the region

Press&Dakotan

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Press & Dakotan

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Yankton Public Schools Closed April 5-9

Yankton Public Schools will not be in session from Thursday, April 5, through Monday, April 9.

April 5 is a parent-teacher conference compensation day, and April 6 and 9 are Easter Vacation days.

School will resume on Tuesday, April 10.

Symposium At USD To Address Missouri River

VERMILLION — The science and future of the Missouri River will be explored during the 2012 Missouri River Institute Research Symposium at the University of South Dakota on Thursday, April 5.

Beginning at 9 a.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room of the Al Neuharth Media Center, researchers from USD and other academic institutions as well as federal, state and local organizations will discuss the science and other issues of the Missouri River. Presentations in the morning will highlight new research by faculty and students from the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University and the University of Wisconsin. Afternoon presentations will address flooding on the Missouri River.

Organizations contributing to the symposium include the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks. All presentations are free and open to the public.

For more information and a schedule of presentations, visit www.usd.edu/mri or contact Tim Cowman at (605) 677-6151 or via e-mail at tim.cowman@usd.edu.

Fitness For A Cause Scheduled For April 21

Yankton's First Fitness is gearing up for their third annual Fitness For a Cause event, scheduled for April 21.

The event raises proceeds for a local charity. First Fitness has selected Heartland Humane Society as this year's recipient. All pro-ceeds will go towards vet care and spay and neuter costs for the 200-plus animals the shelter expects to help in 2012.

Participants can register for the event at First Fitness and select a number of workout classes to participate in between 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. Membership is not required. Those who raise or donate \$25 or more will receive an event T-shirt. Registrations with more than \$100 raised will be entered into a grand prize drawing. Other raffles will also be available.

For more information, contact First Fitness at 605-665-6643.

No April Book Sale For Friends Of The Library

The Friends of the Library will not be holding its monthly Book Sale on Saturday, April 7, but gently used books are always needed for future sales.

Books can be dropped off at the Yankton Community Library anytime during regular library hours.

Standing For Silence

Speaker Delivers Powerful Message On Bullying To Area Students

BY LINDA WUEBBEN P&D Correspondent

Ty Smalley is not being picked on anymore.

Ty will never be 12 years old either. He will always be 11 years old and his mom and dad feel the pain of missing him everyday.

Ty committed suicide 23 months ago in Perkins, Okla., after being bullied and picked on for two years.

The day after his death in May 2010, students with the Stand for the Silent organization approached his father Kirk and asked him if he was interested in joining their movement.

"It didn't take me long to realize I had to do this; had to make a change to prevent this from happening to other kids and other parents," said Kirk Smalley.

He remembered the bullying his son suffered at the school he attended and where his mother Laura also worked. She complained to the administration about the problem and was threatened if she didn't stop, she would be fired.

"One day Ty retaliated, struck back at a student who was picking on him," said Smalley. "Of course, that was what the teacher saw and he was suspended for three days."

He said Ty's mother took him home, told him to do his homework and his chores; she had to get back to work.

"At 2:39 p.m., I got a call from Laura; I couldn't understand a word she said," said Smalley. "She screamed and screamed. Finally I got her to calm down enough to understand Ty was dead."

Their son had taken a gun, went into their bedroom and killed himself on their bedroom floor.

In the months following, the Smalleys have participated in rallies and traveled around the world for the Stand for the Silent organization. Smalley tells the audience he is not a public speaker but a construction worker by trade and then went into a truly inspiring message for the fifth-, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students of Coleridge and Laurel-Concord schools.

"We have enhanced the universal sign for love, telling everyone it means, 'I have your back," Smalley said while holding his hand high for all to see. Similar to the Texas Longhorn symbol, little finger up, next two fingers down, index finger up and thumb out, it also went viral recently as little lmL (l, m, big L) thanks to the parents of a teenage girl in Australia who committed suicide.

Large photos of five youth who have committed suicide are propped on chairs in front of the audience, and two local youth and student council members, Billy Barelmn and Maddie Swanson read a short story about each student. Then Smalley talked about Ty.

While talking, Smalley paced in front of the crowd handing out blue wrist bands with the "lmL" symbol on them and also the saying, "I am somebody." He reminded the young students they were special and they could



PHOTOS: LINDA WUEBBEN

ABOVE: These photos of suicide victims are displayed when Kirk Smalley gives a presentation for the group Stand for the Silent, which works to fight against bullying and other forms of harassment prevalent among kids. Kirk's 11-year-old son, Ty (pictured on the far left), committed suicide in 2010 after a bullying incident at his school in Oklahoma. BELOW: Kirk Smalley gave presentations on bullying to students at Coleridge and Laurel-Concord recently.



text him or find him on Facebook anytime to talk because he cares.

"Do you know one in four youth think about suicide and have a plan of how to do it before they graduate high school?" Smalley said. "I don't want any of you to be one of the statistics. Make that stop. Change it. Be part of the solution."

All of the students who committed suicide were people loved with freckled-faces, he said.

"Schools can't make this stop; but you can," Smalley said. "You can make this stop and show us adults how to change.'

The Stand for the Silent movement has been making lots of noise lately. So much noise, in fact, that Smalley received a phone call from the White House, asking how to shut those people up. The conversation opened another door for the Smalley couple. They met with President and Mrs. Obama who hugged him with tears in her eyes. They visited before joining a conference on bullying; the first held in the White House.

The conference was not attended by senators and lobbyists, who were not invited. But the list was impressive. Smalley said the president of Facebook was there, as was the president of Cartoon Network and MTV.

'The wheels of justice turn way too slow," said Smalley. "So we need to start here with each and every one of us."

