

Creighton

# Local Re-enactors Bring The Weigand Family To Life

BY LINDA WUEBBEN  
P&D Correspondent

Re-enactors Brad Kellogg and Raija Weisershauser of Wakefield and South Sioux City, respectively, spent an evening recently telling the family history of the Leonard and Theresa Weigand family, early settlers in Knox County. The Creighton Public Library and Creighton Historical Society hosted a presentation on the Weigand pioneer family of Knox County.

Weigand is a familiar name in Northeast Nebraska and Weisershauser started by describing different places where the Weigand name is used like Weigand-Burbach Recreation Area, a Nebraska State Park and a marina in northern Knox County and a street in Yankton.

"Brad and I become interested in these types of occurrences and start to ask why," Weisershauser said. "So we do research."

Kellogg found the Weigand property, including a family cemetery, in Knox County, about seven miles northwest of Crofton and eventually contacted the current owner, Doc J.W. Carlson, a gun aficionado and owner of Upper Midwest Trading Post in Crofton. Carlson's wife De, who recently passed away, was eager to talk to Kellogg, being a local history lover. She was quite knowledgeable about the Weigand family and cemetery Kellogg said.

The Weigand couple left a comfortable life in Germany in 1851 Kellogg said to come to a prosperous land as told by Theresa's brother. He uncovered many interesting facts about the family and the move to America. They crossed the ocean on a sailing vessel which had no resemblance to the ocean liners which sail today. The couple had a 2-year-old son and while waiting on the docks to board their boat, they were approached by an elderly couple with a small boy. The boy's father was in America and the couple asked if they would take the small child to his father. When they found the father in New York, he paid them a handsome sum of five dollars for delivering the son.

After spending time in Cleveland nurs-

**"We do research and write our own stories and eventually build our own scripts. Then we come together to polish it."**

RAIJA WIESERSHAUSER

ing Theresa's brother, they eventually moved westward to Sioux City. Leonard found a hotel for Theresa and children and then traveled into Nebraska with men called claim locators. Land in Nebraska was available for homesteading and he found an area he thought would be a good home. He returned to Sioux City for his family only to find all their belongings were lost in a warehouse fire where they had stored them.

The family then loaded their meager belongings in a homemade wagon and traveled to St. James where they found an old shanty to live in. Men chased them from this would-be home and they came to live in a granary on the Henson Wiseman property for the winter. Wiseman was very good to the new settlers and it was very disheartening to learn the man's children had all been slaughtered by a mauling band of Indians.

In the spring, Wiseman sold the Weigands two steers and a cow. With the livestock and 24 cents in their pocket, the Weigand family traveled to the hills in Knox County where they lived in a dugout. The Weigand home place is located deep in a pasture used today for hunting without a road to travel on. The framework of a two-story house built by Weigand in 1861, a carpenter by trade in his home county of Germany, is barely standing. Fences built with rocks removed from the fertile farm ground still remain and the small family cemetery is tended by neighbors still today.

One time on a trip to replenish the family's supplies, Leonard wanted to do something nice for Theresa so he purchased her some fabric. In those days it was sold

on a bolt wound with several yards of the same material. Leonard chose a bolt in a pink color. For a long time all the family enjoyed the pink fabric for dresses, night shirts and even a work shirt for Leonard. Theresa made it clear on the next trip he need not buy any more pink fabric. Such was the life of a pioneer family.

Over the years Theresa became known as Big Mama and was a doctor, nurse and midwife for neighbors, friends and Indians alike. When she died, Leonard built an underground crypt as a burial place for his wife and eventually himself. He had a dirt ledge on each side, Theresa on the left, always his right hand. He also sealed the crypt with a glass window so visitors could look in at the couple. Water and heavy rains were enemies of the crypt and snakes found it to be a good home so it was filled in for safety reasons. Theresa lived to be 71 years old; Leonard was 88 years old when he died.

Near the head stone of the Weigand couple is a round base with a pipe sticking up. No one really knows what the purpose for it was, but Kellogg believes it was placed there by Leonard to control the humidity and air level in the crypt. It stands untouched.

"I grew up on the Weigand property and mowed hay around it," Marty Taylor of Bloomfield said. "I never saw the crypt but my dad talked about the opera windows he could barely reach to look through."

Over a period of several years, the two re-enactors dig up the dirt and have started doing re-enactments of the research they do. Kellogg also has written a book on history of cemeteries. He has so many stories in his head from talking to people during his research he had to start writing them down.

"We do research and write our own stories and eventually build our own scripts," Wiesershauser said. "Then we come together to polish it." They also do other presentations like the story of Jesse James from the viewpoint of his mother and even a Temperance lecture complete with a hatchet.

## County To Discuss Rail Park Matters

The Yankton County Commission will discuss a number of items pertaining to a proposed industrial rail park at Napa Junction during its meeting Tuesday, including a state loan for upgrading Deer Blvd. to the site.

