

# Honor

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## REACHING OUT

Thiesse's resume is breathtaking in the wide variety of individuals and causes she has benefited. However, she has shown a special passion for helping cancer victims, particularly young people.

One project hit very close to home for Thiesse. Her friend and classmate, Adam Walter, was diagnosed twice with Hodgkin's lymphoma. She founded "Walter's Warriors" to raise awareness and money. The initiative, which included T-shirt sales, has raised more than \$7,500 so far.

"Adam is one of my good friends," she said. "I thought (this project) would go far, but not as much as it did. It just exploded. We sold T-shirts to people as far away as Texas, and I think to every one of (Walter's fellow) baseball teams in the state (of South Dakota). I also designed and still operate the Walter's Warriors Facebook page

which currently has over 1,000 likes."

Thiesse took the show of support one step further. "I planned a Red Out night during the baseball season and had everyone wear their shirts to support my friend," she said. In addition, a local business donated cupcakes with Walter's uniform number for the fans and players.

Thiesse has also designed T-shirts and operated the Facebook page benefiting Quinn Pesicka of Sioux Falls and her battle with brain cancer. Thiesse has sent shirts across the country and has expanded it to sweatshirts. The effort has raised more than \$10,000 for the Pesicka family to use for medical treatment.

"I helped put together an order for the Texas A&M soccer team and shipped the shirts to them. The soccer players wore them for Quinn when her family went down (to Texas) for a game," Thiesse said. "(I) also put together an order for Quinn's entire school as a surprise when she returned to school."

In addition, Thiesse has designed T-shirts and set up a Facebook page for Tom

Rokahr, who is battling leukemia. She also spearheaded a collection of Legos to keep him busy while he remains hospitalized.

In addition, she has written letters and packed backpacks for children who had cancer. She has also participated several years in Alex's Lemonade Stand and Relay for Life, both national cancer programs.

She has also worked with Relay for Life in Yankton.

"(I) also put together a talent portion to perform late-night entertainment," she said. "I also helped our group — the youngest group they've ever had participate — make lanterns in memory of family members. Our group raised over \$3,000 for cancer research."

## TAKING ON OTHER CAUSES

Not limiting herself to local issues, Thiesse has performed outreach through a mission trip to Puerto Rico. She hopes to pursue another mission trip while attending college.

She has also raised awareness on social issues such as bullying, the images of women and girls in the

media and a Girl's Night Out to promote self-confidence in girls. Last summer, she took a class at the University of South Dakota called Women, Power and Leadership.

In one project, she showed the negative images and stereotypes for females found in the media.

"I took multiple magazines and changed the ads with post-it (notes) and permanent markers," she said. "The ads I changed (had) sexually objectified women. By shutting down these ads, it helped bring awareness to young girls and magazine companies."

She has also fought bullying at the local and national level.

"(I) attended a PTA-sponsored anti-bullying national campaign in Cincinnati," she said. "We did research and presented our ideas on preventing bullying in high school. (I) participated in a national commercial and presented ideas to (YHS principal Jennifer) Johnke.

On another front, Thiesse has reached out to others in need because of misfortune or disaster.

\* She collected more than

60 pounds of art supplies and superhero capes, along with speaking in her church to increase awareness, to help children affected by the trauma of Oklahoma tornadoes.

\* She made thank-you cards for local firefighters for their service including their battling a neighbor's house fire. She also made cards for the families of Arizona firefighters who died in a 2013 wildfire.

\* She collected hygiene products and clothes for the neighbors when their house burned down. She raised more than \$300 worth of donations for the family.

In addition, she graduated from the South Dakota Highway Patrol Youth Trooper Academy where she spent a week observing troopers in action.

She has served as a HOBY ambassador, attended Girls State and served as a Youth PTA South Dakota candidate for the national conference in Cincinnati.

Her volunteer work has benefited children in need of shoes, the hungry, special victims, the elderly, Special Olympics, tutoring, a blood

drive and a food drive.

She has helped raise funds for her high school marching band and volunteered at a car wash to help classmates attend the National History Day conference in Washington.

Her efforts aren't limited to her fellow human beings. She has undertaken efforts to benefit pets at the local Humane Society and other animals through wildlife organizations.

Looking ahead, Thiesse loves teaching and anticipates a career in the classroom, possibly as a translator with her Spanish skills or even taking more mission trips.

"I feel that life is a learning process, and I try to be an example for others by first leading and hoping to have them follow me in my volunteering," she said.

"I sense people learn better by seeing the direct results of time, patience and hard work."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

# Roberts

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Legislature, in December.

Roberts spent her professional career working in state government and participated to various extents at different times in the background of state-level Republican politics.

She served at senior levels for Republican governors Bill Janklow, George S. Mickelson, Walter Dale Miller, Mike Rounds and Daugaard.

Her husband is Clay Roberts, a rancher. His father is former U.S. Rep. Clint Roberts of Presho.

Former state Rep. Charlie Hoffman of Eureka delivered the formal nomination of her candidacy for chairwoman Saturday at the Republicans' state central committee meeting.

"Pam Roberts is the kind of person who brings everyone in to the table," Hoffman said.

Bob Riter of Fort Pierre gave the seconding remarks. Riter said she put forward policies successfully during her time in state government and praised "her willingness to be inclusive."

"Certainly she'll be well able to lead the party," Riter said.

"She has the ability to bring people together."

Roberts acknowledged she didn't know much about the chairman's duties when Daugaard approached her.

"A lot of people in the room don't know me, don't know much about me," she said.

