

Fun Run part of Westreville Festival

Come to the country! The Westreville Festival, featuring a non-competitive Fun Run will be held in historic Westreville, on Saturday morning, June 9 beginning at 9 a.m. Westreville is located at 308th Street and Frog Creek Roads about 15 miles northwest of Vermillion and 10 miles southwest of Wakonda. The Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church serves as the hub for this once-upon-a-time town. The Fun Run will raise funds to develop a historical marker for the area and to help fund a local scholarship for Irene-Wakonda High School seniors in honor of the four Eckert children who lost their lives in a house fire in 2005.

A two-, four-, or six-mile course can be chosen, and participants can either run, walk, or use a mountain bike. The course travels on country gravel roads through the best unknown jewels of Westreville with breath taking hills, historic barns and groomed cemeteries. This is an event with options for everyone. The course follows mile sections around the pastoral countryside with running, biking, and walking options.

All of the events will begin and end at the Pleasant Valley Church. The hills are located after the two-mile point is reached and at the end of the course as you head west toward the Pleasant Valley cemetery. A water station will be located at the Mortvedt and Pleasant Valley cemeteries. First Aid station will be at the Pleasant Valley Church. The course will be marked. Use caution when crossing Frog Creek Road at the beginning and middle of the course.

Participants can choose to walk to the two historic cemeteries in the neighborhood. The Pleasant Valley cemetery is about a quarter mile on a flat paved

road from the Pleasant Valley Church. The Mortvedt cemetery is one mile further from the Pleasant Valley cemetery and on a country gravel road. The Clay County Historic Cemetery Books put together by Nancy Carlsen will be available for viewing in the basement of the church.

Don't miss out on the hospitality of the Women of the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church as they serve pie, sweets and coffee beginning at 10 a.m. There will also be farm-themed children's activities beginning at 10:15 a.m. The Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church is located at 45918 308th St. and is the location for all activities.

Interested persons can pre-register for the event and secure a commemorative T-shirt by sending \$10 to Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, 45918 308th St., Vermillion, SD 57069 by May 25. Checks can be made out to the Eckert Children Scholarship Fund. Please indicate which event you are interested in and T-shirt size. Registration can be done on the day of the event beginning at 8:15 a.m. T-shirts will also be available for purchase for \$10. The festival will conclude by 11:30 a.m. that morning.

More information can be found at the website: westrevillefestival.wordpress.com, or by calling Grace Freeman at 670-0540, or e-mailing at gracefreeman@live.com.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the events. Areas especially needing help: check-in, water/refreshment stations, sag wagon crew, course set-up and take down, and with children's activities. If you are interested in volunteering please e-mail or call Grace Freeman at: 670-0540, or gracefreeman@live.com

Book tells harrowing tale of musician's spy mission

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Along with the collection of Eddie Peabody's instruments, there is a new book at the National Music Museum that recounts one of the most exciting, dangerous moments in his career – which saw him acting as a U.S. spy in Nazi Germany.

Although George Peabody considers "Man with the Banjo" a novel because there was no way to recreate conversations that took place, he said that "everything that is written there is true."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt had completed his first term in office before he began to receive disconcerting information about what was happening in Germany.

"Roosevelt was under-secretary of the Navy during World War I," Peabody said. "He was very concerned, because those wolf packs were devastating in those days. He said, 'We need some on-the-ground intelligence. By the way, did you hear that guy Eddie Peabody on the radio last night? Isn't he something? Do a background check on him.'"

When it was discovered that Peabody had served in the Navy during World War I – including time on submarines – it was decided that he should be utilized in some way.

"(Eleanor Roosevelt) had a garden party," Peabody said. "They coerced my father into playing at the garden party, then they strong-armed him in the White House and said, 'We want you back serving your country.'"

Peabody was secretly commissioned as a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve in 1935 and received training over the next three years.

In 1938, he was scheduled for a European tour that included stops in Germany.

"He had a contact in Germany whose name was Greg Ziemer, who is really the hero of that story and many other stories that were never told," Peabody said. "He was a professor at an American university in Berlin, but basically to the State Department, he was giving some very influential and highly-educated Jewish people out of Germany at the time."

"He was my father's contact, and sure enough, they found the Germans making a submarine in secret, floating it down the River Elbe, and my father got a photograph of it," Peabody said. "He got some photographs of some of the installations the Germans had built in Holland and Denmark, and he thought his job was over."

Then he received a call to play at a private party.

For Adolf Hitler. And the rest of the higher-ups of the Third Reich.

"At the same time, no one knew how

extensive the German intelligence network was in this country," Peabody said. "Sure enough, they had infiltrated the State Department and found a photograph of him in his uniform. That information they radioed from New York to Gestapo headquarters in Berlin. Those folks were analyzing what they were reading as the plane was landing back in Berlin after my father had entertained Hitler, Goering, Himmler."

Fortunately, Ziemer had a contact in the Gestapo, who told him that the jig was up.

"My father had to get out on a fast car out of Berlin, through Germany into France on the rail system, into Spain with the Gestapo hot on his trail, finally making it to Gibraltar, where the Brits got him onto a submarine over to England," Peabody said.

Although he was proud of his service, Peabody said his father didn't discuss it, and he himself only learned much about it after reading "The Eddie Peabody Story," by Lowell Schreyer.

"My father kept no scrapbooks. He never looked back. He always looked forward," Peabody said. "Lowell did a remarkable job, a yeoman's job, 10 years of his life researching all this. Once I read his book, all those little snippets (of this I had heard) began to fall into place."

Peabody's novel, "Man with the Banjo," is available online and at the National Music Museum.

Farber Center at USD presents 66th annual Girls State

More than 400 high school girls from South Dakota will attend the 2012 American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State, May 28-June 2, at the University of South Dakota.

