

Dakota

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year, the more industry partnerships we can work together to gain, the more students can be helped and the amount of students going into the workforce will increase drastically,” Amundson said.

In return for the financial assistance, students receiving these scholarships are required to work in South Dakota for a minimum for three years after graduation. These industries are essentially providing training for tech students and insuring skilled workers enter the industries of South Dakota.

The students who are accepted are based on a list of highly needed fields in the industries determined by the Build Dakota Scholarship board. The three areas with the highest need are: agriculture — large animal, automotive/diesel and building trades/construction.

In this first year of scholarships being awarded, the board gave out 294 awards, 259 of those being in state students. The fields of study that received the most awards were: licensed practical nursing, building trades/construction and engineering technician.

“It is exciting to see these people getting these scholarships because, for those of us that have had to pay back student loans, we know how life-changing that is to start your life without student loans,” Amundson said. “It is also bringing new attention to the high-quality education offered at these technical institutes.”

The scholarship’s first application cycle began Oct. 1 and ends Dec. 31. If there are still funds available, Amundson said the board will decide to run another application cycle beginning Jan. 1 until March 31.

As the first Build Dakota

students are approaching graduation next May, they will have six months to secure employment in their field. But Amundson doesn’t think placement will be a problem for them.

“If we are already establishing those relationships, we can hopefully sustain this program much longer,” Amundson said. “The technical institutes have wonderful placement programs — most of them (students) are placed before they ever graduate.”

The board is currently discussing opportunities for employers to attend career fairs for students to consider a particular company for employment within South Dakota.

At Thursday’s workshop, representatives from three of the four technical institutes (Mitchell Technical Institute, Southeast Technical Institute and Lake Area Technical Institute) presented their scholarship programs associated with Build Dakota and how each institute can maximize the money awarded.

Each institute has their own program in addition to the Build Dakota Scholarships program where industries can sponsor half of the student’s education expenses in exchange for work after graduation, a part time job while in school or just for the student to stay in state.

These schools will continue gaining partnerships to help extend the life of Build Dakota. Institute representatives are grateful for the donation of Build Dakota but they also know that in order for the money to last longer, they have to work at it.

“It’s been an amazing first year,” said Julie Stevenson, Director of Lake Area Tech Foundation. “What an incredible gift we were all given with this Build Dakota opportunity but, right away, we are all doing the numbers in our head saying ‘what could we do to make it have a bigger impact?’”

Follow @alwooc01 on Twitter.

Economic Outlook Seminar Set For Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS — David Owen, President of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry, announces the annual “South Dakota Economic Outlook Seminar” date has been set for Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center, 1101 N. West Avenue. The event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The agenda features:

- Mike Allgrunn, Professor of Economics at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion offering a review of South Dakota and regional economic projections.
- Trail King Industries CEO Bruce Yakley and area industry leaders will discuss the challenges and successes of hiring and maintaining an adequate workforce.
- Build Dakota Build Chairman Dana Dkyhouse, CEO of First PREMIER Bank, will give an update on the Build Dakota Scholarship Program.

- The keynote luncheon presenter is J.D. Foster, Deputy Chief Economist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

Fred Slunecka, chief operating officer, Avera Health and Founding Chairman of the Economic Outlook Seminar program, stated “Providing quality speakers on important topics fits the South Dakota Chamber’s mission to serve its members, as well as the statewide business community.”

Slunecka is also a past chair of the South Dakota Chamber Board of Directors.

The Economic Outlook Seminar is sponsored by Avera Health/Avera McKennan Hospital, Sanford Health, First Premier Bank, Forward Sioux Falls and USBank – all of Sioux Falls.

To register call the South Dakota Chamber at 1-800-742-8112 or register online at www.sdchamber.biz.

Archery

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and they’re here for three-day weekends, so they’re here for quite a while enjoying Yankton and spending a lot of money. They’re really big events for the community.”

Cull said they’re also gearing up to start looking at more global events as well.

