

### National History Day Entries To Be On Display

The national qualifiers from Doug Haar's AP History Class will be displaying their entries for the National History Day contest at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, in the YHS band room. They will also be presenting a short program called "A Night of History."

The winning exhibits are "Conflict of Conscience: Lincoln's Struggles to Issue the Emancipation Proclamation" and "The Dakota Plains: A History of Strained Debate and Diplomacy." There is also a group performance, "Failed Diplomacy: The Munich Conference of 1938" and an historical paper by Sadie Stevens entitled "King Henry VIII and Rome: The Path of Religious Freedom and the Establishment Clause Rises."

A raffle will be held for a map of South Dakota and a set of china. Free-will donations will be accepted.

All proceeds from the night will go towards sending the 10 students to Washington, D.C., for the national contest June 11-17.

### Careers Class Being Offered To Students

"Mental Health Care and Careers in Our Community" is the title of a summer class being offered in Yankton for high school students to earn a half-credit.

Participants will learn about mental health disorders through interaction with the local mental health system of service delivery. Students will participate in tours of human service provider agencies within the community. The class will include discussion with area professionals practicing in the diverse areas of mental health occupations. Students will also attend the 13th annual YAMWI Conference to be held at Mount Marty College on June 8-9, which is recognized as the region's premier mental wellness conference.

Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. (YAMWI), in cooperation with Southeast Job Link (SEJL), proudly announces that this high school class will be offered to promote Mental Health Care and Careers in Our Community. Health care careers are some of the fastest growing occupations across the nation and the Yankton community is recognized as a regional leader in providing professional medical care. Successful completion of this class should support students' career decisions and their future pursuit of health-related occupations.

Classes will be held June 1-3, 6-7, 8-10, with sessions running from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. The class will be held at Southeast Job Link, 1200 West 21st Street, Yankton.

Yankton High School students successfully completing the class will be eligible for an elective half-credit, which has been approved with unanimous support by the Yankton School District Board. Students from other districts may also be eligible for credit, pending approval by their school; call for more information.

Class size is limited. Pre-registration and pre-payment of a fee is required; scholarships may be available for students showing financial need.

For registration procedures and fee payment, please contact Sheri Duke, executive director of SEJL, at 605-668-3480 or email her at sduke@southeastjoblink.org.

### Welcome Celebration Planned For Gunderson

Yankton's St. John's Lutheran Church will welcome home the Rev. Dave Gunderson, who has served in Afghanistan as chaplain with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, on Sunday, June 5.

Gunderson will lead church services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. that day. A meal will follow the 10:30 a.m. service in the St. John's Lutheran Church fellowship hall.

## Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home Garden Party Joins 150th Celebration

The historic Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home at 509 Pine Street is hosting a Garden party on Sunday, June 5, running from 1-4 p.m.

Built in 1886, the Heritage Home is known to have been the tallest Queen Anne Eastlake Stick Style home in Dakota Territory. It remains a premier example of its architectural style, enhanced by assiduous care during its 125-year life span.

Visitors during this special afternoon will be greeted by an opened gate in the era-appropriate fence, which bears a customized bunting, and by gracious ladies and gentlemen dressed in attire of the period when the home was built and first occupied. There will be decorated tables bearing lemonade and light refreshments. There will be garden tours at 1:30-3 p.m. with Master Gardener Stan Hoffart. There will be short walking tours in the immediate neighborhood, spotlighting the historic homes surrounding the Cramer-Kenyon Home, led by Board President Anne Swift.

There will be entertainment at 2 p.m. with the Yankton Children's Choir, directed by Deb Kruse, followed by a performance by Paddy Homan, Irish vocalist from Cork, Ireland.

Homan, now based in Chicago, recently received multiple awards as Male Vocalist and Male Vocal Album of the Year (2009) and Male Newcomer of the Decade (2011) by Live Ireland.com, which called him "the real voice of Ireland."

He was the featured singer for Mayor Richard Dailey's St. Patrick's Day Celebration and for the Chicago Tribune's WGN Chicago live special St. Patrick's program this year.

Homan will perform a number of traditional Irish favorites and will also sing "The Girl I Left Behind Me" a song associated with Gen. George Custer's band.

There is no admission price for this event; donations are accepted. Those who come to visit and spend the afternoon are urged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Should there be a weather cancellation, the "rain date" is June 12.

