

An Exhibit Of Remembrance

BY JANELLE CARLSON
For The Plain Talk

When many people think of war they, understandably, think of weapons. Yet the National Music Museum hopes to bring awareness to a much overlooked aspect of America's wars. The use and meaning of music in America's conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the recent war in Iraq will be highlighted in the museum's summer exhibit: "Banding Together: The American Soldier's Musical Arsenal".

The exhibit opens this Memorial Day and will showcase musical instruments have become synonymous combat weapons. For example, drums from the Civil War and bugles from WWI will be showcased. Yet Senior Curator and Associate Director Dr. Margaret Banks hopes to show what music meant to the soldiers of the different wars. She notes that music



has been used to "energize and psyche soldiers up, as a means of motivating society, and more recently to relieve post-traumatic-stress disorder." It is the goal of the exhibit to showcase these aspects music in soldiers' lives. More specifically, "Our goal", she says, "is to let the soldiers speak for themselves."

It is in such a spirit that the exhibit includes pieces such as the violin carried by a Civil War soldier who carved his wife's name on it in a moment of deep homesickness or the guitar a soldier had made in Vietnam, because he was desperate for music. Beyond instruments the exhibit also features letters, poetry and posters from the various war fronts in an attempt to provide eyewitness accounts.

Indeed, it is such eyewitness accounts that truly create the exhibit. As this year marks the anniversary of many of the U.S.'s wars and conflicts the Museum hopes to provide a neutral platform to remember America's military past and the way music has always intersected with war. Dr. Margaret Banks desires that audiences make their own conclusions after letting the soldiers speak for themselves. This is an exhibit about "music and soldiers" at its heart.

What's Happening At Newton Hills And Good Earth State Park

Memorial Day weekend is nearly here! Newton Hills and Good Earth have some great programming planned to keep you busy over the long weekend. See you soon!

This weekend at Newton Hills we are On the Move! We will start off Friday, May 22nd with an 8:30pm movie at the amphitheater. On Saturday morning at 9:30am meet us at the amphitheater for a Memorial Day Craft. At 11am we will get moving with a migration game, which will be a great warm up for the Family Fun Amazing Race at 2pm! Meet us at the amphitheater to test your family on this fun foot race with several activities. We will have prizes for top finishers. We ask that all participants bring appropriate clothes, shoes, and plenty of water. Following the race, we will have Orienteering Basics at 5pm. Then at the end of the day you can wind down with a movie, some popcorn, and freeze pops at 8:30pm. On Sunday May 24th at 9am there will be a non-denominational worship service held



COURTESY PHOTO: SDGFP

at the amphitheater for all who wish to join. At 10am stop in the Welcome Center to pick up your Riddle Hunt. Write down the code words by noon on Monday and bring it back to the office to collect a prize! After you've worked out your brain on the riddles, meet us at 1pm for the Un-nature Hike. Join us at 3pm for some On the Move themed crafts before Stars in the Afternoon at 5pm, where we will talk about navigation and our telescopes. Again on Sunday, we will show movie in the

amphitheater at 8:30pm with a Newton Hills Night Sky telescope program to follow.

Spring is in full swing at Good Earth State Park! Are you ready to join us for some fun in the spring sun? Join us for Birds Are In A Class All Their Own, on May 23rd at 9 am where we will discover the world of these musical wonders. At 11 am join us for a Riddle Hike, where you will have to explore the park to find the answers to these riddles. May 25th at 1 pm is going to be full of Skins and Scales, come feel the difference!

If you have any questions about the park or the programs for this coming weekend, do not hesitate to give us a call at (605) 987-2263 or email newtonhills@state.sd.us. More info including an event schedule may also be found online at www.gfp.sd.gov. If you would like to receive weekly email updates on programming at the park, like us on Facebook, or send an email to newtonhills@state.sd.us.

Vet

From Page 6

After marriage he moved to the Yankton area and there ran an upholstery business for more than 25 years.

He also noted that he joined the Legion and took pride in being involved with the events they provided veterans.

A Legion Legacy

According to Legion Post 12 commander Fran Johnson, Kussman has been a member of Post 12 for 60 years.

"Me and two other guys had a nice award for him for 60 years in the American Legion, which is really something," he said. "It was a nice day. It was fun. When we were talking with him, he had tears in his eyes and thanked us for coming over. It is something to be very proud of."

