

MMC to Hold Spring Commencement

Mount Marty College will host spring 2015 commencement exercises at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena, 1105 W. 8th St., Yankton. Baccalaureate will be held prior to commencement at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 9, in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel.

Current South Dakota State Senator and MMC graduate, Bernie Hunhoff, will deliver the commencement address. Hunhoff is the state senator for District 18 in South Dakota. He has led a life of public service, first from 1992-1998 as a State Senator and then again as a state representative where he served as the House Minority Leader from 2009 to 2014. In 2014 he was elected to the State Senate to represent District 18.

Hunhoff is a graduate of Yankton High School and earned his BA from Mount Marty College in 1974. He began his career writing for the Madison Daily Leader and the Watertown Public Opinion before starting his own weekly paper, the Missouri Valley Observer, in 1978. Then in 1985, Hunhoff founded South Dakota Magazine, a bi-monthly journal that explores the history, culture and geography of South Dakota. He has found time to author and co-author several books, including "Uniquely South Dakota, South Dakota Curiosities" and "South Dakota's Best Stories."

Hunhoff is celebrating 40 years of marriage to his wife Myrna. They have two children, Katie and Christian, and four grandchildren and are proud to call Yankton home.

Czech Days Costume Sale Set

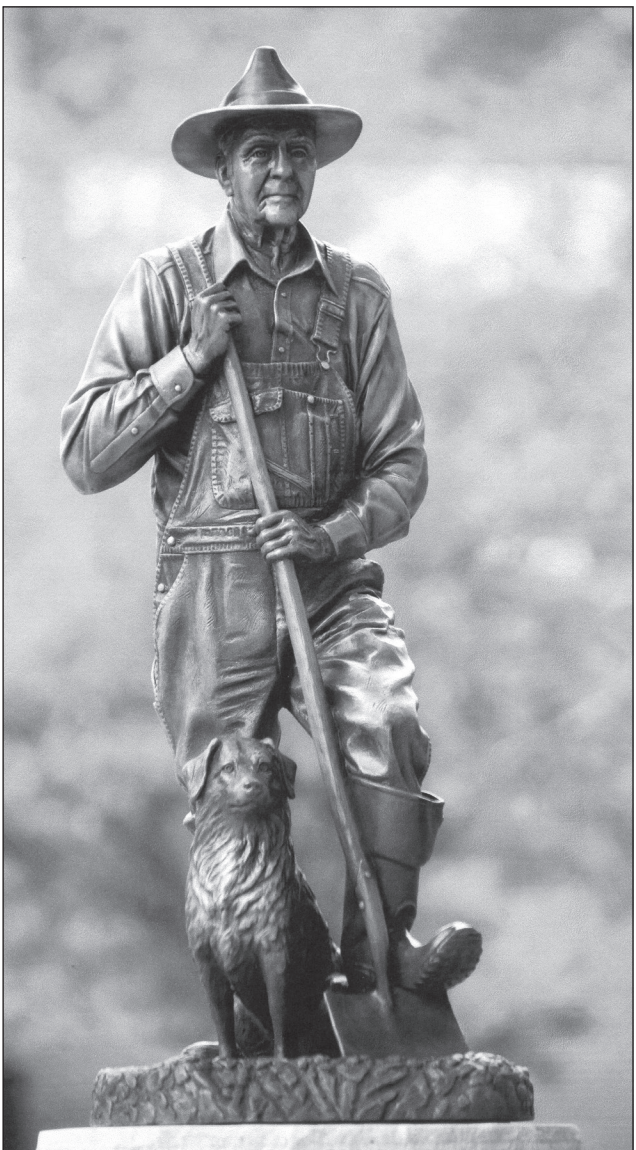
TABOR — The Tabor Chamber has set Saturday, May 9, for the Czech Day costume exchange/sale. The event will be held from 9-11 a.m. at the Tabor Community Center. Bring items you wish to sell to the Center by 9 a.m. Contact Kathy Kortan at a463-2482 with any questions.

