

Yankton Author Featured At SD Festival

BROOKINGS — Yankton author Marilyn Kratz will be featured as a presenter at the 12th annual South Dakota Festival of Books Sept. 25-28 in Brookings and Sioux Falls.

Each year, thousands of people converge on the annual South Dakota Festival of Books, a weekend-long event that features well-known authors participating in book signings, presentations, panel discussions and readings. The Festival of Books has become a premier literary event in the Midwest region.

Kratz's schedule for the four-day event is as follows:

- "Umpire in a Skirt" on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. at the Children's Museum of South Dakota "Party on One" room
- "Umpire in a Skirt" on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 1:30 p.m. at the Children's Museum of South Dakota "Party on One" room
- "Feed Sack Dresses" on Friday, Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn City Centre Palisades II room
- "Recording a Unique Time" on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater - Anne Zabel

During her 50 years as a freelance writer, Kratz has published more than 650 stories, poems, articles and newspaper columns. Her children's stories have appeared in Highlights for Children, High Five, Hello and magazines in the Cricket and National Wildlife Federation groups.

She writes for each issue of Living Here, a regional magazine, and writes a twice-monthly nostalgia newspaper column. Her play, "A Christmas to Remember," was produced in Yankton in 2012. She has published five books, including her latest, "Feed Sack Dresses and Wild Plum Jam - Remembering Farm Life in the 1950s" and was named the South Dakota Council of Teachers of English Author of the Year for 2014.

Kratz is a retired elementary teacher and a member of the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She lives in Yankton.

For more on the South Dakota Festival of Books, including full event and author schedules, please visit www.sdbookfestival.com and/or download the official Festival of Books smartphone app (found in iOS and Android app stores by searching "sd festival of books").

Drug Take-Back Day Slated Sept. 27

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska residents will have a chance on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. local time to get unwanted, unused and expired medications out of your home and dispose of them properly. Thousands of locations across the United States will provide a free and anonymous service sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

More than half of the 41,300 unintentional drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2011 were from prescription drugs and opioid pain relievers.

Seventy percent of the people who abuse prescription pain medications for the first time get their meds from a friend or relative's residence, including home medicine cabinets, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. A 2011 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report states that 110 Americans die each day from drug overdoses.

"Every 19 minutes there is a death from a drug overdose. More than half of the calls to the Nebraska Regional Poison Center involve a medication. By taking the time to get these unused, unwanted or expired medications out of our homes, we can make a difference and it is something that we can all do," said Joan McVoy, R.N., C.S.P.I. and Educator at the Nebraska Poison Center.

Communities across the United States will be taking part in this event and raising awareness on the potential for abuse of prescription medications. What is the best way to dispose of medications? Don't flush medications as they contaminate our streams and groundwater.

Contact the Nebraska Poison Center and we can help you find the drop off location that is closest to you. Call 1-800-222-1222.

ERTH Kicks-Off Yankton Program Sept. 27

ERTH, the Ecumenical Religious Training for the Handicapped program serving the Yankton area, will begin this year on Saturday, Sept. 27 with a picnic at the south shelter in Fante Memorial Park. Past and new participants are asked to gather at noon for a cookout sponsored by Sacred Heart Monastery.

ERTH classes will begin the following Saturday, Oct. 4, at St. Benedict Catholic Church, 1500 St. Benedict Drive at 1 p.m. The group will then meet every Saturday afternoon through the end of April 2015 at local churches for lessons celebrating Jesus and His Teachings (the Good News) and fellowship. The program is designed especially for developmentally handicapped adults living or working in the greater Yankton area. Each new participant receives a copy of the Good News Bible which is used in the lessons.

Churches which will host ERTH classes this year include Peace Presbyterian, Calvary Baptist, United Church of Christ Congregational, St. Benedict and Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes, Riverview Reformed, St. John's Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran and First United Methodist.

ERTH is funded by contributions from the participating churches as well as Sacred Heart Monastery, Marty Council of the Knights of Columbus, participants' contributions and the VFW Auxiliary and operates under the sponsorship of the Yankton Area Ministerial Association.

Persons interested in attending ERTH classes this year or helping with the program should attend the picnic or call 660-0953 for further information.

Prayer

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"I sold drugs while at the same time prepared papers for those being court-martialed," he said.

After leaving the Army, Peratt was introduced to a motorcycle gang at the apartment his mother managed. As a San Diego native, he was known by the biker gang as "Nasty Al." He controlled the gang's drug trafficking in the Sturgis and Rapid City areas. That ended in 1988 when he was arrested.

Prison time turned this inmate into a servant for God. He was the music leader and associate pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church for 15 years. Peratt then founded Set Free ministries, a church for bikers, addicts and alcoholics. He was Pastor there for six years. During this time "Set Free" founded churches in Beresford and Sleepy Eye, Minnesota.