He encouraged the young people to use all that amazing technology in a positive way to bring awareness of the bullying situation to light. He asked them to make videos and write music. All of the ideas for the Stand for the Silent movement have come from students just like all of them. "Don't ask what you can do; go out and do

it," said Smalley. It takes courage to stand up in a group of friends and say this isn't right or this isn't funny but that's what needs to be done.

Ty had known for several years, when he turned 12, he would be able to go to Wyoming with his father for a big-game hunt. On March 8, he filled out the information for his hunting tags and sent his own money to pay for it. On May 13, 2010, Ty died. June 16 was Ty's 12th birthday. On July 10, his par-ents received his hunting tags and before the season began, they had decided to head out to Wyoming to get Ty's antelope. Smalley's best friend and taxidermist just finished the head to mount on Ty's wall and hand-painted the eye's with a color he dubbed, Ty Blue. Smalley pointed out there are so many

ways to bully people — a look, a word or an action. And then there's that amazing world of technology, which allows someone to be bullied 24 hours a day, seven days a week

through Facebook or texting. "Ty's not being bullied anymore," Smalley said. "If I had decided (back then) to do something about bullying, he might still be alive

He hopes he finds many more who believe they have the power to stop the bullying and save other youngsters from a fate his son met.

For more information, check out www.standforthesilent.com.



OBITUARIES

Lillian Rous

TYNDALL - Lillian A. Rous, age 98 of Tyndall, SD passed away Thursday, March 29, 2012 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday, April 2, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, SD with Rev. Joe Puthenkulathil officiating and Msgr. Carlton Hermann con-celebrating. Burial will be in the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, Tabor, SD.

Visitations will begin at 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 1, 2012 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church with a rosary and Scripture service beginning at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one our prior to the service at the church.

The Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor, is in charge of services.

Pallbearers will be Kenneth Hejna, Mark Hejna, Steven Adam, James Adam, Darrell Beran and Brian Beran.



Lillian was born on August 23, 1913 to Joseph and Mary (Zelenv) Adam on a farm east of Fabor, SD in Yankton County. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Wenceslaus

Catholic Church in Tabor. On October 3, 1932, Lillian was united in marriage to Joseph "Joe" H. Rous at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor and to this union 3 children were born. They lived on a farm in the Tyndall area where they farmed and raised their family. Joseph "Joe" passed away on March 28, 1984.

Lillian was a member of the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, St. Wenceslaus Altar & Rosary Society and Catholic Workman. She was a homemaker that enjoyed farm life, baking Kolaches, gardening and spending time with family.

Those who will always cherish her memory are her son

Laddie (Janice) Rous of Tyndall, SD and daughter Mary Ann (Eugene) Jambor of Lesterville, SD: grandchildren Lynn (Richard) Stolz of Norfolk, NE; David (Lynn) Rous of Tyndall, SD and Lisa (Darrin) Hauck of Tyndall, SD: great-grandsons Dalton Stolz of Norfolk, NE; Cody and Dylan Rous of Tyndall, SD and Bryce Hauck of Tyndall, SD: one sisterin-law Anne Ulmer of Yankton, SD; many nieces, nephews and extended family.

Lillian was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son Raymond; grandson Joseph Jambor; sister Agnes in infancy; brothers and sisters-in-law Joseph (Mary and Eleanor): Jerry; and Henry (Vincie).

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Online condolences at: www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Anna Koupal

WAGNER — Anna Koupal, 99 of Wagner died Friday, March 30, 2012, at the Good Samaritan Society, Wagner.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Monday at St. John Catholic Church, Wagner, with burial in the parish cemetery. Visitation is 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday at Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, followed by a 7 p.m. rosary/wake at the church.

YOUR

NEWS! The

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Badami To Perform At MMC Today

Pianist Charles Badami will be performing a special recital at 3 p.m. today (Saturday) at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium.

Badami is currently instructor of music and collaborative pianist at Northwest Missouri State University. He completed his Doctor of Music in Piano Performance and Collaborative Arts degree at Northwestern University's School of Music in Evanston, Ill., where he studied with Sylvia Wang and Elizabeth Buccheri.

His musical selections will include works by Franz Schubert, Frederic Chopin and George Gershwin. The event is free and open to the public.

For more region news, see page 7.



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Darlene D. Stratman 10:30 AM, Saturday Holy Family (Sacred Heart) Catholic Church Wynot /INTZ & RAY ÍNTZ FUNERAL HOME INC. FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton 605-665-3644 402-254-6547 YANKTON MONUMENT CO. Family Memorials by Gibson AMBER WESTERGAARD 325 DOUGLAS AVENUE, YANKTON, SD 57078 OFFICE (605) 664-0980 • 1-800-658-2294 Cell (605) 610-6992 • www.gibsonmonuments.com

ð Gr 325 G The family of Beverly Ranek would like to thank everyone for the cards, memorials, wall hangings, flowers and plants. A big thank you to all of the staff at the Good Samaritan Center for the care she received over the last almost 17 years. Thank you for all of your compassion and words of comfort during our difficult time. Also thank you to the staff at St. Micheal's Hospital who took care of her during her short stays with you. We would also like to thank Father Joe Forcelle and Father Jerry Ranek for conducting the service and also to all of the pallbearers, readers, choir, organist and alter servers. Thank you to the Alter Society for preparing and serving the meal after the funeral and for the bars and cookies the night before. Thank you to the Goglin Funeral Home for your understanding and kindness and for all of your assistance with making the funeral arrangements. Thank you to all of our friends and family for being there for us and for all of the phone calls and visits. We appreciate each and every one of you for all that you've done and for all of your prayers. God bless you all.

> · set Joanie & William Crews and family Julie (Ranek) & Roger Schmidt and family Tim & Dawn Ranek and family