

South Dakota
Corn Growers’
meeting set
for Saturday

The administrator of the federal Risk Management Agency will discuss crop insurance and other farm programs Saturday, Jan. 7 during the 26th annual meeting of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association (SDCGA) at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

William Murphy, who was appointed administrator in 2009, will speak at one of four programs throughout the day. The other informational seminars will feature Mark Pearson, host of the syndicated TV show “Market to Market;” Brian Hefty of the TV show “Ag PhD” and the Hefty Seed Co.; and Jolene Brown, an ag spokeswoman and professional speaker from Iowa.

“Each year, a primary focus of our annual meeting is to bring in some of the industry’s top experts to provide valuable information that South Dakota producers can use to improve their operations,” SDCGA President Gary Duffy of Oldham said. “This year’s lineup will present a wealth of information on important topics, from markets to drainage, and from crop insurance to working together smoothly on a family farm.”

The theme of this year’s meeting is Winter Wonderland. During an evening banquet, the Corn Growers will present four annual awards: Legislative Appreciation; Excellence in Public Outreach; Excellence in Agriculture; and MVP in Agriculture. The banquet will include a dinner and musical performance by John Mueller’s Winter Dance Party, a tribute to rock ‘n’ roll pioneers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper.

More than 1,000 farmers, industry partners and legislators are expected to attend the annual meeting, which is one of the largest one-day agricultural events in South Dakota.

Schedule:
8 a.m. – Resolutions meeting.
9 a.m. – “What’s Ahead for Agriculture?” Mark Pearson, a market analyst and host of the syndicated “Market to Market” TV show, will give a talk that focuses on energy security, food production, demographic changes, debt issues, grain production, livestock markets, the lost years and more.

10:45 a.m. – “Is Crop Insurance the Answer?” William Murphy, administrator of the Risk Management Agency, will share his insight and expertise about the agency, crop insurance, prevented planting and other programs.

12 p.m. – Luncheon, Corn Yield Contest Awards and “South Dakota Agriculture Update.” Walt Bones, state secretary of agriculture, will look back at agricultural accomplishments in 2011 and provide an update on what’s in the works. South Dakota winners of the Corn Yield Contest also will receive their awards.

1:15 p.m. – “Tiling: Flood Reduction, Soil Improvement and a Billion More Dollars Per Year for South Dakota.” Brian Hefty, manager of the Hefty Seed Co. and co-host of the “Ag PhD” TV show, will talk about drainage, new tiling technology that increases yields and improve the environment, and how to implement a drainage plan.

2:30 p.m. – “The Facts of Life: When Family and Business Collide.” Jolene Brown, an agricultural spokeswoman, farmer and professional speaker, will discuss the challenges of farming with family and offer advice on that topic as well as estate planning.

5:30 p.m. – Social.
6 p.m. – “Winter Wonderland” evening banquet. The banquet will feature dinner, awards presentations and a musical performance. John Mueller’s Winter Dance Party is a re-creation of the final tour of rock ‘n’ roll pioneers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper, who died in a 1959 plane crash. The band will perform hits that include “That’ll Be The Day,” “Peggy Sue,” “La Bamba” and “Chantilly Lace.”

Vermillion man pleads guilty to bank robbery

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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FORDYCE, Neb. — A Vermillion man who robbed a Fordyce, Neb., bank more than a year ago has pleaded guilty in federal court in Sioux City.

The announcement of the plea came Tuesday afternoon in a press release from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

At the Dec. 28 court appearance, 23-year-old Karlis Baisden admitted to robbing the Cedar Security Bank in Fordyce on Dec. 14, 2010.

With his guilty plea, Baisden was convicted of bank robbery, according to the United States Attorney’s office for the District of Northern Iowa.

Baisden’s plea has brought a measure of relief at Cedar Security Bank, said branch manager Duane Schieffer.

“We’re happy that (Baisden) is convicted,” Schieffer told the Press & Dakotan. “It’s closure, knowing that he’s not walking around out there.”

U.S. Attorney spokesman Tim Duax said in a phone interview that he couldn’t comment on whether there were other suspects in the Fordyce robbery.

Authorities only put out a search for one suspect at the time of the robbery. In addition, footage from a bank surveillance camera showed only one robber entered the bank and was involved with the actual hold-up.

