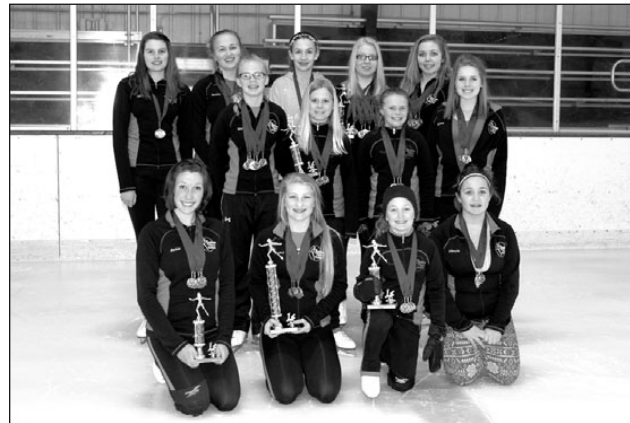


## Skating With Style



COURTESY PHOTO  
Yankton Winter Miracle figure skating competition participants were: Front Row(L-R): Jacquelyn Paji, Kasey Erickson, Eva Paulson, Mikayla Meyer; Second Row(L-R): Mariah Dather, Makayla Palecek, Hailee Privett, Kirsten May; Back Row(L-R): Olivia Tennant, Maddie Binder, Elise Heiman, Katie Bratberg and Danielle Herrlein.

## Honoring Success



COURTESY PHOTO

## MMC Nursing Students Inducted Into Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society

YANKTON — Mount Marty College nursing students and a nursing faculty member were inducted into the Upsilon Iota Chapter of the Honor Society for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International on March 1, 2015, at the Avera Professional Office Pavilion on the Avera Sacred Heart Campus.

As one of the most distinctive organizations in professional nursing, the honor society influences and changes the health of people by engaging the intellectual capital of nurses around the globe. Founded to advance the knowledge, learning and services of nurses, the honor society focuses on scholarship and leadership in its social and ethical commitment to excellence. The selection for induction into the Upsilon Iota Chapter Honor Society is based on the recognition of the candidates for their excellence in professional endeavor and strength of leadership as demonstrated by exceptional achievement in nursing.

BSN student inductees are: Kelly Amundson, Vermillion; Molly Buche, Sioux Falls; Michael Grimme, Yankton; Jordynn Hudleson, Elk Point; Bailey Kuchta, Wynot, Neb.; Kelsey Lentz, Hartington, Neb.; Allyson Roth, Freeman; Kirsti Skuza, Sioux Falls; Jamie Thelen, Omaha, Neb.

MS (Nursing Anesthesia) student inductees are: Jeffrey Burks, Sioux Falls; Andrew Winterboer, Sioux Falls.

Community Leader inductee: Jeanna Pankratz, Freeman. Congratulations to all the new Upsilon Iota members and for more information on the Mount Marty College nursing program, visit [www.mtmc.edu/nursing](http://www.mtmc.edu/nursing).

## Reflecting On Winning



COURTESY PHOTO  
State Reflections winners from Stewart School were: (Left to Right) Madison Ryken, Tori Becker, Hudson Burgeson, Elle Feser, Griffin Johnson and Macy Schramm.

# Inmates To Help With Clean-Up Events

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

One set of workers at this year's Missouri River events will stand out from the rest.

Inmates from the Yankton Minimum Unit, wearing their orange T-shirts, will again assist with the May 1 school festival and the May 2 river clean-up and river rendezvous. The school festival and rendezvous will be held in Riverside Park, while the river clean-up will organize at the park and run from Gavins Point Dam to Rush Island.

The inmates provide a valuable resource in making sure the events run smoothly, said Mary Robb with the City of Yankton's public works department.

"The Yankton Minimum Unit assists with the set up and tear down for all three events," she told the Press & Dakotan. "They do an outstanding job. We would be lost without them."

The inmates come and go during the Friday-Saturday time frame, fulfilling numerous roles, Robb said.

"We have inmates who come on Friday to set up and tear down before the kids get there (for the school festival), then they help the presenters tear down," she said.

"On Saturday, they work with the river clean-up by unloading the boats coming off the river with trash. Then, they help with set-up for the rendezvous and come back at the end of the afternoon to tear down."

As of Thursday, the school festival's final count stood at 422 students from a dozen schools in southeast South

Dakota and northeast Nebraska.

Yankton Middle School registered 200 students while Sacred Heart School registered 30. The area schools include Wynot, Nebraska, with 39 students; Crofton, Nebraska, and Wausa, Nebraska, both with 32; Centerville with 27; Gayville-Volin with 18; Andes Central with 13; St. Rose of Crofton, Nebraska, with 9; Laurel-Concord/Coleridge, Nebraska, with 8; and the Bon Homme schools and Elkhorn Valley of Tilden, Nebraska, both with 7.