Retired School Personnel To Meet

The next Yankton Area Retired Teachers Association meeting is set for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 7, at Jo Deans Restaurant.

Following lunch, our program will be a musical program performed by several students of choral teacher Angela Larson of Yankton High School.

A brief business meeting will follow the program. President Joyce Maggied and association members will update members on the yearly convention held recently in Fort Pierre.



COURTESY PHOTO

RiverWalk Celebrates Five Years With Event

Preview Of 2015 Sculptures Set For May 8 At Old Mill

Yankton RiverWalk will kick off its fifth year with the installation of 15 new sculptures on Friday, May 8, followed by an artist celebration at the Old Mill (106 Capitol Street). The Italian themed evening will feature a Mediterranean appetizer spread and the social begins at 5:30 p.m., and music by Evan Jones will start at 6 p.m. The annual gala is a thank you to all the artists who have shared their artistic talents with the Yankton community over the last year. Yankton's current street sculptures will be brought into the Old Mill for the celebration. Created by top artists throughout the Midwest, the sculptures

will be available for viewing and for purchase. Many of the artists will be present to discuss their work, and several will have smaller works of art for sale as well.

Tickets may be purchased from *South Dakota Magazine* or the HyVee customer service desk. Proceeds go to the RiverWalk project, a 501(c)3 organization. Call 660-5989 with questions or to purchase tickets.

The RiverWalk Committee says the artist celebration and other fundraisers, along with support from the city and business sponsorships, have made the street sculpture project a success.

Seal

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that represents Yankton County government as a whole. That's the goal."

The committee tasked with designing and implementing a seal are Brian Hunhoff, Commissioner Bodenstedt, Planning & Zoning director Patrick Garrity, Veterans Service Officer Mike McDonald, District 18 Sen. Bernie Hunhoff, Yankton Area Arts Association executive director Julie Amsberry and Yankton Area Arts Asso-

ciation board president Lori Rothenberger.

Hunhoff said the committee has discussed a number of elements they'd like to incorporate into the design.

"We have discussed a wide variety of elements that could represent Yankton County, including an eagle, agriculture, manufacturing, Native American imagery, Missouri River, James River, cottonwood trees, Meridian Bridge, the railroad, the Mead Building, the Territorial Capitol building, and Yankton's skyline featuring the Bishop Marty Chapel steeple," he said. "I actually rough sketched a seal that

tried to include pretty much all of those things, but some of the committee members suggested my picture might be a little busy."

He added that the committee has been looking at what other counties and cities do, but they are making it a point not to copy other designs, offering the example of the City of Yankton's seal.

"Many other counties throughout the country do have seals and we have reviewed several of those," he said. "The City of Yankton uses a riverboat, so we agreed to stay away from that particular image."

Hunhoff said the County

Commission is going to have the ultimate say on design approval — if it chooses to approve one at all.

"They may like what we come up with, or they may say go back to the drawing board," he said.

Hunhoff said the goal is to get a design finalized and approved within the next few months.

"Since our last meeting, we've had a local graphic artist generate some different seal designs based on the various images and ideas we discussed," he said. "We will meet again May 20 to review those designs and determine which ones the

committee is leaning toward. We would like to give our recommendations to the County Commission early this summer."

He added his group already has a number of ideas for how the seal might be used.

"Our goal is to create a crisp, clean image that is appealing to the eye and a good representation of Yankton County," he said. "If we are successful, it will eventually be featured as part of the décor in the County Commission chambers. It will also be used on our website and our stationery. I don't anticipate that we

would use it on our county vehicles, but it's possible it could be developed as a patch for county employees who wear uniforms. It would also be nice to see it used in some way on each of our six county buildings, even if it's just a decal on the front door."

The public is also invited to give feedback on potential designs during the committee's next meeting, set for May 20 at 3 p.m. in the commission chambers at the Yankton County Government Center.

Follow @RobNielsen-PandD on Twitter.

