



SARAH WETZEL/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK  
**The Yankton Middle School Science Olympiad team poses for a photo after placing first in their division at the state tournament Saturday on the University of South Dakota campus. The Yankton High School team also placed first in the high school division.**

## Science Olympiad

BY SARAH WETZEL  
Vermillion Plain Talk

VERMILLION — Yankton and Vermillion youth were extremely well represented at last Saturday's State Science Olympiad Tournament on the University of South Dakota campus.

Yankton Middle School dominated as it has done for the three decades since the competition has gone national, placing first overall in the middle-school division.

Members of the Yankton Middle School team placed first in 12 events, second in five events and third in two.

Second place overall went to Sacred Heart Middle School and third went to Dakota Valley Middle School.

Yankton High School also placed first overall in the high school division with second place going to Brookings High School and Spearfish High School earning third.

Vermillion Middle school didn't do too shabby either, earning fourth overall out of 18 teams and placing first in one event, second in five events and third in three events.

The Yankton teams have a long history with the competition according to their coaches.

"The national science olympiad started

31 years ago," said Brooks Schild, coach for the middle school team. "South Dakota started 31 years ago with the middle school teams and the next year they started with the high school teams and that's when Bob Medeck and our high school team started. Since it's been a national event we've been involved in it every single year."

Not only have they been involved in it every year, but Schild said the Yankton Middle School team has won every single year making a three-decade winning streak, probably a record.

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# America's Transportation Workers: The Beating Heart Of Mobility

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR), in cooperation with the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation (the Foundation), join advocates nationwide to urge motorists to recognize and respect the moms and dads, sons and daughters, neighbors and friends who work on Nebraska's roadways. March 23-27 is National Work Zone Awareness Week, established to draw attention to the benefits and risks inherent in the work conducted on America's roadways.

Hundreds of times each year, motorists distracted, speeding or otherwise unable to control their vehicles stray into work zones, which are created according to engineered designs, with numerous and often innovative arrays of safety equipment, by personnel trained in the safe conduct of heavy highway construction and maintenance work. NDOR and the Foundation urge motorists, as they approach a highway work zone, to think first of the real people behind the lights and cones and barrels.



Drivers are also encouraged to consider their own safety: more than 80 percent of those killed in road work zone crashes are motorists.

Work zones, while essential for maintenance, construction and operation of safe roads and bridges, can present a challenge for both road workers and vehicle drivers. "But we cannot get

behind the steering wheel for you. Highway workers have to trust that you will heed the signs, barricades, cones and message boards that are their only protection," says national Foundation President Sue Reiss.

The American Traffic Safety Services Foundation is an educational and charitable organization affiliated with

the American Traffic Safety Service Association (ATSSA), which joins other traffic safety advocates in moving "Toward Zero Deaths" on America's roadways. The Foundation sponsors the National Work Zone Memorial, provides scholarships for the dependents of roadway workers killed or permanently disabled in work zone crashes, and works to raise awareness of the need to protect and respect America's transportation workers.

For more information, visit [www.atssa.com](http://www.atssa.com) and click on "The Foundation." ATSSA represents the road safety, traffic safety, and highway safety industry with effective legislative advocacy, traffic control safety training and a far-reaching member partnership.

For more information on this year's National Work Zone Awareness Week, visit [http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz\\_awareness.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm), follow @USDOTFHWA on Twitter, or search trending topics #NWZAW and #safe-workzones.

## OBITUARIES

### Ruth Simonsen

Ruth Simonsen, age 96 of Menno passed away on Sunday, March 22, 2015 at the Freeman Regional Health Services, Freeman.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 27, 2015 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Menno, with Rev. David Ellis officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery, Menno, SD.

Visitations will be 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, and then 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2015 at the Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, and then one hour prior to the service at the church.

Ruth was born to Joseph and Magdalena (Pfeifle)



Simonsen

Stern on February 20, 1919 in rural Clayton, SD. She attended country school through the 8th grade. She was confirmed in the

Lutheran faith on June 18, 1933 at Grace Lutheran Church by Pastor Heuer. She moved to Menno with her parents.

Ruth married Clarence Simonsen on August 6, 1939 at Peace Lutheran Church, Menno and to this union, two children were born, Lonnie and Roger. Clarence and Ruth operated Simonsen Plumbing & Heating until 1980 when they retired.

Ruth served as Treas-

urer for the American Legion Auxiliary, Treasurer for the Church Ladies Aid and was Secretary for their bowling league in Yankton.

Ruth loved to bowl and dance. Ruth and Clarence were inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame for their many years of bowling.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Clarence of Menno, SD; children, Lonnie (Kenneth) Remington of Yankton, SD and Roger (Jeanie) Simonsen of Menno, SD; grandchildren, Jan (Dan) Putnam, Scott (Shirlene) Simonsen and Timothy (Janel) Simonsen; great-grandchildren: Christopher Putnam, Nicole Putnam, Kendra Simonsen, Nicholas Simonsen and Alyssa Simonsen, great-great-grandchildren, Aubrey

Putnam, Ty Nichols and Chason Simonsen; sisters, Luella Handel of Menno, SD and Celia Bradley of Rapid City, SD and brother, Gillas (Garnet) Stern of Sioux Falls, SD and nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Clifford Stern his wife, Jimmy, sister, Elva Reiser and her husband, Marvin, infant sister, Arlanda Stern, brothers-in-law, Rueben Nusz, Aaron Handel and Allan Bradley.

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
**March 24, 2015**

**AISENBREY**  
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FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.  
Online condolences at:  
[www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com](http://www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com)

the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

### Loren Kazena Sr.

Loren Kazena, Sr., 55, of Marty died Sunday, March 22, 2015, in Lake Andes.

Wake services will begin today (Tuesday) at the YST Gym in Wagner.

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 27, at the Presbyterian Church in Greenwood. Burial is in the Greenwood Presbyterian Cemetery, rural Greenwood.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements.

### Lyle Terrio

HILL CITY — Lyle D. Terrio, 84, died March 23, 2015.

Funeral arrangements are pending with the Black Hills Funeral Home, Sturgis.

### Rita Stanage

Rita Stanage, 56, of Yankton died Monday, March 23, 2015, at her home.

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

### Shannon Ashford

Shannon Lee Ashford, 62, of Yankton died Sunday, March 22, 2015, at the Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls.

Memorial services are at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with the Rev. Jon Cooke officiating.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the services.

Burial will take place at the Evergreen Cemetery in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, at a later date.

To send an online message to the family, visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

### Gene Scott

Gene Scott, 71, of Creighton, Nebraska, died Saturday, March 21, 2015, at his residence.

Graveside services will be on Wednesday, March 25, at 1 p.m. at the Ponca Valley Cemetery in Verdel, Nebraska, with Kerry Fernau presiding.

Arrangements are under

## IN REMEMBRANCE

### Gene Scott

Graveside Services  
1:00 PM, Wednesday  
Ponca Valley Cemetery  
Verdel, NE

### Lorraine K. Brattmiller

10:30 AM, Friday  
St. Benedict Catholic Church  
Yankton

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## United Church of Christ (Congregational)

Located at 5th & Walnut Presents

*The*  
**Requiem**

**Sunday, March 29, 3 p.m.**

## UCC Adult Choir

**Directed by Jennifer Powell, Accompanied by Chamber Ensemble, Piano & Organ**

This is a beautiful new composition by Mark Hayes, and was first performed two years ago in Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, New York

**Everyone welcome! Please join us for a reception  
immediately after the concert in Pilgrim Hall.**