

Two Wrongly Convicted Death Row Inmates To Speak In Sioux Falls Dec. 12

SIOUX FALLS — Two men who spent years on death row before their exonerations will speak Saturday, Dec. 12 in Sioux Falls.

Juan Roberto Meendez-Colon was imprisoned in Florida for 18 years. Shujaa Graham spent 8 years on death row in California. Today, both are actively involved in ending the death penalty. “I stand here wounded by the blows of the death penalty, trying to end this awful reality,” says Graham.

They will be joined in Sioux Falls by Suezann Bosler, who will speak about her journey toward forgiveness of a man who murdered her father. Bosler devoted 10 years to commuting the sentence of James Bernard Campbell.

“Being able to point to him at this moment and express my forgiveness was like having a weight lifted from my shoulders,” she says.

Bosler is the guest speaker at the conference, titled “Human Face of the Death Penalty.” Hosted by South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, the program begins at 10 a.m. in the Downtown Sioux Falls Library. Denny Davis, executive director of SDADP, says the sessions will end by 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend at no cost.

Also speaking will be Colby Coash, a Republican state senator from Nebraska. He’ll tell of his experiences earlier this year when he and other

lawmakers repealed the death penalty in the Cornhusker State. That vote has been referred to a vote of the people in November of 2016.

Davis says repeal of the death penalty has been debated during the last two legislative sessions in South Dakota, and he expects the topic will arise in January when the lawmakers return to Pierre. “We have had thoughtful and meaningful debates in Pierre over the last several years. This conference is an opportunity for policy makers and interested citizens to come together to share thoughts and learn from people who have traveled this road in other states. We welcome anyone and everyone.”

Giving Gifts



COURTESY PHOTO
Students from Sacred Heart Elementary School donated a few childhood goodies to the River City Domestic Violence Center mid-November.

Nebraska State Highway Commission Meeting Set

LINCOLN, Neb. — The State Highway Commission will hold its regular meeting Dec. 11 at 8:30 a.m., in Room 103, at the Nebraska Department of Roads’ Central Headquarters, 1500 Highway 2, in Lincoln.

The agenda for the meeting is available on the NDOR website at www.roads.nebraska.gov/news-media/upcoming-events/ by clicking on the

“State Highway Commission Meeting” link. The State Highway Commission meetings are conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as cited in the Nebraska Statutes.

The State Highway Commission will also have its annual holiday dinner at The Cornhusker Dec. 10. For details, call (402) 479-4871.

Attorney General Warns Of Scam Targeting South Dakotans

PIERRE — Attorney General Marty Jackley is warning South Dakota consumers about a scam that continues to resurface in South Dakota that targets computer users.

The Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division has received multiple reports of consumers receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be from the support center of Microsoft Windows wanting to gain access to the consumer’s computer in order to make repairs.

The call begins with the scammer telling the consumer that their computer has an urgent problem or virus that must be fixed immediately. The caller says “Microsoft” can connect to the computer remotely and repair it for the customer. Once the scammer is connected to the computer, they either obtain the consumer’s financial information through a fraudulent “pay” website or install malicious software that combs the computer for personal information, such as usernames, passwords, bank and credit card numbers, tax documents and more. Microsoft has issued

warnings on its website about this scam, saying neither the company nor any of its partners make unsolicited calls to computer users.

Here are a few tips to avoid being victim in this repair scam:

- * Obtain as much information about the caller as you possibly can. Note their name, phone number, time they called and what was said.

- * Never give remote access to your computer to any unsolicited caller for any reason.

- * If you have caller ID and receive a call from a number you don’t recognize, don’t answer the phone.

- * If you do answer one of these calls and have concerns about your computer’s security features, call the manufacturer or take it to a reputable retailer or repair shop to be examined for viruses, malicious software, or corrupted files.

If you are a victim of allowing “Microsoft support” access to your computer, please call the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division at 800-300-1986.

Vermillion Museum Sets Holiday Festival

VERMILLION — The W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion will hold its 49th annual Christmas Festival on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 1-4 p.m.

There will be a bake sale and a hospitality table, along with vendors and entertainment. Santa Claus is also scheduled to make an appearance.

OBITUARIES

Ashley Riibe

Ashley Jeannette (Allphin) Riibe was born on April 30, 1985 and passed away on November 30, 2015 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD following a tragic automobile accident.

A memorial service will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, 2015 in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel on the Mt. Marty Campus, Yankton, SD. Visitation with the family present will be two hours prior to the start of the service.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Kahler Funeral Home, Dell Rapids, SD. Visit www.kahlerfh.com.

Ashley was raised in Gig Harbor, WA. She entered this world as a premature baby, but never slowed down and was skiing at the age of three. Many memories were made on Crystal Mountain and at her family’s “Moose Camp” cabin.

