

Tickets Still Available For Haunted History Tours

There are still tickets available for the Haunted History Tours sponsored by the Dakota Territorial Museum in Yankton.

The tours, both at 6 p.m., are tonight (Monday) and Tuesday, Oct. 30.

You can call the museum at 665-3898, or stop by at 610 Summit Street, to get your tickets.

Yankton Area Retired Teachers To Meet Nov. 1

On Thursday, Nov. 1, the Yankton Area Retired Teachers will hold their monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. at JoDean's Steakhouse and Lounge. All retired teachers and school personnel are invited to attend for the lunch, program and business meeting.

November's program presentation will feature Allison Spak, who is the director of Yankton Children's Theatre, a busy organization with many involved young people who stage several productions throughout the year. The group is busy learning lines and music and creating costumes for their next production, which is "A Christmas to Remember," a play written by Marilyn Kratz with music by Jane Bobzin, both of whom are retired local teachers. Slated for Dec. 6-9, this play is based upon a Yankton family's true life experiences.

New member Edla Aune was welcomed at the October meeting.

The business to be brought before the group will include discussion of ballot issues, scholarships and outreach to potential members. After this meeting, the organization will go on hiatus until March 7, 2013.

For more information, contact Membership Committee members Susan Buxcel or Donna Fischer.

YHS Indoor Marching Show Set For Friday

The Yankton High School Indoor Marching Show is at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, at the YHS/Summit Activities Center Gym.

USD's music group The Sound Bytes and the Yankton Middle School Band will be guest performing at the YHS Indoor Show.

OBITUARIES

Darrell Swensen

IRENE — Darrell Leslie Swensen, 72, of Irene died Friday, October 26, 2012 in rural Irene, South Dakota.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 31, 2012 at Riverview Reformed Church in Yankton. Burial will follow in Turkey Valley Cemetery, rural Irene.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, October 30, with a prayer service beginning at 7 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Irene.

Darrell was born December 3, 1939 in Irene, to Leslie and Annetta (Mork) Swensen. He attended Plainview Country School District 32 of rural Irene and graduated from Irene High School in 1957. He was drafted into the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1966. He was a member of Turkey Valley Lutheran Church and was currently attending Riverview Reformed Church in Yankton, SD. He was also a member of the Hall Thompson American Legion Post #193 of Irene.

Darrell married Yvonne K. Eilmes on June 24, 1972 at the United Church of Christ in Scotland. They had three children: Mark Swensen, Kari and Marty. Darrell and Yvonne lived on the family farm near Irene where they farmed up to the time of his death. Darrell loved farming and always had livestock around. He was also known for building and fixing just about anything. He was a friend to everyone he met, especially to his neighbors. Darrell was an amazing person who loved his family. He was the best grandpa to all of his grandchildren whom he loved spending time with even if it was just for a short visit.

Darrell is survived by his wife



Swensen

of 40 years, Yvonne of Irene, children; Mark (Kerri) Swensen of Freeman, Kari (Glen) Neuharth of Menno, and Marty (Jodi) Swensen of Irene, five grandchildren; Micah, Jacob and Erica Swensen of Freeman, Rory and Rylen Swensen of Irene, and unborn baby Neuharth, stepmother Marie Swensen of Viborg, stepbrothers; Larry Bratberg of Modesto, CA, and Jerry Bratberg of Bloomington, ILL, sister-in-laws; Karen Sorgdrager of Yankton, Sheila (Ardon) Wek of Freeman and Donna Mellem of Yankton, brother-in-law Milton Schnabel of Menno and many nieces and nephews as well as many great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Annetta Swensen, infant daughter Nicole Annette Swensen, brother and sister-in-law Dale and Charlotte Swensen, sister and brother-in-law Frances and Kenneth Mellem, niece Cynthia Hopf, nephew Greg Mellem, father and mother-in-law Ruben and Lorene Eilmes and sister-in-law Joyce Schnabel.

For obituary and online condolences, visit hansenfuneral-home.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
October 29, 2012

Eldon Brandt

CENTERVILLE — Eldon Brandt, 84, of Centerville and formerly of Yankton, died Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, at the Good Samaritan home, Centerville.

Memorial services are at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 2, at Salem Mennonite (South) Church, rural Freeman.

Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Thursday with the family present at Walter Funeral Home, Freeman.

In lieu of flowers, memorials should be directed to the M.C.C. for Haiti.

Robert 'Gilligan' Logan

Robert "Gilligan" Logan, 65, of Yankton died Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012, at his residence.

Arrangements are pending with Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Yankton.

Burn

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bylaws and were in business. This past March the group started with six burns, and by the time the prescribed burn season was at its end, they had done 16 burns.

The 12 prescribed burn associations across the state work closely with Pheasants Forever, which is also instrumental in finding funding for equipment and training sessions. The NNPBA benefited from a grant written to Nebraska Lottery for a burn truck which carried the equipment needed for the prescribed burn process from one burn site to another and is shared by the four counties.

