

Book Collection



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Webster Elementary School student council members Jackson Sherman, Robert Schaefer, Ethan Yasat, Cayley Tacke, Isis Frick, and Jeffrey Miller stand in front of all the packed books for a book drive.

Webster Elementary Holds A Book Drive For Big Red Bookshelf

Webster Elementary School held a book drive for the Big Red Bookshelf, which is a United Way project. There will be a Big Red Bookshelf at Webster School this summer during the Summer Lunch Program.

As an extra incentive to donate books, the class that collected the most books would win a class-

room Easter Basket full of goodies.

The class that won the Easter Basket was Mrs. Holmstrom's second grade class, which donated 624 books. As a whole school, 3,179 books were donated.

Thanks to everyone who donated a book, and thanks to Student Council for counting and packing all the books.

Mount Marty College Professor Selected For Prestigious Seminar



Dr. Paul Anders

Mount Marty College Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies Dr. Paul Anders was recently selected to participate in the seminar on Teaching Interfaith Understanding that will be held at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, June 21-25, 2015. The degree of competition for participation was keen and he was one of only 25 faculty members selected for this seminar.

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) are the responsible parties for the

multidisciplinary seminars on Teaching Interfaith Understanding for full-time faculty

members. The seminars will broaden faculty members' knowledge and perspective to help them strengthen the teaching of interfaith understanding, develop new courses and other resources, and encourage the development of a growing network of faculty members who are committed to teaching this subject. The seminars, offered by CIC and IFYC and generously supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, will cover most costs of participation for those faculty members who are selected.

Dr. Anders, who has been with Mount Marty College for five years, has a PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, a Master of Divinity from Trinity International University, a Master of Arts from San Diego State University and a Bachelor of Science from the University of California Los Angeles.

For more information on the religious studies department at Mount Marty College, visit www.mtmc.edu/academics/programs/rsp.aspx.

Deer

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able to do the population trend estimates yet because we just got our harvest data back," she said. "It's going to take us a couple of weeks to look at those trends and see where we might go with tags in the near future."

DeJong said the deer in the Yankton area are rebounding from a period of disease that was attributed largely to 2012 drought.

"During the drought, we had a natural disease called EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic

Disease) and it's spread by these little flying midges," she said. "The populations of these midges do really well in drying mud flats, so in years when you have drought, you'll see more of these midges. If they're carrying that disease, they'll spread it from one deer to the next, as deer also cluster around these hard-to-find water bodies during the drought. You're bringing deer into higher concentrations in areas where you have these midges and they're able to spread the disease a little bit quicker and more efficiently."

DeJong said a couple thousand deer were reportedly found dead along the Missouri and James rivers at this time in southeast South Dakota. The

department pulled back on the issuance of buck and doe tags following the drought to give the populations a chance to recover.

DeJong said one of the things the department hopes to see is populations moving away from the river.

"There's always plenty of deer, it seems, down along the river by the Boy Scout camp (west of Yankton) and in those kind of areas — that's kind of our core population," she said. "What we're hoping is, some of those deer will move north and start repopulating some of the other parts of Yankton County."

She added that an improved weather pattern contributed to the recovery.

"They had a good summer

last year without any really catastrophic weather events," she said. "There was no drought, there was plenty of water and it was good conditions for reproduction and for the fawns to grow. And this last winter was a mild winter — we've had a couple of mild winters without much snow — deer are able to find food and not need too much cover. Down there along the river, they're doing really well and I think if that continues, we'll see a good increase in their population."

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Roads

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Legislature to provide more funding for roads and bridges at the state and local levels.

Commissioner Tim Dougherty of Sioux Falls in turn asked to see the secretary's proposals in writing at a future meeting. Dougherty also requested the proposed rules as well.

"I just think this is something we should think about and get some more input," Dougherty said.

Commissioner Ralph Marquardt of Yankton asked for a performance analysis regarding past grants under those programs.

Bergquist said it might be easier to measure agribusiness and industrial park grants because they are for new projects. He said community access grants often are for necessary repairs to a key street in a community.