She promised to listen and take advice, emphasize strong local organizations and be "open and transparent" as chairwoman.

"No secrets. There's room at the table," she said.

Roberts said the initial priority would be to review the organization's budget, stress efficiency and spend the next 10 months raising "a lot of money" for 2016.

Lawrence, Daugaard and Roberts talked about the opportunity to elect a Republican to the White House in the 2016 election.

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# Taxes

From Page 1

this year and he supports amendments to expand the proposal.

## TRANSPORTATION

The House State Affairs Committee could take up a proposal this week to raise revenue for road and bridge funding in South Dakota. The Senate approved its version of the plan, which is what the House will take up, Gosch said.

The House has already dispatched a separate version of the plan to focus on the Senate proposal. Gosch said he expects amendments to restrict the revenue raised in the measure, which will set up negotiations for what is likely the most serious issue lawmakers consider this session.

## ATHLETICS POLICY ON TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

A proposal that would void a South Dakota High School Activities Association policy on transgender students is set to be considered in the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday. The policy requires the association to review requests by transgender students or their guardians to decide on which team the student can participate.

Republican Rep. Jim Bolin, of Canton, is sponsoring the measure on the House side. He has said the policy changes the character of high school athletics.

The bill has passed through the House.

## OBITUARIES

### Max Zeeb

Funeral services for Max Zeeb, 60, will be held at the Salem Reformed Church in Menno at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2015 with Reverend Michael Hecht officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery.

Visitation will begin at 5 p.m. Monday evening at the Salem Reformed Church with a prayer service to follow at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

The Aisenbrey-Opsahl-



Zeeb

Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, is assisting with service details.

Max Fred Zeeb was born on April 12, 1954 to Marvin and Wilma (Auch) Zeeb in Scotland, SD. He grew up on a rural farm near Lesterville and graduated from Scotland High School in 1972. He then continued his education and graduated from USD/Springfield with an as-

sociate's degree in auto body in the spring of 1974.

He moved to Menno, residing there most of his life and followed his dream by opening his own shop, Zeeb Auto Body, on July 1, 1974. After establishing his business, Max purchased farm ground and livestock in rural Lesterville. He had a passion for cars, animals, hunting, and fishing. Max always enjoyed company and Saturday mornings were spent sipping coffee at the shop, catching up with old friends.

Max was baptized at the

Salem Reformed Church on January 13, 1954, where he remained a member and was confirmed on April 7, 1968. Christ took him into his arms on February 27, 2015 having reached the age of 60 years, 10 months and 15 days.

Max is survived by his son, Justin Zeeb with special friend, Jessica Renner (Brianna, Jayden and Ava) of Menno and daughter, Savannah DeBelts (Jason) of Harrisburg; four brothers and one sister: Larry (Marge) Zeeb of Menno, Curtis (Elaine) Zeeb of

Lesterville, Milo Zeeb of Phillip, Renay (Virgil) Souhrada of Tabor, Scott (Mindy) Zeeb of O'Neill, NE and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his twin brother, Mark, and his Mother and Father, Marvin and Wilma Zeeb.

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
March 2, 2015



### Jacqi Blakey

Memorial Services for Jacqi Blakey, 55, of Geddes will be 2 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015, at the All Tribes Fellowship Church at North Main in Wagner.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge

of arrangements.

Jacqi Gay Blakey passed away Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015, at her home in Geddes.

### Theresa Peitz

Theresa Peitz entered the arms of her heavenly Father on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, from

### Laraye Andersen

Memorial services for Laraye E. Andersen, 79, of Yankton, South Dakota will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3 at Legacy Burial & Cremation Solutions, 1014 W 8th Ave., Yankton as well as one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.

Laraye passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2015 at Avera-Sacred Heart Hospi-

tal in Yankton.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Legacy Burial & Cremation Solutions of Yankton, a branch of Goglin Funeral Home. Online condolences may be sent at [www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com).



### Vesta Blachnik

Funeral services for Vesta Blachnik, 97, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and formerly of Scotland are currently pending.

Vesta passed away on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at the Good Samaritan Society of Sioux Falls.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Goglin Funeral Home of

Scotland. Online condolences may be sent at [www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com).



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her residency at Avera Sister James Care Center.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, with Fr. Tim Lange officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Visitation will be Tuesday, March 3, at Opsahl Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, from 5-7 p.m. with rosary and Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour before mass at the church.

### Harriet Huber

Harriet Cokens Huber, 85, of Freeman passed away Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, at the Oakview Terrace Nursing Home, Freeman.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, March 7, 2015, at the Missionary Church, Freeman, with Steve Rouso officiating. Burial will be in the Tripp Cemetery, Tripp, at approximately 1:45 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Visitations will be 5-8

p.m. Friday evening at the Missionary Church, Freeman.

The Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, is assisting with the service details. Send an on-line condolence at [www.opsahlkostelfuneralhome.com/](http://www.opsahlkostelfuneralhome.com/)

### Errol Bartunek Sr.

Errol L. Bartunek Sr., 70, of Yankton passed away on Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

No formal services will be held; per his wishes, a private family time and cremation has taken place.

Memorials may be sent to the family at PO Box 891, Yankton, SD 57078.

Arrangements are in the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

### Edwin Boyles

Edwin Wallace Boyles, 87, of Yankton passed away unexpectedly Sunday, March 1,

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Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Bobby Wallis who passed away March 2, 2014

Marcella Marek who passed away March 3, 2014

Kathleen Sedlacek who passed away March 5, 2014

Todd Hudson who passed away March 7, 2014

Don Krenos who passed away March 8, 2014

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.

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