

To Our Readers

The Press & Dakotan will once again be working with early deadlines during Thanksgiving week. If you wish to submit any information for the Nov. 27 edition of "River City," please deliver it to us by noon on TUESDAY, NOV. 24. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

St. John's Bible Reception Today At MMC

A reception and gallery talk for the St. John's Bible exhibit at Mount Marty College in Yankton will be at 2-4 p.m. today (Friday) at MMC's Bede Art gallery.

The gallery talk will feature Nancy Olive. For more information, call (605) 668-1495 or email dept. arts@mtmc.edu.

Stewart School Vendor Fair Is Saturday

Stewart Elementary School in Yankton is hosting its annual Vendor Fair Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Regional vendors and crafters will be present. Lunch will be available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. There will also be a gourmet cupcake sale.

This event is sponsored by the Stewart Elementary PTA. For more information, contact Lisa Irwin at (605) 760-9467 or lmirwin2324@gmail.com.

Youth Center Benefit Set For Scotland

SCOTLAND — A benefit event for the Scotland Youth Center will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Scotland VFW.

The entertainment will include RFD-TV entertainer Billie Kruse, a fiddler and singer. Her father is also part of Sunday's entertainment.

A free-will donation will be asked.

Holiday 'Décor-ating' Contest Announced

VERMILLION — Dakota Hospital Foundation (DHF) is sponsoring the 2015 Wreath and Holiday Décor-ating Contest. Community members are invited to share your creative side and support an amazing cause!

DHF is expanding its annual wreath contest with the all-new Free Style Category. You are invited to submit a wreath or holiday décor item decorated to your personal style or theme of choice. This new category provides for other fun items to be considered; such as center pieces, sprays, gift items, etc.

Decorated items must be submitted with a completed contest registration form on Monday, Nov. 16, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Participants may bring their holiday item to the Administration entrance at Sanford Vermillion, 102 S Plum Street. Special arrangements may be made for an earlier drop off if needed.

All holiday décor will be judged on several criteria including originality/creativity, arrangement, theme and "WOW" factor. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: Best Individual entry, Best Business/ Organization entry and Best of Show. Due to the variety and uniqueness of entries as well as the new category, judges will also have the option to award additional prizes.

All contest entries will be auctioned at the Dakota Hospital Foundation Wreath and Holiday Décor Auction on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the Vermillion Event Center from 5-7 p.m. This will be an evening with hors d'ouerves, refreshments and socializing. The evening will include new ways for participants to purchase holiday creations followed by a live auction at 6 p.m. All proceeds from this event will support the Sanford Arts Program in Vermillion.

"This is a wonderful event for Dakota Hospital Foundation and the community. The new options this year will add another level of creativity and buying opportunities for all those in attendance," comments Linda Kogel, Vice President, DHF Board of Directors. "DHF is committed to continue its support of Sanford Arts Vermillion. This annual contest and auction provides a wonderful setting for us to share the impact of this incredible program."

For more information, visit sanfordvermillion.org/foundation.

Regional Honor Band Concert Monday

The Yankton High School Music Department will host the annual Region I Honor Band on Monday, Nov. 16, at Yankton High School.

The Middle School Honor Band will be directed by Dr. Jonathan Alvis, Director of Athletic Bands and Assistant Professor of Low Brass at the University of South Dakota (Vermillion).

The High School Honor Band will be directed by Shane Macklin, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

The members of bands of the Region Band Festival are selected in October by submitting recorded auditions and are the very best musicians in the southeastern corner of South Dakota. Sixteen high schools and middle schools are represented this year in this festival. The bands will begin rehearsal early Monday morning and practice throughout the day.

A Grand Finale concert will be held at 7 p.m. in the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. This concert is free to the public and will also be streamed live via the Internet through the Yankton School District Web Home at www.ysd.k12.sd.us, or directly through www.highschoolcube.com, searching for Yankton.

Beadle Talent Showcase Tuesday

What kind of concert do you think you would get if you allowed a group of fourth- and fifth-graders to choose their own music? You may just well be surprised when you attend Beadle Elementary School's "Student Choice" Concert and Art Show on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. in the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre.

