



Sunny Early With Clouds Late

9 a.m.: **43** | 3 p.m.: **60** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

WEDNESDAY ■ OCTOBER 31, 2012

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



TODAY!

Come Out To The Press & Dakotan's Annual **SPOTTED HALLOWEEN** Event At The Riverfront Event Center in Downtown Yankton From 3:15-5 p.m. Get Your Photo Taken – And Perhaps See Your Photo In Thursday's P&D.



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P&D ARCHIVE PHOTO: VALERIE HOEPPNER
Donald Moeller, shown here awaiting a court proceeding in Yankton during his first trial in 1992, was executed Tuesday night in Sioux Falls for the 1990 rape and murder of 9-year-old Rebecca O'Connell in Sioux Falls.

Moeller Dies

Inmate Executed For 1990 Murder, Rape Of Child

By The Associated Press

Donald Moeller, who was twice convicted and sentenced to die for killing a 9-year-old girl in 1990 and for years fought his sentence, was executed by lethal injection Tuesday night at the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls. The execution, the second this month but only the second since 2007, ended a 22-year saga that included his initial conviction being overturned and a flurry of attempts to stop his lethal injection even as he insisted he was ready to die.

The 60-year-old said in July he was ready to accept death as the consequence for killing Becky O'Connell in 1990.

"I don't want to die," Moeller said during a hearing earlier this month. "I want to pay for what I owe."

The injection process started at 10:01 p.m. at the prison, located just blocks from where McConnell had lived and from where she disappeared 22 years ago. Moeller was pronounced dead at 10:24 p.m.

According to Department of Corrections officials, Moeller was asked if he had any last words.

"No, sir," he said. Then, referring to the witnesses, he asked, "They're my fan club?"

McConnell's mother, Tina Curl, witnessed the execution after driving with her husband from her native New York state. She didn't have the money for the 1,400-mile trip but was able to raise enough through

fundraising events.

Speaking at a press conference after the execution Tuesday, Curl showed photos of her daughter and displayed an artistic rendering of what her daughter might have looked like now as a 32-year-old woman.

"Finally, justice for Becky," said Dave Curl, O'Connell's step-father. "He'll never take another breath or hurt another child."

Of Moeller, Dave Curl said, "We despise that so-called man."

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard declined to issue

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Local Fears Of Meningitis Still Prevalent

Area Facilities Stress Their Medical Products Are Safe

BY DEREK BARTOS
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With some Yankton area residents still voicing concerns over a national meningitis outbreak linked to a Massachusetts compounding company, local medical facilities are reassuring the public that their products are safe.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and state partners continue to investigate the outbreak of meningitis among patients who had received epidural steroid injections using products produced and distributed by the New England Company Center (NECC). The products have been linked to at least 354 cases in 19 states, with 25 deaths reported.

As of Oct. 3, the NECC has voluntarily shut down and implicated products have been recalled. The FDA has also recalled additional products as a precautionary measure.

While no Yankton facility has been named as receiving recalled products and South Dakota has reported no cases in the outbreak, numerous patients have expressed their concerns since the outbreak began.

"We have people that come here and are worried about it," said Jennifer Bierle, director of nursing at Lewis and Clark Specialty Hospital. "Just last week we had a woman come in crying about it because she was concerned. With all the

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
District 18 Senate candidate David Allen (second from right) responds to an education question during a legislative candidate forum Tuesday night at the Technical Education Center in Yankton. Also participating were, from left, Sen. Jean Hunhoff, who is seeking re-election; Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, who is also seeking re-election; House candidate Tom Stotz and House candidate Mike Stevens. House candidate Charlie Gross was unable to attend because of a prior commitment.

D18 Candidates Discuss Education

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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In a change from typical forum formats, Tuesday night's District 18 candidate forum spoke about education — a topic that has been hotly debated ever since the deep cuts to education that took place a few years ago.

The forum, which took place at the Technical Education Center in Yankton, featured Senate candidates Jean Hunhoff, an incumbent Republican, and Democratic challenger Dave Allen. The District 18 House candidates are Democratic incumbent Bernie Hunhoff and Charlie Gross and Republicans Dr. Tom Stotz and Mike Stevens. Gross was unable to attend the forum because he teaches at the prison on Tuesday evenings.

All of the questions at the forum were submitted by

members of the Yankton Education Association, made up of teachers and other administrators in the Yankton School District (YSD).

Although most of the questions focused on what each of the candidates would do to help better education in the state, some were about other topics.

One question that got varied responses dealt with how each candidate would stand up to his or her party or the governor on an issue with which they disagreed.

"As a Democrat in a Republican-led government in Pierre, you can make all the difference as a minority there," Bernie Hunhoff said. "You can still speak your mind, write and present bills and Democrats have been able to accomplish a lot in the past few years."

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Decision 2012

Stevens: Life Experiences Will Help Make Difference

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of our series of profiles on Yankton County candidates in the November election. Today, we present the third of our four profiles on the candidates for the District 18 House race.

NAME: Mike Stevens
FAMILY: My wife Deb died of leukemia in January 2008. In August 2012 I remarried. My wife Linda has taught first grade at Beadle Elementary School for the past 25 years. I have two daughters, Sophie and Sadie. Linda has two sons, Erick and Gabe.
EDUCATION/OCCUPATION: I graduated from Bethel College, St. Paul, Minn., and the University of South Dakota Law School in Vermillion. I am a partner with John Blackburn in the law firm of Blackburn & Stevens Prof. LLC. I have practiced law in Yankton for the past 35 years.



Stevens

to pay for nursing home care and what their health care options are. My clients, who like to hunt, are concerned by attempts to erode their 2nd Amendment rights to bear arms. My farming clients are concerned about how the new tax system, based on productivity, will work. Young couples are concerned about being able to get a good paying job in Yankton, buying

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CAMPAIGN STOP



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.) met with approximately 30 supporters Tuesday during a noon rally held at the Yankton County GOP headquarters in downtown Yankton before making other stops around the community. It was part of the representative's "Farms, Families and Friends Tour" in the lead up to her Nov. 6 general election showdown with Democratic challenger Matt Varilek. Noem spent about 30 minutes at the GOP headquarters answering questions and visiting with people. Inquiries were fielded about health care, immigration and the attacks on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi, among other things.

SDNG, Yankton Sioux Consider Joint Efforts

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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MARTY — For Richard Leasure, the South Dakota National Guard (SDNG) and Yankton Sioux Tribe (YST) have remained important parts of his life.

Leasure served nearly a quarter-century in the SDNG with Wagner, Mobridge and Rapid City units. And as a Yankton Sioux, he currently serves as tribal environmental director and emergency manager.

"I was in the National Guard for 22 1/2 years, so I understand their rationale, their assets and what they have available," he said. "As a tribe, we recognize they have got recruitment obligations, and we have a need for assistance and development in certain things."

Now, he sees the two bodies coming together in fulfilling both missions.

SDNG leaders met this month with representatives from several American Indian tribes. At the Oacoma meeting, they discussed partnership opportunities for com-

OUR TOWNS

Charles Mix County

munity service projects on the reservations.

Leasure, along with YST councilmen Jody Zephier and Nick Cournoyer, attended the Oacoma meeting. The tribe has about 11,000 enrolled members, with about 5,000 living on the reservation in southern Charles Mix County, Leasure said.

During this month's meeting, SDNG officials briefed Yankton, Oglala, Rosebud and Cheyenne River representatives on the Guard's role and capabilities. SDNG officials outlined how they can support communities with engineer construction, material transportation and medical support services.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the SDNG adjutant general, views the joint Guard-tribal efforts as a partnership. The SDNG would conduct

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