt, daughter of George and Mary (Vest) Kutsch, was born June 20, 1916 at Kearney, NE. She died unexpectedly Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, NE. Betty attained the age of 94 years, ten months and nine days.

Betty's mother died when she was eight years old. Her father's sister, Aunt Lizzie, moved in with the family and devoted her life to raising the family. Betty grew up in the Sumner, NE area and received her elementary education there. She graduated from Sumner High School in 1937 and then attended Concordia College in Seward, NE, for four years, graduating with a B.A. in Education. Betty taught at parochial schools in Kankakee, IL for two years and in Avon for two years.

While teaching in Avon, she met Fred A. Brandt. They were married August 20, 1941 at the Grace Lutheran Church in Sumner, NE. Fred and Betty returned to the family farm, where they farmed until 1988. Betty was a homemaker and farming partner and always a teacher at heart. Three sons were blessed to their union. Fred died October 23, 1988. Betty became a resident of the Springfield Assisted Living Center on February 23, 2009. At the time of her death, she was in Kearney, NE, visiting her sisters.

Betty was confirmed at the Grace Lutheran Church in Sumner. After her marriage, she became a member of Zion Lutheran

Church and LWML in Avon, where she actively served all of her life.

Betty will be remembered for her enjoyment of quilting for missions with her church group. She especially had a heart for people to know the Lord as their Redeemer. Betty had a quiet, yet powerful, strength ... always a teacher.

Thankful for having shared her life are her sons: Daniel, David and wife Sandra, and Douglas and wife Sharon, all of Avon; 10 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; two sisters: Inez Dittmar and Viola Sattler, both of Kearney, NE; and many relatives and friends.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband and her parents.

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## Anna Hoffmann

HURON — Anna Hoffmann, age 99, of Huron, died Thursday, April 28, 2011, at SunQuest Health-care Center.

Her funeral service will be at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 3rd at the Congregational United Church of Christ, Huron. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday at the Kuhlner Funeral Home, Huron, with her family present from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Monday evening.

Visit [www.kuhlnerfuneralhome.com](http://www.kuhlnerfuneralhome.com).

Anna Lenora (Gimbel) Hoffmann was born February 11, 1912, on the family farm homestead southeast of Scotland, South Dakota. She was the daughter of Henry and Anna Marie Gimbel. Anna attended the Beadle country school through the eighth grade then worked on the farm.

She married Arthur Martin Hoffmann on January 1, 1939, in the German Congregational Church in Gregory, South Dakota and settled on a farm near Dallas, South Dakota. Anna taught Sun-

day School and was involved with the women's groups when Arthur began his ministry in 1945.

She was a member of the Congregational United Church of Christ in Huron after they served churches in Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, Montana and South Dakota.

Anna was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur; her parents; two sisters, Clara Gimbel and Ella Paulson; three brothers, Albert, John and Alvin; and one daughter, Betty Jean Cassidy.

Grateful for having shared her life are her children, Ervin (Vonnedella) Hoffmann, Hiawatha, Iowa, LaVon Martin, Alpine, Arizona, and Delbert (Julie) Hoffmann, Huron, South Dakota; son-in-law, Marty (Linda) Cassidy, Silver Spring, Maryland; eleven grandchildren, Suellen (Brian) Leimkuehler, Perrysburg, Ohio, Keith and Daniel Hoffmann, Hiawatha, Iowa; Robyn Martin, Scottsdale, Arizona, Dawn Martin, Washington, DC, Sara (Glenn) Wheaton, Carlsbad, California, Andrew (Kimberly) Cassidy, Baltimore, Maryland, Amy (Ludwig) Mathey, Hamburg, Germany, Amber Hoffmann, Athol, South Dakota, Bethany Hoffmann, Lake Bluff, Illinois, and Sean Hoffmann of Huron; six great-grand children, Elizabeth, Mark and Christine Leimkuehler, Audrey and Owen Cassidy, and Elise Wheaton; one sister Laura Bender of Scotland, South Dakota; two sisters-in-law, Leona Lesley, Pawley's Island, South Carolina and Martha Gimbel, Scotland, South Dakota; and one brother-in-law Ben Hoffman, Fremont, Nebraska.

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## Arue Thomas

SIOUX FALLS — Arue Thomas, 90, died Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at Sanford USD Medical Center, Sioux Falls.

