

OBITUARIES

Maria P. Kirkendall

Maria P. Kirkendall, age 57, of Yankton, South Dakota died Saturday, May 1, 2010 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Funeral services are 10:30 AM, Thursday, May 6, 2010 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton with Reverend Bob Lacey officiating. Visitation is from 3:00 to 8:00 PM, on Wednesday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a rosary at 7:00 PM and a Scripture service at 7:30 PM. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

Maria was born August 7, 1952 in Roswell, New Mexico to Robert and Erminda (Franco) Garza. She grew up in Roswell, but spent four years living in England where her father was

stationed in the United States Air Force. Maria graduated from Roswell High School in 1971. She became involved with the Roswell Public School System by donating her time to them. Later, the school trained her and she obtained her teaching certificate. She worked there for 12 years teaching children with special needs. She was also a job coach for these children and helped them in all areas of their lives. In 1992, Maria met James Kirkendall and they were married on May 16, 2001 in Yankton, South Dakota. Her husband took a job erecting communication towers, so Maria traveled with him across the



Kirkendall

United States. They did that for two years before moving to Yankton in 2001. Maria worked for the Yankton School District for a year and was also a substitute teacher for Gayville-Volin School. Maria donated her time helping at the soup kitchens. She really enjoyed arts and crafts, music, walking, fishing and traveling. She and her husband were inseparable and did everything together. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Maria is survived by her husband, James Kirkendall of Yankton; three children: Berta (Chon) Rubio of Levelland, Texas, Javi (Tawny) Garza of Roswell, New Mexico, and April (John) Holmquist of Yankton; nine grandchildren: Monique and Maxine Rubio, Xavier, Setero, Gwen and Layla Garza, Trinity, Phillip Jr. and Ramses

Holmquist; mother, Erminda Garza of Roswell; two sisters, Irene (Henry) Bugarin and Rosalinda (Andy) Tavarez, both of Roswell; brother, Jesus "Roony" Garza of Roswell; and many nieces and nephews.

Maria was preceded in death by her father, Robert Garza. To post an online sympathy message, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
May 5, 2010

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Aaron Hoelsing

Aaron Michael Hoelsing, son of Michael and Linda (Larson) Hoelsing, was born in Yankton, SD on October 1, 1974. He died unexpectedly on April 30, 2010 in an automobile accident.



Hoelsing

Aaron grew up on a family farm near Viborg, SD where his love of big iron and farming was cultivated and nurtured. He graduated from Viborg High School in 1993 where athletics were a highlight. Football was the sport of choice but basketball was a close second.

Aaron was a 13 year dedicated employee of Simplot Grower Solutions in Beresford, SD. He took pride in his work and always strived for perfection. Aaron was back in the field during fall harvest helping area farmers. Operating green equipment always made Aaron happy.

Aaron married Laura (Hummel) on March 4, 2006 and their union was blessed with two children, Kathryn and Noah.

Aaron's pride and joy was his family. He was a hands-on dad that did everything from changing diapers, to painting fingernails and fixing hair. Aaron also served on the Board of Directors for his children's daycare.

Aaron was a willful man with a heart of gold. To be loved by Aaron meant that you always had someone to lean on and you had a man that would do everything in his power to make you happy. He loved, was loved and will forever be missed.

Grateful to share in his life are his wife Laura, children Kathryn and Noah; parents Mike and Linda of Viborg, SD; sister Michelle (Chad) Gaertner and brother Adam (Fiancé Brynn Plooster) all of Viborg, SD; grandparents Erma Larson of Vermillion, SD and Henry and Alice Hoelsing of Yankton, SD; in-laws Jay and Tracy Hummel of Hurley, SD and Patricia and Emmett Vliem of Rapid City; sister-in-law Stephanie Hummel of Sioux Falls, SD; niece Brittani, nephews Ryan and Nick.

Aaron was preceded in death by his grandfather Van Dale Larson, nephew Evan and twin

Patricia Bjorum

SCOTLAND — Patricia (Pat) Bjorum, age 65 of Scotland, died Tuesday (May 4, 2010) at Langmann-Jungman Memorial Hospital in Scotland.

Visitation will be Thursday from 3-7 p.m. with family present from 5-7 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Chapel in Scotland.

