

OBITUARIES

Daniel Merkwan Sr.

Daniel L. Merkwan, Sr. age 91, of Yankton, died on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.



Merkwan Sr.

Funeral service will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, February 22, 2010 at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton with Rev. Paul Opsahl officiating. Burial will be in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Yankton with military graveside rites by Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post #791, Yankton.

Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Sunday, February 21, 2010 at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton and will resume one hour prior to the service at the funeral chapel.

Pallbearers will be Jim, Joe, Mike, Gary, John and Michael Merkwan. Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great granddaughter.

Dan was born on May 26, 1918 in Tabor, SD, to Mathias and Sophie (Kortan) Merkwan and grew up in the Tabor area. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in November of 1944 and was discharged in 1946 having attained the rank of sergeant. He served in Germany for two months and in the Philippine Islands for fourteen months.

He loved to fish, hunt, dance to polkas and waltzes, play pool in the Missouri Valley Pool League, throw horseshoes, and farm. Above all, he loved his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was especially proud to see the addition of a great-great-granddaughter to his family. He started working in construction on the Gavins Point Dam at its beginning. Dan continued work on the project as a foreman in charge of many different facets of construction until its completion. Other projects he worked on include: Wilson Trailer Company, Yankton Safety Center, Yankton Public Library, State Highway Building, and Webster and Stewart School additions.

On September 10, 1940, he married Gladys Srb, and to this union were born four sons: Daniel, Jr., David, Daryl, and Michael. Dan was a member of the VFW.

Dan is survived by his wife, Gladys of Yankton; three sons: David, Daryl (and special friend Connie), Michael (Deb), all of Yankton; seven grandchildren: Susan Glowcheski, John Merkwan, James Merkwan, Joel Merkwan, Bree Merkwan, Brook Merkwan, and Michael Merkwan; eight great-grandchildren: Cassandra Jonas, Kimberly Jonas, MiKayla Glowcheski, Grayson Merkwan, Benjamin Merkwan, Hannah Merkwan, Jacob Merkwan, and Sarah Merkwan; three step-great grandsons: Shane, Chris, and Mykel Glowcheski; one great-great-granddaughter, Peptyn Medricky; one sister, Blanche and one sister-in-law, Laura.

Preceding Dan in death were a son, Daniel, Jr.; daughter-in-law, Sherry; his parents; two brothers, Carson and Rueben; one sister, Marie; and an infant brother.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 20, 2010

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Rena Vornhagen

Rena Ann Vornhagen, 15 days old, died on Friday, February 19, 2010 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota.



Vornhagen

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 22, 2010 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Reverend David Fulton officiating. Burial will be in the St. Boniface Cemetery in Menominee, Nebraska.

Visitation is one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Pallbearers are Shannon Vornhagen and Roger Anderson. Honorary pallbearers are her cousins.

Rena was born at 5:14 p.m. on February 4, 2010 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. She was 19 1/4 inches long and weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

She will be deeply missed by

her parents; Rick and Amy Vornhagen of South Yankton; maternal grandparents, Gary and Betty Kuchta of Hartington, NE; paternal grandmother, Cindy Vornhagen of South Yankton; six aunts and uncles: Shannon and Sherri Vornhagen of Crofton, NE, Scott Vornhagen of Buckeye, AZ, Roger and Christy Anderson of Coleridge, NE and Ann Kuchta of Yankton; and eight cousins: Kaitlynn, Keirra, Kolton and Jaycee Vornhagen, Brooke, Walker, Nikita and Daunte Anderson.

Rena was preceded in death by her grandfather, Ralph Vornhagen and cousin, Ty Vornhagen.

To post an online sympathy message, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 20, 2010

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S.D. LEGISLATURE

Lawmakers Examine Change In Drinking Age

Vermillion Police Chief Testifies Against Proposed Bill

BY WAYNE ORTMAN
Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — The police chief in the college town of Vermillion said lowering the state's drinking age for beer in certain licensed clubs would be hard to enforce and attract underage drinkers from neighboring states.

Vermillion Police Chief Art Mabry was the first person to testify against a bill in the Legislature that would create a special private-club retailers license allowing 19- and 20-year-olds to drink beer on the premises.

Mabry and Rep. Tim Rounds, the bill's sponsor, were the only people to testify Friday when a legislative committee briefly took up the bill. More testimony is expected next week.

Rounds, R-Pierre, said the bill would make highways safer because those 19- and 20-year-olds already drink — often binge drinking — at parties, at the lake or in the car.

"This bill is not being brought to make it easier for our young adults to obtain alcohol," he said. "It is being brought as a safety factor."

Rounds said people in those age groups are otherwise treated as adults, yet the minimum drinking age of 21 forces them into social circles with others as young as 15 and 16.

Mabry, president of the South Dakota Police Chiefs Association, questioned the enforcement implications.

"If I get a 19-year-old in downtown Vermillion who's highly intoxicated, how do I know where he got it?" Mabry told the committee. "He can tell me he's a member (of a licensed club) and show me a membership card that could be real or not. Is it my responsibility to try to track down whether or not he drank legally?"

