

Youth Learn Legislative Process During 3-Day Trip To Pierre

HURON — When you're 15, politics can be confusing. South Dakota's Legislature is now more understandable for the teens who earned their way to attend the Farmers Union Two Year Legislative Award Trip, Feb. 3-5, 2015.

"Until we made this trip to Pierre, we didn't understand what the Legislators do here exactly; it's been so interesting to see how it works," said Sammi Murtha, 15, a freshman at Parkston High School.

Her friend, Jennifer Hanson, adds; "It's one thing to read about the Legislative process in school, but by being here in the Capitol we get to see it live," says the Britton/Hecla High School freshman.

Like many youth who become involved in Farmers Union Youth Programs, Murtha lives in a rural community and enjoys the opportunity Farmers Union gives her to meet youth from across the state and learn about topics like leadership and cooperatives, which are not typically taught in school. Her friend Taylin Montague, 14, agrees.

"Farmers Union events bring us together with other people we would not have an opportunity to meet otherwise. I live in New Underwood and these girls live in eastern South Dakota — we became friends at camp," Montague, a freshman at New Underwood High School, explains.

Along with teaching youth about how their state's government works, the Legislative Youth Trip is designed as one of four reward trips youth can earn throughout their high school years, explains Bonnie Geyer, Farmers Union Education Director.

"Within the youth program there are five levels of achievement. Students earn their way to each level through community service projects, essays and participation in Farmers Union events," Geyer says.

The reward trips coincide with the Farmers Union mission and triangle — Cooperation, Legislation and Education. Their first year, youth can attend State Leadership Camp at half price, the second year is the Pierre Legislative trip, the third year is a trip to Minneapolis to learn about Cooperatives and fourth year students can earn a trip to the National Farmers Union Camp in Colorado. The fifth year is their Torchbearer award, the highest honor bestowed upon youth in Farmers Union. Torchbearers earn a trip to the National Farmers Union Convention.

"These trips offer incentive as well as valuable opportunities for students," Geyer says.

Jonah Murtha, 16, whole-heartedly agrees. "I've learned a lot about cooperatives and cooperation in general," explains the Parkston High School sophomore.

The group was able to join other Farmers Union members in the annual Farmers Union Legislative Day activities, attend committee hearings, observe floor action in both the House and Senate and meet with lobbyists, pages and interns. The group also visited the Law Enforcement Training Academy, the World War II, Vietnam and Fighting Stallions Memorials, the Discovery Center and toured the Capitol.

To learn more about Farmers Union Youth Programs, contact Geyer at (605) 352-6761 ext. 125.

Watershed Task Force's Plans Advance To Senate

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Two measures intended to help address drainage and flooding issues in South Dakota cleared their first tests Tuesday in the Legislature.

A proposal to establish a voluntary mediation service for drainage disputes received unanimous endorsement from the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

But the panel split 6-3 in favor of the second measure that would establish nine governing districts for watershed basins throughout South Dakota.

The basin plan also would provide for a pilot project in the Vermillion basin.

Both measures now head to the full Senate for consideration.

They are products of a legislative task force on watersheds. Its members worked the past three years.

Rep. Brian Gosch, R-Rapid City, who chaired the task force, testified in favor of the mediation plan contained in

Senate Bill 3.

The state Department of Agriculture would oversee the mediation work and participants would pay for services.

"The gist of it was, let's find a less expensive way, a less litigious way," said Gosch, a lawyer who is the House Republican leader.

No one spoke against making the mediation services available. A long list of lobbyists testified in favor.

Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, noted that the sides in a dispute could still choose going to court.

On the other hand, Senate Bill 2, with its plan to geographically designate South Dakota into nine river basins, faced a challenge from Sen. Bob Ewing, R-Spearfish, who wanted to significantly reduce its scope.

Instead, the committee sided with Sen. Jason Frerichs, a task force member.

The committee members approved amendments offered last week by Frerichs, D-Wilmot, that delay establishment of the basin councils until the

2018 general election.

The Frerichs amendments also stripped, for now, many of the operational provisions that eventually would be needed, such as taxing authority for the councils.

The goal for the nine basin councils would be to develop their own management plans for drainage and flooding problems.

Some legislators see the drainage issue as important for only the eastern one-third of South Dakota.

"It's not one of the shoes that's going to fit everyone's foot here today," Ewing said about the Frerichs version.

Frerichs said the Senate committee vote was just step one of five in the legislative process for the basin-council plan to become state law.

He tried to equate the northeast region's water problems with the insect infestations in parts of the forests in the Black Hills.

"This water issue is the pine beetle issue of the east," Frerichs said.

State Working To Meet Labor Force Demands

BROOKINGS — A report released by the Center for Labor Markets and Policy at Drexel University in February 2014 offers an interesting analysis of the labor market in South Dakota, explained Leacey E. Brown, SDSU Extension Gerontology Field Specialist.

"While South Dakota has enjoyed a lower unemployment rate than other areas of the country, it is not equally distributed across all areas of the state or industries," Brown said.

Brown said that according to the report industries that require more training and formal schooling are experiencing some of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. This includes occupations in education and health care.