As a chaplain of VOA in Sioux Falls, Peratt helps individuals step away from drug and alcohol abuse. He was elected to be on the Church

Governing Board, a national office group of the VOA. This was an election from VOA ministers across America. The board is inter-denominational, consisting of ministers from many different denominations.

"It goes outside the walls of the church," Peratt said.

Since 1896, VOA has supported and empowered America's most vulnerable groups.

Today, Peratt uses the words, "miracle" and "hope" a lot. More than a year ago, he had a fast-moving cancer in the head and neck region. He was in a 45-day coma. The cancer is now in remission.

"It's a miracle," he said.

He's making the most of the "window of opportunity" by recording all of his lectures, and he is in the process of writing a book about his journey from a life of drug and alcohol use to a spiritual renewal, which has turned into a daily ministry to current and former inmates on both a state and federal level.

Doors for the sixth annual Yankton Area Mayor's Prayer Breakfast open at 6:30 a.m. and the event begins at 7 a.m. Reservations are required. Tickets can be acquired by calling 605-660-0378.

Women Gradually Assume Greater Roles In Agriculture

BY DR. MIKE ROSMANN

Women produce half the food consumed by more than six billion people in the world, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. While women are commonplace as farmers in less developed continents like Africa and Asia, women are gradually assuming greater roles as food producers in the more developed parts of the world, such as the U.S.

The 2012 Census of Agriculture reports that females were the principal operators of 14 percent of the 2.1 million U.S. farms in 2012, the same percentage as in the 2007 census. The total number of farms dropped from 2.2 million farms in 2007; there was a slightly larger decline of women than men as principal operators.

However, women-operated farms that earned more than \$100,000 yearly increased the most from 2007. As principal operators overall, women tended to manage smaller farms than men in terms of annual sales, for 91 percent of farms with females as principal operators earned less than \$50,000 in 2012.

The 2012 census report also indicates that women were second operators on 67 percent of nearly one million farms that had more than a single operator.

My recent experiences speaking at a Women in Agriculture meeting in South Dakota and to other farm women's groups previously are consistent with what the statistics say. Most of the 200 women with whom I visited last week are grain farmers and/or livestock producers.

Several unmarried women who attended the event work with their parents on family-owned agriculture operations that entail several thousand acres and some have their own enterprises. You bachelor farmers and ranchers who are reading this, are you paying attention?

Several factors contribute to the increase of women's involvement in contemporary U.S. agriculture. Movement toward gender equality in what traditionally was a predominately male occupation for the past couple centuries



Dr. Mike ROSMANN

in this country is foremost. Take the agriculture-related occupation of veterinary medicine as an example. In 2010 there were equal percentages of males and females practicing veterinary medicine, but 78 percent of veterinary medicine students

were female, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association; many of these women treat farm animals. While some people suggest the development of mechanical devices to make strenuous tasks easier contributes to women entering agriculture, this is probably not the case; men and women can repair farm equipment, pull calves...and cook. Women or men now take the lead in securing marriage partners too.

Gender roles previously were—and still are—shifting. The U.S. had a female Secretary of Agriculture during the recent Bush administration; movement toward gender equality can also be detected in the current United States Department of Agriculture.

The current Deputy Secretary of Agriculture is a woman. One of seven USDA undersecretaries is female; five of the nine office chiefs are female.

Women were key to settling rural America from the beginning. Agriculture in Native American communities flourished because women planted, hoed, watered and harvested the corn, squash and other crops consumed by their families and tribes.

The grains and vegetables produced by America's first farmers were shared with everyone. As European, Asian and African settlers replaced Native people on the land, males generally have been portrayed as assuming most of the farming and ranching activities.

Mari Sandoz's book, Old Jules, tells a different story, for Mari, her mother

and two sisters mostly tended the orchard, crops, gardens and the livestock on their western Nebraska settlement. Many pioneering women worked alongside their husbands and sons on their farms and ranches, and took over entirely when the men hunted, fished and took part in political functions.

Rural women had key roles in the settling of rural North America in ways that often are not acknowledged. In my area of western Iowa, as well as in other rural areas in the late 1800s, most townships had reading clubs, food-processing bees and sewing circles, which rural women attended monthly or whenever they could.

These clubs provided a great deal of social support, psychological therapy and literary stimulation to women who often were homebound except when the family attended church or traveled to town for occasional shopping.

While many of the men's activities took place around socializing in taverns, politics and sports, women's activities were more likely to involve family and community life through church, education and the arts. Annie's Project, which educates farm women about risk management, and Women in Agriculture are examples of contemporary organizations for women involved in agriculture, along with many other thriving rural women's auxiliaries and clubs.