This fall, students reviewed their textbooks, listed the songs they most wanted to sing, and then voted. The top vote-getters were the winners, and they represent a wide variety of music. The audience will hear everything from "God Bless America" to "Please, Mr. Postman," "John Henry" to "Over the Rainbow," "Dry Bones" to "Happiness" (a Peanuts song from "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"). The program will even include a rap and a seasonal song.

In conjunction with this concert, the students are presenting an art show, displaying visual works created in their classrooms. These will be displayed in the hallway outside the theatre, so all are encouraged to come a few minutes early to enjoy this additional expression of the fine arts.

Among the evening's highlighted performers will be rappers (in order of appearance) Damien Olson; Teadora Atkinson, Sarah Beeman, Camryn Koletzky, Jasmin Peitz; Tucker Gilmore, Trenton Jerke, Payton Johnson, Curtis Simpson; Jaxon Huntley, Maddox O'Connor, Dillon Plautz, Tyson Smith, Arias Slagle; Halle Brandt, Danah Diver, Maleik Franklin, Lily Medina; Heaven Bad Horse, Amalee Boese-Rham, Aaliyah Empey, Braxten Lewis, Teagen Weiland; Andy Crowe, Antani Kabella, Addison Ostdiek; McKenna Eide, Tori Hansen, and Trevor Hysell.

"Dry Bones" will be accompanied by instrumentalists Hope Leshner, bells; Thea Chance, wood block; Kaesen Hoilien, vibraslap; Wyatt Holmstrom, hand drum; Alex Kaufman, triangle; Caleb Zimmerman, cymbals; Tyler Sohler, ratchet; and Sam Huber, whip.

A concert highlight will be Roger Whittaker's "I Am But a Small Voice," featuring special vocal performances by Duo 1: Oliver Dooley, Cooper Grotenhuis; Soli 1: Aaliya Hassen, Madisyn Jaquith, Ally Lande, Nik Sasse, Addison Sedlacek, Lily Zimmerman; Duo 2: Olivia Hunhoff, Avery Reifenrath; Soli 2: Anna Christensen, Angelina Denney, Hailey Oswald, McKenzie Thrantum; and Soli 3: Rachel Hejna, Aurora Huntley, Emma Taggart, Ellie Wagner.

The final piece of the evening will be the "Beadle School Song," composed by last year's Beadle fifth-graders and accompanied by Cody Oswald, piano.

The public is invited to attend Beadle's "Student Choice" concert and art show; there is no admission charge. Lea Ann Schramm is Beadle's music educator. The evening's piano accompanist will be Stephanie Serck. Beadle principal is Mr. Carey Mitzel.

The Bookworm

'Strings' Makes Sweet Music

"The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto" by Mitch Albom, © 2015, Harper; 497 pages

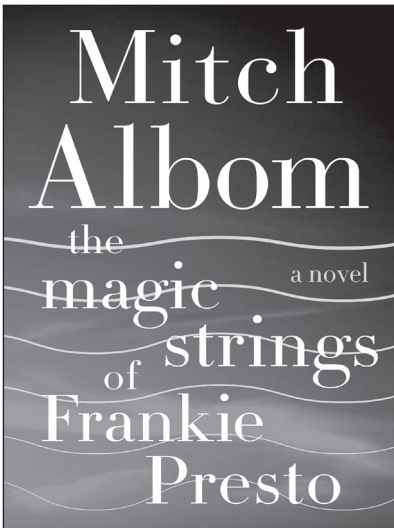
BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The first song you ever heard was that of your mother's heartbeat.

It sustained you for nine months, until you were born and could hear lullabies and music boxes. Later, you progressed to cartoon theme songs, pop tunes, romantic ballads, party music and golden oldies. If, in fact, your life had a playlist, it would be long and varied, and in the new book "The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto" by Mitch Albom, it would be what sustains you.

As the mourners file in, each person expresses some surprise that Frankie Presto is dead. Most of them lost track of him years ago, after his rock & roll career, after his last album release. Some had known him as a teacher, but he was mostly an enigma.

