

Holiday CookieWalk Set For Dakota Theatre

Tasty, decorative homemade holiday cookies and treats will be for sale Friday, Dec. 7, in the beautiful lobby of the Dakota Theater at 328 Walnut St.

The Holiday CookieWalk will raise funds for Yankton's RiverWalk project, which places sculptures in the downtown area. This year's goal is to raise enough money to purchase an additional granite pedestal for the sculptures.

Some of Yankton's best cookie-makers donate the holiday treats, which sell by the pound. The cookies will be for sale from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., but many varieties were sold by noon last year so come early.

RiverWalk is beginning its fourth year in Yankton. The non-profit group's mission is to enhance the community's appearance and culture by featuring great outdoor art in the downtown district.

Selected sculptures are displayed on downtown streets and in Riverside Park for one year. Current sculptures will be replaced in May 2013.

Clay Co. Historical Society Sale Saturday

The Clay County Historical Society is sponsoring a "Sweets'n Treats" sale on Saturday, Dec. 8, running from 10 a.m.- p.m. at the Austin-Whittemore House, 15 Austin Street in Vermillion.

The house will be decorated for the holidays.

Celebration of St. Lucia Slated Saturday

VERMILLION — Dalesburg Scandinavian Association welcomes the public to its 35th Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, 30595 University Road, rural Vermillion.

This year's celebration will feature a Lucia Court with one girl being crowned Lucia for the evening. There will be a program with a Scandinavian theme and a buffet of Scandinavian food.

A freewill collection will be received for area food pantries.

The celebration remembers the generosity and commitment of St. Lucia to those in need and to her faith.

For information or in case of inclement weather, call 605-253-2575.

Veterans Forum With Legislators In S.F.

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Veterans Council, comprised of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Military Order of the Purple Heart will host the Legislators and Veterans Round Table at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Disabled American Veterans Headquarters (DAV), 1519 W. 51st Street, Sioux Falls.

The legislative issues being presented to the legislators by representatives of the South Dakota Veterans Council are:

- To reinstate supplement to County/Tribal Veterans Service Officers
- Military Absentee Voting
- Ease Military Licensing and Credentialing
- Ease Military Spouse Licensing and Credentialing
- Reinstatement Grants for the DAV Transportation Network (\$21,000.00)
- Exempt veteran's disability payments from income calculations for certain tax relief programs.
- Commemoration of March 29-30 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

All veterans are invited.

Cottonwood Campground To Close Dec. 10

Cottonwood Campground, operated by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gavins Point Project, will close for the season at 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 10.

OBITUARIES

Clark Thomas

Clark S. Thomas, 94, of Springfield died Monday, December 3, 2012 at Avera St. Michael's Hospital in Tyndall.



Thomas

Funeral services are 2 p.m. Saturday, December 8, 2012 at the United Church of Christ in Springfield. Burial is in the Springfield Cemetery, rural Springfield, with military honors.

Visitation will be from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Friday at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Springfield.

Clark Sampson Thomas was born December 8, 1917 at the farm 4 miles west of Springfield. He was the second son born to Sampson C. and Ladie (Boyd) Thomas. He attended Nile country school and Springfield High School, and South Dakota College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in Brookings, SD. He graduated in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture.

He enlisted as a cadet in the Army Air Corps in September 1941. He trained to be an aerial navigator at Kelly Field, Texas. On the day of his graduation and commissioning as a 2nd Lt., he married Neva Guptill at Travis Park Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas. Clark's first assignment was to Guatemala where he navigated B-17 airplanes on patrol duty around the Panama Canal.

In July 1943 Clark's squadron was returned to the U.S. and trained with the new B-29's. In the spring of 1944 the 20th Bomber Command was moved to bases in India. From there and advanced bases in China, the B-29s conducted raids on Japanese held installations. In March of 1945 Clark was returned to California to help train new B-29 crews. In September 1945 Clark was discharged from the Air Corps with the rank of Major. He returned to his hometown.

Clark had always wanted to be a farmer. In October 1945 he and Neva bought the Ira Smith farm 4 miles north and 1 mile west of Springfield. This was their home for 36 years and "Cedar Farm" prospered under his care and attention during those years Clark was a proponent of life long learning and took courses in home construction at the college in Springfield. He built a new ranch style house on Cedar Farm in 1971. In 1980 Clark retired from farming and they moved to the Armstrong School House which he had renovated to

create their retirement home. Clark made all the woodwork in that home, dubbed "Hobby House" from walnut and oak he harvested himself from local trees. In 1991 they moved to a new home they had constructed in Springfield at 512 W. 8th St.

