

Scholars

From Page 1

included forms to be filled out for each nominee.

"This form was a lot more detailed as far as what makes you an outstanding person and what hurdles you have overcome than in years past," Reyes said.

The form included four categories: leadership, scholarship, character and service. Some of the questions involve what makes the applicant an outstanding person, what hurdles the applicant has overcome and the applicant's contributions to the school and community.

YHS nominated approximately 15 students who had an ACT score of 30 or above and actively participated in extracurricular community and school based activities.

"We nominated everyone that had a high GPA and ACT, but the applications just showed that some students had a little bit more with the community and, fortunately, six of them made it."

The last YHS student chosen as a presidential scholar was Maria J. Skorey in 2008. Considering the nomination process has changed, it is unclear how many more elimination processes there will be before only two candidates from South Dakota are chosen. According to Reyes, more information is set to come to the nominees mid-January.

In addition to receiving the U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion at a ceremony in commemoration of their achievements, scholars will also have the opportunity to meet important national and international figures, including government officials, educators, authors, musicians and scientists.

Pietz said he was happy to receive the news about the scholarship award possibility.

"That is quite an honor to be nominated from a big pool down to 25," he said. "I am really hoping to get chosen to move forward to represent South Dakota as one of our best students."

Pietz is involved in National Honor Society (NHS), student council and choir. He is on the varsity team for cross country and track. Pietz is also actively involved in community play productions for both the school and downtown Yankton.

Scholars chosen will have the opportunity to take in some of the sights of D.C. which, for some of the candidates who have never been to Washington, can be quite an exciting thing to look forward to.

"I felt like it was a major honor to be recognized," Greaver said. "I think (with

Washington) being in such a historical town, meeting all the people and just experiencing the sights there would be a really great experience."

Greaver is the vice president of NHS. She is also involved in debate, oral interpretation, orchestra and teaches Sunday school at her church.

Being seniors means spending a lot of time applying for scholarships and planning for the future, whether it is with education or a career. Kelly thinks this award could be a stepping stone to bigger and better things.

"It's exciting to have the chance to move on and get bigger recognition," he said. "I'm sure it would be cool to meet new people and have a lot of networking opportunities for down the road."

Kelly participates in NHS, choir and youth group, and plans on joining track in the spring.

When asked what sets them apart from other candidates in the state, Perakslis recognized the collaborative effort of all the seniors who were nominated.

"For all of us, it had to do with (the fact that) not only are we doing well in school, but we also branch out and do other things, which is very important," he said.

Perakslis competes in Science Olympiad, soccer, hockey, debate and is also a member of NHS.

It was a humbling experience for the candidates to receive such recognition. Williams is anxious to see what the future will bring and who she might meet along the way.

"I would enjoy being surrounded by other students who are just as excited about their education as I am," she said.

Along with being a NHS member, Williams is involved in dance, student council,

choir and volunteers as a Sunday school teacher.

Gillis attributes her nomination to her family's support throughout her educational career.

"I was just excited to be a part of something this big," she said. "I have really supportive parents who have raised me with a good work ethic."

Gillis is an NHS, choir and student council member. She also teaches violin lessons.

Students who qualify will automatically receive applications mid-January. Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and are likely to be notified in May. If all goes well, the community may be seeing at least one YHS student represent South Dakota in Washington next summer.

Follow @alwooc01 on Twitter.

OBITUARIES

Janice (Tharnish) Kruse

Janice Fae (Tharnish) Kruse, age 64, of Yankton, died Thursday, December 10, 2015, at her home in Yankton.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 14 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton with Reverend Robert Wullweber officiating. Entombment will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton.

Visitation is from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a rosary and vigil service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the Mass on Monday at the church.

Pallbearers are Corey Stratman, Matt Soukup, Tony Lukens, Cory Hingst, Roger Buboltz, Greg Good, Dillon Brown and Jim



Kruse

Jensen. Janice Fae (Tharnish) Kruse was born September 21, 1951, in Plainview, Nebraska, to Joseph and Clara

(Zila) Tharnish. She attended country school and St. Ludger Catholic School in Creighton, Nebraska and graduated from Creighton High School in 1970. After high school, Janice attended Mount Marty College in Yankton for three years. She married Danny L. Kruse on June 1, 1973 in Colorado. They moved to Denver, Colorado after their marriage, and Janice finished her college education at Metro State College graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. She worked for Ralston Purina in Denver for 2 ½ years, then Cable Com General for a few years

until she was transferred to TCI where she worked as the director of systems training. She moved back to Yankton in 1983.

Janice enjoyed traveling and snow skiing, but especially enjoyed volunteering at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Meals on Wheels and many other places. She was very active in TOPS, Toastmasters and loved saying the rosary.

Survivors include her mother, Clara Tharnish of Creighton, Nebraska; three brothers: Don (Sharon) Tharnish of Omaha, Nebraska; Steve Tharnish of Winnetoon, Nebraska; and Alan Tharnish of Wayne, Nebraska; five sisters: JoAnn Good of Elkhorn, Nebraska; Arlene (Loran) Lukens of Bloomfield, Nebraska; Caroline (Richard) Soukup of Norfolk, Nebraska; Elaine (Bob) Basilevac of Wichita, Kansas; and Bernita (Bernard) Buboltz of Lewis, Iowa; two sisters-in-law:

Donna (Jerry) Kuehn of Yankton and Dori Rowland of San Diego, California; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Tharnish; husband Danny Kruse; and nephew, David Soukup.