Frankie had worked with Elvis, they claimed, and had stood in for The King once when Elvis was in the Army. Others whispered that Frankie was a serial womanizer. It was said that he tried out for KISS, that he'd started Lyle Lovett's career, that he'd played with many famous bands. Some of the rumors were just that: rumors. Other stories were tinged with truth.



But Music? Music knew what really happened. Music stayed with Frankie from his first breath on the floor of an ancient monastery in Spain, to his death on a stage. Music was there while Frankie took his guitar lessons in war-torn Villareal. It was with him when his Papa was taken away, when Frankie's teacher sent the boy to London, and when Frankie made his way to America to find an aunt who said they were not related. Music knew what was in Frankie's soul: his obsession with acoustic guitar, his

longing for his father, and his love for a girl he met climbing trees in a graveyard.

And Music knew the legacy that Frankie's father had bequeathed him: six guitar strings that sometimes glowed. Were they lifesaving strings? Frankie never knew, but as the strings broke one after another at important times in his life, he only hoped he'd have one left when he really, really needed it...

Music as a sentient being? As a narrator? Admittedly, that's rather odd but it works in "The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto."

But "magic" isn't merely part of the title here. Author Mitch Albom spins a fantastical "Forrest-Gump"-ish story with a dash of frustration from his main character, who always seems to be searching for something unidentifiable. That distinct longing almost becomes a character in itself which, added to the somewhat offhand hints that Music offers, creates a melancholy feel to this book that's surprisingly addictive. As the tale is pushed forward by fictional interviews with those at Frankie's funeral, it's easy to get swept into the story along with them.

Talent-as-narrator might take some getting used to but, within a few pages, you'll be as delighted with this sparkling book as I was. Start it, stick with it, and you'll find "The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto" to be a book of note.

Waylon, Willie Celebration Set For Nov. 21



COURTESY PHOTO

John and Susan McNeill (shown), Owen DeJong, and Nick Schwabach celebrate "Waylon, Willie, and the Boys" at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Gayville Hall in Gayville.

Movie

From Page 1B

"Her story was intriguing to me, but I wasn't sure how to turn it into a film," he said. "It sort of lingered for a while. It was one of those stories that just wouldn't go away for me."

After researching for years and questioning whether or not the story would make for a good movie, Linn noticed the particular success of author John Green's "The Fault In Our Stars" book and later film, which touched on a similar subject.

"I was just convinced that no one would want to see a film about cancer and young love," Linn said. "You've got to lead with your best (films) a lot of times, especially in the independent film world where you don't have a lot of resources available. Once that movie was made, it was like, 'OK, there is an audience here.' Let's move forward and see what we can do with this story."

Things moved forward quickly after that. Linn Productions filmed the movie in 2014, spending three weeks utilizing locations in Minneapolis, Hot Springs and the majority in the Boyums' hometown of Inver Grove Heights. The film used the Boyums' home and several locations within the town to add to the authenticity of the film's storyline.

Boyum and her family were involved in making revisions of the screenplay and even choosing the actor, Stephen Bailey, to play Michael Boyum.

"They made me a producer," Bonnie Boyum said. "I know nothing about producing a movie. No one told me what a producer does. But I thought, 'Well, they probably want to film where they went and what they did.'"

THE DREAM

While talking with the Boyums about their son's story, one particular incident provided an unusual, unanswered question several years in the making for Linn.

"People who know me know that I am pretty cynical about visions and premonitions and stuff," he said. "That doesn't change the fact that this story is very strange and unusual."

Approximately four years before Linn even met the Boyums, he had a vivid dream of two guys on a bridge in the rain. There was no sound, he

said, but it looked like it had been edited for a movie with changing perspectives and the variety of shots. Although Linn couldn't hear anything, it was clear that the two men were arguing. One was about to jump off the bridge and the other attempted to talk him down. One of the men eventually did talk the other one into coming down off the bridge.

And then Linn woke up. But what he remembered were the details of the bridge.

"It made me start thinking about maybe it was a scene I would love to see in a film," he said. "I wasn't sure what it was all about, so I dismissed it. But it stuck with me because it was such an unusual dream."

