

Memorial Day service will be held at library Monday

Memorial Day services will be celebrated Monday, May 27, at the Vermillion Public Library.

The program, hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars Clay Post 3061, will begin at 10 a.m. Speaker will be VFW Post 3061 Quartermaster Andy Howe, a veteran of the Multi National Peacekeeping Force, Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983.

Wreaths will be placed by representatives of the American

Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

The VFW Honor Guard will present the rifle salute to honor the dead, followed by the playing of Taps.

The Veterans Memorial Flags will be put up in BluffView Cemetery on Saturday, weather permitting. Volunteers are welcome to assist in this endeavor.

USDA announces program sign-up

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today reminded farmers and ranchers that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up beginning May 20 and ending on June 14.

Vilsack also announced the restart of sign-up for continuous CRP, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative, the Highly Erodible Land Initiative, the Grassland Restoration Initiative, the Pollinator Habitat Initiative and other related initiatives.

Sign-up for continuous CRP began on May 13 and will continue through Sept. 30, 2013.

“As always, we expect strong competition to enroll acres into CRP, and we urge interested producers to maximize their environmental benefits and to make cost-effective offers,” said Vilsack. “CRP is an important program for protecting environmentally sensitive lands from erosion and sedimentation, and for ensuring the sustainability of our groundwater, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Through the voluntary participation of our farmers and ranchers, CRP helps us to protect our natural resources, preserve wildlife habitat and bring good paying jobs to rural America related to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation.”

Vilsack encouraged producers to look into CRP’s other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis.

CRP has a 27-year legacy of successfully protecting the nation’s natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and develop wildlife habitat.

In return, USDA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Currently, 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP through 700,000 contracts on 390,000 farms throughout the U.S., with enrollment in 49 states and Puerto Rico. Contracts on an estimated 3.3 million acres will expire on Sept. 30, 2013.

Enrollment authority for all types of CRP, which had expired Sept. 30, 2012, was extended through 2013 by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.

Offers for general sign-up CRP contracts are ranked according to an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) collects data for each of the EBI factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. FSA uses the following factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acreage;
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching;
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion;

- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period;
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion; and
- Cost.

CRP soil rental rates for non-irrigated cropland were updated this year to better reflect location and market conditions. A nationwide cap was placed on the maximum amount that may be paid per acre for the general sign-up. Taken together these steps help ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent in a fiscally responsible manner while producing the maximum environmental benefits for each dollar spent.

CRP is the largest USDA conservation program and continues to make major contributions to national efforts to improve water and air quality, prevent soil erosion, and protect the most sensitive areas including those prone to flash flooding and runoff. At the same time, CRP has helped increase populations of pheasants, quail and ducks and is recognized as benefiting certain rare species like the sage grouse, the lesser prairie chicken and other grassland birds. Highlights of CRP accomplishments include:

- The restoration of more than two million acres of wetlands and two million acres of riparian buffers;
- Prevention of more than 600 million pounds of nitrogen and more than 100 million pounds of phosphorous from flowing into our nation’s streams, rivers and lakes.
- Providing \$1.8 billion annually to landowners — dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs; and
- Sequestering more carbon than any other conservation program in the country. By placing vulnerable cropland into conservation, CRP sequesters carbon in plants and soil and reduces both fuel and fertilizer usage. In 2011, CRP resulted in carbon sequestration equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act.

USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, commonsense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

The Obama Administration, with Vilsack’s leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, maintain a strong farm safety net and create opportunities for America’s farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency and resourcefulness of our producers.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

‘More than meets the eye’

Brock shares inspiring life story at foundation banquet

By David Lias

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To say that Joan Brock has faced and overcome diversity is a bit of an understatement.

In 1984, at the age of 32, while employed as a teacher at the Iowa School for the Blind, she ironically went blind herself.

Five years later, she lost her husband, Joe Beringer of Vermillion, to cancer, leaving her on her own to raise their daughter, Joy, who was 8 years old at the time.

“I am an ordinary person to whom some extraordinary things have happened,” she told the audience at the Dakota Hospital Foundation Community Leadership Dinner, held in the Muenster University Center on the University of South Dakota campus in Vermillion.

She shared her life story with the banquet crowd. “My hope is that you will take your life story and plug it into mine,” she said.

Brock grew up in California, and at age 19, moved to Vermillion to attend USD. After graduating, she was employed at the South Dakota Human Services Center in Yankton.

“It was while working at the hospital I would learn how frail our minds can be,” she said, “and how the choices we make in our lives can take us on a journey we never would have expected.”

While in Yankton, she began dating Beringer of Vermillion. He was employed at the school for blind children in Iowa. The couple eventually married, and it was while she was employed as a teacher at the Iowa school that she became blind herself.

“Think how fortunate I truly was,” Brock said. “All of my friends were specialists in the field of teaching the visually impaired – they would know what to do with me. Joe had been teaching there for seven years – he knew what to do with me. I had been there for five years ... and every piece of technology for the blind was available for me.”

The University of South Dakota graduate’s life story has become familiar to people around the world, thanks to her book entitled, “More Than Meets the Eye,” and a made-for-television movie of the same name.