Mabry said the 1970s produced a patchwork of different drinking ages among the states, leading to what were called "blood borders" because people underage in one state would go to another state where they could legally drink, then drive home.

"This bill would create a blood border in my part of the state," Mabry said. Vermillion is home to the University of South Dakota and within easy driving distance of Nebraska and Iowa.

Possibly at risk is federal highway money for noncompliance with the 1984 national law that set the minimum drinking age at 21.

"There will be questions over that \$17.5 million, and I have that question. Opponents will say we can't afford to lose that," said Rounds, brother of Gov. Mike Rounds. "It's a discussion we'll have to have."

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FIRE

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will deploy from there. However, training and storage space the department has in City Hall will be vacated.

The new station will become the department's primary center of operations with office space for the fire chief, deputy fire chief and volunteer leaders. It also has meeting, training and kitchen areas. There are several bays for storing vehicles, with one bay built specifically for washing them.

Near the entrance of the new station, the original fire pole used in the downtown station has been installed to remind people of the historical legacy of the department.

"It's a lot to get used to, Kurtenbach admitted. "I think the biggest thing is, the

guys are actually going to have the room to sit down in a meeting and then eat together after the meeting," he said, referring to the cramped quarters in City Hall when dozens of firefighters gathered for training.

It will also be beneficial not having to share a small office with Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles, as is the case with the downtown station, Kurtenbach said.

"It's not that they don't get along, but "if we have someone come in to see either one of us, it distracts us both," he said. "It will be nice to be able to continue to work when someone comes in to visit just one of us. It should improve productivity."

An open house will be held in the spring after landscaping work has been completed on the property, according to Kurtenbach. He said he looks forward to that day.

"During the design phase, we were very careful to make sure that this building would be efficient but effective," Kurtenbach said. "I think we got a good building."

KNUPPE

From Page 1A

future are balancing the budget and getting the economy back on track.

"We're still pretty conservative in this state, and I'd like to keep it that way," he said. "You stay conservative by watching your money and living within your means."

Balancing the budget will require some hard choices, Knuppe admitted.

"At the state level, we haven't really had to deal with declining revenues for 20-30 years," he said. "We have to look at things a little differently, and we're going to have to cut back on some of our spending. To get everybody thinking the same, I think we have to start out with some across-the-board cuts. Instead of departments coming and asking for more money, it's going to get them thinking about cutting back."

Departments will have to look for more efficiencies start-

ing at the very bottom and work their way up the chain.

Knuppe's wife, Monica, is a teacher, and he said that sector of government will not be immune to change.

"I think there are places we could be more efficient in education," he said. "There are some guys paid some big bucks in those departments, and they're going to have to decide where that money is going to be spent. Do we want more people teaching teachers how to teach? Or do we want more people teaching kids?"

Looking at the field from a teacher's view rather than a management perspective could be productive, Knuppe said.

In preparing for the campaign

trail, Knuppe said he has spent a good deal of time reading the U.S. Constitution and the words of the Founding Fathers. In doing so, he said it became clear this nation was built around individuals, freedoms and rights. Knuppe wants to ensure that remains the focus into the future.

"We had our first grandchild a week ago," he said. "I got to thinking about what it's going to be like in 20-30 years. Is he going to have those individual rights and freedoms that we enjoy today? I want to do my part to make sure he does. I've had a good life with a good family and wife. I love the ranching industry and have truly enjoyed my life. I want my kids and new grandson to have some of the same opportunities I had."

Delores Williams

Delores A. Williams, 75, of Yankton, died Wednesday (Feb. 17, 2010) at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Monday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a 7 p.m. rosary followed by a 7:30 p.m. Scripture service. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Lorraine Wudel

LAMAR, Colo. — Lorraine Ann Wudel, 91 of Lamar, Colo., and formerly of Yankton died Thursday (Feb. 18, 2010) at the Juniper Village Nursing Home, Lamar.

Funeral services are 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with the Rev. Paul M. Opsahl officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories.

Visitation is one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

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Healthy Healing Begins Here...

Rev. Dr. Paul M. Opsahl
After Care Counselor

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory announces a program for those who have lost a loved one and are dealing with grief. Our goal is to assist people through this difficult time. Leading this after care program will be the Rev. Dr. Paul M. Opsahl.

Dates:

February 22nd	March 15th
March 1st	March 22nd
March 8th	March 29th

Topics to be covered:
The Meaning of Grief
The Normal Experience & Features of Grief
Constructive Ways of Handling Grief
The Need To Reach Out and Set Goals
Coping with Special Days
Grief, the Latter Stages
What does the Future Hold?

Paul Opsahl is not new to the community as he attended Yankton College and the School of Theology where he earned the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Theology. He earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Conn. His doctoral studies were with McCormick Seminary, Chicago, Ill. He was awarded an honorary degree from Yankton College, where he has served on the Board of Trustees for over 20 years. Rev. Opsahl has 40 years pastoral experience, which reflects his concern and compassion for people.

Anyone who has suffered a loss is welcome to join in this program, which will meet on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory in Yankton.

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