

Meridian Bridge Opens Today

Pedestrian Use To Start At 3 p.m.

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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After being closed down in October 2008, the Meridian Bridge will once again be open for public use today (Wednesday).

"The contractor will be working until about 2 p.m. (Wednesday) to finish all the work that needs to be done — attaching the wire mesh on the structure's railing and other items," said Kevin Heiman of the South Dakota Department of Transportation. "The work that they will have to come back to do next week would probably not interfere with the opening of the structure."

The bridge, which was built in 1924, was cordoned off when the Discovery Bridge to the west opened to traffic three years ago. The plan was to convert the historic double-decker bridge into a recreational trail.

After funding issues at times appeared to threaten those plans, a \$4.8 million contract was eventually awarded to PCI Roads.

Work began in the spring of 2010 and was to be complete by November of last year. However, unforeseen deterioration to the bridge necessitated more repairs than originally planned and work continued until now.

Heiman said the public should be able to utilize the structure by 3 p.m. today.

"We'd like to thank everybody for being patient during this long project, and we really hope they enjoy the benefits of the work that has been done," he said. "With the forecast for Thanksgiving, it will be a great day to walk across the bridge."

City Manager Doug Russell said he will likely be one of the people crossing the bridge Thursday. The city, which will have ownership of the bridge upon completion, has already placed barriers around the structure to prevent any motorized vehicles from accessing it.

"It's good to see the bridge open and ready for use," he said.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The newly-installed lights at the renovated Meridian Bridge were tested Tuesday afternoon as workers prepared to wrap up the project. The lighting was also tested Tuesday night. The 87-year-old historic bridge is being converted to a pedestrian bridge. It is expected to open to the public at 3 p.m. today (Wednesday).



COURTESY PHOTO

The Yankton Police Department released this surveillance camera photo Tuesday of the suspect who robbed Paul's Kwik Stop Sunday. No arrests have been made in connection with the case.

Photo From Burglary Released

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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The Yankton Police Department released an image Tuesday afternoon from the weekend robbery at a local convenience store.

The surveillance camera photo shows the black-clad suspect who entered Paul's Kwik Stop Sunday evening. The incident in the 800 block of Summit Street was reported at 6:35 p.m.

The robber never displayed a weapon but got behind the counter and took an undisclosed amount of cash.

"There was a struggle between the male clerk and the offender," Police Chief Brian Paulsen said. "The clerk received a scrape, nothing major. It probably shook him up more than anything."

The suspect is believed to be a white male wearing dark-colored clothing and white shoes. The individual's face was covered.

At 1:56 a.m. Sunday morning, police responded to a burglary at Tobacco Road, located at 901 Broadway. It was determined that a suspect broke an entry door window, entered the facility, smashed into a display case and took some incense.

Police were on the scene less than a minute from when the alarm went off at the business but did not see anyone. Some of the stolen items were recovered on the ground near the scene.

Surveillance footage was also recorded of the suspect involved in the burglary.

PHOTO | PAGE 18A

OBITUARIES

Richard Gilson

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — Richard "Dick" Gilson was entered into eternal rest on November 19, 2011 in Muskogee, OK. Dick was born in Crofton, NE on June 24, 1929 to Charles Henry and Ruth Knapp Gilson. He grew up in Crofton and Omaha, NE. He left the area after joining the Navy at the end of WWII. He served in the Korean and Vietnam Nam Wars, the "Bay of Pigs" and retired with the rank of Senior Chief.

In 1950, while serving in Long Beach, Ca., he met Gloria Mae Reeves from Altamont, Ks. they were married December 27th 1951 in Fort Smith, Ak. shortly after their marriage he left the Navy and returned to Crofton, Ne. And worked in construction where he assisted in the construction of both the Ft. Randall and Gavin's Point Dams.

In 1953 he rejoined the Navy, raised four children and retired in 1969 and returned to Crofton, Ne to open his heating/air conditioning company. In 1970 he was recruited to start the 1880 Train in Hill City, SD which he did for a couple of years until the call of the seas once again called him. He then joined the Military Sealift Command, traveling the world for another 11 years.

After his second retirement he continued his nomadic lifestyle by extensively traveling the USA with Gloria in a travel trailer until health issues required a more stable living arrangement. At this time they returned to Yankton SD for a few years until they moved to Muskogee, OK for warmer weather in 2010.

He was a member of numerous Masonic and Military organizations and he will be remembered for his great sense of humor, practical jokes and generous heart.

He is preceded in death by his parents, 2 sisters, Eileen Gilson Davidson, Francis Gilson Burkett and a grandson, Charles Henry Gilson III.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, children Charles H. Gilson, wife Charlii, Yankton, SD; Junior M. and wife Sandy of Bethesda, MD, GLoria 'Diana' Gilson Deibert and husband James of Charleston, SC and Sherwin D "Peewee" Gilson and wife Trudi of Yankton, SD; six grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, five step great grandchildren, a sister Mary Jane Busceman formerly of Fordyce, Ne and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be private at a later time. Family requests that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to your favorite charity.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
November 23, 2011

Carolyn Hunter

Carolyn Jane Hunter, 80, of Yankton died Monday, Nov. 21, 2011, at Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton.

Memorial services are at 2 p.m. Saturday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Mary Lou List

Mary Lou List, 67, of Yankton died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10 a.m. Monday at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. David Gunderson officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery, Yankton.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Sunday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Bernard Hasek

TYNDALL — Funeral arrangements for Bernard "Bernie" Hasek, 80, of Tyndall are pending with Goglin Funeral Home of Tyndall.