Clark was active in many civic organizations including secretary for Armstrong School Board, director of Yankton Production Credit Association, Curator of the Springfield Historical Society Museum, and various offices in Farm Bureau, American Legion, and 4-H Club. He loved his home town and it showed in his many volunteer hours constructing the "old time town" and horse drawn farm machinery exhibits in Springfield museum. He received an award from the State Historical Society in recognition of his work.

On July 21, 1918 Clark was baptized in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Springfield. When that church disbanded, he joined the Springfield Congregational (now United Church of Christ). He held many offices in this church including Sunday School Superintendent for 15 year, chairman of the building committee when the Educational wing was built and chief repairman for the Stained Glass windows.

Clark's hobbies included woodworking, stained glass, clock repair, and other crafts. He made 18 grandfather clocks and at least 30 cedar chests for various relatives and customers. He owned a sawmill and often processed the wood from cutting the tree to the finished furniture.

Clark was preceded in death by his parents and his older brother, David. He leaves to celebrate his life, his wife, Neva; three children Marilyn (Nelson) Stone, of Springfield; Donald (Wilene) Thomas of Friendswood, TX; and Carol Teal (David Joyce) of Newmarket, Ontario, Canada; brother Neil (Doris) Thomas, and sister, Eleanor (Merle) Toyne both of Springfield, and sister, Alicia Thomas (Judy O'Donough) of Mesa, Arizona; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 5, 2012

David 'Baldy' Ebsen

Funeral services for David "Baldy" Ebsen, 49, of Verdigre, Neb., are at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Verdigre. The Rev. Beverly Lanzendorf will officiate, with burial in the Riverside Cemetery, Verdigre.

Visitation is 7-9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.
Baldy died Monday, Dec. 3, 2012, at his home.

Candlelight Concert Set For UCC Sunday

Experienced musicians, an array of instruments, words of inspiration, and special lighting effects — all will bring to life a stunning collection of Christmas music, old and new, during the Candlelight Christmas Concert scheduled for 5:30 p.m. this Sunday, Dec. 9, in the Yankton United Church of Christ (Congregational) sanctuary at Fifth & Walnut.

The public is invited to attend and enjoy what the church's choir director, Jennifer Powell, calls "a gift to the community."

The congregation's Adult Choir will be presenting what one member termed "the best set of Christmas anthems I've ever sung in one concert."

Concertgoers will hear everything from the classical — Vivaldi's "Gloria" — to the classic — "Gesu Bambino" (women's chorus and oboist, Sheila Wipf, Freeman) and "Still, Still, Still" (men's chorus) — to the contemporary by such well-known composers as John Rutter and Pepper Choplin. One anthem will have listeners dancing in their seats, and another, based on the first three verses of the gospel of John, is al-

most a speech piece.

The choir's music will be supplemented by performances of a brass ensemble made up of professional area instrumentalists. Members of the group — gathered by Ted Powell, Yankton UCC's director of music and organist — are Kevin McLouth, Tyndall; Gwen Wenisch, Yankton; Meghan Powell, Gayville; and Todd and Bobbi Carr, Yankton.

Also performing will be the vocal group Mirabile, eight area women who began singing together in 2011, primarily to entertain in nursing homes and assisted living centers. Members (all of Yankton except where otherwise noted) are Mary Pat Bierle, Kathy Grow, JoAnn Lambertz, Celia Miner, Jennifer Powell, Lea Ann Schramm, Linda Stevens and Janine Tramp, Crofton.

For this concert, Mirabile will be singing "Gaudete," one of British composer Howard Goodall's "Enchanted Carols." This arrangement of a 17th-century Christmas song will be accompanied for this performance by special guests Kim Evander, Yankton, viola; Ted Powell, organ; and

Kathleen West, Yankton, electronic celesta, as well as Mirabile members playing glockenspiel and handbells.

Four members of the Adult Choir will be sharing seasonal readings as another part of this special holiday presentation. They are Mary Pat Bierle, Robert Hansen, Jim Reimler and Sylvia Selgestad.

And what about the candlelight? Jennifer Powell said with a laugh, "We are using special lighting to, hopefully, create a feeling of candlelight without being so dimly lit that the choir can't see. We've got professionals working on it!"

Beautiful decorations in the spacious sanctuary will enhance the experience for all those in the area who welcome a chance to celebrate the season with glorious music, words, and setting. Admission is free, though an offering will be gathered.

For more information, contact Melissa Pratt, the church's administrative assistant, at the Yankton United Church of Christ office (melissapratt@iw.net; 605-665-7320).

