

COMMUNITY NEWS

Library series hosts Albright

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library will host Vermillion artist Ariadne Albright for the March Artists and Authors series on Wednesday evening, March 5 at 7 p.m.

The talk, "Ari Talks Turkey (The Country, Not the Bird)," will include her recent paintings, travels to Turkey made possible by a South Dakota Arts Council Artists Fellowship grant, as well as her involvement in arts in healthcare work. The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library is located at 18 Church Street in Vermillion.

For more information call the Library at (605) 677-7060.

Des Moines opera will perform

The Des Moines Metro opera will be performing at 7 p.m., March 6, at the Summit Center in Yankton. The performance is presented by OPERA Iowa. OPERA Iowa is an educational program of the Des Moines Metro Opera.

Members of the 2014 OPERA Iowa Troupe include Joshua Wheeker, Zachary Ballard, Stephanie Schoehofer, Scott Arens, Bevin Hill, Thomas Plummer and Alex Soare.

Local student makes dean's list

GRINNELL, IA – Nathan Ford has been named to the Grinnell College Dean's List for the fall semester 2013. Ford is one of 286 students honored for outstanding academic achievement by Grinnell College.

To make the dean's list, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or above.

Ford is the son of Steven and Pamela Ford of Vermillion.

Since its founding in 1846, Grinnell has become one of the nation's premier liberal arts colleges, enrolling 1,600 students from all 50 states and from as many international countries. Grinnell's rigorous academic program emphasizes excellence in education for students in the liberal arts; the college offers the B.A. degree in a range of departments across the humanities, arts and sciences. Grinnell has a strong tradition of social responsibility and action, and self-governance and personal responsibility are key components of campus life.

More information about Grinnell College is available at www.grinnell.edu.

Frat raises money for research

The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Kappa Pi Chapter at the University of South Dakota, raised more than \$1,700 for leukemia, lymphoma and melanoma cancer research through the Taylor Trudeau Cycle for Life event in February.

Cycle for Life is an annual philanthropy activity open to all members of the USD campus as well as members of the Vermillion community. Taylor Trudeau Cycle for Life promotes healthy habits while raising money and awareness for leukemia, lymphoma and melanoma research.

The Kappa Pi Chapter experienced record attendance and donations from families and businesses in 2014, succeeding last year's fundraising total by more than \$400. For more information, contact Cole Hensley, Pi Kappa Alpha public relations chair, at cole.hensley@coyotes.usd.edu or at (605) 413-6987.

Flooding and the Fifth?

By Randy Dockendorf
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

NORTH SIOUX CITY – Property owners suffering Missouri River flood damage can use the Fifth Amendment, a Kansas City, MO, attorney says.

Not the well-known part about self-incrimination, but rather the "taking" clause, said Seth Wright with the Polsinelli Law Firm. The national firm is considering a lawsuit against the federal government, recovering damages caused by changing its Missouri River management.

"The claims will be based on the fact that something has changed, and this river is different," Wright told about two dozen people Saturday at the Dakota Valley High School auditorium.

"We had anticipated \$200 million in total claims, and we are already over this," he said, adding he anticipated \$1 million in expenses for the lawsuit.

The McCook Lake and Dakota Dunes areas were among the areas affected by 2011 flooding. Meetings were previously held in Onawa, IA; Dakota City, NE, and Pierre, also affected by the 2011 flood.

"But this isn't based solely on the 2011 flood. It's based on the recurrent flooding since 2006," he said, adding that the suit also isn't based on any alleged mismanagement or negligence by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The suit also isn't a criticism of local levy boards.

The potential lawsuit also isn't an attack on the Corps officials who work at the local facilities, Wright said.

"The Corps has great local people, and this is not a shot at them," he said. "If you ask the locals, they would probably want

change. These are decisions made in Washington, D.C."

The suit, if pursued, would allege the federal government can't "take" private property without just compensation, and the flooding of recent years constitutes the taking of property, Wright said.

In this case, it means the Missouri River flooding – including the historic 2011 floods causing billions of dollars in damage – were atypical.