Bernie passed away on Monday, November 21, 2011 at his residence in Tyndall.

Online condolences may be sent and service information may be viewed at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin
Funeral Home

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

Dennis Ireland

SOLDOTNA, Alaska — Funeral arrangements for Dennis Ireland, 60, of Soldotna, Alaska and formerly of Scotland are pending with Goglin Funeral Home of Scotland.

Dennis passed away on Sunday, November 20, 2011 at his residence in Soldotna.

Online condolences may be sent and service information may be viewed at www.goglinfh.com.

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www.goglinfh.com

Marlene Kalin

COLERIDGE, Neb. — Marlene J. Kalin, 75, of Coleridge, Neb., died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, at the Providence Medical Center, Wayne, Neb.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Coleridge, with the Rev. Jeffery Loseke officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery, Coleridge.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Friday, with a Vigil Service at 7 p.m., at the church. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church.

Wintz Funeral Home, Coleridge, is in charge of arrangements. To send online condolences, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Allen Beloskur

Allen Beloskur, 57, of Yankton died Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Graveside services are at 11:30 a.m. today (Wednesday) at Pine Lawn Cemetery, Rapid City, with the Revs. Phyllis Williams and Katie Roseen officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

To send an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com or find us on Facebook to leave a comment.

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Model Railroad Open House Set For Nov. 25-26

"I'll be Home for Christmas" is the theme of this year's Missouri Valley Mopdel Railroad Club open house, set for Nov. 25-26 in Yankton.

Reviving memories of train travel at Christmastime is the theme for this year's open house, th be held at the lower level of the old J. C. Penny's Building (221 West Third Street). From before the 1940s up to today in 2011 model trains will be displayed.

For the theme, club members remember these words from the song written in 1943 and made famous by Bing Crosby, "I'll be home for Christmas, you can count on me — please have snow and mistletoe and presents under the tree."

The railroads offered dependable transportation over the years and still do today when highways and airports are closed by bad weather. In the spirit of the lyrics of the song scenes on this HO gauge layout will remind visitors of railroad operation from the past up to the present. This will include trains from Railroads serving Yankton such as The Milwaukee Road, Great Northern and Chicago and North Western from the past and BNSF today. From the 1940s, there will be trains of the Union Pacific, Burlington and Rock Island Railroads as well as the New York Central and other railroads around North America. There will also be models of trains operated by Amtrak as well as tourist trains in the mountains.

Scenes on the layout will include fire stations, illuminated buildings and a lighthouse. Beside the buildings there are street lights, and operating traffic signals. Scenery includes mountains, rivers, rail yards, bridges, a military installation, and operating turntables. There will be an N gauge layout on display in addition to the HO gauge layouts.

Open house hours will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. For more information contact Francis Serr at 605-660-4237, Don Hopf at 605-661-4123 or Bob Mason at 605-760-0810.

James Added To MMC Activities On Nov. 27

Bishop Marty Chapel will host a flood of activity this Sunday, Nov. 27.

Aaron James, international baritone, was a cantor for many years at the church of St. Thomas More, where Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was just one of the church's notable members. James has made an international name for himself not only as an opera soloist but also as an expert in chant. He will be serving as the cantor for the 10 a.m. mass at Bishop Marty Chapel this Sunday.

Dr. Sean Vogt, the director of Choral Activities at Mount Marty College, said, "This is a wonderful opportunity for people to hear one of the best baritones in the country and also someone who just happens to be an expert in chant. I remember Aaron telling me he was asked what gig he had this weekend and without missing a beat said, 'Oh, I'm going to Yankton, South Dakota. It's where all the best singers are going this weekend.'"

Although the person was surprised, Aaron is quite right about that. Twelve of the country's best singers from New York City, Boston, and many other places are participating in this year's Vespers services. The news has spread and MMC has a waiting list for Vespers tickets.

The college has a number of "soft reserves" that are held for varying constituencies of the college, according to Vogt. Some of those people won't be able to come for whatever reason. The college also knows that emergencies come up and current ticket holders may not be able to come. Therefore, there will be a line for people who wish to wait for open seats beginning one hour before each service. At 3:45 (for the 4 p.m. performance) and 6:45 (for the 7 p.m. performance), officials will fill in any open seats regardless of if someone is a ticket holder.

If ticket holders are not in their seats 15 minutes before the start of the service, the college will assume they are not coming and give those seats to those waiting for open seats.

"Although he already knows, I wish to express my thanks to my friend Aaron James and all of the professionals who are working hard to make this a rewarding experience for my students," Vogt said. "These are not just the best singers in the country, they are the nicest, too. If you want to fully absorb this experience, you should be at mass this Sunday at 10 a.m. to hear beautifully sung chant led by someone who is not only one of the best at it but also believes in it."

Truck Drivers Appreciation Day Event Is Nov. 29

JEFFERSON — A Truck Drivers Appreciation Day event will be held at the Jefferson Port of Entry located on Interstate 29 between Jefferson and Elk Point on Tuesday, Nov. 29, running from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

All drivers entering the port are invited to stop and enjoy a free meal and refreshments, and also walk away with a door prize.

This event is sponsored by the South Dakota Motor Carrier Services.

GOT NEWS?

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Herman Schwarz

10:30 AM, Wednesday
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 Yankton

Allen Beloskur

11:30 AM, Wednesday
 Pine Lawn Cemetery
 Rapid City

Marlene J. Kalin

10:00 AM, Saturday
 St. Michael's Catholic Church
 Coleridge

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