"This will be one of our largest school festivals," Robb said. "One year, we did break 525, but that was almost too many. That's why we capped it at 500 students."

The school festival presentations will include a wide range of historical, cultural and environmental topics, Robb said. Students will rotate in the groups during the morning and attend seven 15-minute presentations.

"We offer hands-on learning. It's a different approach," she said. "It's may be difficult for a student to imagine the impact when a tree falls into the river. But a stream table shows how an eddy forms and develops."

The river clean-up will maintain many of the same features of previous years, said Ranger Dugan Smith with the National Park service. Volunteers are always needed for the clean-up, which begins with 8 a.m. registration and runs the morning.

"This will be the 12th year for the clean-up. It practically runs automatically," he told the Press & Dakotan. "We have collected more than 100 tons of garbage in the last 11 years."

The River Rendezvous represents an expansion from last year's expo, Smith said. The event will feature 36 presenters offering talks and demonstrations on a wide variety of outdoor recreation, fun activities and local offerings, he added.

The Dam and Back kayak race will also be held during Saturday afternoon, so rendezvous visitors can see the start and end of the race, Smith said. The kayakers travel from Riverside Park to Gavins Point Dam and then back to the park.

The rendezvous will also feature cultural and historical presentations by the Santee Sioux Tribe, the Ponca Tribe, the Sgt. Floyd Honor Guard from Sioux City and historical re-enactor Dave Rambow with his presentation of 1860s photographer Stanley Morrow.

"You can't talk about the Missouri River without including the cultures and the people who have lived here," Smith said.

This year's expanded rendezvous will hopefully mark just the beginning of a giant May festival, Smith said.

"This is still baby steps. We wanted to take it the next step and diversify what we were offering to emphasize more outdoor recreation and activities," he said.

"We need to decide where we want to take the rendezvous during the next five years. If we could reach 5,000 visitors, that would be awesome."

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).

## Species

From Page 1A

signed LB142, creating the new AIS prevention program. The program provides funding and creates a fee and stamp for boaters.

In South Dakota, the GFP Commission finalized several new rules at its March 6 meeting dealing with invasive species. However, the new rules are not effective until 20 days after being filed with the Secretary of State's office.

The new rules cover drain plugs, transporting bait or fish, minnow usage and transport, re-using minnows and disposing of unused minnows.

Under the new regulations, bait and fish can only be transported in domestic water, such as tap water, well water, bottled water and ice. However, when leaving a water body, boaters and shore anglers can wait until they reach an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station to put their bait in domestic water.

To Lepisto's knowledge, no more zebra mussels have been detected in Lewis and Clark Lake. However, the need remains for diligence, he said.

"It's much easier to prevent the spread (of invasive species) than deal with

them once they arrive," he said.

Zebra mussels aren't the only invasive species threatening regional waterways, Lepisto said.

"Besides of the 2011 flooding (on the Missouri River), the Asian carp went up the James River (tributary). They got into the high flow, which took them over the low-head dams all the way up to North Dakota," he said.

"The (Asian) carp has no natural predators, and there is limited man-made control. You have cases like Lake Yankton, where (conservation officials) dumped 700 gallons of rotenone into the water. They found 95 percent of the fish that were killed (by the poison) in Lake Yankton were Asian carp."

The Clean Boat Event uses an outreach effort to educate the public about their role in stopping the spread of invasive species, Lepisto said. The volunteers work the boat ramps, approaching boaters with information packets about aquatic invasive species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; and Nebraska Game and Parks are providing information for the packets, Lepisto said.

"But this (Clean Boat Event) isn't law enforcement or any kind of crackdown," he said. "The volunteers can

hand information packets to boaters or put it on the window."

This marks the seventh year for the Clean Boat Event, which has reached hundreds of boaters, Lepisto said. "There have been years that the conditions were less than ideal, and we had 300 contacts. Other years, with ideal conditions, we reached 500 to 600 people," he said.

The annual event has taken on a different approach through the years, Lepisto said.

"Initially, we worked just one Saturday, and we put all our eggs in one basket," he said. "The event didn't reach a large audience that year, so we decided to be more flexible. We spread it out over a longer period of time to reach more people."

One thing has remained constant, and that's the early May time frame for the Clean Boat Event.

"We want to do this in early May, when people are getting out their boats for more action," he said. "Actually, it isn't just boats that can transport invasive species. We're also targeting the message toward personal watercraft and tubes."

This year's effort can use more volunteers, Lepisto said. Both individuals and teams are welcome, and they decide the amount of time they want to invest and the locations they want to reach.