“We’re putting together a package right now to submit some bids to World Archery for the potential of a world indoor, world 3-D and a world outdoor tournament,” he said. “Those would all be in 2018, 2019 and 2020. They’re things we’re looking at and considering right now, and hopefully, we’re going to be able to pursue those a little more thoroughly.”

He added they’ll know more about whether the bids, which are due within the next six weeks or so, are successful around the New Year.

Cull said showing the support that’s been given to archery in Yankton will be key for successful bids.

“The ability to show the community support that we’ve had (from) the city, the county and the state getting behind the tournaments (is important),” he said. “I think it’s interesting because, a few years back, ‘sports tourism’ was terminology that not that many people even knew. It’s nice to see now that, on the state level, people in tourism and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development are very cognizant that there is such a thing as sports tourism and that it relates to economic income for the state and it’s an economic development opportunity. ... Our venue is pretty much established now and I think from the World Archery standpoint, they understand what we have to offer. Now it’s just a matter of pursuing the bids and becoming successful at those.”

In addition to looking at new tournament opportunities, Cull said local officials are also looking at upgrades to the current archery complex in the next year.

“Going into the future, we’re looking at doing some aesthetic things to our outdoor ranges to bring those

more up to speed,” he said. “We’re looking at some comfort stations and picnic areas for the archers when they’re out in the field. Those will be in the next year or two.”

Another part of the future of Yankton archery lies just to the east of the main complex on nearly 20 acres of open land. For more than a year, archery and city officials have been attempting to entice archery-related businesses to locate to the area, but no development has taken place yet.

Cull said, despite the slow start, they’re continuing to work on getting notice of the site to manufacturers and others.

“We’ve worked on the city with the (archery business park),” he said. “It hasn’t been a super-fast start simply because it’s virgin territory for all of us, but we’re working. ... It’s a process of getting the word out to the manufacturers, just like the state solicits different people to relocate, showing them the benefits of what we’ve got, what Yankton has to offer, what South Dakota has to offer and of course, what we

have here with the archery facility.”

He added that the city has received some looks from archery-related businesses.

“There’s been three or four companies that have looked very carefully,” he said. “They’ve come and taken a look at the area, so we’re just kind of moving ahead slowly but surely with that to try to get some of them to move to Yankton.”

Cull said he and other officials will continue attending trade shows throughout the country to help encourage businesses to look at Yankton.

He said the future is looking up for archery overall in Yankton.

“There’s always improvement we can make on little things, but we’ve got the venue here that we need, the archery park has great potential and (is) a great advertising tool to look at manufacturers,” he said.

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

Lyons

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every manner.”

That professionalism also extended to her students, according to Struck.

“If there were kids who were learning to play an instrument, she would schedule a lesson around their time, not hers,” he said. “The kids enjoyed her class and learned a lot, which is a true measure of any teacher.”

He credits Lyons for helping art appreciation grow in Yankton.

“Yankton is known for sports, but it’s also known for arts — and people like Margaret are a big part of that,” he said.

Carla Hacecky, a former colleague, witnessed how well Lyons worked with the kids and teachers alike.

“She was a wonderful professional who was so optimistic,” Hacecky said. “She worked so hard at everything she did and the kids worked hard for her.”

One of the legacies Lyons left in Yankton is the Yankton Children’s Choir, which she

started in 1994 with Lea Ann Schramm.

“I saw a need for children to do something with their voices and wanted to encourage that form of musical artistry,” Schramm said.

Schramm had been acquainted with Lyons since becoming a teacher in the Yankton School District, during which time Lyons “took me under her wing and became my mentor,” said Schramm.

Working on the program and traveling to events together for many years helped foster a lifelong friendship between the two of them.

“We worked really well together by complimenting each other with different strengths,” Schramm said. “I can’t imagine doing that with anyone else.”

Jack Lyons fondly recalled his wife’s passion for life and music.

“She always called herself a ‘music educator,’” he said. “She had tremendous energy.”