After graduating from high school, Ashley earned a bachelor’s degree in Health Promotion from Montana State University. During this time she worked summers at an Alaskan fishing resort, and also met the love of her life Erin “Chummy” Riibe. From there a new journey began that brought them to Yankton, SD. They married and continued on with their education. Ashley fulfilled a passion for helping others by earning a nursing degree from Mount Marty College. She graduated, with honors, in May of 2015. After a final summer trip to Shelter Cove in Alaska, Ashley came back home to start her dream job as an ICU nurse at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

Ashley loved every moment of her nursing experience and always felt truly at home providing critical care to those in need. She had planned to further her career by completing the Mount Marty nurse anesthesia graduate program. Although her



Riibe

life was cut short, Ashley still continues to care for others. Through tissue donation Ashley will be helping over 80 patients in need.

The activities Ashley enjoyed are endless. She loved skiing, hunting, fishing, music, nature, hiking, traveling and more. She was a generous aunt to her nephew and nieces. She was a daughter. She was a sister. She was a wife. She was a friend. And she will be missed.

Ashley is survived by her husband, Erin “Chummy” Riibe of Yankton, SD; her parents Jim and Jackie (Jansen) Allphin of Gig Harbor, WA; her brother Sean M. Allphin of Gig Harbor, WA; her mother and father-in-law Gary and Denise (Will) Riibe of Dakota City, NE; her brother and sister-in-law Gary Jr. and Kelly Riibe and their children Mia, Mallory and Graham; her paternal grandparents James and Jeannette (Smith) Allphin of Tacoma, WA; her grandmother-in-law Donna (Olsen) Riibe of South Sioux City, NE, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Ashley is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents Evelyn (Rediske) Arthur and John D. Jansen, and her aunt Joan E. Lane.

Memorials may be directed to the Ashley Riibe Memorial Fund. Donations can be mailed to First Dakota National Bank, 225 Cedar Street, Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 3, 2015

Carla (Seifert) King

Carla (Seifert) King, 79, of Scotland died Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Janel Simonsen

Janel Kay Simonsen, 47, died at her home in Armour, SD on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Funeral service will be Saturday, December 5 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Armour, SD with burial following in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Armour.

Visitation will be Friday, December 4 from 5 - 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Armour with a wake service at 7:00 p.m.

Arrangements by Koehn Bros. Funeral Home in Armour.

Janel Kay Simonsen was born on December 1, 1968 to Larry and Gay (Limberg) Turbak in Watertown, SD. Janel attended elementary school at Holy Rosary in Kranzburg, SD and graduated from Watertown High School in 1987. She attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1991. In 2007, she completed a Master’s Degree in Educational Technology while fighting her first battle with breast cancer.

On July 20, 1991, Janel married Tim Simonsen in Kranzburg. Janel began her teaching career in Delmont. She also served as Education Coordinator for Native Americans in Lake Andes and taught elementary school in Geddes. She taught



Simonsen

various levels of elementary school in Lake Andes, where she taught up to the time of her death.

Janel was a member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Armour and the SD Education Association. She enjoyed camping, boating, taking pictures, scary movies, and especially enjoyed spending time with her husband, children, and her grandson, Chason.

Grateful for having shared her life are her husband, Tim of Armour; son Nick and fiancée Sam and grandson Chason of Wagner; daughter Alyssa of Watertown; her father, Larry, of Kranzburg; brother Scott (Shelly) Turbak of Watertown; and sisters Lynn (Greg) Moser of Yankton; Janet (Jeff) Huber of Freeman; and Sherry (Lonnie) Kleinsasser of Watertown; her parents-in-law Roger and Jeanie Simonsen of Menno; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother; a niece, Brooke Moser; and her maternal and paternal grandparents.

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Church Hosts Annual Holiday Mixer

The annual Christmas Coffee and Bake Sale will be held at the United Church of Christ (Congregational) in Yankton Dec. 5.

Doors open at 1 p.m. There will be cookies, candy, snack items, gourmet desserts, kuchen, breads, canned good and other miscellaneous goodies for sale. Enjoy homemade pie and coffee before or after you shop the bake sale.

At 2:15 p.m. those who wish may go to the sanctuary where Ted Powell, organist, will play Christmas Carols on the church’s magnificent organ to put you into the holiday spirit.

Each guest takes home a gift, compliments of Katherine French, the chairwoman.

Discovery Center Invites Holiday Tasting

The Corps of Discovery Welcome Center presents “A Taste of Christmas!” on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 1-6 p.m. at the Welcome Center, 89705 Highway 81, Crofton, Nebraska, or 2 miles south of Yankton on Highway 81.