In lieu of flowers memorial may be directed to the American Cancer Society or Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 12, 2015



Willard Zephier

Willard J. Zephier, age 53, of Yankton, died Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at the Golden Living Center in Salem, South Dakota.

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 14 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Reverend Ken Lulf officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton with military honors provided by the Ernest-



Zephier

Bowyer VFW Post No. 791.

Visitation is from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home with a vigil service at 3:00 p.m. Visitation continues one hour prior to the funeral service.

Pallbearers are David Blakey, Frankie Blakey, Jesse Blakey, Tony Blakey, Brian Thornton, Joe Thornton, Ted Thornton and Jeff Willman.

Willard was born on February 9, 1962 in Yankton to Willard Mason and Charlene Ann (Thornton) Zephier. He grew up in Yankton where he attended school and then went to the Kicking Horse Job Corp in Montana. In the early '80s, Willard

entered the United States Navy and was stationed in San Diego, California. He served aboard several ships traveling throughout Southeast Asia and retiring in 1986. Willard worked at Concrete Materials in Yankton and also drove truck for a few years. In the early 1990's, he attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell where he studied psychology. Willard enjoyed listening to music, collecting classic cars and spending time with family and friends.

Willard is survived by four nieces and nephews: Derrick Zephier of Ft. Thompson, SD, Barry Zephier of Sioux Falls, SD, Nadine Zephier (Marcos Ozuna) of

Yankton and Austin Zephier of Yankton; six great nieces and nephews; and many close friends.

Willard was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Faith Zephier.

To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 12, 2015



Milton Tiede

Milton G. Tiede was born August 8, 1928 in Parkston, S.D., to Ida and Gottfried Tiede. He walked two miles uphill both ways to a one room school house and loved his dog "skipper." He graduated from Tripp High School in 1947. He would graduate from Yankton College with a BA degree in Chemistry. He met Delores M. Schlechter in college and was married December 26, 1951. Then, he was drafted into the Army. He served honorably overseas in Europe and returned to SD after two years. He worked numerous jobs. Then he decided to change direction and earned his MBA from University of SD. Meanwhile, there came the birth of their son Jeffrey J. Tiede in April 1959.

As a young adult Milt took a big risk to purchase Bolser Corporation to make safety flairs. He worked 100 hours per week and got the company working well then a large fire destroyed the entire building. This was a major turning point. The

question was to rebuild or sell the company. He sold the company and started over from scratch at Deere & Company in Waterloo, IA. After one year he eliminated his own job and Deere kept him. He had a very rewarding 19 year career at Deere with achievements and highly cherished his many relationships. He retired as an officer in 1985 at the headquarters in Moline, IL. He received over 100 letters from co-workers, they loved him too. After retirement he did some consulting with several companies, taught MBA classes at a local college in Davenport and Waverly Iowa. As a hobby he did a one year business turnaround at Desaulniers (a printing company) and helped sell the company. He enjoyed working with people for a common cause and added some humor along the way.

In 1990 Milt and Delores moved from Moline, IL to sunny and warm Naples, FL. Milt enjoyed the warm weather and helped out in numerous local groups. At

church he started the permanent endowment fund for which he was very proud. He loved the speeches of the Forum Club that brought in major names in government, politics and business. Milt and Delores had many friends and relatives visit them in FL which they appreciated. For eight years they spent the summer months in Park City, UT to be close to son, Jeff and family in Salt Lake City.

Milton passed peacefully on Friday, December 5 at 9:15 a.m. FL time. He is survived by his loving wife Delores of 63 years, sister Luella Brost (age 100), deceased brother Walter, son Jeffrey, his wife Pam, two grandchildren, Zachary and Zoe and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He will be remembered by friends and relatives for wit, humor and good advice,

if asked.

Memorial ceremony will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 22 at 11:00 AM at Naples United Church of Christ, 5200 Crayton Road, Naples, FL 34103.

Memorials in Milton's name may be made to Naples United Church of Christ, attention Music Endowment Fund, 5200 Crayton Road, Naples, FL 34103.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 12, 2015

Christy Elkins

Christy Lynn Elkins, 33, of Yankton and formerly of Rapid City, died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Willard J. Zephier
10:30 AM, Monday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
Yankton

Bonnie L. Hoelsing
10:30 AM, Monday
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Hartington

Janice Fae (Tharnish) Kruse
10:30 AM, Monday
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Yankton

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME and
CREMATION SERVICE
Yankton



WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton

605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com 402-254-6547

Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 13
12pm - 5pm

20% OFF one regular price item
(excludes willow tree)

Drawings • Refreshments

the carpenter's shop

YANKTON MALL

2101 Broadway Ave
Yankton, SD
(605)665-7484

Country music was a big part of Ron's life.

It was also a big part of his funeral.

Planning in advance creates a memorable funeral service that reflects your loved ones wishes.

Celebrations of life as unique as the individual being remembered.

Let us assist you in preplanning a meaningful service as individual as you are.

Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.

Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton
Memorial Resource Center, Tyndall
Memorial Chapels, Tabor, Menno & Tyndall
665-9679 • 1-800-495-9679
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com