"Not only is the unemployment rate lower in this state, the unemployment rates for these critical professions are lower than national averages," she said.

For example, Brown shared that the educational industry unemployment rate is 1.9 percent in South Dakota and 4.4 percent nationally. In South Dakota, this suggests two out of every one hundred people in the education industry is available for each job vacancy. She explained that

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LEACEY E. BROWN

industries that require less training or formal schooling have a higher unemployment rate. For example, the accommodation and food services industry has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state (8.5 percent). For each job vacancy, there are eight people with the skills necessary to meet the occupational demands.

"The report suggests that we are facing a scarcity of skills, not a workforce shortage," she said. "Of greater concern is the constraint the skills shortage may place on expanding critical industries such as health care. This is important as our health care system prepares for the demands of an aging population."

According to United States Census Bureau, by 2030, it is estimated that 29.8 percent of the U.S. population will be under the age of 25. "This is an amazing change in approximately 130 years. In 1900, more than half the population was

younger than 25. Younger people are an essential part of the discussion of an aging population," Brown said.

She explained that younger people are essential for meeting work force demands. In addition, younger people will give birth to the next generation of Americans.

The national projections suggest that by 2030 the portion of the population under the age of 25 will be smaller than any other time in modern history. In addition, Brown explained that the percentage of people age 65 and older is increasing and more noticeable in rural communities. This suggests every rural community in America will be working to attract and retain younger people.

WHAT THIS MEANS TO SOUTH DAKOTA

Brown said South Dakota is projected to have a higher percentage of people younger than 25 years old. "Other

states will want them. How will we ensure the opportunities available in our communities meet the economic demands of expanding the health care industry? What is more, how will we ensure younger people have the skills needed to meet the opportunities available in our communities?" Brown asked.

South Dakota Workforce Initiatives (WINS) is striving to ensure our young people are prepared for the future demands of our economy.

She added that workers near retirement may be an additional option to expand critical industries such as health care.

"Offering options such as flexible scheduling or job sharing might be one way to achieve this goal," she said.

In addition Brown said the identification and removal of barriers for retirees interested in working may be another option.

"For example, some receiving retirement benefits may be penalized if they return to work. Individual organizations and businesses will determine what incentives they can offer adults to continue to serve in professions necessary to expand industries such as health care and education," she said.

To learn more, visit iGrow.org.

Basic EMT Classes To Be Held

Yankton County EMS will be conducting a series of classes in conjunction with Sanford Health from Sioux Falls for anyone with an EMT-Basic license or higher. The EMT refresher will give you 24 hours of continuing education hours for recertification of your state or national license.

Dates are set as follows:
• Friday, March 6, from 6-10 p.m.

• Saturday, March 7, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
• Sunday, March 8, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
• Monday, March 9, from 6-10 p.m.

Classes will be held at the Yankton Fire Department Station No. 2 at 201 West 23rd Street.

If you are interested in attending and are an EMT, contact Mark at Yankton County EMS at 668-9033.

OBITUARIES

Lois Hicks

A Celebration of Life Service for Lois M. Hicks will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Holdrege, Nebraska on Friday, February 20, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Dr. W. Kirwin Stewart, Jr. officiating. A private family inurnment will be held at a later date.



Hicks

Lois Mildred Hicks, 98 years of age, of Holdrege, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2015 at the Holdrege Memorial Homes. Lois was born October 8, 1916 at Pierre, South Dakota, the second of six children born to Ralph Homer and Alice Pearl (Miller) Nash. She received her education from Yankton, South Dakota, graduating from Yankton High School with the class of 1935. She then pursued higher education at Yankton College and then the University of Minnesota, where she graduated from the School of Nursing in 1939.

Following her education, Lois was employed by the University of Minnesota Hospital and then the University of Chicago and Billings Memorial.

On January 1943, she was united in marriage to Anthony G. Stuedeman and to this union twin daughters: Susan and Cynthia were born on December 5, 1944. Following Tony's return from the war they made their home in Yankton. Lois worked in doctor's offices, served as school nurse and after a move to Omaha, Nebraska; she was head of the nursery of the Nebraska Methodist Hospital.

On August 20, 1960, she was united in marriage to Clyde A. Hicks and the family welcomed his two daughters: Dona Dee and Nyla Jane into the blended family. The family made their home in Yankton, Pierre, Omaha, and Lakewood, Colorado until settling to Holdrege in 1978 to be near family. Lois was preceded in death by Clyde on August 22, 2001.

Lois was a long-time member of the First Presbyterian Church, where she served in

many capacities. She was also a member of the Chapter H, PEO. Lois enjoyed bird-watching and never took a sunset for granted. She also loved playing bridge, knitting, was a wonderful seamstress and cook, and farm life was a joy. Lois' life was always centered around her family, especially her grandchildren. For many years, Lois maintained close contact with a group of classmates with whom she attended kindergarten through their freshman year of college together.