Run

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point where they are physically and emotionally ready to complete the 5K run."

Twice a week, 15 girls from Lincoln Elementary School and 16 girls from Beadle School, ranging from grades 3-5, meet for the program, which involves transformational activities for positive youth development.

"Every day, we have a lesson, and each lesson goes through a different topic," Reyes said. "These topics include healthy lifestyles, self respect, positive relationships, teamwork and community involvement."

According to Reyes, the girls play games that not only involve physical activity, they also embody the lessons taught in the program.

But these young girls aren't the only people learning from the program.

"The girls are teaching

me a lot, too," Reyes said. "Watching them being able to grow in confidence and grow in their self-development has been great for me. It teaches me that I am capable of doing a lot more, too. I'm growing right along with them."

Perhaps one of Reyes' biggest teachers is her daughter.

"She is in third grade and in the program at Lincoln Elementary," she said. "It's been great for me to have her there. She will talk to me

about lessons that she now uses all the time. It's cool to see her grow through the program as well."

Reyes said she likes to think of the 5K run as the big finale.

"It shows the girls that they can achieve their goals," she said. "They learned that there is a lot more than just physically to get ready for something like this. Now we can say, 'You did something that you didn't think you could do at the beginning of the season.

So, let's not quit there. Let's think of other areas in life where you didn't think you could do something and do it."

The 5K run is open to the public. Registration ends today (Friday) at 5 p.m.

Those interested in signing up or learning about the 5K can do so by going to www.yanktonunitedway.org and clicking on the "Girls On The Run 5K" link.

"I am very thankful for the opportunity of being involved in this program,"

Reyes said. "It wouldn't have been possible without United Way. United Way had a huge part in this and really got this up and going. I'm just really thankful that they brought this to Yankton and the girls were able to take the opportunity to participate in this program."

For more information on the Girls On The Run program, go to www.girlsontherun.org.

Follow @Jordynne Hart on Twitter.

Tourism

From Page 1A

Tourism and other sources.

- Thanks to visitors, each South Dakota household will pay \$880 less in taxes.
- In 2014, visitation grew by 1 percent in South Dakota and visitor spending increased 3.1 percent.
- 1 out of 11 South Dakotans owes his/her job to tourism. In Yankton County, that's 886 jobs.
- 82 percent of visitor spending is on shopping, food and lodging.
- In 2014, Yankton saw a 4.1 percent increase in lodging and 6.6 percent increase in food. Overall spending was up 3 percent.
- 1.2 million people camped at Lewis & Clark Lake, Springfield, Chief White Crane or Pierson Ranch. That's a 2 percent increase from 2013.
- 43,084 people visited the NFAA Easton Archery Complex in 2014 for tournaments, archery related programs and other community programs.
- The Missouri National Recreational River receives an annual visitation of 134,760 from partner sites, programming and special events.
- The Mobile Ranger Station was at 35 events in 2014 and saw 5,016 visitors.
- Tourism in Yankton is the #4 industry.

ARRIVING EARLIER

Those visitors have already arrived much earlier in 2015 than previous years, said Jacquie Fuks, executive director of the Yankton-based Southeast South Dakota Tourism organization.

"Lewis and Clark (recreation area) had camp sites open since February because the weather was so nice," she said.

The early season has become evident by the surge in traffic, particularly on weekends, Fuks said.

"If you're on (U.S.) Highway 81, you'll see people with a whole lot of boats heading into town, especially on Fridays," she said. "Many of these are people from Minnesota and Iowa because their season isn't open, and they can zip over here (to South Dakota) where it's warm and the fishing is good, and they can spend the weekend."

Even retired individuals who head for warmer climates during the winter — popularly nicknamed "snowbirds" — came back early to take advantage of the mild weather, Fuks said.

"It looks like a lot of the campers this year are the snowbirds already back from the south rather than first passing through on their way home," she said. "Some of the snowbirds came home at the end of January."

