



# Aspire to Success!

MBNA's Aspire Awards were created to recognize monument builder companies that have drawn favorable attention to their companies, and in turn, to the industry through their specialized marketing and/or public relations campaigns.

All MBNA members in good standing are invited to submit entries for the **2008 MBNAspire to Success Marketing & Public Relations Contest**.

Any publicity you've received during the contest year (November 1, 2007 through November 1, 2008) is eligible. This includes coverage by newspapers, magazines, television, new acquisitions, celebrated anniversaries or testimonial letters.

Up to three (3) winners will be awarded the handsome granite MBNAspire Award, a tall, polished trophy that adds elegance and interest to any member's lobby or bookshelf. Honorable mention entries will receive a certificate of merit suitable for framing. All winning entries will be featured in *MBNews*.

## ENTRY FORM

Deadline to submit material is November 24, 2008.

### 2008 MBNAspire to Success Marketing and Public Relations Contest

Name Bob Luken Sr., Bob Luken Jr., Scott Luken, & Tina Ziegler (Luken)

Company Name Luken Memorials, Inc.

Address 1609 N. Broadway Ave.

City Yankton State/Prov SD ZIP/Zone 57078

Phone 1-605-665-3052 E-mail lukengranite@iw.net

#### Tell us about your marketing and public relations success:

- Detail your experience. Use a separate piece of paper. It can be one item or event, or multiple events, or a year-long ad campaign.
- Please attach any photographs, clippings, brochures, letters or invitations that relate to your entry. We need original photographs (prints or electronic), but please photocopy your clippings, letters or invitations if you need them returned as we cannot return the material. *Photos can be black and white or color.*

Events should have taken place between November 1, 2007 and November 1, 2008. Deadline for receipt of materials at MBNA Headquarters is November 24, 2008. Materials may be submitted on-line or by postal service.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact MBNA headquarters at (800) 233-4472 or via email at [info@monumentbuilders.org](mailto:info@monumentbuilders.org).

#### Send your entries to:

Monument Builders of North America

136 South Keowee Street | Dayton, OH 45402

(800) 233-4472 | Fax: (937) 222-5794

[Info@monumentbuilders.org](mailto:info@monumentbuilders.org)

[www.monumentbuilders.org](http://www.monumentbuilders.org)

# Luken Memorials, Inc

## Aspire Award Contest

Luken Memorials has a strong background in public relations. With three generations and 125 years under our belt, we've built relationships and trust with many families and communities.

Our company, as it shows in this packet, gets involved. Each year we complete one or two Veterans Memorials. With each project (as shown) we receive notable press regarding the project and it shows the pride we take in them.

Besides Civic Memorials, we also created a couple large Public pieces. The one shown is of a sculptural bench memorial (Memorial to the Unborn) and the second is a large sculpture piece of the same theme placed in Tupelo Mississippi. Both projects got alot of press and radio and a constant flow of compliments.

Taking steps in "08" to expand to another location was exciting! Tyndall South Dakota is the latest spot to receive an outlet, making it easier for families in that region to get the product and service they need and want. We joined the Chamber and got involved in their local "Hot Dog Days" and joined that with our Grand Opening. It was alot of fun and the community welcomed us with great enthusiasm.

We also held several open House functions at several of our locations.

# Luken Memorials, Inc

## Aspire Award Contest

Our ad campaign for open houses is identifiable just as our logo is. People notice the look and respond well to the adds.

2008 was also a bad year for vandalism. Several cemeteries in North East Nebraska were vandalised, Between 150 to 200 stones were tipped over. Luken Memorials, Inc stepped up and re-set and repaired all the stones that were desecrated. We feel it very important to assist in cases such as this since most of the vandalised plots had no living family members around to take care of them.

Western South Dakota was also a target for vandals. Approximately 50 stones were damaged. Our West River Monument Co. branch was responsible for most of the work with the help of some volunteers. Since we did not charge for these acts of kindness, the floodgates opened up with countless calls, cards, and news articles.

On a lighter note, I feel it important to get involved on a personal level with local projects. Art related tours, sculpture talks, contests, and pumpkin carving to name a few!

It's been a busy year!

Scott Luken

# Congratulations

to the Heeren - McHale - Wilken American Legion  
Post 724 of Brunserville, IA  
on the construction & dedication of the beautiful new  
**Brunsville Veterans' Memorial**



Luken Memorials was proud to be involved in the design, construction & installation of this wonderful tribute to all Brunsville Area Veterans.