Also ahead for the commission will be setting rules for a new program for local bridge funding created in the

legislation, SB 1.

The bridge grants will be jointly funded, with \$7 million coming from fees and taxes which local governments otherwise would receive, and with \$8 million coming from state DOT revenues.

The state commission received from the Legislature the authority to make the bridge-grant decisions.

The Legislature set requirements that a county government seeking aid from the bridge-grant program would need to have a county highway plan in place and would need to be collecting a wheel tax on vehicles registered in the county.

Bergquist said he expects the first round of bridge-grant applications this fall for the commission's consideration.

State law currently allows the wheel tax to be up to \$4 per wheel with a maximum of \$16 per vehicle. Starting April 1, the Legislature increased those maximums to \$5 per wheel and \$60 per vehicle.

Counties retain wheel-tax revenue. But many counties don't charge a wheel tax, according to officials.

Bob Benson of Winner, the commission's chairman and a

former state senator, said he still feels that local governments should raise the most they can locally before asking for more from the state government.

Bergquist said the commission has authority to consider the availability of other funding mechanisms and the use of them by the applicant.

"It looks to me like they kind of let the counties off the hook," Benson said.

Bill Nevin, the DOT lawyer who serves the commission, said 46 counties have some wheel tax; Bergquist said 32 have it at the full current rates.

But Dick Howard, the lobbyist for the South Dakota association for towns and townships, and a former state transportation secretary, said a wheel tax hasn't been approved by voters in recent years.

Howard said it's difficult for counties to use the wheel tax as a funding source. Most of the counties without the wheel tax have low population, Howard said.

"But there's one exception. Pennington County doesn't have one," Howard said.

Hanten

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young man who already saw that he could make a business rather than look for a job. Too many of us 'look for a job' but we don't search for our passion and find something we can do."

Yankton attorney Sheila Woodward, a friend of Hanten's, said she saw potential in one of Hanten's biggest ventures — a smoke-free bar (now called Ben's Brewing Co.) long before all public areas were deemed smoke-free.

"I remember walking into that little ramshackle bar 10 years ago when Ben had this brilliant idea that he was going to be the first place in South Dakota that was a smoke-free bar," Woodward said. "The bar has become a fantastic place ... because Ben knew Yankton was ready for a change. We didn't know it. We all came along with him on that, and now the whole state of South Dakota has realized that Ben was right."

Yankton City Commissioner David Knoff helped Hanten co-found the annual Ribfest celebration in Yankton.

Knoff said Hanten has always been great at bringing ideas to the table on how to make the city a better place.

"When Ben's in a group, he always has that way of bringing ideas in and, even if you think it's a crazy idea, he gets you convinced that it's going to be a good idea," Knoff said. "And with Ben, it's always a good idea."

Michael Helgerson, a business student at the University of South Dakota where Hanten was recently named the university's first entrepreneur-in-residence, said Hanten's guidance has been a huge help when it comes to a business idea he's had.

"Every week, Ben takes time out of his busy schedule to meet and discuss my business ideas," Helgerson said. "He provides a unique perspective as an entrepreneur himself and also as an investor. This continually allows me to refine my idea and gain confidence and envision my ideas."

Nate Welch, executive director of the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company (VDCD), said it's people like Hanten that help a community move forward.

"In a good and a healthy community, you have to have those sustainable organizations," Welch said. "You have to have that structured part to it, whether it be the Chamber, economic development or commissioners. But what really makes a big difference is that rogue entrepreneur ... that pushes that envelope and says, 'Why not? Why don't we try this?' and helps to be able to bring new ideas to a community."

After being presented with a plaque commemorating his achievement, Hanten talked about how he's always had a desire to do things differently, using the bar as an example.

"I launched the bar 10 years ago — July 1, 2005 — and I always try to make everything about being different there," he said. "I had no experience. I had never

worked in a bar, never worked in a restaurant, no service industry experience but I felt like we could be successful if we continued to be different and to be innovators."

Hanten also took the opportunity to highlight the progress he's seen in Yankton.