The trend isn't limited to the southeast region of South Dakota, Fuks said. "I just came from Water-

town from the governor's tourism advisory board meeting," she said. "Across the state, people (with tourist attractions) are saying they opened early because of the nice weather. Some regional attractions opened up to eight weeks early because of the good weather. That means more income and getting travelers out and moving much earlier."

Fuks has seen other strong barometers of tourist interest in the southeast region.

"Our requests for information packets are up 354 percent over the first quarter of last year. Website sessions are up more than double from this same time last year," she said.

"For National Tourism Week, we're doing the 16th annual East River Literature Swap at the Corn Palace in Mitchell on May 5. We'll compile local businesses brochures and load 10 pallets onto a semi trailer for the interstate (highway) information centers' opening day."

REDEFINING TOURISM

Moser has also seen Yankton undergo a redefinition of "tourism" beyond the river and lake.

She pointed to the international exposure that Yankton is receiving as host of the World Archery Youth Championships from June 6-14.

"We are now seen as part of the world market, and I

think you will only continue to see it grow," she said. "We'll be able to bring in other types of national and international markets."

Tourism also comes in the form of major festivals, such as Rockin' Ribfest and Riverboat Days, which bring thousands of visitors to Yankton for a day or a weekend, she said.

This weekend's Missouri River events also showcase the community and region, Moser said. The Missouri River Watershed Education Festival is held today (Friday), while the River Clean-Up, River Rendezvous and Dam 'N Back kayaking trek are held Saturday. The Clean Boat Event starts its week-long educational outreach Saturday.

Yankton has also worked with neighboring communities in promoting tourism, Moser said. She pointed to conversations with Nate Welch, executive director of the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (VDCD), about ways to promote Yankton-Vermillion weekend packages for visitors.

In addition, the Yankton CVB worked with Tabor officials in helping meet their needs when hosting the State "B" Legion baseball tournament, she said.

As part of its outreach, Southeast South Dakota Tourism is providing grants for the second year to assist

local projects with new marketing, Fuks said.

"We've provided a total of \$25,000 each year, and we've given out money to 17 different projects. Czech Days (in Tabor) got one of the grants," she said. "History still remains No. 1 in our region. People come for the fishing and camping, but they also come because they like our history."

Area tourism officials are also focusing on another group of visitors — motorcycle riders headed to the annual Sturgis Bike Rally in August.

"We're looking at making the 75th anniversary of the Sturgis bike rally part of the local scene. (Tourism officials) ve increased their estimates to upwards of 1.3 million people expected for this year's rally," Moser said. "We have Yankton listed as a biker-friendly community in partnership with Buffalo Chip (campground near Sturgis)."

Yankton is planning an official welcome, Moser said. "We'll have our first annual event Aug. 1 where we're saying that we have 'East River Sturgis' here in Yankton," she said.

Fuks noted the 75th anniversary of the Sturgis bike rally will be "huge."

"A lot of the bikers are coming up the interstate (highway) from Kansas or Nebraska. They want to cut across Highway 50, come

through Yankton and take the Oyate Trail or some other alternative where there isn't so much traffic and it's scenic," she said.

"The bikers already come through the area. We need to make it welcoming for them so they slow down on their way out to Sturgis or on their way back, or even both directions."

It all promises to be a banner year for tourism throughout the region, Fuks said.

"Spring tourism is in full bloom, and we're anticipating a fantastic season," she said.

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OBITUARIES

DuWayne Obr

DuWayne B. Obr, 84, of Yankton passed away Thursday, April 30, 2015 at Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 5, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Dave

Wildermuth officiating. Burial will be in the Tyndall Presbyterian Cemetery, Tyndall, SD at approximately 1:15 p.m. with Military Graveside Rites by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post #791 Honor Guard and the SDARNG Honor Guard Tuesday afternoon. Visitations will begin at 5

p.m. Monday, May 4, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Online condolences may be sent at www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com.

Send an on-line sympathy card at
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