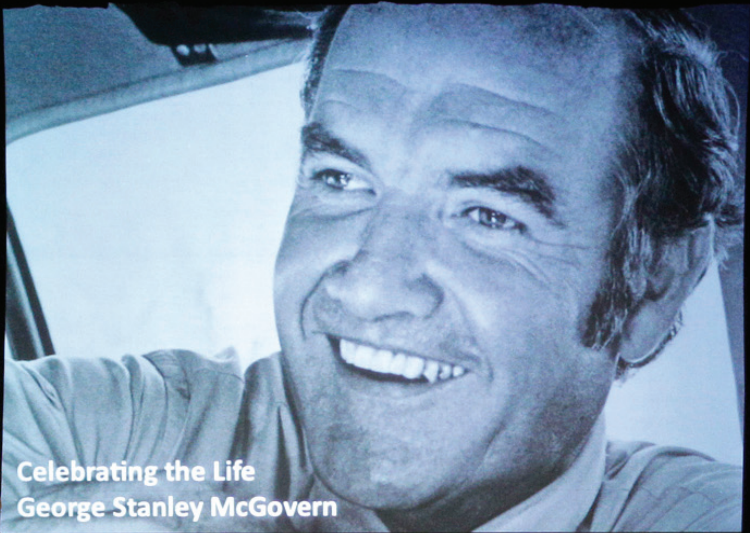




YANKTON DAILY
PRESS & DAKOTAN



Celebrating the Life
George Stanley McGovern

Farewell To
A Legend

BY CHET BROKAW AND BRIAN BAKST
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — George McGovern made history with his loss of the 1972 presidential election in a historic landslide, but he was praised Friday for galvanizing the Democratic party's liberal wing and inspiring a new generation to take up his causes.

At his funeral, friends and colleagues remembered McGovern as an early critic of the Vietnam War, a tireless fighter in the battle to feed the poor around the world, and a man who will continue to draw young people into public life.

"George McGovern's voice is not gone. It is simply waiting new voices, new consciences that have

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The Rev. Robert Ruedebusch speaks during funeral services for former U.S. Senator and three-time presidential candidate George McGovern at the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Sciences in Sioux Falls Friday. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green, Pool)

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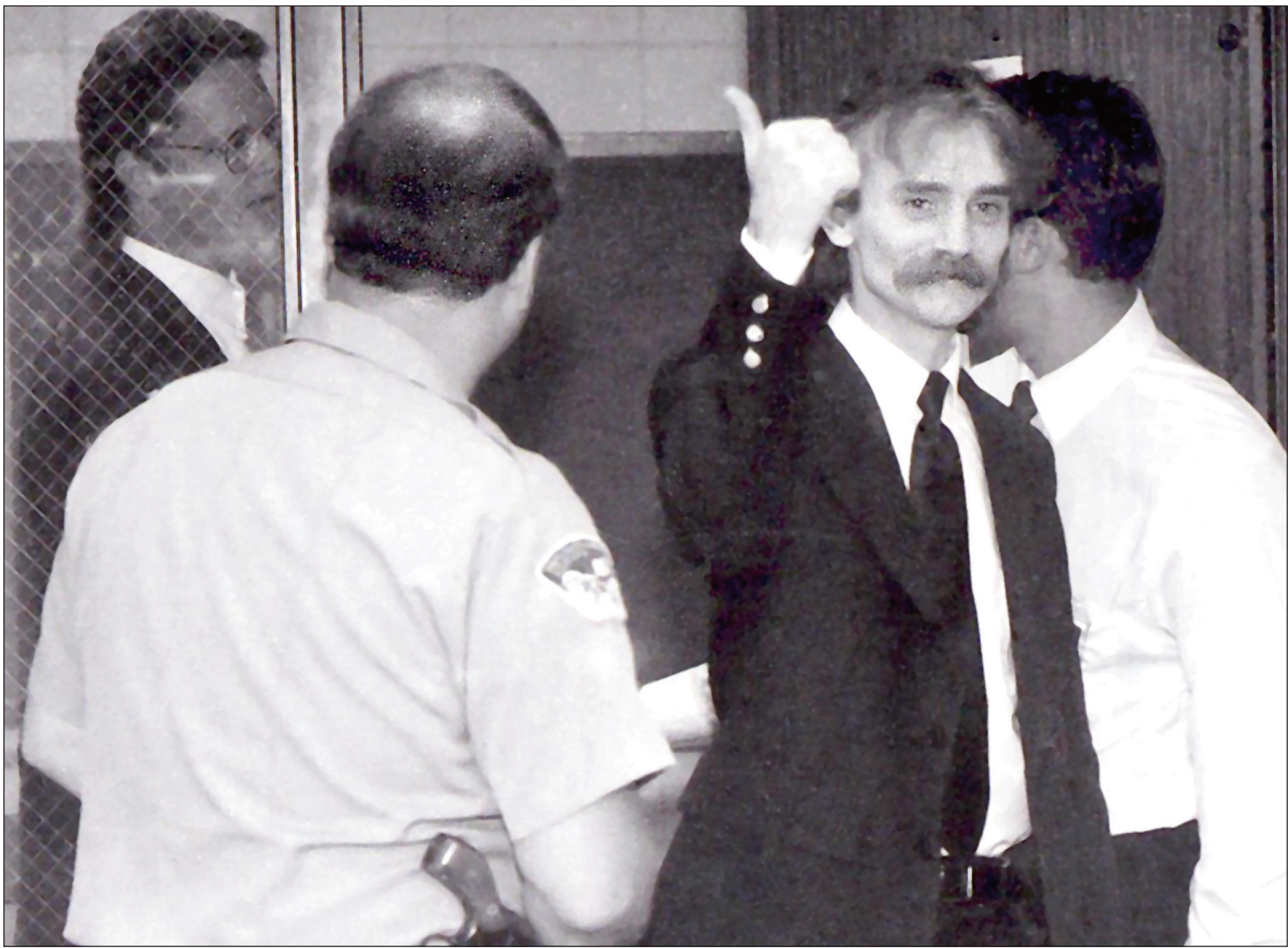
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Moeller