Hosted by the W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership at USD, Girls State features 415 girls selected by the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary based on scholastic achievement, leadership skills and interest in government. The annual event, now in its 66th year, is designed to teach female high school juniors about civic participation. This is the 11th consecutive year that USD and the W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership have co-hosted the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State program.

The theme for this year's session is "Honor Their Service-Faces of Freedom" and supports the Women of War (WOW)

Project, which is located at Belle Fourche, S.D. WOW is seeking items such as monetary donations, toiletries, First Aid kits, office supplies, cookware, non-perishable food items and other items that Girls State participants, speakers and volunteers will collect and donate throughout the week. Donations will also be accepted by contacting Cheryl Hovorka, Girls State Director, at (605) 677-5702 or e-mail gstate@usd.edu.

Girls State participants are taught every aspect of American government from the state and local level to the federal and executive branches. While on campus, students will be divided into cities and counties where they will have an opportunity to run for a mythical political office ranging from governor to local law enforcement positions. Students

will also meet with South Dakota political figures, including United States Sen. John Thune, Congresswoman Kristi Noem, Gov. Daugaard's Chief of Staff Dustin Johnson, Attorney General Marty Jackley, State Sens. Jean Hunhoff and Angie Buhl, State Rep. Nick Moser and Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who will participate in a Q&A session on Friday, June 1 at 9 a.m. in Aalfs Auditorium, Slagle Hall. Local attorneys and judges will be in attendance to assist with the program's judicial segment, and the Clay County Sheriff's Department will oversee the law enforcement process, which includes a forensics investigation team consisting of 14 Girls State participants.

Mark Weinmann, South Dakota American Legion Commander, will deliver the keynote address at the

inauguration of the new Girls State Governor at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 1 in Aalfs Auditorium. Prior to the inauguration, the Girls State chorus will present a patriotic concert. Additional Girls State activities include general assemblies in Aalfs Auditorium, law and court procedure classes, talent auditions, keynote speakers, campus tours, and various presentations and meetings. A college/career fair is also scheduled for Wednesday, May 30 in the Muenster University main dining area.

For more information about Girls State, including a brief history and a list of activities and events, please visit orgs.usd.edu/girlstate/ or e-mail gstate@usd.edu.

OBITUARIES

Russell Johnson

Russell Lee Johnson, 79, of Vermillion, passed away Saturday, May 19, 2012, at Craig General Hospital in Vinita, OK.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 25, 2012, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion, with Pastor Trisha Boese officiating.

Visitation took place at the Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2012, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

A committal service will take place at Pleasant Valley Cemetery following the funeral service. Military honors will be conducted by V.F.W. Post 3061.

Russell was born on Sept. 3, 1932, in Vermillion, to Harold and Ina (Chaney) Johnson. He was a veteran of the Korean conflict, serving with the National Guard in Alaska.

Russell married Marjorie Christenson on March 2, 1963, in Vermillion. He worked for his father for many years as a carpenter, later starting his own carpentry business. He retired early in life due to poor health.

Russell enjoyed crafts, reading, watching TV westerns,

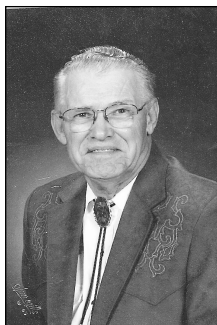
playing BINGO, playing board games with his wife and sister, fishing with his brother-in-law, seeing his grandchildren, and being with his friends.

Russell is survived by his wife, Marjorie Johnson; his daughter, Nancy (Steve) Donahue of Garland, TX; his son, Roy (Louise) Johnson of Austin, TX; his grandchildren, Erick Donahue, Alyssa Donahue, and Dylan Johnson; his brother, Warren (Pat) Johnson of Yankton; his sister, Janette Hackney of Vermillion; numerous nieces nephews and his special friend, "Skitter."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Ina Johnson; his parents-in-law, Harold and Blanche Christenson; his brother-in-law, Lyle Hackney; and his sister-in-law, Marlene Wilhem.

Services are entrusted to Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

Condolences may be posted online to www.koberfuneralhome.com



JOHNSON

Regents approve new minors and certificate programs

Students attending South Dakota's public universities now have additional pathways to develop new workplace skills or specializations with five new minors and five certificate programs approved last week by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

In addition, the regents gave approval for three universities to begin planning new undergraduate degrees in science fields. BHSU is exploring an associate degree in applied health sciences, SDSMT a bachelor's degree in applied biological sciences and USD a bachelor's degree in medical biology.

Once plans are finalized, the universities must return to the board for final approval of these programs, which would likely be available starting this fall.

The new minors, requiring at least 18 credit hours of study, are:

- Audio production at Dakota State University. This minor provides skills necessary to produce professional quality audio for digital and other media.
- Environmental engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. SDSMT is phasing out its bachelor's degree in this field and redirecting students to a minor, which offers fundamental preparation in environmental engineering concepts and prepares students for specific employment

opportunities.

- Sustainability engineering at SDSMT, a developing field that seeks to move traditional engineering practice toward new ways of solving complex social problems.
- Accounting at the University of South Dakota. This minor prepares students majoring in other business fields with additional expertise in accounting principles.
- International business at USD, a minor designed to prepare business graduates to operate in the global marketplace.

Certificate programs usually require fewer credit hours to

complete than a minor. They are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise within a focused area of study, addressing identified market and workforce development needs. The five new certificate programs are:

- Industrial leadership and management at Black Hills State University.
- Advanced computer-aided manufacturing at BHSU.
- Mechanical computer-aid drafting at BHSU.
- Swine science at South Dakota State University.
- Agricultural and environmental law at SDSU.

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