Upon learning that her condition was irreversible, Brock said she realized that she simply couldn’t choose to “crawl into a



Joan Brock signs copies of her book, “More Than Meets the Eye,” following her inspirational keynote address to the Dakota Hospital Foundation Community Leadership Dinner May 15 in Vermillion.

(Photo by David Lias)

corner and do nothing.

“I had been teaching blind kids for five years ... I could not make that choice,” she said. “Each and every person in this room tonight have had many, many opportunities through their lives to make decisions, choices, on which directions to go as things happen in our lives. You have to figure it out, and I think I understood at that point in my life of what kind of example I would have set if I had just quit. There was no ‘if’ ... going on was the only decision I could make.”

She found herself dealing with great loss four years later when her husband died of cancer.

“What makes me so sad and so angry is the number people who are here tonight who have to either sit by somebody’s side or had to deal with their own personal experience with this ugly, ugly disease,” Brock said.

As she witnessed her husband’s valiant battle with the disease, Brock said she

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OBITUARIES

Carol Hanson

Carol W. Hanson, 81, of Vermillion, passed away Sunday, May 19, 2013, at her residence.

Carol Witt was born May 27, 1931, in Sioux Falls, to Harry and Willmina (Jones) Witt. She graduated from Webster High School and received her bachelor’s degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. She graduated Magna Cum Laude and was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Carol married Harvey Hanson on June 20, 1954, in Butler, and spent more than 20 years traveling with her husband in the military and the last 34 years in Vermillion, retiring from the USD Law School where she was the secretary for the Dean.

She is survived by her son, Kurtis (Lisa) Hanson of



HANSON

24, at the Butler Lutheran Church in Bristol, with burial in the church cemetery. Visitation will be 1 p.m. Friday, May 24, at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. hansenfuneralhome.com.

Wentworth; and a brother, Steve (Linda) Witt of Bristol; six grand-children; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Friday, May

Lois Welch

Lois D. Welch, 79, of Vermillion, and formerly of Lockhart, TX passed away Saturday, May 18, 2013, at Sanford Vermillion Medical Center.

Lois was born Jan. 5, 1934, in Akron, IA, to Elmer and Florence (Wiese) Mook. She attended school in Akron, IA. She married Leonard Welch on Aug. 29, 1953, and they moved from Westfield, IA to Houston, TX.

They retired to their ranch in Lockhart, TX, until Leonard’s death. She lived in Lockhart, TX, until her move to South Dakota two-and-one-half years ago.

She loved to read, was great at doing crossword puzzles and enjoyed football. She also

enjoyed spending time with her brother and sisters and many nieces and nephews and their families.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard Welch; her parents, Elmer and Florence Mook; brothers, Arnold and David; a sister, Shirley Onnen; nephews, Gary Pyle and Steve Onnen.

Survivors include one brother, Robert (Paulette) Mook, Denver, CO; sisters, Norma (Phil) Aaland, Lebec, CA, Darlis (Craig) Myron, Vermillion, and Sheryl (David) Pyle, Jefferson.

Memorial services will be held at a later date to be announced.

For obituary and online condolences visit hansenfuneralhome.com.



ASHMORE

(Richard) Fennel of Elk Point and Barbara (Chris) Mitchell of Sioux Falls. She is also survived by two sisters, Betty Hansen and Lela Kruse both of Vermillion; and 12

grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. A celebration of life service was held 10 a.m. Saturday, May 18 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Elk Point with burial following in the BluffView Cemetery in Vermillion. Visitation was Friday, May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m. all at the Immanuel Lutheran church. hansenfuneralhome.com.

Alice Ashmore

Alice Joyce Ashmore, 89, of Elk Point, passed away Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at the Prairie Estates Care Center in Elk Point.

Joyce Christopherson was born Sept. 5, 1923 in Vermillion, to Walter and Alice (Brown) Christopherson. She attended school in Vermillion graduating from Vermillion High School in 1941. She married Ulysses Samuel Ashmore on Sept. 24, 1941 in Center, NE.

Joyce worked at Younkers in Sioux City, IA and as a clerk for the Union County Auditor’s Office in Elk Point until her retirement. She was a member of the Eastern Star, VFW Ladies Auxiliary and the Immanuel Lutheran Church Ladies (WELCA).

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a grandson, Gregory Nygaard; and three sisters, Cleo Christopherson, Geraldine Adamson and Bonnie Hustrulid.

She is survived by her two sons, Keith (Jeanine) Ashmore of Sioux City, IA, and Roger (Cathy) Ashmore of Fort Collins, CO; three daughters, Lois (Gerald) Nygaard of Vermillion, Mona

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University Art Galleries

Summer Art Camp

For children 8 - 11 years old

June 10 - 14, 2013



Theme: Woodcut and Woodblock Prints

Learn about Japanese culture and create your own woodcut and woodblock prints. Japanese prints from the UAG permanent collection will be on display during the camp.

Who: Children 8 - 11 years old.

Where: Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on the campus of USD.

Time: 12 - 4 p.m. every day of camp

Sign up: Call or email to learn more. 605-677-3177 or Alison.Erasmus@usd.edu

Cost: \$75, all expenses included.

If you are a person with a disability and need a special accommodation to fully participate, please contact Disability Services at 605-677-6389 48 hours before the event.

This event is partially sponsored by a generous donation from the First Bank & Trust



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