Public graveside inurnment at Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland 10:30 a.m. Friday.

infant brothers. A prayer service will be held at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Beresford, SD on Tuesday, May 4th at 7 pm with the family present from 6 to 8 p.m. The funeral will be Wednesday, May 5th at Bethany Lutheran Church in Viborg, SD at 1 p.m.

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Erma Hattervig

VIBORG — Erma Hattervig, 99, died May 3, 2010 at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Viborg.

Services will be held on Friday

Goglin Funeral Home

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at 1:30 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Viborg. Viewing will be one hour prior to the service.

Survivors include two daughters: Patricia Lockhart (Roger Walsh) of Sun City, CA; and, Charlene "Char" (Donnie) Long of Elk Point. Eight grandchildren: Steven "Chuck" Lockhart, Michael Lockhart, Patrick Lockhart, Kelly Long, Clare Messler, Linda Messler, Lezlee Herdina and Lisa Long.

Register online at www.viborgfuneralhome.com.

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AUDIT

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percent of the total amount of all appropriations contained in the budget for the next fiscal year."

During Tuesday's meeting, Simonsen reported that \$1 million was recently transferred to the highway department. The surplus cash balance now stands at 64 percent.

Transfers are made throughout the course of the year with the approval of the commissioners. Simonsen later told the *Press & Dakotan*. "But once it goes to those other funds, that's where it stays," she said.

The state will audit the cash balance again in September, Simonsen said.

The commissioners met April 6 in executive session with state auditors Roger Schnabel and Jeff Schaefer to discuss their findings. Simonsen was not included in the executive session.

The commissioners said Tuesday they didn't know about Simonsen's mistakes until the latest state audit. The commissioners added that they wouldn't have known about the errors in the course of their regular monthly business.

"People said we were aware of it, but there was no issue. There was no money missing,"

"All of the money has been accounted for. I'm working with state auditors to correct the accounting issues."

JEANIE SIMONSEN

Stern said. In turn, other taxing entities made mistakes by not being aware of or providing notice that they received too much money, the commissioners said.

The commissioners said Tuesday they are tracking an anonymous April 23 phone call to the *Parkston Advance* and *Freeman Courier*, two weekly newspapers in Hutchinson County. The caller expressed concerns about Simonsen's performance in office and made accusations of a cover-up involving the commissioners and local weekly newspapers.

The *Advance* called back the long-distance number and found it originated from the Olivet courthouse.

Simonsen said she will review the next courthouse phone bill to learn the office where the anonymous call originated. She anticipates receiving the phone bill around mid-May.

"I am 99.99 percent sure I know where the call was placed," she said.

The anonymous caller alleged that Simonsen was responsible for "a \$2 million

shortfall," Stern said. "That never happened," he said. "That (accusation) isn't fair to Jeanie."

As far as an alleged cover-up, the commissioners noted the county's audit is public record that can be found online at www.state.sd.us/legislativeaudit/home.htm.

Simonsen stands for re-election this year. She has served four years as auditor, preceded by eight years as deputy auditor. She has no opposition so far in this year's election. Independent candidates can file until June 8.

Simonsen said she e-mailed Hutchinson County State's Attorney Glenn Roth immediately after the April 23 call for possible legal action against the caller.

Roth told the *Press & Dakotan* he has not spoken yet with Simonsen, adding he needs more information about the call.

"I have not started investigating," he said. "I am checking for violations of privacy laws."

As for reducing errors in her office, Simonsen said she was working with the county's soft-

ware provider to make changes. "Our software has the capability of doing automatic updates to the ledger," she said. "We are taking steps so the software makes updates monthly."

Changes in the auditor's office should head off problems such as not including the Freeman school district's bond levy, Simonsen said. The county issued a check in December 2009 to cover the \$79,000 shortfall.

Subsequent action, intended to correct the situation, resulted in the Freeman School District receiving about \$72,000 it was not entitled to for the remainder of 2009. Of that amount, \$42,000 needs to be redistributed within the school district's funds, while the other \$30,000 goes to Hutchinson County, the James River Water Development District, the City of Freeman and townships.

Once it the Freeman school district remits the \$30,000, Hutchinson County will redistribute the money to the appropriate parties, Simonsen said.

"We need to verify what each entity is owed and then remit them a check," she said. The county will be audited in 2011 for 2009-2010, Simonsen said.

The commissioners went into executive session Tuesday for legal and personnel reasons. They returned to open session about 15 minutes later, and no action was taken.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Maria P. Kirkendall
10:30 AM, Thursday
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REGION DIGEST

YMS Vocal Concert Slated Thursday

Approximately 300 members of the Yankton Middle School choirs (grades 6-8) will present their Spring Pops Concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6, at the YMS Gym.

