



Andrea Lias and Nicholas Kooi

## Will wed

David and Cindy Lias of Vermillion are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Andrea to Nicholas Kooi, son of Roger and Carol Kooi of Valley Springs.

Andrea is a 2005 graduate of Vermillion High School and a December 2009 graduate of the University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. The

bride-to-be is currently employed at Children's Care Hospital and School in Sioux Falls.

Nicholas is a 2000 graduate of Sioux Falls Christian High School and is currently employed at Appliance and Furniture Rent-All in Sioux Falls.

A June 12 wedding is being planned.



Amanda Wynia, left, and Bernie LeCates, SESDAC, Inc. human resources director present Darcy Kohlmeier, community supports instructor, center, with employee of the month award.

## Kohlmeier selected as SESDAC, Inc. employee of the month

Darcy Kohlmeier, community supports instructor, was selected as the SESDAC, Inc. January, 2010 Employee of the Month. Darcy has been employed at SESDAC, Inc. since September, 2009.

Darcy was nominated for the award by her fellow co-workers, based on her dedication to her job and the people she supports.

Co-workers had the following compliments written in their nominations for Darcy, "Darcy goes above and beyond expectations. She shows compassion in her job and is a real asset!" Darcy currently resides in Vermillion.

SESDAC, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to live, work, and socialize in their community. SESDAC, Inc. began providing services in 1973 and currently serves 75 people with disabilities and has 140 employees.

## Jensen to display artwork

Yankton artist Janet Jensen will display her artwork at the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion from Feb. 1 through March 31.

The exhibition, titled "Spearfish Canyon: First Impressions" will feature 24 pastel paintings of the beautiful Spearfish Canyon in fall color. Her paintings depict the colorful aspens, hiking paths, waterfalls and streams with lichen-covered rocks all under a canopy of autumn hues.

The opening reception for the show will be Saturday, Feb. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. and Jensen

will give a talk about her work. The event is free and open to the public.

The W.H. Over Museum is located at 1110 Ratingen Street, on the campus of The University of South Dakota next to the DakotaDome. Hours of the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information call 605-677-5228.

# Local gifts to Haiti being accepted by Lutheran Social Services of SD

People wanting to support the relief efforts in Haiti can do so by sending financial gifts to your local Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota location. LSS will collect and send the gifts to the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Disaster Response. LSS will not be able to accept in-kind gifts such as clothing and quilts because we do not have means to transport them.

The ELCA, through the Lutheran World Federation, is already responding to the critical needs of survivors in Haiti. Thankfully, the LWF offices and staff on the island were spared in the earthquake, making it possible for work to begin immediately. Staff in Haiti will focus their immediate efforts on issues of water safety and sanitation, assisting with medical triage, and providing emergency shelter-

ing for the many who are now homeless. The ELCA has long-standing relationships in Haiti through several organizations and the Lutheran Church in Haiti.

In anticipation of a generous response, ELCA Disaster Response has authorized \$250,000 for immediate relief assistance in Haiti, with the possibility for an additional \$500,000 as the full scope of this disaster continues to become clear.

While volunteers, especially skilled workers, will likely be needed in the coming months, the situation on the ground is still far too chaotic—no water, no power, few roads, and very limited communication—to support volunteers traveling to the area in the immediate days.

Gifts can be made out to LSS or ELCA Disaster Response and sent to Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, 701 E.

41st Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105. Write "Haiti Relief" in the memo line. To give electronically, links are provided on [www.LessD.org](http://www.LessD.org) and Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota via Facebook.

The ELCA is a member of The Lutheran World Federation, a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Switzerland, LWF now has 140 churches in 79 countries all over the world representing 68.9 million Christians. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of common interest such as ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communications, and the various aspects of development of mission and development work.

## USD's acclaimed Rawlins Piano Trio to perform Jan. 28 concert

The nationally acclaimed Rawlins Piano Trio of The University of South Dakota will present its second concert of the 2009-2010 Vermillion season at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28 at Colton Recital Hall of the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts.

All three artists, pianist Susan Keith Gray, violinist Eunho Kim and cellist Marie-Elaine Gagnon, are members of USD Department of Music faculty. They are collaborating with bass-baritone Rick Piersall, a member of the voice faculty at USD, for the Jan. 28 performance, which is free and open to the public.

The program will include the world premiere performance of "Opposites Attract" by James Lentini, an award-winning composer and guitarist, and dean and professor of music of the School of Fine Arts at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The work was commissioned by the Rawlins Piano Trio and consists of two

movements that are contrasting in character: "Alpha Meets Omega" and "Dances of the Yin-Yang." Piersall joins pianist Gray for songs by Johannes Brahms. All four artists will perform Daniel L. Kramlich's "Flesh and Blood" (2007) and three songs on poems by Sylvia Plath for bass-baritone and piano trio. The finale of the concert will be the well-known "Trio in B major, Opus 8" by Brahms.

Since its founding in 1987, the Rawlins Piano Trio has distinguished itself as a dynamic group of performers, teachers and scholars. The ensemble performs regularly throughout the United States and abroad, including recent concert and teaching tours throughout Taiwan and Panama. Owing to its expertise as a preeminent interpreter of American music, the ensemble has recorded four CDs on the Albany Records label. The fourth disc, "American Discoveries" was



released in July 2009.

Named for the late Robert and the late Marjorie Rawlins, the Trio continues its commissioning program with a number of new works to be

premiered during the next year. For more information see the Trio's Web site at [www.rawlinstriotrio.com](http://www.rawlinstriotrio.com) or call the USD College of Fine Arts at (605) 677-5481.

## REPORT FROM PIERRE

By District 17 Sen. Ben Nesselhuf

This week marked the start of the 85th legislative session.

The first week is largely spent getting reacquainted with other legislators, listening to the state of the state address and circulating bills for co-sponsors.

The beginning of session is bittersweet for me. I am running for Secretary of State next fall which means that this will be my last session as a legislator. The legislature has been a huge part of my life over the past decade and serving the people of District 17 has been a great honor.

The issue that everyone is talking about is, of course, the budget. South Dakota is doing better than most states but we are still in a hole and a lot of difficult decisions need to be made. We have largely been spared the economic turmoil that has been seen in the rest of the country because we have a fairly stable agricultural sector that has been able to pump money into local economies.

One area that should be spared from cuts is education. State law requires that school

districts receive 3 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lowest. I have fought against this rule for the past 10 years. This year the battle is different. The law dictates that the schools should receive an increase of 1.2 percent. The governor's recommended budget calls for an increase of 0. I disagree strongly with this. When the state budget was increasing by 6 percent a year for several years, we capped the schools growth at 3 percent. I believe it is unfair to ask schools to sacrifice in the lean times when they were not able to benefit from the good times. I know that it will be a challenge but the state needs to find a way to follow the education formula.

I will be bringing one major bill this year. Last year I attempted to repeal South Dakota's ban on embryonic stem cell research. Since then there have been a number of developments in this area of research and I think that scientists in South Dakota can

play a pivotal role in discovering cures for any number of diseases. In my research I have also discovered language in the law that effectively makes it illegal for anyone in South Dakota to receive any treatment that involves embryonic stem cells. Researchers are making breakthroughs every day. This past year scientists have announced that there are some very promising treatments for most common causes of blindness. Part of this

years legislation will include striking that ban in the law to ensure that every South Dakotan has the opportunity to decide for themselves if they want to receive particular treatments. This is a cause that I strongly believe in and will continue the fight this year.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about the legislation feel free to contact me at [sen.nesselhuf@state.sd.us](mailto:sen.nesselhuf@state.sd.us) or call me at home at 605-624-6178.

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