The commission will also discuss website proposals and hold two executive sessions.

The commission has also called for a special session at 2 p.m. Tuesday to hold an executive session on zoning.

The commission meets at the Yankton County Government Center at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the commission chambers.

## Rail Authority To Hold First Meeting

The Yankton County Railroad Authority is set to hold its first meeting on Monday, Oct. 19.

During Monday's meeting, the board will elect officers, accept the certificate of incorporation and pass bylaws.

The board includes Yankton County commissioners Debra Bodenstedt and Don Kettering representing the county, Yankton City Manager Amy Nelson and City Commissioner Chris Ferdig representing the city, and Jeff May of Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc.

The board will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in Meeting Room A of Yankton City Hall.

## Author To Visit Local Lutheran Church

Author Shari Strong will be at Yankton's Christ the King Lutheran Church Sunday, Oct. 18.

She will take part in an adult forum at 10 a.m., then hold a book-signing at 11 a.m. Strong is the author of the book "My Life Begins Next Monday: The Seven Stages of Overcoming Life's Obstacles."

This event is open to the public. Books will be available for purchase, with \$2 from each book sold going to River City Domestic Violence. The event is sponsored by Christ the King Lutheran Church.

## San Diego Attorney to Speak At USD

VERMILLION — A San Diego attorney who practices military law will speak Monday at the University of South Dakota School of Law's fourth annual Lavender Lecture about the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," subsequent events impacting LGBT service members and the anticipated demise of the prohibitions on transgender service.

Bridge Wilson is a graduate of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and the University of San Diego School of Law. A veteran of the enlisted ranks of the U.S. Army Reserve, she served as a judge advocate with the California State Military Reserve for a decade. She has been a consulting counsel for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network since 1994. Wilson is the co-legal director of the Palm Center, a think tank on sexual minorities in the military. She has taught military justice as an adjunct faculty member at Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Among her publications: "Trench Fighting: Representing Gay Men, Lesbians, and Bisexuals in the Military," 2 Journal of Law and Social Challenges 135 (1998); "Model State Code of Military Justice For the National Guard Not in Federal Service," Commentary, National Institute For Military Justice (2007); "Military and Veterans," a chapter in Sexual Orientation and the Law (1993-2012); Fighting Back: Lesbian and Gay Draft, Military, and Veterans Issues (With Kathleen Gilberd and Joseph Schuman, 1985).

Wilson's lecture, cosponsored by the OUTlaws and VLEG law student groups, begins at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 19, in the USD School of Law's courtroom. The Lavender Lecture began in 2013 with the newly formed OUTlaws law student organization. Its purpose is to bring speakers to USD Law's campus to highlight and educate on legal issues important to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

## AWS President To Speak Oct. 21

Anyone with an interest in welding is invited to attend a special presentation by David Landon, the 2015 president and chairman of the board of the American Welding Society (AWS), as he addresses members of The Siouxland Section and members of the general public at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Landon's Yankton presentation, entitled, "A Triple Pass of the Torch: Technology, Heroism and Mentorship," will be held at RTEC, 1200 W. 21st St. in Yankton.

"David's visit will be a wonderful opportunity for members of The Siouxland Section and for those who are connected to the welding industry," said Josh Svatos, who is RTEC's president and COO and who also serves as vice chairman of The Siouxland Section.

"The fact that his presentation will focus on training and mentoring youth should be a good fit," according to Svatos. "Our youth are the future of this great country and investing in them is a critical aspect of workforce development."

Having been mentored by some of the greatest in the welding industry, Landon's passion for training new welders and mentoring others will be the main focus of his presidential year. Consistent with Landon's passion, the Iowa Section of the American Welding Society has launched the David J. Landon Scholarship. The endowment is made possible by the generous donations of the Iowa Section of the American Welding Society, Vermeer Corporation, and the matching gift program of the American Welding Society. The scholarship will enable young welders to develop and refine their skills through education and aid them in their efforts to accomplish extraordinary achievements in the industry.

Landon has been an active member of the Society for more than 30 years and previously served as vice president of AWS from 2012-2014. Landon has also been a contributing member to many technical committees and won several awards from the Society including the District 16 Dalton E. Hamilton Memorial Certified Welding Inspector of the Year award and numerous meritorious awards. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in welding engineering from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas.

Currently Landon lives in Pella, Iowa, where he is the manager of welding engineering for Vermeer Corporation, a global industrial and agricultural equipment company.

There is no charge to attend Landon's special AWS presentation at RTEC on Oct. 21. For more information, please contact RTEC at (605) 668-5700.

## OBITUARIES

### Alvera Weinke

Alvera Weinke, age 83, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Memorial services are 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Reverend Dani Jo Ninke officiating. Inurnment will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the memorial service on Sunday.