Sample area goodies such as Nissen Wine, Burbach Cheese and more. There will be a Silent Auction, refreshments, live Christmas music, children’s activities and a quilt raffle.

Do your Christmas shopping at our exclusive gift shop featuring more locally made arts and crafts than anyone else in the area. Visit www.corpsofdiscoverywelcomecenter.net for updates.

Boy Scouts Ask Community To Recycle

Yankton Boy Scout Troop No. 133 will hold its monthly scrap newspaper and aluminum can collection Saturday, Dec. 5. Papers and cans will be picked up at the trailer courts and apartment complexes in Yankton. Also, paper and cans will be picked up at Riverside Acres.

Have newspapers and cans secured in sacks or small cardboard boxes and ready to be picked up by 9 a.m. Saturday.

Paper and cans may also be taken to the Riverview Park Reformed Church parking lot, 1700 Burleigh, between 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday.

For more information on the newspaper and aluminum can collection, call 857-9396 or 760-5627. The Boy Scouts cannot handle tin or plastic. These need to be placed with the recycling the city picks up or taken directly to the landfill for recycling.

Postal Service Ramps Up For Holidays

SIOUX FALLS — The Postal Service has kicked off the holiday shipping season by announcing it will be delivering packages seven days a week starting the week of Dec. 6 through Christmas Day including in the Sioux Falls area due to the anticipated 10.5 percent package volume growth over last holiday season.

“The Postal Service ships more packages to more places than anyone else,” said Dakotas District Manager Doug Stephens. “During the holidays, we’re raising the bar with enhanced tracking and Sunday delivery providing excellent service and reliability that only Santa can compete with.”

The following local cities will be included in the Postal Service’s Sunday delivery efforts: Sioux Falls, Harrisburg, Brandon, Tea, Vermillion and Yankton.

Due to continued e-commerce growth and improvements to its Priority Mail product line, the Postal Service is expecting its package business this holiday season to balloon to nearly 600 million packages.

“America is going to watch us deliver a record amount of packages this holiday season – it’s crunch time for the entire organization,” said Stephens. “We have stepped up our game to assure each and every customer that USPS can be counted on to deliver their cards, gifts and letters in time for the holidays.”

For expected delivery of holiday mail and packages by Christmas, the Postal Service recommends keeping the following domestic mailing and shipping deadlines in mind:

- * Dec. 15 — Standard Post
- * Dec. 19 — First Class (cards and letters)
- * Dec. 21 — Priority Mail
- * Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express

Consumers can avoid holiday hassles by visiting usps.com — the Postal Service’s website that will help make mailing and shipping easier. More than 66 million customers will skip the trip to the Post Office altogether and take advantage of convenient online shipping this holiday season. Click-N-Ship and other online services allow customers to print shipping labels, order free Priority Mail boxes, purchase postage and even request free next-day Package Pickup.

Library Replaces Class With Free Space

The Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut Street, is not offering a normal craft class in December. Instead, the library is opening its meeting room to anyone who is working on craft or gift projects and needs more table space than you have at home.

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 6-7:45 p.m., the library meeting room is open to anyone who registers for a table. There is a limit of one table per person with the option of reserving half of a table rather than a full table for smaller projects. There is no charge for using the room. All supplies must be brought in by the crafters.

For further information, contact the library at 668-5275.

Residents Approve New USD Certificates

SPEARFISH — The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved two new minors at the University of South Dakota in specialized business fields to meet emerging employment trends.

Minors in business analytics and operations management will be available to students starting next fall. The minor in business analytics will focus on the use of computational technology and data to improve business decision making and operational effectiveness. An operations management minor will emphasize lean management, project management, and supply chain management as they are applied to business and industry.

Federal labor department projections through 2022 identify a 7 percent job growth for operations managers, while strong national job growth of 16 percent to 32 percent is estimated for business analysts.

New certificate programs at USD were also approved for graphic design and photography. Certificate programs usually require fewer credit hours to complete than a minor. They are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise within a focused area of study, addressing identified market and workforce development needs.

In addition, the regents gave initial approval for Black Hills State University and USD to develop plans for four new baccalaureate degrees. BHSU is looking to offer bachelor of fine arts degrees in photography, graphic design, and studio art, while USD is considering bachelor of business administration degrees in innovation and entrepreneurship and in operational analytics.

Both universities will return to the Board of Regents later for official approval of these degrees, once further planning for the new programs is completed.



Send an on-line sympathy card at
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

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Holiday Craft Show

at the...

YANKTON MALL

Friday, December 4th • 10am-9pm
Saturday, December 5th • 9am-7pm
Sunday, December 6 • 11am-6pm

Your One Stop For Holiday Gifting!

