

USD

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson To Deliver Keynote Address At Spring Commencement

VERMILLION, — Brendan Johnson, the chief federal law enforcement officer for the state of South Dakota, will deliver the keynote address as the University of South Dakota celebrates its 127th Spring Commencement at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 10.

Johnson, a 1998 USD graduate with a B.S. degree in history and political science, was nominated by President Barack Obama as the 40th United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota and was confirmed unanimously by the United



Johnson

States Senate on Oct. 15, 2009. As South Dakota's chief federal law enforcement officer, he supervises the prose-

cution of all federal crimes and the litigation of civil matters in which the United States government has an interest. Prior to being confirmed as U.S. Attorney for South Dakota, Johnson was a partner at Johnson, Heidepriem, Abdallah and Johnson, LLP; and a state prosecutor in the Minnehaha County State's Attorney Office. He graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2001. Johnson and his wife, Jana, are the parents of four children.

In addition to Johnson's keynote address, USD will

confer degrees to more than 1,200 candidates at the DakotaDome. The 127th Spring Commencement ceremony will also honor distinguished faculty from the 2013-14 academic year, including recipients of the Belbas-Larson Awards for Excellence in Teaching; the Richard and Sharon Cutler Awards in Liberal Arts; the John Wesley Jackson Memorial Award presented to the outstanding professor of law; and the College of Fine Arts Distinguished Professor Award.

Marsh

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bye to.

"It will be very sad for me," Abbott said, standing in the atrium of the Al Neuharth Media Center, "to walk through this building and not see Jack here."

Abbott recalls being approached by Neuharth, and being told, "We have some things that we want to do. We want to start some programs that make a difference. We want to talk about the First Amendment. We want to work on diversity."

Marsh, with Neuharth's blessing, spent the last 17 years ensuring those goals were addressed.

He oversaw development of the Al Neuharth Media Center at USD, Neuharth's alma mater, where Marsh was the founding director and eventually president. Later, Marsh was promoted to president and chief operating officer of the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute, Inc., and split his time between offices in Washington, Nashville and Vermillion.

Until he left that position last year, he was responsible for the Freedom Forum's efforts to diversify the nation's newsrooms. He helped promote fairness in the media and worked to advance journalism education.

"The last 17 years have really been a wonderful experience — not only because we got to work together, but also because we got to work with Al," Abbott said. "We got to work with the folks at the Freedom Forum. We got to work with people from all across the country who were involved in Jack's programs — I'll always think of them in that way — as Jack's programs. I know Al started them, but they were Jack's programs."

"We've had the privilege

at the South Dakota Newspaper Association and me personally to be involved with many projects with Jack. One thing I've learned from Jack is to dream big, think big and act in that matter," said David Bordeyck, executive director of the South Dakota Newspaper Association headquartered in Brookings. "My goodness, if you've been involved in planning an event or doing something with Jack, you think big and you do big."

"His passion and his commitment to the newspaper industry, to journalism, to the First Amendment, to a free and fair press is unparalleled," Bordeyck said. "I'm just privileged to call him a friend."

"We are so grateful for just being able to work with you, and grateful for everything we've learned from you,"

Michelle Van Maanen, chair of the Contemporary Media and Journalism Department at USD, told Marsh at his reception. "We are also grateful for the unconditional support you have given the department, and not only our student media, whether it be The Volante or the other student media operations, but also, most especially, to our students as individuals."

"You have been there for so many of them for so long, and I know you'll continue to be," she said.

Van Maanen announced that Marsh has established the Jack Marsh Student Media Scholarship Fund at the university.

"Already, so many people have been donating in your name," she said. "You have made such an impact on so many people across the region, and nationally, and that legacy is going to continue."

Marsh worked as a reporter, editor and publisher at six Gannett newspapers, including six years as executive editor of the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls. Marsh left Gannett in 1998 and joined the Freedom Forum, a non-partisan foundation

based at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Marsh became a close aide and confidante to Neuharth and was responsible for several Freedom Forum initiatives and programs that were priorities for Neuharth.