According to Jack, his wife saw community participation as a way to continually meet new people.

“She always had that community spirit of involvement and loved to work with other

people,” he said.

Part of that involvement stemmed from Lyons’ interest in learning about the town’s history.

“She was always interested in the history of the places we lived, and learned more about it by working with these organizations,” said Jack.

This interest in history didn’t dampen Lyons’ dedication for teaching and making sure her students didn’t leave her classroom without learning something positive.

“She instilled in them an attitude that, even if they weren’t active musical participants, they still learned to appreciate the arts to enhance their life,” Jack said.

Despite having been recently residing in an assisted-living facility, Margaret found ways to remain “in the know” about what was happening around the community, Jack said.

In addition to being treasurer of the Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home, Margaret would keep scrapbooks of people she knew who appeared in the newspaper, according to Hacecky.

Lyons herself appeared in the newspaper in early 2010

Fire

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consumed. The structure was completely destroyed in the fire,” he wrote.

State Attorney General Marty Jackley said at a community meeting and news conference Tuesday in Platte that investigators concluded Scott Westerhuis used a 12-gauge shotgun to shoot his family to death.

They believe he killed the two sons in their bedrooms and killed the two daughters and his wife, Nicole, in the master bedroom.

Jackley said Scott Westerhuis appears to have then lit the fire in the kitchen area and shot himself in the head.

During the investigation, a trained detection dog immediately went to a spot near the body of Scott Westerhuis and signaled there had been an accelerant.

But samples sent to North Dakota for testing were inconclusive.

Asked Thursday whether it is atypical for a fire to be so intense that an accelerant can’t be determined, Merriman replied: “It is possible that could happen.”

Merriman referred another question — Did the North Dakota testing provide any

indication of what the accelerant might have been? — to Jackley.

A spokeswoman for Jackley in turn responded Thursday, “The lab could not indicate an accelerant from the samples.”

Merriman was asked whether there were other contributors to the fire’s intensity and breadth, such as a natural gas or propane or some other common fuel.

“I can’t say that for certain,” he replied.

“It was reported that the propane-gas service (tank and associated piping) had been disconnected approximately a week prior due to construction/remodeling on the property. There was no natural gas

service to the property,” he wrote.

Asked whether the fire would have naturally spread so completely from the spot where the dog indicated accelerant, he wrote:

“It is possible, and depends upon many factors, both structural and non-structural building elements such as type of construction, interior finish, contents, HVAC systems/design, amount of insulation (energy efficiency), all influence fire behavior and or structural stability under fire conditions.”

Asked whether there is anything else about the fire that was noteworthy, he replied: “No.”

OBITUARIES

Laddie Merkwan

Laddie L. Merkwan, 89, formerly of Tabor, South Dakota passed away Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, November 7 at St. Wenceslaus



Merkwan

Catholic Church, Tabor, South Dakota. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

Visitation will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, November 6 at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel in Tabor with a Wake service at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Joe Merkwan (nephew), Jim Merkwan (nephew), Chris Mensing (grandson), Scott Dirx (grandson [in-law]) and Raeven Mazion (great-

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

Laddie was born April 2, 1926 to Anton and Anna (Cahoy) Merkwan at home in rural Tabor, South Dakota. He started school at the Catholic school in Tabor and graduated from Tyndall High School in 1943. He married Lillian Cwach on May 24, 1948 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor. He actively farmed until 75

years of age and continued to live on the same farm until moving to Majestic Bluffs, Yankton, with Lillian in 2012. In addition to farming, he sold Golden Harvest Seed Corn for 25 years, served on the church council, and loved playing Cvick (cards) with family and friends. Laddie spent his last months in Riverfront at Sister James and had a smile for everyone.