## Outlay

From Page 1

tion, utilities and property and casualty insurance. It allows for up to 45 percent of the revenue generated annually in the Capital Outlay Fund to pay for these General Fund expenses. Why is the Yankton School District not using Capital Outlay funds to pay for these General Fund expenses so more money is available in the General Fund to save the eliminated teaching positions and also to support junior high sports?

**ANSWER:** According to Superintendent Joseph Gertsema and business manager Jason Bietz, the Yankton School District currently uses more than \$800,000 of capital outlay funds to cover general fund expenses.

Examples include: textbooks, software, warranties on equipment, small instructional equipment purchases that have a unit cost of less than \$1,000 but more than \$300.

"The other side of why we are not doing more of this is because, when that law sunsets, the schools who have transferred a huge percentage of their general fund expenditures to the capital outlay, are going to be in a world of hurt," Bietz said. "The capi-

tal outlay fund has its own specific needs to maintain school facilities ... if you start altering that plan and pushing a high volume of operating expenses into that plan, then something has to give. Yeah, you can slide things around, but eventually there is going to be a price to pay. We looked at this as, what can we sustain?"

Gertsema added that in an informal poll of ESD schools, the Yankton School District utilizes the capital outlay fund to offset operating expenses at a rate higher than its counterpart.

"As a percentage of the total, we are using about 25 percent of our capital outlay fund to offset operating expenses," Bietz said.

**QUESTION:** Since the teachers get paid year-round, has the option of going to school year-round been considered?

**ANSWER:** "Yankton School District teachers are contracted for 190 days per school year," said Gertsema. "How they chose to have their salaries paid to them is their choice. They can choose to have their salaries paid out to them over a 10-month period or a 12-month period. I believe the vast majority choose to have it split out over 12 months. However, they are only being paid for the 190-day contract."

When asked if the Yankton

School District had considered a year-round school calendar, Gertsema said there has not been any overwhelming interest expressed to district personnel.

"We do offer a year-round option to some students with special needs," he said. "But most people in the community — South Dakota in fact — are used to and seem to prefer having the summers off. In fact, most of them would prefer to have no school from Memorial Day to Labor Day, which of course is not possible."

Gertsema said that in the state, the only district he is aware of that has attempted a year-round school option is in Sioux Falls, where he understands it has not been well received.

**QUESTION:** My question is what type of cuts (besides the publicized lay-off) has the school district made? We hear a lot about how funds cannot be transferred from various funding sources, but what has the school district done to make cuts in the funding sources that would make a difference? What have the personnel raises been over the last three years? As a state employee with a master's degree, my wage has not increased for three years, I am curious to know what type of cuts school personnel have taken to help avoid this situation.

**ANSWER:** "We can certainly echo the no pay raises," Bietz said. "The administration — of whom all of us are masters or above — took no pay increase last year and will not take a raise next year. All hourly employees did not get pay raises last year. The board honored the fourth year of an ongoing contract with the teachers and are right now in negotiations. Certainly raises are not on the horizon."

A document has been produced by the Yankton School District showing full-time equivalent employees (FTE) by function in both the school years 2002-03 and 2010-11. There are 10 less FTE K-12 teachers — 151.1 to 141.0. In the terms of total number of teachers (including special education, alternative education, music, technology and Title 1) there were 188.1 FTE's in 2002-03 compared to 180 FTE's in 2010-11. There are currently more Title 1 teachers on staff.

The total number of paraprofessional employees of the district in 2002-03 was 51 (9 regular classroom and 42 special education) in 2010-11 the total number is 65.6 (9.6 regular classroom and 56 special education).

The total number of support personnel in 2002-03 was 138.55 FTE, currently that number is 132.35 FTE.

In the same time frame, student enrollment has gone from 3,104 students to 2,747.

## County

From Page 1

take a look at the options," Yankton Commissioner Garry Moore said. "I think that sometimes we need to lead by example ... We owe it to everybody to try to make a two-county thing work."

Yankton Commissioner Donna Freng added, "Let's find out exactly what it is going to cost us. I can't vote on anything until I know exactly what we're talking about."

The two commissions agreed to work on a proposal that could be considered at the next Yankton

County Commission meeting June 7. The Extension Service is requesting a decision by July 1.