Baisden’s arrest and guilty plea for the Fordyce robbery actually resulted from his involvement with a later bank robbery in Lawton, Iowa, according to Duax.

“(Baisden) was caught in regards to the Lawton robbery and pled to the Fordyce robbery that occurred sooner,” Duax said.

The FBI news release described the process linking Baisden to the Fordyce crime.

On April 6, 2011, a search warrant was executed at Baisden’s mobile home in Vermillion. Among the items found were black watch cap-style hats, a dark blue or black “hoodie” jacket, dark jeans and a neoprene ski mask. Each of these items closely matched items worn by the Fordyce robber.

Also during the search of Baisden’s residence, law enforcement seized letters written by Baisden in which he admitted to

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DUANE SCHIEFFER

robbing the bank in Fordyce and intended to rob a bank in Lawton. Baisden had previously pleaded guilty to the Lawton robbery.

A Woodbury County, Iowa, district court judge had dismissed all charges against Baisden, who was then charged with the robberies on the federal level, Duax said.

Sentencing before United States District Court Judge Mark W. Bennett will be set after a pre-sentence report is prepared. Baisden remains in custody.

A date hasn’t been set for Baisden’s sentencing but will likely occur by this spring, Duax said.

On the bank robbery conviction, Baisden faces a possible maximum sentence of 20 years’ imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, a special assessment of \$100 and not more than three years of supervised release following any imprisonment.

Baisden could be sentenced at the same time for both the Fordyce and Lawton robberies, Duax said.

To his knowledge, Duax believes none of the money has been recovered from the Fordyce hold-up.

Schieffer declined to comment on whether any of the money has been recovered. However, he said the \$19,000 hold-up figure listed by authorities was inaccurate and didn’t come from Cedar Security Bank officials.

Schieffer declined to list whether the actual amount taken in the robbery was higher or lower than the \$19,000 figure. He also declined comment on whether the bank has changed any of its security measures or procedures in response to the robbery.

OBITUARIES

Ernest Wingen

Ernest W. Wingen, 88, of New Ulm, MN died Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011 at the Oak Hills Living Center in New Ulm, MN. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 6, 2012 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Hoven, SD, with Father Kevin Doyle, celebrant. Inurnment, with military rites by the John J. Peter’s American Legion post 159, Hoven, will follow at the church cemetery. Organist will be Alice Simon, St. Anthony’s Church Choir will sing, and Sharon Rausch will be soloist. Lector will be Jim Dahl and eucharistic minister will be Bob Keller. Mass server will be Peter Rausch and offertory gifts will be presented by Nicole Johnston, Bona Ellis, Brianna Karlen, Aaron Dahl and Brittany Huber.

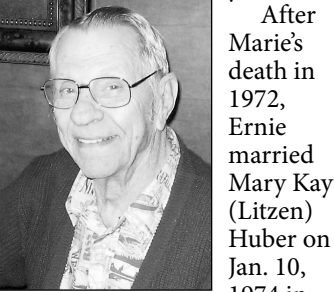
There was a wake service at the church 7 p.m. Thursday with visitation beginning at 6 p.m.

Ernest William Wingen was born on Sept. 9, 1923 in Salem, to Patrick B. and Sophie (Werner) Wingen. He attended St. Mary’s High School in Salem and graduated with the class of 1941. After high school, Ernie began studying at South Dakota State University in Brookings, but took a break from his studies to serve in the 93rd Battalion Seabees in World War II from 1943 to 1945 in the South Pacific. Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to SDSU and graduated in 1949 with a B.S. in Agricultural Education.

Ernie married Marie C. Shaeftbauer at Salem on Sept. 3, 1946. He returned to SDSU and received his M.S. in agricultural education in 1957. He taught vocational agriculture and served as Future Farmers of America advisor at Newell High School in Newell from 1948 to 1950, at Onida High School in Onida in 1950, at Hoven High School in Hoven from 1951 to 1977, and at Blue Earth High

School in Blue Earth, MN from 1977 to 1983.

He was recognized by the Agricultural Education Club at SDSU as the Outstanding Teacher in South Dakota in 1970 and by the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association as Outstanding Teacher in South Dakota in 1971. He received the Honorary American Farmer Degree from the National Association of the Future Farmers of America in 1975. Ernie also owned and managed “Ernie’s Menswear” in Hoven for many years.