Laddie is survived by his loving wife, Lillian of

Yankton; three children: Richard (Tonye) of Early, IA, Irene (Mark) Mensing of Blue Earth, MN and John (Kathy) of Roanoke, VA; six grandchildren: Karie Merkwan of Bell Plaine, MN, Jaci (Dan) McCoy of Storm Lake, IA, Amanda (Scott) Dirx of Norwalk, IA, Liz (Craig) De Velder of Vermillion, SD, Chris (Gretchen) Mensing of Lansing MI, David (Melissa) Mensing of Spirit Lake IA; and twelve great-grandchildren: Raeven Mazion, Zoe and Kamryn McCoy, Lucas,

Isaac and Brynleigh Dirx, Tyler and Kate De Velder, Brendan and Jake Mensing, Abigail and Jackson Mensing.

Laddie was preceded in death by his parents and his two brothers, Edward Merkwan and Alvin Merkwan.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
November 6, 2015



Helen Bakken

Helen Marie Bakken, 73, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt joined her late husband, Harold, in heaven on Monday, Nov. 2, 2015. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

She was born August 27, 1943, in Utica, SD, on the family farm, the daughter of Marcella and Clarence Hamberger. Helen grew up on the farm and talked about those experiences throughout her life. She graduated high school from Scotland, SD, in 1961, and then attended certification for a Medical Assistant.

On Sept. 21, 1963, she married Harold Bakken in Lesterville, SD. Their son Jeffrey Bakken was born on Sept. 10, 1966, at Ellsworth AFB. Harold was transferred to McClellan AFB in Sacramento, CA, and their daughter, Cindy was born on April 7, 1969.

She was a Medical Assistant for 31 years at Black



Bakken

Hills OBGYN. She enjoyed camping and gardening. She volunteered time for anything that had to do with the Veteran’s and the Boy’s Club. She was a faithful member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and an active member of Catholic Daughters Court St. Rita 916. Helen took great pleasure in her family and friends, playing cards and garage sales. She would never miss a baseball or basketball game or her grandchildren. She has three grandchildren and one great-grandchild that became her focal point and she cherished this time more than anything.

Survivors include son, Jeffrey Bakken of Mesa, AZ; daughter, Cindy (Rick) Thomas of Rapid City; three grandchildren, Casey, Marisa and Jace, all of Rapid City; one great-grandchild, Zaiden

(Marisa Thomas); and a special mention of Roger & Elaine Engle and the Engle family and all cousins.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home, with a 7 p.m. vigil, rosary recitation and a time to share memories.

Christian Funeral Mass will be offered at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral with Father Michel Mulloy presiding.

Burial will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

The family requests memorials to The Catholic Daughters, Court St. Rita 916, 520 Cathedral Drive, Rapid City, SD 57701, for charity services.

An online guestbook is available at osheimschmidt.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
November 6, 2015

Benedict Arens

Ben Arens, 93, of Yankton passed away Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Robert Wullweber officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Visitations will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a rosary at 6:30 p.m. followed

by at Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Send online condolences to www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com.

Gerald Wieseler

Gerald B. Wieseler, age 78 of St. Helena, Nebraska died on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, November 9 at Holy Family (Immaculate

Conception) Catholic Church in St. Helena, Nebraska with the Rev. Eric Olsen officiating. Burial will be at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in rural St. Helena.

Visitation will be on Sunday, Nov. 8 from 2-5:00 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 4:00 p.m. Visitation will continue on Monday at church one hour prior to services. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington, NE.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Arlis Rae Peitz
10:30 AM, Friday
St. Rose of Lima
Catholic Church,
Crofton

Robert Tramp
11:00 AM, Tuesday
St. Rose of Lima
Catholic Church
Crofton

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME and
CREMATION SERVICE
Yankton
605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

Specials & Events

Friday - Karaoke

Saturday - (First Sat of the Month)
Stockmen’s Prime Rib

Sunday - Open at 4pm
All You Can Eat
Spaghetti **\$800**

Bloody Mary Specials
~Includes Veggie Bar

**Mayfield
Bar & Grill**
605-263-3490
facebook.com/mayfieldbar