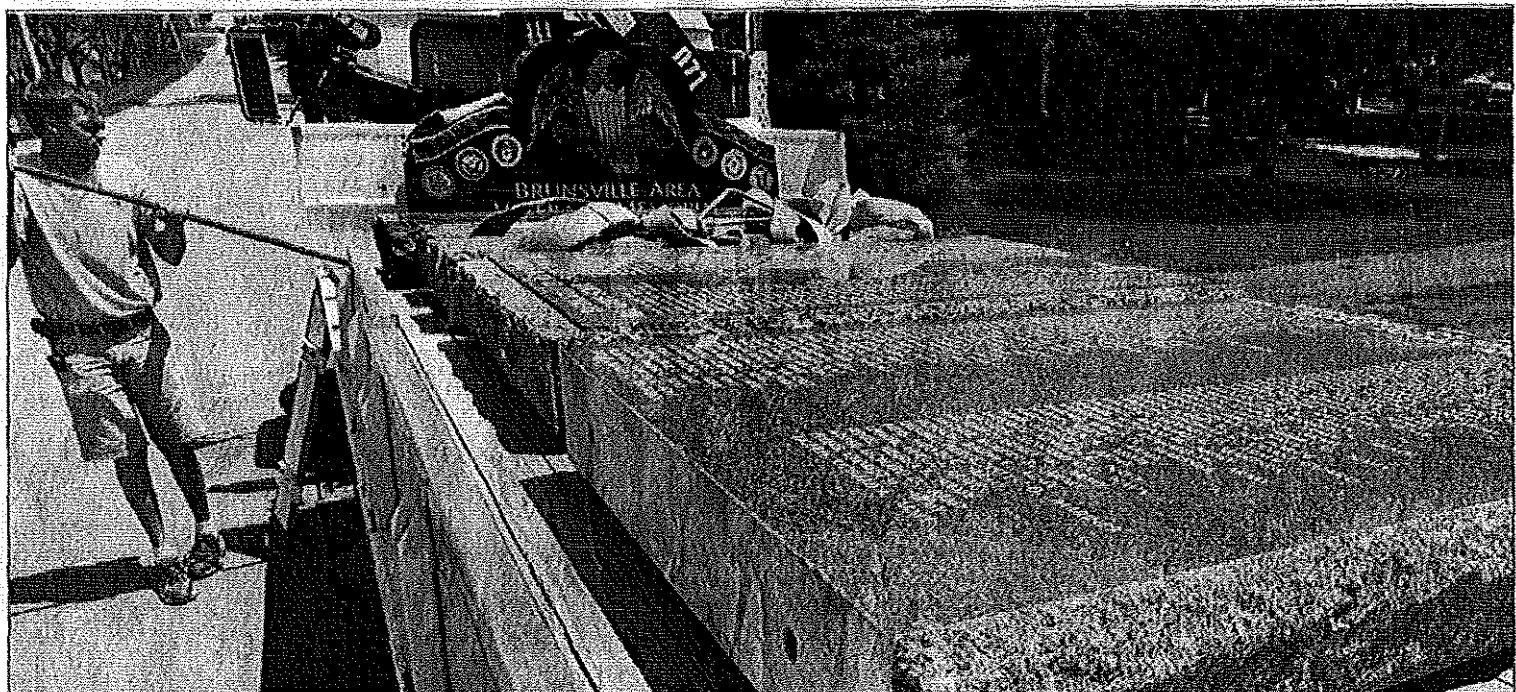
Congratulations, Post 724 on a job well done.

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1315 Zenith Dr. • Sioux City, IA  
local: 712-252-2772  
toll-free: 888-252-2772  
[lukenmemorials@scableone.net](mailto:lukenmemorials@scableone.net)



New memorial to veterans will be dedicated Monday



Dustin Olson, an employee of Luken Memorials of Yankton, S.D., prepares the tablets of the Brunsville (Iowa) Area Veterans Memorial to be set into place Wednesday. The memorial lists the names of 228 veterans. (Staff photo by Tim Hynds)

# Press of Dakota

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The Oldest Daily Newspaper Of The Dakotas • [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

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VOLUME 134, NUMBER 56

## Crofton American Legion To Complete Memorial

BY LINDA WUEBBEN  
P&D Correspondent

CROFTON, Neb. — One year after setting a goal to raise approximately \$75,000, the Crofton American Legion Tucker-Brown-Everton Post No. 128 members will officially complete a monumental task this Friday.