"They don't need to be anyone connected with state or federal agencies. We could use avid anglers or anyone else who wants to reach out to others with information," he said. "We welcome individuals who care about the river. They just need the desire to help out."

The educational outreach effort has made a tremendous impact, Lepisto said.

"Seven years ago, people heard about invasive species but said we didn't need to worry because (the species were) way down in other states," he said. "People were surprised to learn Asian carp were kissing the cement at the face of the (Gavins Point) dam."

It's important to spread the message in order to prevent the spread of invasive species, Lepisto said.

"People need to realize it's important to remember the three steps — clean, drain and dry — when it comes to their watercraft," he said. "We don't want their boats, personal watercraft or tubes to be the vector that spreads invasive species."

For more information, contact Lepisto at [plepisto@iwa.org](mailto:plepisto@iwa.org).

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).

## OBITUARIES

### Michael Burnham

Michael O. Burnham was born July 3, 1941 and died March 14, 2015 in Harlington, Texas.

Michael was born to Oliver and Gertrude Burnham in Omaha, Nebraska. He married Theresa Berendsen November 5, 1965 in Omaha, Nebraska. He was self-employed and a grateful member of AA for 32 years.

He is survived by his wife Teri, son Dean, daughter Julie (Kevin) May, grandchildren Amanda and Steven, brothers Thomas (Betty) Burnham, Joel Burnham and nephews Michael and Aaron.

Michael is preceded in death by his parents and nephew, David Burnham.

A celebration of his life will be held at Ames Church, 2077 County Road 15 Blvd, Ames NE at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2015.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
March 20, 2015

### Rollie French

Rollie Winston French was born in Leesville, La to Rollie & Jessie French on September 23, 1941 and passed away at his winter home in Sun City West, Arizona on March 15, 2015 surrounded by his family and friends. His father's military career moved the family frequently and was the inspiration for his life-long commitment to patriotism.



French

The majority of Rollie's growing up years was in Vermillion, SD, where he graduated from Vermillion High School and the University of South Dakota. At USD, he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and was actively involved in numerous campus organizations.

Defining parts of Rollie's life as a young man were boy scouts and military services. Upon his graduation from USD and the R.O.T.C program, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He then extended his military service to become the youngest executive officer ever in the Armed Forces Courier Service at the Pentagon. At the conclusion of his assignment, he was awarded an Army commendation for outstanding service to his country.

While in Washington D.C., Rollie married the love of his life and college sweetheart, Sue Muilenburg. They had two sons born during the remaining years in Washington D.C. and upon completion of his military career, Rollie and his family returned to Vermillion and his Alma

Mater to complete his M.B.A. After graduation, he was an administrator at USD for 13 years, serving in various capacities such as fund raiser and advisor to the Inter-fraternity council. Fulfilling his lifelong passion for the arts, he found great satisfaction in his position as fund raiser for the College of Fine Arts. Following his many years in academia; he embarked on a long and successful career in hotel development, which continues today.

A testament to Rollie's strength, is that the decline of his health in recent years was most notably characterized by his indomitable spirit and unflinching positive attitude. Those who knew him well, recall with respect and admiration that he always said he was "doing great and was the luckiest man alive" even though his physical condition said otherwise.

Rollie's lasting legacy is his family. In his own words, he and his beloved wife Sue "shared an enduring love that exceeded all expectations even when times were trying." Together they

shared the joys of a happy life that spanned five decades and continues into the next generation. His sons, Tom and Mike were the sparkling highlights of his life. A testimonial to their abiding love for him was his presence on their college ski and hunting trips as the only dad invited to join them and their young friends. These events were some of his fondest memories.

An avid outdoorsman, Rollie dearly loved hunting with his sons and his brother-in-law, Tom Muilenburg, in their duck blind down on the Missouri River and during other hunts from Oklahoma to Canada. A major element of the French family recreation involved boating and water sports at their cabin on the river and snow skiing and snowmobiling in winter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Rollie and

Jessie French, brother, Rodney French, and brother-in-law, Tom Muilenburg.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 51 years Sue, his sons, Tom his wife Jenny of Vermillion, SD, Mike his wife Christine of Flagstaff, AZ, his six grandchildren, Mikaela, Shantel, Tasia, Cooper, Bridger and Rollie George French, his brother, Lee (Joann) French, a sister, Marilyn (Patrick) Sullivan,

and sisters-in-law, Sally French and Liz Muilenburg.

Memorial services will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday April 4, 2015 at the United Church of Christ Congregational in Vermillion, South Dakota. Memorials may be sent to the USD foundation or the United Church of Christ. HansenFuneralHome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
March 20, 2015

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