

South Dakota 4-H Character Education Conference Set For June 13-14

BROOKINGS — The tenth annual South Dakota 4-H Character Education Conference is set for June 13-14 in Sioux Falls. It will take place at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Sioux Falls.

To register, go to <http://igrow.org/up/articles/P6015-2013.pdf>. If you have questions regarding the conference, contact SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Character Education Field Specialist, Karelyn Farrand at karelyn.farrand@sdstate.edu or call (605) 626-2870.

The central theme of the event is "Reflection Leads to Excellence." The goal of this year's conference is to address the importance of reflection and evaluating past practices for positive change in character education programs. The SDSU Extension 4-H/Youth Development CHARACTER COUNTS! Program staff will host the conference.

"This year's conference will provide a wide spectrum of sessions with proven strategies and practices that will assist attendees to strive for excellence in their character education programs," Farrand said.

A pre-conference session is set for June 13 from 1-6 p.m. at the Ramkota Hotel and

Convention Center in Sioux Falls. This session is open to parents, teachers and community members. This training focuses on the history and background of the CHARACTER COUNTS! program, including activities connected to the program's Six Pillars of Character. This training also includes discussion on ethical decision-making and building partnerships.

Deb Austin Brown will open the conference on June 13. She is a teacher, author and nationally known speaker. Her keynote will inspire attendees with success strategies and a wealth of character knowledge from her 37 years of teaching and from the lessons she has shared within her five published books. Brown's life work is to be an architect and builder of human potential.

Thom Flamboe will share two presentations, on June 14. Flamboe, is an educator, counselor, communication specialist, nationally known lecturer and author. Flamboe will motivate and inspire you to promote good character in positive ways for youth and adults.

On June 14 conference participants are invited to share a Character Education Best

Practice Display from their school, organization or community.

The conference will include breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics including classroom strategies, involving community, bullying, diversity, team building, and more. Participants will also be able to visit vendors.

The conference is approved for 1 Graduate Credit.

The Joe and Elaine Floyd Fund of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, Touchstone Energy Cooperative of South Dakota (East River Electric, South Dakota Rural Electric Association Rushmore Electric), and numerous state and regional CHARACTER COUNTS! supporters through the South Dakota 4-H Foundation are sponsors of the South Dakota 4-H CHARACTER COUNTS! program.

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are trade marks of the Josephson Institute, and operates in South Dakota under the leadership of the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service's 4-H/Youth Development program.

To learn more, visit iGrow.org.

HHS Wins Prize In Animal Rescue Challenge

Supporters, through online voting, have won a prize for Heartland Humane Society, Yankton, in The Animal Rescue Site's 2013 \$100,000 Shelter+ Challenge in conjunction with Petfinder.

The animal welfare organization came in second in the state's tally of votes, earning the group 100 vaccinations for the animals in its care. A complete list of all winners can be found at The Animal Rescue Site, www.theanimalrescuesite.com/.

"These challenges have been a wonderful opportunity for Petfinder.com members," says Lisa Robinson, executive director of the Petfinder.com Foundation. "The winners not only have a chance to win prizes, but the challenges really bring the shelter's supporters together with a common mission for adoptable pets."

GreaterGood's The Animal Rescue Site has funded more than \$1.3 million in grants to shelters and rescue groups since the Challenges began in 2008. The funds for the grants come from The Animal Rescue Site's innovative Click to Give(TM) program and site sponsors.

Heartland Humane Society posts its adoptable pets online at www.petfinder.com/shelters/SHELTER SD19.html.

HHS Receives Thundershirt Grant

Thanks to the Thundershirt Company, Heartland Humane Society of Yankton has received a grant of six Thundershirts, innovative jackets that use gentle pressure to calm pets and ease their anxiety. The company has partnered with the Petfinder.com Foundation to donate Thundershirts to adoption organizations across the country. All recipients are members of Petfinder.com, the largest online database of homeless pets.

The goal of the grant program is to reduce the stress and anxiety in shelter animals, in turn making them more adoptable and better able to find their forever homes. In 80 percent of dogs who wear Thundershirts, they relieve fear of thunder, separation and travel anxiety, hyperactivity, leash pulling and more.

"Since Thundershirt was founded in 2009, we've been committed to supporting animal shelters and rescue groups nationwide," said Phil Blizzard, founder of Thundershirt Company. "The Petfinder.com Foundation does incredible work and we are proud of this partnership as we continue our mission of bringing relief to the millions of pets affected by anxiety and fear issues."

The Petfinder.com Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity, helps homeless pets by saving lives through adoptions, helping shelters prepare for and recover from disaster and working to make sure animal welfare organizations across the country are more sustainable. Its mission is to ensure no adoptable pet is euthanized for lack of a home. Since 2003 the foundation has provided more than \$20 million in grants to animal welfare organizations and Petfinder.com member shelters and rescue groups.

2013 Governor's Ag Development Summit Set

PIERRE — Registrations are now being accepted for the Governor's Ag Development Summit on Wednesday, June 26, in Pierre. This year's theme is "Agriculture — A Call to Action."