Marsh served as director of the Newseum's NewsCapade and accompanied Neuharth for two years as the exhibit visited all 50 states and Canada to promote a better understanding between the news media and the public. NewsCapade was then the largest self-contained mobile exhibit in the USA.

He is founder of the American Indian Journalism Institute and is among the original organizers of the Crazy Horse Journalism Workshop held 2000-2012 at Crazy Horse Memorial. Until recently, he was an adjunct professor of journalism at USD.

"Al Neuharth would always remind us that life is not a perfect season," Marsh said to well wishers March 24, "but I have to tell you that the last 16 years of my professional years have been pretty perfect."

"Sometimes, in life, the stars align perfectly," he said, his voice breaking with emotion, "and for me and my family, the stars aligned over South Dakota when we were transferred here."

Marsh, who was born and raised in New York, had only been to South Dakota once, when he was a child.

Through his work at the Argus Leader, and later with Al Neuharth, the Freedom Forum, and other associated organizations, he said he had the opportunity to get to know South Dakota's top journalists and leaders.

Marsh noted that much of his efforts, as he has gone to work each day for the past 16 years, have been to represent Neuharth.

"Think about all of the opportunities that he has provided for the people here, then multiply it by a hundred or a thousand ... it's all in-

spired by his demand for excellence, and his willingness to reconnect with his home state," Marsh said. "What a privilege it is for all of us to work in his honor."

He also praised Charles Overby, chairman and CEO of the Freedom Forum for most of the time that Marsh was associated with the organization.

"Al had the vision. Charles was responsible for the execution, and what a privilege it was to work for and with Charles Overby," he said, "and for the two of us to try to figure out how to accomplish Al's goals."

Marsh said he feels fortunate to have arrived at USD shortly after Abbott was named its president.

"Jim Abbott, along with many, many others, has led a transformation that is breathtaking at this university," he said. "We are now a Division I institution, and that means we are D-I not just in athletics. That D-I standard is now achieved at this university across the board."

"It all starts at the top, and Jim Abbott is the person who provides that leadership. What a privilege it has been for me and for Betty to become friends with the Abbotts, to become a colleague, and for us, in many ways, to become pundits," Marsh said.

Marsh said he, his wife and his two grown daughters are now full-fledged South Dakotans. He will continue to serve on the boards of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation, the national organization Face It TOGETHER and the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

"It has been an incredible honor and privilege for me to do this important work," he said.

School Calendar To Be Discussed

The Yankton School Board will discuss amending the 2013-14 school calendar at a special meeting at noon Monday. The board will also go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations.

The meeting will be held at the administration building at 2410 West City Limits Road.

To view Monday's agenda, visit www.yisd.k12.sd.us/schoolboardagenda.

JRWDD Meeting Slated For May 8

HURON — The James River Water Development District Board of Directors will be having a discussion on a long-range plan for the District on Thursday, May 8, at City Hall in Mitchell at 8:30 a.m.

Also, the James River Water Development District Board of Directors will be holding their regular meeting on Thursday, May 8, at City Hall in Mitchell at 10 a.m.

Items on the agenda are:

- Funding request from City of Hitchcock to construct and install an RTU in the City's water control system;
- Funding request from USGS for an assessment of climatic effects on streamflow characteristics in Eastern South Dakota;
- Update on TMDL activities on the James River;
- Any other business that may come before the board.

Alzheimer's Education Event Slated

The Alzheimer's Association South Dakota Chapter invites Yankton area residents to attend an Evening of Education and Inspiration on Thursday, May 8, at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Pavilion, 501 Summit Street, in Yankton at 7 p.m.