Johnson said that many

people don't realize the trauma that veterans have been through.

"The trauma those guys go through is just horrendous," Johnson said. "They saw things like their best friends being shot right next to them. I don't know how I would handle that. People need to have respect for these guys because they did lay it all on the line for us. If it wasn't for them I don't know where this country would be right now."

Johnson said Memorial

Day is our opportunity to say thank you.

"This is our opportunity to say thank you and remember the sacrifices they made," he said. "By going to the memorial services, or if you see someone wearing a service hat, stop, go over, shake their hand, and you will make their day. Anybody can walk up to a vet. Most of them will wear their caps with their service unit or a Legion, VFW hat. A simple thank you is immeasurable."

Council

From Page 1

The Mehlhafs presented their concerns at the Oct. 6, 2014 City Council meeting at which time they were told they would need to seek a variance.

City engineer Jose Dominquez said that in his opinion the applicant did not meet any of the criteria for an ordinance variance to be granted and could set precedence for other properties in the community.

According to his research the main issue was one of public safety.

"There have been several studies that show that access points in general, and that their location, cause accidents and are dangerous to all forms of transporta-

tion," Dominquez said. "For a typical intersection there are 32 vehicle/vehicle conflict points and 24 vehicle/pedestrian conflict points. At the location where the proposed access point would be located there would be a total of 39 vehicle/vehicle conflict points and 10 vehicle/pedestrian conflict points. This is a 25 percent increase in vehicle/vehicle conflict points making the proposed configuration more dangerous than a typical intersection for the general public."

The issue he said was due to the distance from the intersection.

The Mehlhafs contented that the single driveway was creating an unsafe environment for their tenants in terms of access by emergency vehicles and noted that there had already been

several points were tenants were not able to leave the parking lot due to the east end being blocked by other vehicles.

After public testimony was heard from the Mehlhafs, their attorney and a tenant at the complex, the City Council deliberated. Two votes were then held. The first, allowing the full access point was defeated by a vote of 3-6.

A compromise was proposed, which would allow a right turn only exit and entrance at the location. The Mehlhafs agreed they would work with this solution if the Council approved the motion. It passed 9-0.

"Our number one concern has always been for the safety of our tenants, especially in an emergency situation," the Mehlhafs stated in a letter given to

the Plain Talk. "Our first choice would have been to have another full driveway access for this property. However, we are pleased with our City Council for their help in a unanimous vote for the solution they arrived at. We felt they listened to us and understood the unsafe hardship involved four our tenants and others when backing up over 200 feet to exit a single driveway."

Ordinance 1329 Passed

Ordinance 1329 was amended to declare snow and ice a nuisance, allowing city officials to fine any homeowner who doesn't comply with code on the same scale they would other nuisances such as grass or weeds.

Farrel Christensen said "Code compliance officers

P.E.O Convention Set For Yankton

"P.E.O. Rocks...Let the Good Times Roll" is the theme chosen for the 2015 SD State P.E.O. convention to be held at the Best Western Kelly Inn in Yankton, SD on May 28-30, 2015.

SD State President Tristin Gruenhagen, Chapter R DeSmet, will be heading the convention and making sure everyone keeps "rocking". P.E.O. chapters hosting the convention are from Elk Point, Vermillion, Tyndall and Yankton. Convention co-chairs are Betty Cox, Chapter K and Liz Aanning, Chapter CO.

Alix Smith, Chapter AY Arizona, will be the featured speaker. She is the chairperson of the P.E.O. International Board of Finance and Budget.

As well as the business meetings held during convention, there will also be an "Hour of Remembrance" held at Bishop Marty Chapel to honor P.E.O. sisters who have passed away during the past year. This will be followed by a "Golden Girls" luncheon to be held at Roncalli Dining Room. We honor those members who have been P.E.O.s for 50, 55, 60, 65 or 70 years.

P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization which supports education for women, locally, nationally and internationally. We will celebrate these projects and local recipients of educational grants at a banquet Friday evening.

Yankton looks forward to hosting the convention as well as welcoming our vivacious President Gruenhagen, her officers, delegates and visitors.

Bikes And Babes Motorcycle Run Set

J&L Harley Davidson in Sioux Falls is hosting the 2015 Rally for a Miracle Bikes and Babes motorcycle run planned for Saturday, May 30th. Proceeds benefit Children's Miracle Network.