South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) Secretary Lucas Lentsch invites you to participate in the fourth annual "Governor's Ag Development Summit" to be held at 8 a.m. CST at the Best Western Ramkota Inn. At the summit, the SDDA will update attendees on the progress of recent agricultural initiatives.

Since the SDDA has had such a great response to the Key Leaders' Roundtable in the past, this year, the roundtable is combined with the Governor's Ag Development Summit.

The keynote speaker will be former Congressman Charlie Stenholm, Senior Policy Advisor at Olsson, Frank, Weeda, Terman, Matz Law Firm in Washington, D.C.. In his 26 years as a U.S. House member, Stenholm served in the House Committee on Agriculture. He earned a reputation for building bipartisan alliances in diverse areas such as agriculture, resources conservation, food safety, Social Security, energy, health care and budgeting.

The Governor's Ag Development Summit is made possible by support from Avera Health, Sanford Health, Farm Credit Services of America, Dacotah Bank, First Dakota National Bank, CHS, Pioneer/Dupont, POET, Zoetis and Bayer CropScience.

To register, contact Nina Fromm with SDDA at 605.773.5436 or Nina.Fromm@state.sd.us. The Summit is open to anyone who is interested in the ways agriculture impacts South Dakota. There is no cost to attend.

Classroom Innovation, Tech. Grants Available

PIERRE — Details were recently released about a pair of new grant opportunities funded by the 2013 Legislature.

House Bill 1164 included a one-time appropriation of \$500,000 to provide classroom innovation grants to public school teachers, public school districts, and Education Service Agencies. The purpose of the grant is to provide funding for teachers to utilize technology in innovative ways, in order to enhance student learning. The maximum grant amount is \$25,000. Applications are being accepted until July 8.

A second grant is available to public school districts. Under House Bill 1185, a district may apply for a grant of up to \$20,000 to upgrade its technology infrastructure. The legislature provided \$500,000 for these grants. Applications are being accepted until June 15.

For more information, visit the South Dakota Department of Education's website at www.doe.sd.gov/. Look for the links under "Headlines."

Memorial Day Decorations To Be Removed

All Memorial Day grave decorations at the Sacred Heart Cemetery must be removed by the evening of Monday, June 10. This includes all wrought iron and any miscellaneous small items as they interfere with trimming and mowing.

All remaining items will be picked up Tuesday morning, June 11, by cemetery staff and discarded.



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OBITUARIES

Christy Hofer-Orth

This past Tuesday, an angel of the Lord received her wings. Christy Jo Hofer-Orth of Sioux Falls, a loving and devoted Christian, went to be with her savior after a long battle with leukemia.

Funeral Services will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 31, 2013 at Salem Reformed Church, Menno, with Rev. Michael Hecht officiating.

Visitations will be from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, May 30, 2013 at Salem Reformed Church, Menno with a 7 p.m. Prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to service at the church. There will be a private family burial of Christy's cremated remains.

Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel



Hofer-Orth

South Dakota, where she enjoyed home economics and sewing classes. After graduating from Lennox public school in 1979, she continued her education at Nettleton College for a degree in fashion merchandising. In 1981, Christy married Don Orth and moved to Menno, to help work on the family farm raising hogs and beef cattle. Christy and Don were blessed

Memorial Chapel, Menno is in care of the arrangements.

She was born to Gloria Hofer-Schneiderman on November 22, 1960, she attended country school in Lennox, South Dakota, where she enjoyed home economics and sewing classes. After graduating from Lennox public school in 1979, she continued her education at Nettleton College for a degree in fashion merchandising. In 1981, Christy married Don Orth and moved to Menno, to help work on the family farm raising hogs and beef cattle. Christy and Don were blessed

with two children, and Christy guided their growth by serving on the school board and teaching Sunday school at the Salem Reformed church, where she was a faithful and active member. Christy went on to continue her education, receiving a BA in Business Management from Mount Marty college, all while working as a Mental Health Aid at the Human Services center in Yankton, SD. Christy led an active and full life, enjoying such hobbies as sewing (including her daughter's wedding dress), riding her bike, baking, gardening, studying the Bible, and spending time with her family, whom she loved dearly.

Christy is survived by her parents, Merrill and Gloria Schneiderman; her children,

Robert Orth of Rapid City, and Amanda and Ben Digmann of Rochester, MN; and her siblings: Jeff Schneiderman of Lennox, Scott Schneiderman of Marshalltown, IA, Joel and Glenda Schneiderman of Lennox, Julie Olson of Rapid City, and Joy and Mark Hyronemus of Worthing.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the American Cancer Society, P. O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

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Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Eileen Holleman

VERMILION — Eileen Mary (Neuroth) Holleman passed away May 24, 2013 in Sanford Hospital, Vermillion SD.