"The city of Yankton at times struggles to think that it's good enough," he said. "I think we've all heard, 'That won't work here. It's Yankton.' The good news is, I'm hearing it a lot less these days, and I think it's because we can start pointing at some things that are working just fine here."

"This is a town with a diverse economy and amazing history. It's time to own it and say this is who we are and stop worrying about some other city that we're not."

The Citizen of the Year Award was chosen by a group of civic organizations. *The Press & Dakotan* is also one of the sponsors of the annual award.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

OBITUARIES

Joseph Gratzfeld

Joseph C. Gratzfeld, age 59, of Yankton, SD passed away unexpectedly Friday, March 27, 2015 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, SD with Rev. Robert Wullweber officiating. Private family burial of his cremated remains will be in the Beaver Creek Cemetery, rural Crofton, NE.

Visitations will begin at 4:00 p.m. Monday, March 30, 2015 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a rosary at 7:00 p.m. and Scripture service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Online condolences can be sent at www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com/.

Pallbearers are John Auch, Art Bottolfson, Dave Keuhler, Doug Jensen, Marlon Huber and Mike Peck. Honorary pallbearers will be Joe's children, step children, grand and step grandchildren.

Joseph C. Gratzfeld, son of Joe and Sylvia (Binder) Gratzfeld, was born April 27th, 1955 in Yankton and died unexpectedly March



Gratzfeld

27th, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital at the age of 59. He grew up in Yankton and attended Yankton

Schools. He married Kathryn St. Pierre on Nov. 15th, 1975. To this union his son Joshua and daughter Leah were born. He married Mary Gassert on May 30th, 1992. On Aug. 8th, 1997, he married Joyce Crossman (Tramp) and became stepfather to Mary, Wendy, Gregory and Michael Crossman. He worked several jobs around the Yankton and Hartington area. He was employed at Wilson Trailer for several years until health issues cause him into early retirement.

Joe always had a smile on his face as well as the gift of gab. He talked to everyone he met as if they were longtime friends. He was always available to give a helping hand. He enjoyed doing wood projects and tinkering in his "Man Cave." He loved to go for drives around the lake, camping, boating that included fishing as a favorite, four-wheeling, having friends and family over for a good old fashion barbecue and of

course watching western movies. He was frequently surrounded by grandchildren and numerous extended family and friends.

Grandchildren include Tyrell, Jonathan, Matthew and Joshua Jr. (Gratzfeld). Step Grandchildren Kayla, Mato, Andrea (Wright), Ashley, Kendra, Landon, Brandon, Hailey, Lillian, Ethan, Maya (Crossman).

He is survived by his wife Joyce, son Joshua, daughter Leah, stepchildren Mary, Wendy, Gregory, (Lacy) and Michael (Jessica). His parents Joe and Sylvia, his brother David (Barb) and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. In-laws Arnold and Jeanette Tramp, Yuma, AZ, sisters-in-law Judy (Dave) Thury, Parkston SD and June (Brian) McCardell, Spring Valley, CA.

He is preceded in death by his brother Daniel, step granddaughter Ashley and step-grandson KeAndre, brother-in-law Michael Tramp, grandparents and uncles.

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Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Harold 'Les' Korff

Harold "Les" Korff, 97, of Hartington, Nebraska, died Friday, March 27, 2015, at the Golden Living Center in Hartington.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, April 6, at 10:30 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington with the Rev. Jim Keiter officiating. Burial will be in the St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington.

Visitation will be on Sunday, April 5, from 5-7 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 7 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Monday at the church.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzfuneralhome.com.

LaVina 'Bunny' Prue

LaVina L. "Bunny" Prue, 66, of Yankton died Saturday, March 28, 2015, at her residence.

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

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Honoring Their Memory
Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them
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:
Albina Hejna who passed away March 30, 2014
Kenneth Pederson who passed away March 30, 2014
Bertha Huether who passed away April 2, 2014
Norma Jean Lethcoe who passed away April 3, 2014
Sharon Peterka who passed away April 5, 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. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.
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