Since forming NNPBA in 2011, the organization has conducted 23 prescribed burns on 1,140 total CRP acres with a total of 1,051 manours from its membership of 35 members said Kathol.

The NNPBA has a one-time lifetime membership fee of \$25 and does prescribed burns for its members. The members also have to make a commitment to help with some of the burns. A contribution is also asked from those who use

the burn service so repairs and upkeep can be made to the equipment. Another part of the process is the NNPBA is trained to create a burn plan for each landowner who has a burn to complete.

The landowners who have a need to do a prescribed burn receive a letter of notification from the Farm Service Agency as to when the burn needs to be completed. There is a six-week time span in March and April approved for burning CRP acres.

A burn plan needs to be created the year before the burn, Kathol said. Fall ground preparation is necessary for the burn to be successful. Bare ground around the burn area is essential to prevent a burn event from getting away from a crew. So turning the ground over in the fall and again in the spring usually eliminates the dry trash on the bare ground.

"We like to organize the burns with the attitude of how it used to be years ago when neighbors helped neighbors, farmers helped farmers," Kathol said.

The group follows the state guidelines for prescribed burns which begin a couple days before by monitoring the weather forecast for wind speeds, temperature and humidity. The landowner needs a burn permit and also lets the fire

department and law enforcement know at that time when the burn will happen. There is at least one-half-day preparation.

A crew of at least 12 people is needed for a prescribed burn. Four to five members of the burn association will be on hand and are trained with different jobs during the burn. The landowner is also asked to provide several friends, neighbors or family members to assist. The landowner is also asked to provide 1,000 gallons of emergency water, if it is needed.

A back burn process is started with two crews. One crew heads to the left and the other to the right. First is a man and a sprayer which shoots a four-foot spray of water along the designated burn line. The sprayer is connected to a pickup with a 250-gallon tank which has a motorized pumper unit. Then comes a man with a torch to start the fires. Behind him is a flapper — a crew member who carries a pole with a strap of rubber on the end to swat out any ignited fires behind the burn line. Another crew member patrols the burn line with an ATV and a pair of goggles. In two to three hours a successful burn should be winding down said Kathol.

Prescribed burns are the most efficient and cost-effective way to

manage CRP acres, Kathol said. Landowners are required to manage the trash on their CRP acres every four years. Many have gotten into a cycle and burn one-half of their acres one year and one-half the next year so there is always habitat available for wildlife.

Kathol admitted before the burn association was organized, he needed to complete a burn and, for all his best intentions, it got away from him.

The drought being experienced this year will no doubt have an effect on the prescribed burn process next spring. Many landowners elected to graze or hay their CRP acres, so the management issue will have been taken care of for the next four years. The unresolved farm bill may also have an effect on the program. This year there were 40 million acres in the CRP and next year, there will only be 30 million acres in the program because some of the contracts expire.

"I'm passionate about habitat and wildlife and see a lot of good in what the burn association has done so far," Kathol said. "Reviving the pastures by carefully considering what native seeds to plant to attract the right birds and bees for ecological balance is a challenge I enjoy."

Gross

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years, I decided to run last spring after listening to citizen concerns about several State initiatives related to education. Not only is the state reducing its share of the cost of education, but it is increasing control at the state level, which means it is reducing local control. Said another way, the state is increasing management of local schools while reducing its financial contribution. Our South Dakota Constitution states that the Legislature has a "duty" to maintain a uniform system of public schools.

2. With an initiated measure on the 2012 general election ballot that proposes to increase the state general sales and use tax rate from 4 percent to 5 percent to, in part, help fund K-12, there is some uncertainty in regards to the future of education funding. What do you think of current funding levels, and what is the way forward?

It is interesting that the state

has a \$50 million surplus five months after budget cuts which include \$57 million cuts to education. The administration has still not disclosed what they plan to do with the surplus. Current levels of education funding are inadequate, but then South Dakota has ranked 49th or 50th in educational funding for some time. The proposed increase in sales tax, however, is regressive, and the Legislature needs to reevaluate its spending priorities.

3. The general election ballot will include Referred Law 14, which would determine whether or not the Large Project Development Fund will be formed to assist with the construction of economic development projects. Is this fund needed? Why or why not?

Taking money out of the general fund for the administration's economic development projects is a reduction in funding available for education and other general fund expenses. If the governor needs additional money for economic development, then let him do as his predecessors have done and raise a short-term tax to generate the money, rather than take it from

the general fund. South Dakota has other monies available for economic development.