Eileen was born May 1, 1916 in Emmitt township south of Beresford, SD to Benedict and Charlotte (Farley) Neuroth, the oldest of six children. She moved to Burke, SD with her family at age five where she attended country grade school and graduated from Burke High School. She helped raise her younger siblings after her mother died when Eileen was 21. Eileen received her RN diploma from St. Vincent School of Nursing, in Sioux City, IA in 1942.

Eileen married Aike T. Holleman February 3, 1943 in Waukegan, IL while Mr. Holleman was on 48 hour leave from Great Lakes Naval Base. Eileen worked as a nurse for The Boeing Co. in Seattle while her husband was at sea in the Pacific. After the war Eileen and Aike moved back to Burke and started their family; Charlotte (Harry, deceased) Georgerian of Alexandria, VA, Tim (Myrna) Holleman of Ham Lake, MN, Roberta (Dr. Roger) Sona of Libertyville, IL, and Loretta (Dr. Joe) LaMothe of Lake Forest, IL. The Hollemans moved to Vermillion, SD in 1957 where she became director of nursing at Dakota Nursing Home until retirement in 1981. Eileen and Aike spent many winters in Ft. Myers, FL before moving permanently back to Vermillion.

Survivors include her four children, eleven grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Frances Hudlicky of Seattle, and Katherine Hill of Phillip, SD.

Eileen was preceded in death by her husband Aike, parents Benedict and Charlotte Neuroth; two brothers, Wilfred Neuroth (killed in WW2) and Warren Neuroth, an infant brother Henry who died at birth, and a step-grandson, Richard Childress.

A funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. at St Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion with visitation one hour before the service.



Holleman

Burial will be in Bluff View Cemetery in Vermillion.

Condolences may be posted online to www.koberfuneralhome.com.

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Jeanette Culhane

MITCHELL — Jeanette Ann Culhane, 84, Mitchell, died October 31, 2012 at her home in Oro Valley, AZ under hospice care. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Saturday, June 1, 2013 at Holy Family Catholic Church. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday with a scripture service at 7:00 p.m. at the Bittner Funeral Chapel.

In Lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to be made to the Don and Jean Culhane Endowment in care of the Mitchell Foundation for Catholic Education, 1510 W. Elm, Mitchell, SD. She was born October 14, 1928 at Ethan, SD to Leo and Dorothy (Hohn) Coyne. She grew up at Ethan where she attended grade school and graduated from Notre Dame High School in Mitchell in 1946. She also attended St. Teresa College in Winona, MN. On September 2, 1948 she married Donald Culhane in Mitchell. She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, the 20th Century Club, Oscar Howe Museum Madrigal and Avera Queen of Peace Hospital Auxiliary.

She is survived by her husband, Donald, five sons: Terry (Sue), Omaha, NE; Kevin (Margi), Sioux Falls; Steven (Bonny), Mitchell; Mark (Michelle), Atherton, CA; Christopher (Camy), Rapid City; four daughters: Karen (Bob) Twitchell, Rockville, MD; Ann (Tom) Neale, Danville, CA; Donna (Wayne) Eberenz, Knoxville, TN; Constance (Bill) Kaminski, LaPorte, IN; 22 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, two sisters: Eileen (Claire) Tystad, Gering, NE; Carol (Roman) Pumper, Fort Meyers, FL; and one brother, Jim (Frances) Coyne, New York, NY.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Mary Tystad and husband Milo and two brothers, Pat and Mike Coyne.

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Marvin Merkel

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — Marvin H. Merkel, 75, Grand Junction, Co. died May 19, 2013, at his home.

Services will be at 11 a.m. June 7 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Patsy J.; three sons, James of Rangely, Co., Richard of Littleton, Co., and Matthew of Grand Junction, Co.; four brothers, Allan of Denver, Co., Charles of Omaha, Neb., Donovan of Castle Rock, Co., and Rick of Crofton, Neb.; one sister, Marlene Becker of Yankton, S.D.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents Emery and Lucy (Borgheinnck) Merkel.

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Janet Ekern

TITUSVILLE, Fla. — Janet Faye Ekern, 63 of Titusville, Florida died May 21, 2013 at Kendrick Hospital in Melbourne Florida.

Janet was born August 25, 1949 in Luray Virginia. The family moved to Orlando Florida when she was a small child. She graduated from Edgewater High School in 1967 and went to work in the private sector soon after. She married the love of her life James on September 18, 1968 and from this union two children were born, Jason and Jennifer.

She worked for the Orange County Utility billing Department starting in May 1971 to March 1998. She then moved to Panama City Florida and went to work for the Bay County until her retirement in 2001. She was a great wife, wonderful mother and grandmother who will be greatly missed.

Having cherished her life was her husband of 44 years James of Titusville, Fla., son Jason and wife Sarah of Clermont, Fla., daughter Jennifer Ocampo of Port St. John Fla., grandchildren Courtney and Connor, brothers Lynnwood Nichols and Allen Jobe.

At her request her cremated remains will be placed in the columbarium at the National Cemetery at Bushnell Fl. A memorial service will take place Thursday June 6, 2013 at the Union Park Christian Church at

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