MVCA HONORS VETERANS



Missouri Valley Christian Academy (MVCA) recently honored veterans and active military members with a special chapel on Nov. 16. The service included a number of patriotic songs, a video tribute to our former and current soldiers, and a message by the Rev. Ron Morris outlining five things we need to do to be good soldiers in God's army. The morning concluded with lunch and fellowship. For more information about MVCA (Yankton), you can visit the school's website at www.mvcamustangs.org.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

SAC To Offer Water Safety Instructor's Course

The Summit Activities Center will be offering a Water Safety Instructor's Course in December. Classes will be held over the Christmas Break, beginning Dec. 22. Class times for each session will be from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Attendance is mandatory for all four sessions. Participants will need to be prepared for time in the classroom and pool each day. Class space is limited.

Registration is available by calling 605-668-5234 or stopping by the Summit Activities Center between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Participants must be at least 16 years of age before the class ends. Participants must also successfully swim the following strokes: Freestyle, Backstroke, Elementary Backstroke, Breaststroke and Buttery at Level 4.

WSI Class Schedule:

- Saturday, Dec. 22: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
 - Sunday, Dec. 23: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
 - Wednesday, Dec. 26: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
 - Thursday, Dec. 27: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- For further information, call 668-5234. Remember to follow the Yankton Parks and Recreation on our Facebook Page.

Reaction

From Page 1

proach to the budget was the right move.

"Certainly 30 days, 60 days or 90 days from now, we should have a lot better idea of what the government is going to do, and how that is going to impact our budget and our income," Stevens said. "The governor took the prudent approach, the conservative approach, as the Legislature has done for many years."

Sen. Jean Hunhoff agreed that the unknown variables make it difficult to project how the state will need to distribute its spending. She said she hopes Congress will make a decision before the end of the year so that the Legislature can plan accordingly by the end of its session, which starts in January.

"If the funding isn't there, we're going to have to relook at our budget and how we're going to address that," she said.

Rep. Hunhoff said that while uncertainty does exist, it does not justify neglecting issues that

are in desperate need of funds.

"We all want to spend the same amount of money," he said. "The issue is the priorities. Where do we spend those dollars? We're not arguing how much to spend. We're arguing on how to spend the limited dollars available."

Rep. Hunhoff said that by only increasing spending for education by the minimum amount, the governor is taking the stand that the current spending levels are the new norm. The inflationary increases don't even begin to repair the damage done by the 8.6 percent reduction in K-12 spending in 2011, he said.

"By not addressing it, (Daugaard) is suggesting that the current funding is adequate," he said. "I don't think the public believes that, and don't think the majority of the Legislators in Pierre agree with that."

Daugaard's proposal also left an estimated \$26 million uncommitted over the next two years. The governor said he and lawmakers would decide together how to spend those funds.

While Rep. Hunhoff said some of that money should definitely go toward funding education, Stevens and Sen. Hunhoff said it

was too early to decide how the uncommitted funds should be spent.

"I think we have to figure out if that is really the number first," Stevens said. "I think speculating as to what to do with the money without knowing the actual number is a waste of time at this point."

Sen. Hunhoff added that it is important to remember that Daugaard's proposal is only the beginning of the long process of creating a state budget.

"We haven't had any discussion to date yet, and that is what the legislative process is about," she said. "At this point in time, I have an open mind and I want to see where we're going with priorities, where we are going with projections, and then how we can conclude at the end."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos



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Budget

From Page 1

same as this year. The portion from state general tax funds would exceed \$1.3 billion, which would represent a \$95 million increase.

It would leave \$26.5 million uncommitted over the next two years, and most of it could go toward one-time expenditures such as those used in this year's budget to help offset the 2011 cuts. Next year's plan only includes the inflationary increases, so health care and education interests are expected to lobby for additional money. Daugaard said he and lawmakers would decide together how to spend the uncommitted money.

Under Daugaard's plan, state aid to school districts would rise by 3 percent next year as required by a state law that calls for that aid to increase each year by the rate of inflation up to a maximum of 3 percent. Reimbursements to hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities that provide services to poor people under the Medicaid program also would increase 3 percent, and the university system would get a 3.2 percent boost.

In addition, the governor proposed that state employees get a 3 percent across-the-board pay raise in July, with employees earning below the midpoint of salary ranges for their jobs getting an extra 3.5 percent.

Daugaard also proposed adding \$16.5 million to the current year's state budget, including \$7.9 million for the state employees' health insurance plan, \$5 million to cover incentives offered to attract two companies to the state before voters in November rejected the law allowing such payments, and \$2.6 million for a new state program aimed at reducing the prison population by treating more nonviolent convicts outside prison walls.

He said he also plans to submit a special spending measure that would authorize the use of \$1.3 million in state funds, \$23.6 million in federal money and \$14.8 million in state bonding to build a new state veterans home in Hot Springs.

Other special spending bills would pay the state's share of fighting forest fires last summer, build facilities at the new Blood Run State Park, and finance efforts to curb the spread of mountain pine beetles in the Black Hills.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

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