"The bottom line is, I think it can be worked out," Yankton Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said. "We're going to get together, get the particulars and try to make it work."

In other business Tuesday, the commission discussed concerns about drainage tile being installed around the county. Zoning Administrator Patrick Garrity said he has seen examples of the tile draining into county ditches.

"I'm very concerned about the ones draining into the ditch," he said.

Garrity suspected that landowners are attempting to install drainage tile before the county ap-

proves an ordinance to oversee the process. A task force is currently working to formulate the law.

The commission agreed that Garrity should send letters to those draining into the ditch to instruct them that they cannot do so under existing regulations.

The commission may also consider a temporary ordinance to prevent tile from being installed without at least coming before it first.

Also, the commission may, as part of the same ordinance, address field approaches that have been installed without adequate drainage beneath them. Garrity and Moore noted that it is becoming more of a problem around the county.

Finally, the commission heard

safety concerns from a resident who lives along Deer Boulevard about motorized vehicles that have been using the recreational trail under construction along that road. The commission said signs will be erected along the trail prohibiting the use of motorized vehicles once the county takes ownership of it. However, that is not expected to occur until the trail is complete sometime in June.

The commission acknowledged that, in addition to the signs, residents will have to take it upon themselves to report violators to the sheriff's office in order to establish for any doubters that the prohibition is to be taken seriously.

## Benchhoff Named Vice President For University Advancement At Ohio

ATHENS, Ohio — Bryan Benchhoff, the president and CEO of the University of South Dakota Foundation, has been named vice president for university advancement at Ohio University, effective July 15, 2011, according to a press release Tuesday.

Benchhoff, who has been with the USD Foundation since 2008, previously served in a variety of positions with the West Virginia

University Foundation from 1990-2007. His positions there included assistant director of development (1990-1992), director of development (1992-1997), senior director of development for major gifts (1997-2001), assistant campaign director (1997-2004), assistant vice president for constituency development (2001-2004), and associate vice president for development (2004-2007).

Benchhoff will be responsible for

leading Ohio University's \$450 million "The Promise Lives" capital campaign and all aspects of University Advancement, which includes leadership of the Ohio University Foundation, Alumni Affairs and Development.

"We are very pleased to welcome Bryan Benchhoff to the Ohio University family," Ohio University president Roderick J. McDavis said in the release. "His extensive experi-

ence with university advancement and the depth of knowledge he brings will be of great benefit as we move the University forward and continue our progress toward our campaign goal. I thank the search committee led by Vice President Kent Smith for its dedication and commitment to identify and attract a respected leader of Bryan's caliber to Ohio University."

### OBITUARIES

#### Jason Thompson

AVON — Jason Thompson, 34, of Avon died unexpectedly Monday, May 16, 2011, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Zion Lutheran Church, Avon. Burial is in the Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, rural Avon.

Visitation will be noon-7 p.m. Thursday at the church, with a 7 p.m. Prayer Service.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Avon is in charge of arrangements.

#### Clarice Helgerson

Clarice A. Helgerson, 86, of Yankton died Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Vangen Lutheran Church, Mission Hill, with the Rev. Lance Lindgren officiating. Burial will be in Vangen Lutheran Cemetery, Mission Hill.

#### John Suing

HARTINGTON, Neb. — John B. Suing, 80, of Hartington, Neb., died Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at the Park View Haven Nursing Home, Coleridge, Neb.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hartington, with the Rev. Jeffery Loseke officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington with military honors provided by the Hartington VFW Post 5283.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Thursday, with a vigil service and video tribute at 7 p.m., at Wintz

#### Augusta Merry

Augusta P. Merry, 93, of Yankton, formerly of Vermillion, died

#### Friday, May 13, 2011, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 21, 2011, at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Vermillion. Burial will be in Rosehill Cemetery in Pender, Nebraska at 2:15 p.m.

Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Friday at Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion, with a wake service at 7 p.m.

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**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Miriam P. Kruse** 10:30 AM, Wednesday  
First United Methodist Church  
Yankton

**Clarice A. Helgerson** 10:30 AM, Friday  
Vangen Lutheran Church  
Mission Hill

**John B. Suing** 10:30 AM, Friday  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Hartington

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**Thank you Sheila and thank you to all who are now viewing the Press & Dakotan online with our e-Edition!**

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