4. Do you think South Dakota's economy is heading in the right direction?

South Dakota and the Midwest generally lag the U.S. economy. We are strong in agriculture, which has had a number of very good years, followed by the drought of 2012. The state's manufacturing sector will follow the national and world economies, which again show signs of slowing down. The recovery from the 2008 recession has not followed historical patterns, as consumers paid down debt. The regulatory environment in Washington and the slowdown of European economies and the Chinese economy will impact our future growth, as they are major trading partners with us. The U.S. fiscal cliff represents another challenge to South Dakota, if Congress fails to act before the end of the year.

5. Scientists link the increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as last year's flood and this year's drought to the effects of climate change, yet the issue has been

largely ignored at the federal and state levels. Should the Legislature take any measures to address the growing impacts of climate change?

Regarding weather changes, a year of flooding and a year of drought are challenges we are used to facing in this part of the country. Interestingly, while we suffered from the lack of rain, the Northeast suffered from too much rain. Climate change is a national issue, and one about which they cannot agree on what to do. The agricultural sector has had several good years, as evidenced by high grain prices and increasing land values. If anything, the State needs to keep an eye on the Corps of Engineers and our water rights to the Missouri River. Yankton is still paying for the effects of the 2011 floods on our water and waste water systems.

6. Final thoughts?

Having been involved in local government for many years, and having listened to voters express opinions and concerns, I would appreciate your support in my effort to take that experience to Pierre on your behalf. Thank you.

Moeller

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she moved her family in 1990 from New York to Sioux Falls, a well-kept, medium-size city along the Big Sioux River that serves as a market center for the sprawling expanse of farmland where South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota come together. Homicides happen, but not many — about a half dozen a year, most involving people who know each other, and where there is no mystery to solve.

On May 8, 1990, Becky, a fourth-grader who lived with her mother and stepfather in a Sioux Falls mobile home, began walking a couple of blocks to Omer's Market to buy sugar to make lemonade. She never returned.

Authorities say Moeller, a felon with a history of assaults who lived nearby, lured the brown-haired girl into his truck and drove her to a wooded area near the Iowa

state line, where he raped her, stabbed her and left her to bleed to death.

Moeller was interviewed shortly after the killing but disappeared before investigators could follow up. Detectives later tracked him down in Tacoma, Wash., and brought him back for trial. He was convicted in September 1992 based on DNA and circumstantial evidence. The trial, with detailed and graphic displays on how the child was killed, devastated the community, but the ordeal wasn't over: The verdict was overturned by the South Dakota Supreme Court because of the mention of past crimes during testimony.

With a new trial ordered in 1996, the horror of the gruesome killing was relived, and lingered for years longer.

Residents around Sioux Falls — and also in Yankton and Rapid City, where the two trials were held because of pretrial publicity — worried in new ways about the safety of their cities.

"We very seldom left our kids at a baby sitter," recalled Marcel Kathol, a father of four and a juror at Moeller's first trial. "A lot of us, we held onto our kids a little tighter and made sure where they were at."

Masten said that even though prosecutors won a second guilty verdict, the case stayed with him over the years through the periodic reports about Moeller's appeals.

The stress of his work led him to shift into private practice and eventually to a career change to nuclear medicine.

"Whether you're prosecuting or defending, the emotional investment that you've got in that is tremendous," he said. "You just sleep eat and drink that case for months, if not years. You have to be able to walk away from it, but it's really tough to develop that skill."

Moeller fought his conviction and sentence until July, when he said he was ready to accept death

as punishment for his actions. He removed the final obstacle by persuading a federal judge to dismiss his long-standing challenge of South Dakota's lethal injection procedure.

"The law has spoken," he said. "I killed. I deserve to be killed."

Just hours after Becky's private memorial service in Sioux Falls, Curl and her husband had packed up their belongings and moved to Lake Luzerne, N.Y. She said she soon lost control of her life.

"Right after Beck was murdered, I started drinking every day," she said. "I drank from the time I woke up to the time I passed out at night." She has dealt with a series of health problems, suffering a heart attack and quadruple bypass in 2003.

She said she hopes her trip back to Sioux Falls to watch Moeller's execution will help still the memories of her daughter's haunting crime scene photos.

"I picture them every day in my head," she said.

Mom's Funeral Was Meaningful To Us, Which Was Just What She Wanted.

"From her favorite songs to her special prayers and the clergyman whom she respected, Mom's funeral was an important way for our family to share just how wonderful she was. It was a meaningful tribute that celebrated her life and the things she loved. Arranging many of the details ahead of time with Mom and the Wintz's helped make sure of that. When Mom died, the Wintz family took care of everything, providing us with comfort and peace of mind. Together, we created a meaningful funeral that was just the way Mom wanted it.

We know the value of creating a meaningful funeral service.

Please contact us for more information.

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HONORING THEIR MEMORY
Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them
 Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

George Keller
who passed away on
October 30, 2011

Olivia Schnabel
who passed away on
November 2, 2011

Steven Hackett
who passed away on
November 3, 2011

Rita Schaeffer
who passed away on
October 27, 2002

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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