Alvera was born April 29, 1932 in Scotland, South Dakota to William and Martha (Schneider) Retzer. She graduated from Scotland High School in 1950. On January 5, 1951, Alvera married Robert Weinke and they made their home in Yankton. She worked as a secretary/treasurer in many businesses throughout Yankton, including Mean's Cleaners and Launderers, Credit Bureau, KYNT, Cimpl Packing Company, Schindler Foot Clinic and finally for her husband at Bob Weinke Insurance. Alvera loved to golf and bowl and also enjoyed sailing, doing puzzles and reading.

Alvera is survived by her brother, Ronnie Retzer of Santa Maria, CA; niece, Theresa (Laverne) Hoff of



Weinke

Olivet, SD; nephew, Greg (Cindy) Zweifel of Scotland, SD; five great nieces and nephews: Stacie Zweifel

(Seth Peterson) and their children, Cohen and Vivien; Paul (Alyssa) Zweifel and their children, Parker, Aspen and Raegan; Jared (Jenell) Zweifel and their son, Henry; Troy (Teresa) Hoff and their children, Tiana and Tyler; and David (Kristin) Hoff and their children, Audrey and Madeline.

Alvera was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert on December 9, 1988; and sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Donald Zweifel.

To send an online message to the family, please visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
October 17, 2015

  
**WINTZ & RAY**  
FUNERAL HOME and  
CREMATION SERVICE  
Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

### Arnold 'Arnie' Konken

Arnold "Arnie" D. Konken, age 83 of Hartington, Nebraska, died on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at the Avera Yankton Care Center in Yankton, South Dakota.

Funeral Services will be on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hartington with the Rev. Timothy Koester officiating. Burial will be at the Hartington City Cemetery.

Visitation will be on Sunday from 1-5:00 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. Visitation will continue on Monday one hour prior to services.

Pallbearers will be Mark Johnson, Matt Nighbert, Ken Strivens, Dale Strivens, Lee Strivens and Richard Roberts.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Lucas Brightwell and Kelly Konken.

Arnold Duane Konken was born on December 1, 1931 in Coleridge, Nebraska to George Ludwig and Bertha (Harms) Konken. He grew up in the Coleridge area and had various jobs prior to working for the Cedar County Roads Department for 26 years. Arnie drove a road grader and was part of the bridge building crew. He retired at the age of 65 years. He married Marjorie Effie Dowling on November 30, 1951 in Coleridge, Nebraska. They sold the farm and moved into Hartington in 1982. Marjorie died on May 4, 1985 at the age of 55 years.

One of Arnie's hobbies was woodworking. He and his son Gene crafted the Donation Tree for the Laurel

School. Arnie loved camping, fishing, bonfires, the outdoors, and especially being at the lake lot where he would spend 4 days a week from spring thru fall. He loved going out in the pontoon. We called him our "cruise director." He enjoyed playing cards and shuffleboard, and watching his sons play pool. Arnie was always there on any building projects the family had and loved being the "supervisor." He tore down many old barns and enjoyed reworking the wood to create something new.

Arnie is survived by one daughter LaVonne and husband Richard Lilly of Sioux Falls, SD; four sons Randy Konken of Kalispell, Montana, Ronald Konken of Yankton, SD, Gene and wife Vickie Konken of Yankton, SD, Dave and wife Ellen Konken of Yankton; 13 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; one sister Leanna Loftis of Central City, NE; several nieces and nephews.

Arnie was preceded in death by his parents George and Bertha Konken, wife Marjorie; brother Kenneth Konken; sister Deltha Roberts; granddaughter Jori Lyn Effie Gates Konken.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
October 17, 2015

  
**WINTZ**  
FUNERAL HOME  
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton

203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505  
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Maurita A. (Weinandt) Diehl  
10:00 AM, Saturday  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
Fordyce

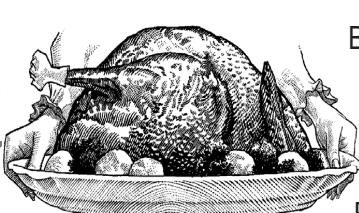
  
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Yankton  
605-665-3644 [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com) 402-254-6547

## SOUP KITCHEN

**VFW POST 791**  
209 Cedar St. • Yankton, SD  
**TUESDAY, Oct. 20**  
**11am to 7pm**

Serving: Hot Dogs & Chili Dogs, Taverns, Homemade Soup (Chicken Noodle, Vegetable Beef, Bean, & Chili.), Homemade Pie, Coffee & Milk  
**Serving upstairs**

## PLAN TO ATTEND THE YANKTON KIWANIS 47TH ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER



Serving Baked Turkey with all the Trimmings (Catered by Central Catering - Blue Mound)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 • 4-7 PM**  
**YANKTON SENIOR CENTER**  
**LOCATED AT 900 WHITING DRIVE**

Children 10 & under - \$5.00 • Adults - \$10.00  
Tickets available at the door or from Boller Printing, First National Bank or any Kiwanis member

**CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE!**

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