Ironically, when Linn sat down with the Boyums and heard their story, there was an event that they shared with him that became very familiar.

Michael Boyum's brother, Matt, donated bone marrow for a transplant that ended up being unsuccessful. That rainy night, Matt, struggling with depression, disappeared and no one could find him. Michael eventually found Matt on a nearby bridge, where the brothers visited often. He saw that Matt was standing on this bridge, ready to jump. Michael ran out and talked him down.

"I got goosebumps," Linn said. "It was just like the dream I had several years ago."

But, when Linn scouted the actual bridge to prepare for filming, it wasn't what he expected.

"It looked nothing like my dream, not a thing," he said. "It was small, it didn't go all the way across and it was a reddish color."

So Linn dismissed his dream and planned to use the bridge in Inver Grove Heights where the particular event took place.

But fate had another plan. Carolyn Linn had all the arrangements made to start filming on that bridge. But three weeks before filming began, she got a call saying further construction on that bridge would make it impossible to use in the movie.

"If we hadn't gotten the call, it would be a different film," Michael said. "I believe it wouldn't have been as good of a film. I don't think we would have been able to pull off some of the stuff we were able to pull off with that location."

Because the filming schedule was already planned, filmmakers had to find a bridge that they could utilize between Rapid City and Min-

neapolis. After some online research, Linn stumbled upon Yankton's Meridian Bridge — and it was something out of his dream.

"I looked at the images of the bridge in Yankton and thought this is it," he said. "Where we could put our equipment and our lights — everything was perfect."

The crew arrived in Yankton on Sept. 3, 2014. Within 24 hours, filmmakers had captured three crucial scenes for the movie.

"It is a low-budget film, but it looks like a much higher budget," Carolyn Linn said. "One of the reasons for that is because of those bridge scenes. People see it and they go 'Wow! Where did they find that thing?'"

SETTING THE SCENE

The first scene is at sunset, depicting a sharing moment between the two brothers before Michael Boyum's bone marrow transplant. At night, the crew filmed the rain scene on the bridge where Linn finally saw his dream realized.

"The night I was shooting, I wasn't even worried," he said. "I had a peace about me. I figured if I dreamed it, I convinced myself it would all be fine and it was. It was amazing."

The team contacted Yankton city manager Amy Nelson to get permission to use the bridge, the water hook-up to create the rain and a "genie boom" lift from Clark's Rental.

The fact that the bridge had a top was an extra convenience for filming, Linn said. Instead of having to rent a rain machine, the crew hooked up hoses on the top deck of the bridge to simulate the rain.

"That is the most cinematic bridge," Linn said. "It is such a solid, large structure. It has a very big screen presence that

translates well in the film. It almost has its own character. You notice it right away. It gives it a sense of place that a smaller bridge wouldn't."

They shot into the wee hours, completing that scene before returning to their hotel for some much needed rest. The next morning the crew returned to the bridge to film some additional day scenes involving main characters Michael and Michelle walking and Michael and Matt tossing around a football.

"When we shot in the Twin Cities, we had to get special permission to shoot in the park and it was just a lot of work," Michael said. "In Yankton, it all went very smooth. It was really nice to have everyone be so accommodating and allow us to get these very important scenes without that stress."

Linn Productions plans to show the film in select areas in February and see if it progresses from there. Regardless of the film's future, Linn is excited for the Yankton premiere to see how a big crowd will respond to it. This will allow him to make some important notes in finalizing the picture before its release.

"There is certainly a rush in being out there, cameras rolling and trying to capture these big moments," Linn said. "You always hope for the best, but you don't know if it will work out. If I get the opportunity to shoot in Yankton again, I would. It was just a great experience."

The trailer for the movie can be viewed at the website: www.untilforeverthemovie.com or the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UntilForeverTheMovie?ref=bookmarks.

Follow @alwooc01 on Twitter.

WANT BETTER AIR?

JUST ADD WATER.

When you see just how much our humidifiers can improve air quality, there won't be a dry eye in the house.

turn to the experts

HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway • 665-9461