"Was the flooding experienced during 2011 'typical'? I think not," he said. "Our theory is that it was a deviation in the Corps' typical water management operations."

As part of his presentation, Wright showed slides of sites through the years. He explained the federal government's decisions that turned a historically wild and untamed Missouri River into a system of dams through the Flood Control Act of 1944. Flood control was designated as the top priority for the dams.

However, the Corps no longer follows a ranked list, instead following a group of congressionally authorized purpose. The change in management accelerated following a court ruling that the Corps must protect the least tern and piping plover under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), he said.

Those changes in management have created hardships for those who live and own property along the river, Wright said.

"You made decisions based on what the Corps had done for the river. Now, (federal officials) have to pay you," he told the audience.

The lawsuit seeks to prevent future flood

damages, Wright said.

"The flooding isn't over. Jody Farhat (chief of the Corps' Missouri River basin management division in Omaha) said there will be flooding, and she blamed it on the tributaries," he said. "This flooding is ongoing and will not stop till their policies are stopped and (the Corps) goes back to its historical practices."

The impact of the lawsuit would go far beyond the affected property owners and will help preserve a way of life along the river, Wright said. "It affects all our small communities. They depend on the river. If things don't change, they will cease to exist," he said. "We need to go to Congress and open their eyes. We need to shine a light on the Corps and what they are doing."

Afterwards, audience members spoke with Wright and picked up packets used in the lawsuit. The attorney also explained the "mass action lawsuit," where the action is accepted as a group but the individual claimants are then handled separately.

Myron Heine of St. Helena, NE, lives along the Missouri River and read about the lawsuit in the Press & Dakotan.

"We're just here to get more information," he said. "I'm not sure if our neighbors would be interested (in the lawsuit)."

Dakota Dunes resident Greg Parham said he didn't realize the changes in the Corps' management practices until attending Saturday's meeting. He also attended the presentation to learn his options.

"We suffered an estimated \$50,000 to \$100,000 damage to our home," he said. "It put us back several years."

State Sen. Dan Lederman lives in Dakota Dunes and said he attended Saturday's meeting as a private citizen. His home suffered flood damage in 2011, and he was displaced for about four months.

Lederman believes the lawsuit would have merit in court.

"I believe this lawsuit will raise a lot of eyebrows because of the research done. This meeting isn't just about monetary claims but also our way of life," he said. "I feel there are legitimate claims, that there is a 100 percent potential of getting a settlement from the federal government."

Lederman, a state senator representing the southeast corner of South Dakota, also attended Friday night's lawsuit presentation in Pierre. The law firm's representative met with state officials while in Pierre, he said.

Lederman said the suit could benefit any property owner along the entire length of the river. Claims could include moving expenses, cleanup costs and potentially lost business.

Agricultural land could also play a key part of the lawsuit, he said.

"There was a lot of farm ground affected," he said. "There is 1,700 miles of river, and we estimate there was \$2 billion in ag loss."

Lederman said he doesn't want to see a repeat of the 2011 flooding, which affected the entire river system for months.

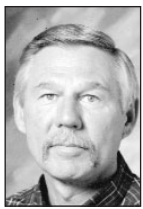
"I want to do everything I possibly can. They're not taking proper steps to stop more flooding," he said. "We need Congress to act. This needs to be fixed."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

OBITUARIES

Bruce Ellefson

Bruce Ellefson passed away at home Monday, Feb. 24, 2014, from multiple myeloma.



Ellefson

He was born June 22, 1949, in Minot, ND, to Earl Ellefson, Sr. and Lois (Jacobson) Ellefson. Bruce graduated from Vermillion High School and went on to earn a B.S. in elementary education with emphasis in special education from the University of South Dakota in 1972.

He was a Pledge Brother of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He trained in the National Guard at Fort Polk, LA, and Fort Sam Houston, TX as a medic. He taught in Vermillion and Beresford before moving to Boise, ID. He taught for the Boise School District at Maple Grove Elementary from 1985 to 2007. It was there that he met his wife, Mary. They were married for 23 years.