Alzheimer's Association 2013 National Early-Stage Advisory Group member Ellen McVay, along with her husband, Dr. Michael McVay, will discuss "Our Journey Through Alzheimer's," which details the couple's experience living with Alzheimer's disease.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, including an estimated 16,000 South Dakota residents. The Alzheimer's Association Evening of Education and Inspiration will help promote awareness about this devastating disease and ways people can find support when facing Alzheimer's.

Since her Alzheimer's diagnosis in 2010 at the age of 61, Ellen has taken advantage of the available resources from the Alzheimer's Association and joined ALZConnected®, a social networking community designed for people living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. As a member of the Alzheimer's Association 2013 National Early-Stage Advisory Group, Ellen is interested in spreading Alzheimer's awareness and helping to educate physicians about supporting patients from diagnosis and beyond. Ellen has made the decision "to be happy" and aims to connect with others who are living with Alzheimer's and encourage them to, "take one day at a time." "It's important for South Dakotans living with Alzheimer's and their families to know they are not alone. There are people who understand what they are going through, and help is available. There is much they can do to cope with the changes ahead," says Leslie Morrow, state executive director.

The Alzheimer's Association South Dakota Chapter helps provide care and support services to South Dakota residents, fund Alzheimer's research and advocate for Alzheimer's-related legislative issues.

For more information about the Evening of Education and Inspiration, contact Leslie Morrow at 605.339.4543 or lmorrow@alz.org.

The following day, May 9, a golf tournament to benefit the Alzheimer's Association South Dakota Chapter will start at noon at the Hillcrest Golf & Country Club, 2206 Mulberry Street, in Yankton. For more information about the golf tournament, contact Craig Ellerbroek at 605-376-0554.

YHS 1974 Class Members Sought

Attention class members, parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends of Yankton High School's Class of 1974: All members of the class are being sought for a 40th class reunion. If you have any information on classmates, contact Dennis Brunick at 3305 E. Brewster St. Sioux Falls, SD 57108; or e-mail: d_brunick@hotmail.com/.

SPORTSMAN'S & DEVELOPER'S PARADISE

320 ACRES OF YANKTON COUNTY, LEWIS & CLARK LAKE LAND

LAND AUCTION

Friday May 9th • 1:00 PM

AUCTION SITE: Jo Dean's Restaurant, Yankton, SD

Land Location: From Wal-Mart, 10 miles West on SD Highway 50 to 430th Ave (Boy Scout Camp - Lesterville Road) then 2 miles South.

PARCEL I: The N1/2 of NW1/4 of Sec 16-93-57, Yankton County, South Dakota, .80 +/- acres. Taxes are approximately \$791. This tract has a large area of grass hay with the balance into trees and pasture.

PARCEL II: The S1/2 of NW1/4 and N1/2 of SW1/4 of Sec 16-93-57. 160 +/- acres. Taxes are approximately \$1,219. This tract has an outstanding view overlooking Lewis & Clark Lake and is mostly trees and pasture.

PARCEL III: The S1/2 SE1/4 of Sec 16-93-57. 81 +/- acres. Taxes are \$425.54. This parcel is within feet of the Lewis & Clark Lake shoreline and has tremendous potential for development and hunting. Unbelievable overlook of L&C Lake!

NOTE: If you are an outdoorsman, this property holds some of the best deer and turkey hunting along with fishing in Southeastern South Dakota. Several 190+ Class Whitetail bucks have been taken on this property! Great development potential on all parcels! Whether you are looking to build a quite little get-away or an executive estate, this is the property of your dreams! Each parcel will be sold one by one and not offered as an entire tract and will sell from South to North.

TERMS: 10% nonrefundable earnest money deposit the day of auction, with balance due on closing day of June 9, 2014. Title insurance and closing costs will be split 50/50 between the buyer and seller. Taxes will be prorated to the day of closing. Possession on closing. Yankton Title Co will be the closing agent. Live internet bidding provided by GirardBid.com—call for details. Auctioneers are acting as agents for the seller.

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