Vermillion Walmart is pleased to offer a quick breakfast and gathering place for Vermillion area riders prior to leaving for Sioux Falls.

The following is a generalization of the day's events: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - breakfast at Vermillion Walmart 10:30 a.m. - leave Walmart, destination J&L Harley Davidson, Sioux Falls

11:30 a.m. - register at J&L (receiving route maps and poker cards)
12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. ride
4 p.m. - turn in poker hand
5 p.m. - prizes awarded

USD Initiates 32 Into Phi Beta Kappa

Thirty-two new members joined South Dakota's only chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at the University of South Dakota this spring.

The students were initiated into the Alpha Chapter of South Dakota on April 20. Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society.

Dr. Loren Amundson of Sioux Falls (USD School of Medicine, 1954; Distinguished Alumni Award, 2004) also was elected to membership in the chapter. Amundson and his mother Marjorie Lifo Amundson established the Lifo Amundson Lecture in 1989, which each year brings distinguished speakers from the liberal arts disciplines to lecture at USD.

This year's lecture, by Professor Ed Brook of Oregon State University, was entitled "History of Greenhouse Gases and Climate from Polar Ice Cores: Lessons from the Past, Thoughts for the Future."

Here is a list of the new senior members of Phi Beta Kappa: Jennifer Allen, Sioux Falls; Joseph B Bliss, Sioux Falls; Lauren Elizabeth Cass, Loretto, Minnesota; Katia Duzenko; Austin Eggers, Rosholt; Tiffany Michelle Eide, Hawthorne, California; Lauren E Fanta, Yankton; Colby J Felts, LeMars, Iowa; Matthew J Gerlach, Plankinton; Shannon Rae Graham; Lillian Mary Kallstad, White Bear Lake, Minnesota; Joey Knofczynski, Pierre; Sarah A Kuegle, Rapid City; Samantha Jean McCurry, Brookings; Hayley Newsom Naasz, Brandon; Tanya M Ochsner, Hartford; Nicholas John Pekas; Erick Peterson, Sioux Falls; Samuel David Reuland, White Lake, Minnesota; Bodhi Grey Schultz; Abby Simon; Paige Stavelly, Hemlock, Michigan; Erin Sternhagen, Groton; Elena Tsakakis; Nate Vinzant; Josephine Frances Whelan; Susan Katherine Wik, Faulkton; and, Isaiah Wonnenberg, Gregory.

Here are the new members of Phi Beta Kappa, initiated as juniors: Emily Roberson; Rachel Saltness, Rochester, Minnesota; Thayme Hardi Watson, Brookings; Bridget Christina Wilds, Rapid City.

Election

From Page 1

which was determined to be valid and meet the 5 percent requirement of voters needed and was determined to be valid.

According to city manager John Prescott the decision of the voters will greatly affect the direction the council will take in regards to the Prentis Park Project.

"The current estimate of the project is that it will cost \$5.25 million," Prescott said. "The council designated \$1 million of reserves from the general fund, \$1 million of the second penny fund reserves and estimated that we would need to seek a bond of \$3 million to finance the project."

The city had hoped to place the bonds this summer with the assumption that the 5 percent malt beverage mark-up would be used to help cover the anticipated average annual debt service of \$222,127.

A malt beverage mark-up is provided in state statute and allows a city to add up to 5 percent on cost and freight of malt beverages, which according to the last year of data available of 2007 would

have generated \$116,600 per year.

Prescott said that using the costs associated with malt beverages at the golf course, which the City manages, for one brand of beer an 18-pack has a cost of \$12.40 or \$0.69 per can. With the mark-up the cost for that can of beer would be \$0.72, or three cents higher. For the most expensive bottled beer sold at the golf course, it would be equivalent to a six cent increase per bottle, which the providers would be required to capture in their sales costs. Likewise for keg costs, the most expensive keg would incur a six cent per glass increase.

During Monday's meeting it was noted that the public approved the 5 percent mark-up overwhelmingly.

Prescott said should the mark-up now be voted down by voters, it would force the city council to greatly reduce the plans for the Prentis Park Project.

Both petition votes could have been delayed until the next scheduled public election scheduled for June 2016. However, the council felt it was in the best interest of the City to set the election for the soonest possible date of June 30.



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