Bruce had a passion for running and fitness. He coordinated the Running Club at Park Center. Running in the foothills and along the Greenbelt with his friends was one of his favorite pastimes. Bruce recorded 10 years of consecutive daily running of 38,000 miles. He ran a multitude of marathons around the

country. Riding his Harley and attending Sturgis for a number of years was another great pastime. Bruce loved his "shop night(s)" and "coffee" buddies. The "break man" was in attendance whenever possible.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Mary of Boise; mother, Lois Ellefson of Vermillion; siblings, Bonnie Radigan, Kelly (Kim) Gilkyson of Vermillion, Laurel (Doug) Ashmore of Norfolk, Earl Ellefson, Jr. of Gig Harbor, and Tracy (Jeff) Kayl of Greeley; sisters-in-law, Jane Brewer of Meridian, Joann (John) Hollstein of Nampa, Nancy (Rex) Franklin of Adrian; and numerous nieces and nephews. Bruce was preceded in death by his father, Earl Ellefson; a sister, Lupe; a brother-in-law, Jeff Radigan; and a dear sister-in-law, Laurene Ellefson.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the entire St. Luke's MSTI team. In the entire seven years of care, the professionalism, friendliness, and true compassion could not have been exceeded. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bruce's name to St. Luke's MSTI, the Humane Society, or a favorite charity of your choice. A celebration of life will be held at a later time. Condolences or

memories may be left at the Cremation Society of Idaho Web site: www.cremationsociety-idaho.com.

Lucille Ufford

Lucille Adell Palmquist Ufford was born on Aug. 10, 1927, on a farm near Winfred. She passed away on Feb. 21, 2014, in Palm Desert, CA.

Lucille was the daughter of Gus and Mabel Palmquist and was the youngest of seven sisters. Lucille went to Madison High School and then to the University of South Dakota, where she graduated with a degree in Music and English.

She married William "Bill" Ufford, whom she met while in college, and began a career in teaching. They eventually moved to California where he became a contract

administrator for an aerospace corporation. They had one daughter, Gail.

Lucille was a creative person, who painted lovely landscapes, sewed, and played the piano and organ. She was an active member of the church choir and especially appreciated the high soprano notes.

Later in life, she embarked on a career in Real Estate, which allowed her and Bill to retire early in San Marcos, CA. They enjoyed travelling the world together.

Lucille is preceded in death by her husband, and is survived by her daughter, Gail Ufford Cutler of Palm Springs, CA; her sister, Doris Thelin of Escondido, CA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held at BluffView Cemetery in Vermillion. Kober-Funeral Home in Vermillion, South Dakota and Wiefels Funeral Home in Palm Springs, California are making arrangements.

Condolences may be posted online to www.koberfuneralhome.com.

Paul Fuchs

Paul Fuchs, 64, of Vermillion, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, at the Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

Paul was born Dec. 19, 1949, in Vermillion to Robert and Cleo (Lee) Fuchs. He graduated from Vermillion High School in 1968, and had worked at Load King in Elk Point for over 20 years retiring due to illness in 1999.

He is survived by his brother, Bill (Patti) of

Pierre; two sisters, Joann Rolfes of Bloomfield, NE, and Gayle Fuchs of Vermillion, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, James.

Funeral services were 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion with burial following in the Calvary Cemetery in Vermillion. Visitation began at 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. hansenfuneralhome.com.

MECKLING TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014
7:00 PM
TOWNSHIP HALL

Election of Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor
Road maintenance discussion

ANNUAL MEETING

Fairview Township Annual Meeting
March 4th, 2014 • 7:00pm
at Burbank School

Sealed bids for gravel accepted,
to be opened at the meeting

Fairview Clerk • Jane Simons • 659-0207

NOTICE

The annual meeting of Norway Township will be on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the Clay County Highway Department on Timber Rd. Bids for blading, gravel, snow removal and mowing will be opened at that time. Send bids to: Tom Knutson, Supervisor, Norway Township, 45753 Timber Rd., Vermillion, SD 57069. No later than Friday, February 28, 2014. Township reserves right to reject any and all bids.

Jay Bottolfson, Clerk

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