WINGEN

they built the Super 8 Motel in Blue Earth in 1984, which they ran until their retirement to Spirit Lake, IA in 1994.

Ernest was a long time member of the American Legion in Hoven, where he served as Americanism Officer and the VFW and American Legion in Blue Earth, the Hoven Service Club, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Hoven, St. Peter and Paul’s Catholic Parish in Blue Earth, the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association, the American Vocational Association, the South Dakota Vo-ag Teachers, the Minnesota Vocational Agriculture Association, a past officer and co-founder of the Hoven Country Club, and a member of the Blue Earth Sertoma Club.

He coached high school athletes and served as referee for football and basketball for many years in South Dakota.

He enjoyed sports, especially baseball and the NY Yankees and playing golf. He taught shop, was an accomplished carpenter, enjoyed listening to 40’s music, singing in his barber shop quartet, and spending time with his friends and family. He loved his country and was proud to be an American. A highlight of his life was going on an Honor Flight in 2010.

Ernest is survived by his wife, Mary Kay of New Ulm; daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Donald Erlenbusch of Aberdeen, Mary and Jim Dahl of Milbank, sons and daughters-in-law, Patrick and Theresa Wingen of Vermillion, Bruce and Susan Wingen of Thornton, CO, Monte Wingen and special friend, Nan Painter of Sioux Falls, William and Angie Wingen of Spencer, IA; step-sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald and Satomi Huber of Tokyo, Japan, Thomas and Robin Huber of New Ulm; 20 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; first wife; two brothers; one sister; six newborn daughters; one newborn son; a great grandson; and a granddaughter-in-law. Honorary bearers will be all of Ernie’s grandchildren.

Visit www.MillerLienFH.com to leave an online condolence or view the tribute video.

Lien Funeral Home, Bowdle, is in charge of arrangements.

Pianist will
present
recital Jan. 12

The University of South Dakota Department of Music will present guest pianist Reid Alexander in a solo recital on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m. in the Colton Recital Hall of the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts. The recital is open to the public free of charge. Alexander is a long time friend of the USD music department as he is married to Jo Ellen DeVilbiss, daughter of former USD band professor, Ray DeVilbiss. The program celebrates 2012 as the 150th anniversary of the birth of the impressionistic French composer Claude Debussy, featuring the entire second book of Debussy’s Préludes with additional piano compositions by Franz Liszt and Olivier Messiaen.

A doctoral graduate of Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN), Alexander is a nationally recognized figure in the field of piano and piano pedagogy. A finalist in the first Gina Bachauer Piano Competition, his early piano study was with the well-known Schnabel student, Stanley Fletcher, with further coaching under prominent artists such as Ruth Slenczynska and Mieczyslaw Horszowski. Credits include presentations and recitals in over 40 states and in countries abroad. He recently returned from Korea where he gave guest lectures and master classes at Yonsei University, Sookmyung University, Sangmyung University, Ewha Women’s University, and Hansei University where he was the Keynote Speaker and featured recitalist-clinician for the annual meeting of that country’s prestigious Korean Association of Piano Pedagogy.

A widely published author and clinician, the past decade has seen the release of the highly regarded Celebrate Composer Series (Toronto: Frederick Harris), approximately 2,600 pages of solo piano music with supporting study notes and commentary in 27 volumes. Additionally, he served as an editor for the widely used 30-volume Celebration Series and co-authored the companion teachers’ guide, Handbook for Teachers, for that series. After several years of work, March 2011 saw the release of the fifth edition of the standard bibliographic resource on piano teaching literature, Piano Repertoire Guide: Intermediate and Advanced Literature (Stipes Publishing).

Great books
shared at library

During Book Blab, great books will be shared in the Community Room of the Vermillion Public Library on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. For the fifth year, adult readers are once again invited to come and let others know about books that they can’t stop talking about or to learn about books that others have enjoyed. Great books need to be shared!

Book lovers will be exchanging favorite authors and books in order to discover some new ones to add to their list of books that they would like to read. Refreshments will be provided. For more information about this event, call the library at 677-7060 or e-mail vpl@sdln.net.



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