When my family and I moved to Iowa in 1979 after Marilyn and I left positions at the University of Virginia, Marilyn was invited to join several community women's organizations. They were important to helping her find friends and opportunities for herself in our new community.

Some of the women whom Marilyn first met in these organizations remain her good friends today and they are my good friends now too.

Dr. Mike and Marilyn Rosmann reside on their farm near Harlan, Iowa. Dr. Rosmann can be contacted at: www.agbehavioralhealth.com.

Flower

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The featured speaker of the event is Kim Todd associate professor and Extension landscape specialist from the University of Nebraska. She also is the host of Nebraska Educational Television's program "Backyard Farmer," which after 60 seasons is the longest running local television show in the nation. Todd will present her method of teaching landscape design, focusing attention on the "why" instead of the "what" in gardening.

"Many of us watch the show," Doerr said. "We thought she would be great. She has never been to any of our events in this state, so we are excited."

The event Saturday will include many speakers during breakout sessions such as Dr. Amanda Backmann, a South Dakota Extension consumer field specialist, Dr. Rhonda Burrows, Extension horticulturist field specialist at South Dakota State University (SDSU) and Joe Hoffman, horticulturist and Bureau of Prisons Vocational Training horticulture instructor.

"It's going to be a great educational experience for everyone that attends," Doerr said.

Between breakout sessions, the event will host two field trips.

One of the field trips will be to the old Yankton Nurseries led by nurseryman Jay Gurney.

"We used to have Gurney's Nursery here. Everyone used to get their seeds from Gurney's," she said. "That used to be a huge deal in Yankton, so Gurney will be giving a tour of the old family business."

The last field trip will be to the Yankton Arboretum led by Dr. John Ball, SDSU

professor of forestry and Extension forestry specialist.

"I don't think that many people know we have an arboretum here," Doerr noted. "The discussion there will be what to grow and what not to in our area."

Doerr said the point of the event is to try and bring out interesting aspects of Yankton that people don't know about and normally see. She said the event will be worth the registration fee.

"People will receive a lot of valuable information Saturday" she said. "It's a bargain."

The public event will close with a silent and live auction. Proceeds from the auction will go to master gardeners to develop a project for the community. Attendees are invited to donate an item to auction.

"The items can be gardening tools, bulbs or produce," said Doerr. "It is to a good cause."

So far, 140 people have signed up for Saturday's event. The Missouri Valley Master Gardeners initial goal was 150.

"The more people, the better," Doerr said.

To register, see Saturday, Sept. 27, event forms at the 2014 Master Gardener Update at Missouri Valley Master Gardener's website: <http://missourivalleyymg@yahoo.com> or go to the Extension Office for Master Gardener Update Registration forms at 901 Whiting Dr. in Yankton. For questions, call (605)665-3387 or e-mail missourivalleyymg@yahoo.com.

Follow Jordynne Hart on Twitter at twitter.com/hartjordynne. Discuss this story at yankton.net

Buddy Bench



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The Lincoln Elementary Student Council stands next to their "Buddy Bench."

Student Council Helps Students Build Confidence

The Lincoln Elementary Student Council proudly presents their new BUDDY BENCH! The BUDDY BENCH provides a place for students to go when they lack confidence to join a game, feel alone or sad, or simply need

some friends to play with. Other students invite them to talk or invite them to play. It challenges students to support each other and demonstrate care and concern for one another. Go Lincoln Leaders!!

Congratulations



Wireless World Relocates In Yankton

Wireless World, a premium Verizon Wireless retailer, had a grand opening celebration Thursday, Sept. 18th at their new location on the corner of 31st and Broadway. The chamber of commerce and several other organizations were present for the Ribbon Cutting and celebration.

Keith Zessin, store manager, states, "We are excited to be in this new "Experience" Store. Verizon designates this new store design as an "Experience" store. Customers can come in and experience and demo all the new products that we offer. This next closest of such a store is in the Mall of America. This new store has an updated look, more than twice the space and provides a better location for our customers."

Wireless World began in 1997 and has grown into one of the largest Verizon Wireless Premium Retailers in the Great Plains region with 36 stores in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and western Wisconsin. Customer service is Wireless World's primary focus and its employees strive to be number one in taking care of their customers.

Wireless World has a full line of basic phones smartphones, tablets, accessories, mobile hot spots, home phone services, wireless internet devices, wireless speakers, wireless cameras and much more!

"We are very excited to relocate our retail presence to this great retail corner in Yankton and welcome everyone to come in to see us with any questions. We will offer the best in customer service to help you with any of your communication needs", says owner Vince Lubben.

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