Visitation will be from 4-7:00 p.m. Sunday at the Sunnycrest United Methodist



Thomas

Church, 4801 W. 41st St, Sioux Falls with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 2, 2011 at the United Methodist Church, Hurley with burial at the Hurley Cemetery.

Arue Nix was born on January 28, 1921 at Murdo, SD to Walter and Vivian (Cook) Nix. She attended Jones County Elementary, Pierre Middle School and graduated from Murdo High School. After receiving her teaching certificate from Wessington Springs Junior College and further education at Black Hills State, she taught country school near Murdo. On November 1, 1943 she was united in marriage to Roger J. Thomas at Murdo. They farmed near Murdo for a few years before Roger was ordained as an elder of the Methodist Church. They served churches for 35 years at Timber Lake, Kennebec-Reliance, Faith-Plainview, Alexandria, Onida-Agar, Hitchcock-Broadland, Davis-Hurley-Viborg, White Lake-Underwood, and Bowdle-Tolstoy. They retired to Hurley in 1988. Her husband was a master gardener and she canned, preserved, and froze volumes. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Woman, Eastern Star, Legion Auxiliary, and Federated Women's Club. She was nominated for SD Mother of the Year in 2001. They moved to Sunnycrest Village in 2002 where she was active in the library among other things. Her husband Roger died in 2005.

Grateful for having shared her life are her children, Kent (Connie), Tecumseh, OK, John (Lee), Eden Prairie, MN, Melvin (Nancy), Sioux Falls, Roger (Linda), Apple Valley, MN, David (Nancy), Sioux Falls, Mary (Mark) Tracy, Windsor, CO, and Gary (Carol), Brookings; 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren; 2 brothers, Richard (June) Nix, Murdo, SD and Paul (Ellen) Nix, Buffalo, MN; and a family friend, Jerry Walton, California.

Memorials may be directed to the Hurley United Methodist Church or Sunnycrest Village. [www.hofmeisterjones.com](http://www.hofmeisterjones.com).

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## 'COUNT ON ME'



KELLY HERTZ/P&amp;D

The horn section of the Mount Marty College Jazz Band breathes life into a rendition of Lennie Niehaus' "Count on Me" during MMC's Home Concert Friday night at Marian Auditorium. The Jazz Band, MMC mixed chorus and Smooth Benediction accapella group finished a brief tour of area schools, with Friday night's performance being their fifth concert in two days.

## Caring For Every Child's Mental Health

LINCOLN, Neb. — Children at play seem to be happy and carefree, yet many people may be surprised to learn that trauma and emotional distress are quite prevalent among children. Approximately one out of every eight children in the U.S. has a serious emotional disorder. Many of these disorders are caused by trauma. Research shows that when exposed to traumatic events, children can develop serious psychological problems later in childhood and in adulthood. As they grow, these children take with them the effects of traumatic events, and are more likely to experience problems with substance abuse, depression, and stress management as a result.

"The good news is that children who experience trauma can recover if they have the support of positive, caring adults who provide structure, comfort, and guidance," said Scot L. Adams, director of the Division of Behavioral Health in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

"An early response can help the child receive the help necessary to cope and build resilience for the future."

Traumatic events can include a death in the family, a natural disaster, and bullying. Young children also may be traumatized when they witness disturbing acts or hear about them on TV.

Children who have been traumatized may be unable to control their emotions, act impulsively, overreact to loud or

sudden noises, or withdraw excessively. At other times, the effects of trauma are physical—frequent headaches, stomachaches, or fatigue. An added complication is that very young children are often unable to verbalize a traumatic event and why they are distressed.

Trauma can seriously disrupt a young child's social and emotional development. Chronic exposure to traumatic events can impair his or her ability to focus, organize and process information, and solve problems. There may also be negative effects on academic performance, self-confidence, and socialization as the child grows older.

"Exposure to trauma may be difficult for very young children to deal with, but they can recover," Adams said. "Parents and caregivers can help children cope by talking with the child in a caring and supportive way. In some instances, the child may need counseling to restore a sense of emotional well-being."

For professional and other resources, check out the Network of Care on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/networkofcare/>. The Nebraska Family Helpline at 1-888-866-8660 can also provide resources and support.

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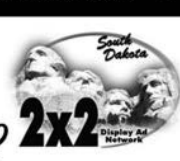
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