She is survived by her three daughters: Cynthia Lindstrom and her husband, Gary of rural Wilcox, Nebraska, Dona Dee Peterson of Vermillion, South Dakota, and Nyla Sprunger of Harrison Township, Michigan; son-in-law, John Edwards, Jr. of Russellville, Arkansas; ten grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren; great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Besides her parents and husband, Clyde, Lois was preceded in death by one daughter, Susan Edwards; grandchildren: Christopher Edwards in infancy and Amy Edwards at the age of 22; two sons-in-law: Frank Peterson and Curt Sprunger; three brothers: Robert, Ralph and Richard Nash; and two sisters: Margery Miller and Katherine Hutchens.

A memorial book signing will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. with the family greeting from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home in Holdrege. There will be no viewing, the family is honoring Lois' wish to have her body donated to the Nebraska Anatomical Board.

A memorial has been established in Lois' honor and kindly suggested to the First Presbyterian Church of Holdrege or to the donor's choice.

Expressions of caring and kindness can be sent to the family at www.nelson-bauerfh.com

The Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home in Holdrege is in charge of the arrangements.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 18, 2015

Judy Hahl

Judy Ann Hahl passed away Feb. 9, 2015 at Close To Home Hospice House in Gillette, WY.

Judy was born Jan. 23, 1967 to Richard and Delores Hahl of Lake Andes, SD as the youngest of five children. Kim, Mark, Mary, Robert and Judy. Judy grew up and graduated from Andes Central High School in 1985. She went on to attend the Univ. of NE, School of Technical Agriculture, Curtis, NE and worked in numerous SD and NE veterinary clinics. She also attended the Northeast Community College of Norfolk, NE for Medical Technology. She moved to Gillette WY where she worked as a Medical Transcriptionist for the Campbell County Memorial Hospital and was currently employed as an Office Manager for Altifillich Mining Service, Inc.

Judy enjoyed spending time with family, raising dogs, crocheting, 4-wheeling and fishing in the Big Horn Mtns. She leaves behind two daughters, Jacky Martin of Gillette, WY and Amelia Hahl of Spencer, NE, three grandsons Ayden Kniffen, Kolby Petersen, and Paul Martin IV, all of Gillette, WY, many relatives and good friends.

Judy is preceded in death by her parents, Richard (2013) and Delores (2014) Hahl of Lake Andes, SD and her brother Mark Hahl (2010) of Rapid City, SD.

A memorial and viewing will take place Feb. 13, 2015 at 3 p.m. in Gillette's Gillette



Hahl

Memorial Chapel.

A mass and blessing of the urn will take place Feb. 20, 2015 at 3 p.m. in Lake Andes' St. Mark's Catholic Church.
Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 18, 2015

Virgil Schmidt

Virgil W. Schmidt, 89, passed away February 16, 2015 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD.

Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 21, 2015 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Wakonda with Fr. David Roehrich officiating. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery at Vermillion, SD.

Visitation will be Friday, February 20, 2015 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. with a Scripture service beginning at 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Virgil William Schmidt was born March 12, 1925 in St. Helena, NE to John and Myrtle (Harts) Schmidt. He was one of six children. Milton (Betty) Schmidt, Vivian (Lawrence) Becker, twin brother Victor (Mildred) Schmidt, Phyllis Hewitson, Clifford (Linda) Schmidt.

Virgil farmed with his twin brother Victor for over fifty years in Nebraska and South

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Schmidt

Dakota in the Volin and Mission Hill area.

He met and married Betty Girard on November 20th, 1976. Virgil became a husband, father of seven, father-in-law and a grandfather in one day. He was a wonderful husband, step-father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Virgil was a veteran of the Korean War. Virgil was a member of the Gingrich-Dixon American Legion Post 13. He was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Virgil enjoyed farming with his brother Victor, boating, fishing, mushroom hunting, woodworking and he loved animals.

He was preceded in death by his parents, all his siblings, step-son John Girard and step-grandson Michael Girard.

Virgil is survived by his wife Betty of Wakonda, Step children; Cathi (Leo) Powell of Vermillion, Joe (Jane) Girard, Carla (Tom) Ostrem, Carol (Donnie) Peterson all of Wakonda, Chris (Jim)

Skonhovd of Surprise, AZ, and Char Hansen of Sioux Falls, SD, also 13 step-grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

For obituary and online condolences, visit hansenfuneralhome.com/.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 18, 2015

Judith Willms

Judith Willms, 78, of Omaha, Nebraska, and formerly of Coleridge, died at her residence under Hospice Care on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, in Omaha.

Funeral services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home in Coleridge.

Melva Ishmael

Melva Ishmael, 56, of Yankton died Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE

Pauline C. Spenner
10:30 AM, Monday
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Hartington

WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICE
Yankton
605-665-3644

WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

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JET BLACK 1/2 SERP DIE: 1-10 X 0-6 X 1-10 P5
BASE: 6-6 X 1-0 X 0-6 PFT, 1.5"PMG, BRP

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REGULAR PRICE \$5000

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JET BLACK SERP DIE: 3-0 X 0-6 X 1-8 P5
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SUPER GRAY CASTLE PILLAR: 0-5-5 X 0-8 X 1-6-5 P4
BASE: 5-0 X 1-0 X 0-6 PFT, 1.5"PMG, BRP

Goglin Funeral Home & Legacy Monuments
Contact Jimmy at
605-464-1795