Repertoire for the evening will include timeless classics such as "Lean on Me," "Imagine," "Sixteen Tons" and a final medley incorporating "Proud Mary," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "YMCA."

The singers are under the direction of Kim Olson, accompanied by Jaclyn Mathison.

Sacred Heart Middle School Spring Sing Thurs.

The grades 6-8 students of Yankton's Sacred Heart School, under the direction of Hannah Weispennig, will be presenting a concert entitled "Sounds Familiar" at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6, in Link Auditorium, 504 Capital Street.

The concert will include instrumental and vocal music in the styles popular in the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s. The students will play a variety of rhythm instruments such as boomwhackers, triangles, rhythm sticks and drums. You will also hear a little recorder music; all within the context of familiar songs such as "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," "We Got the Beat," and certainly don't miss "The Eye of the Donut," a lyrical alternative to the hit "The Eye of the Tiger" made famous by the movie "Rocky."

The public is invited to attend.

Benefit For Wakonda Native Set For May 7

WATERTOWN — A benefit dinner and auction for Ross Orr, a Wakonda native, will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, May 7, at the Watertown American Legion Hall.

Orr, a 1993 graduate of Wakonda High School who currently lives in Watertown, collapsed March 29 of a brain aneurysm. He is currently under treatment in the intensive care unit at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls and has been through brain surgery and a second aneurysm. Orr and his wife, Susan, have two children: Parker (9) and Hope (5).

Friday's supper begins at 6 p.m. with an auction to follow. Anyone with items to donate is asked to call Michael Williams at 605-753-5118.

Financial donations for the family may be given to the Ross Orr Benefit at any First Premier Bank branch.

Local Artists Featured In USD Exhibit

VERMILLION — Jade Somsen, Lyndsi Price, Criscel Miske, Brooke Hiemstra, Michael Gordon and Isaura Nino, all students at The University of South Dakota, will showcase a multitude of artwork of different disciplines and media during an exhibition at the John A. Day Gallery of the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts, May 3-7.

Somsen, daughter of Leon and Connie Somsen, is a fine arts major with an emphasis in graphic design from Yankton. Somsen works with simplistic design conveying the thought of emotions into her work.

Nino, the daughter of Pedro and Elena Nino, is an art education major with an emphasis in photography from Yankton.

A reception for all six student artists is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Friday, May 7, in the John A. Day Gallery. The gallery is free to the public and is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and from 1-5 p.m. on weekends. For more information about this exhibition, contact Art Galleries Director Eddie Welch at (605) 677-3177 or e-mail Eddie.Welch@usd.edu.

USD Law, Medical Schools To Honor Grads

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota will honor graduates from the USD School of Law and the Sanford School of Medicine with ceremonies on Friday, May 7.

The 2010 School of Law Hooding Ceremony is at 5:30 p.m. in the ballroom of USD's Muenster University Center. South Dakota Supreme Court Justice Glen Severson, a graduate of the USD School of Law, will provide the keynote address. Severson was appointed to the state's highest court in February 2009 by Gov. Mike Rounds. Prior to being appointed to the state's highest court, Severson was presiding judge for South Dakota's 2nd Circuit Court. A former Huron City Attorney, Severson received his bachelor's degree from USD in 1972 and his juris doctor from The U in 1975. A member of the American Bar Association, the South Dakota Bar Association and the Second Circuit Bar Association, Severson was a member of the Fingerson and Severson Law Firm from 1983 to 1992 before his appointment to the 2nd Circuit Court.

Dr. Constance Haan, M.D., a 1983 USD School of Medicine graduate, will deliver the keynote address at the Sanford School of Medicine Graduation Convocation as the Sanford School of Medicine honors 50 graduates at a 5:30 p.m. ceremony at the International Room at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls. Dr. Haan attended a one-room schoolhouse in Lennox and she has become one of the few female cardiothoracic surgeons in the world. She also serves as senior associate dean of educational affairs for the University of Florida College of Medicine in Jacksonville as well as an associate professor of surgery. She is the author of "Living on Purpose: A Surgeon's Story. Following the convocation, the School of Medicine Alumni Banquet will be at the Holiday Inn City Centre honoring classes from 1960, 1985 and 2005.

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