■ In 1992, The Trial Of Accused Child Murderer/Rapist Donald Moeller Was Moved To Yankton, And What Followed Was An Emotional Drama That Resulted In The Handing Out Of South Dakota's First Death Sentence In Decades. Moeller Finally Faces Execution Next Week, But The Memories Of That Trial Live On



Accused murderer and rapist Donald Moeller flashed a confident thumbs-up sign on Monday, Aug. 31, 1992, following closing statements during his trial in Yankton. The next day, Moeller was convicted in the 1990 rape and killing of 9-year-old Becky O'Connell, and three days later, a Yankton jury sentenced Moeller to death. That sentence is finally expected to be carried out next week.

P&D ARCHIVE PHOTO: VALERIE HOEPPNER

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Although she served on the jury that condemned Donald Moeller to the death sentence more than 20 years ago, Paula Jones says the case still has a profound impact upon her life.

The Yankton County jury of which she was a part convicted Moeller in September 1992 for the May 8, 1990, rape and murder of 9-year-old Rebecca O'Connell southeast of Sioux Falls near Lake Alvin.

"Obviously, the death of a child is traumatic," Jones said. "When it's at the hand of someone else, I think that stays with you some time after the trial is over. After the trial, when I would go to sleep at night, I would see either (O'Connell's) face or (Moeller's) face when I closed my eyes."

Moeller is expected to be executed next week.



Moeller

He told U.S. District Judge Lawrence Pier-sol at a hearing earlier this month, "I killed the little girl. It's just that the punishment be concluded. I believe it's a good thing, that the death penalty does inhibit further criminal acts."

The seven-woman, five-man Yankton County jury deliberated 11 1/2 hours before delivering the guilty verdict in 1992. Another six hours of deliberation was required to agree on sentencing Moeller to death by lethal injection.

The jurors struggled with their decision. While deliberating on the death sentence, they made four requests of Circuit Judge E.W. Hertz. First, they asked if the decision could be appealed. Hertz told them they could not use that information in making their decision. Requests were also denied to speak with a priest and see a Bible.

Finally, the jurors asked how much time they had before they were considered an undecided jury. Hertz responded that there was no time limit.

When the death sentence was announced at approximately 10 a.m. Sept. 3, it ended a gruesome month-long trial that had been moved to Yankton County because of concerns

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Santee College Has A
New Place To Call Home

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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SANTEE, Neb. — Margaret Maass remembers the first time she looked for the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC) in Santee — and couldn't find it.

"I live in Sioux City, and I first came (to Santee) 28 years ago. The (NICC) was in the tribal building," she said. "You couldn't even see where the college was (located). I drove around town, looking for it."

Maass, who chairs the NICC liberal arts department, still couldn't find the college in the village of about 300 residents.

"Finally, people from the college were standing outside the building, waving me down," she said. "I asked them why they were standing outside. They said they had already received three calls about a strange car driving around town."

Unfortunately, the college remained a well-kept secret — even on the Santee Sioux reservation — throughout its history.

That changed this fall, when the NICC moved out of the Santee Sioux tribal hall and into its own home in the northeast

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CORRECTION

In the Thursday edition of the *Press & Dakotan*, the contractor for the Highway 50 project in the story, "Work On Highway 50 Construction Project Expected To Be Finished By Thanksgiving," should have been listed as Knife River Midwest from Sioux City, Iowa. They were awarded the project with a \$13.2 million bid. We apologize for the error.

Dance Instructor Set To Step Out

O'Connell Decides To
Sell Her Dance Studio

BY DEREK BARTOS
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A young ballet student at Judi's Dance Studio in Yankton is struggling. She can't quite seem to grasp what her instructor has shown her. Suddenly, something clicks, and the movements become natural.

"I can do it!" she exclaims.

Judi O'Connell has heard those words countless times in her 49 years of teaching dance, but it never gets old.

"That's the exciting part, is watching these young people and how they develop," said O'Connell, who has taught at the studio's location at 321 Douglas since she opened it in 1979. "I get to watch them grow."

The dance instructor recently sold her studio, and as she looks back on the many years she has taught in Yankton,



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Dance instructor Judi O'Connell recently sold her business, Judi's Dance Studio, which has been located at 321 Douglas in Yankton since 1979. O'Connell will stay on with the business in a limited role and will continue to teach some classes.

it's those moments that have made the time so special.

"It's the joy you see in their face," she said. "There's two words that would describe my career — love and joy. My

heart is overflowing with a lifetime of love and joy. No one else could have

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