Legion members made a commitment to solicit donations for a Veterans Memorial Monument in Crofton. But the members wanted their tribute to be a little different than others in the area.

"We wanted to put names on it," said Phil Donner, post commander. "No one else in the area has done that."

The Post members contacted other Legion organizations in the area. They contacted veterans they knew from their service years. They sent out flyers to the alumni of Crofton Community Schools. And they reminded area resi-

dents about relatives who had served in one of the branches of the service.

Finally, the money started coming in. With this show of support, they went ahead with the plans to pour the concrete slab where the monument would stand. They would place it as a complement to the first Legion display they erected a few years earlier.

The Legion commissioned Luken Memorial in Yankton to design, cut and etch seven granite stones in remembrance of those who served. The names collected are not only of deceased veterans or war veterans but anyone who served in one of the following branches of the service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Merchant Marines.

At 2 p.m. Friday when the Post unveils the seven monuments, 590



PHOTO: LINDA WUEBBEN

Sarah Gullikson and Eldonna Stenson of Luken Memorial Co. in Yankton work with Bob Luken Jr. on one of the monuments that will be part of the Crofton veterans' memorial, which will be dedicated Friday.

■ LEGION, Page 6 please

placed on one of the granite slabs.

The oldest veterans listed on the new monument are from World War I but young service men who served in recent wars like Iraq are also listed.

The Legion has seven cemeteries in this area in which they decorate graves of American veterans for Memorial Day. Crofton Public, Crofton St. Rose, Aten, Beaver Creek, Beaver View, Constance and Frankfort.

There are 137 names combined from all the seven cemeteries that Donner said he did not find a living relative or had no response to an inquiry. The Legion will pay for these etch-

ings itself.

Bob Luken Jr. of the three-generation family-based Luken Monument Company said his brother Scott began the designing of the proposed memorial site immediately after the soliciting began.

Designing the memorial concept was not hard as it was time-consuming, said Luken. Since the first Legion display in the South Park uses a star shape as the base, it seemed natural to continue with the star theme. Stars are cut out of the seven granite slabs and bronze relief stars will be used on the monuments as well.

"We went to the Legion's

meetings to get a feel for the kind of designs the members were wanting," said Luken. "Patriotism is important to them and we built on that theme."

On one side of the monuments will be the veterans' names, and on the back side will be battlefield scenes from different wars that will depict the camps as they were at the time of each particular war. Iwo Jima was one choice and another was a campfire setting.

The memorial company has designed and completed monuments from Yankton to Rapid City to Wayne, Neb., to Merrill, Iowa, and towns in between. They set monuments in seven

states so ordering the granite for the Crofton project from their favorite South Dakota quarry was nothing new.

The granite slabs are covered with rubber sheeting that has cutout areas for the lettering. When the sheeting is firmly attached, the sandblasting process to cut out the letters can begin. The etching is a process that is completed by hand since the detail is very precise.

The monuments are being delivered and installed this week for Friday's dedication. The Legion plans to cover them until they are unveiled at that time.

"We are doing a lot of the

physical work but the behind-the-scenes work which the Legion members did to make this happen is inspiring to us as well," said Luken.

Friday's program will include the Pledge of Allegiance and patriotic singing by former Crofton resident Joanie (Haberer) Keller and Crofton graduate Jill Leader. Crofton's mayor, Wendell Strom, will welcome the crowd and State Senator Cap Dierks will make some comments. District Two Commander Dave Donner will add a few remarks before the unveiling of the stones, 21-gun salute and playing of the traditional "Taps."

## LEGION

From Page 1

names of servicemen will be displayed.

"Someday, there might not be someone to put up the flags in the South Park," said Donner. Presently, the post sets up 247 flags around the South Park for summer holiday weekend. Each flag is dedicated to a soldier and family members can purchase one for \$100.

For a donation of \$150, names of servicemen, living or deceased, can have their name

## CROFTON VETERANS' MEMORIAL DEDICATION

One year ago, members of the Crofton American Legion Tucker-Everton-Brown Post #128 made a commitment to solicit donations for a Veterans' Memorial in Crofton.

This Friday, July 4, at 2 p.m., the Post will unveil the seven monuments and the 590 etched names of area servicemen in a dedication ceremony in Crofton in the South Park.

The Legion commissioned Luken Memorial of Yankton, So. Dak., to design, cut and etch seven granite stones in remembrance of those who served. The names collected are not only of deceased veterans or war veterans but anyone who served in one of the following branches of the service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Merchant Marines.

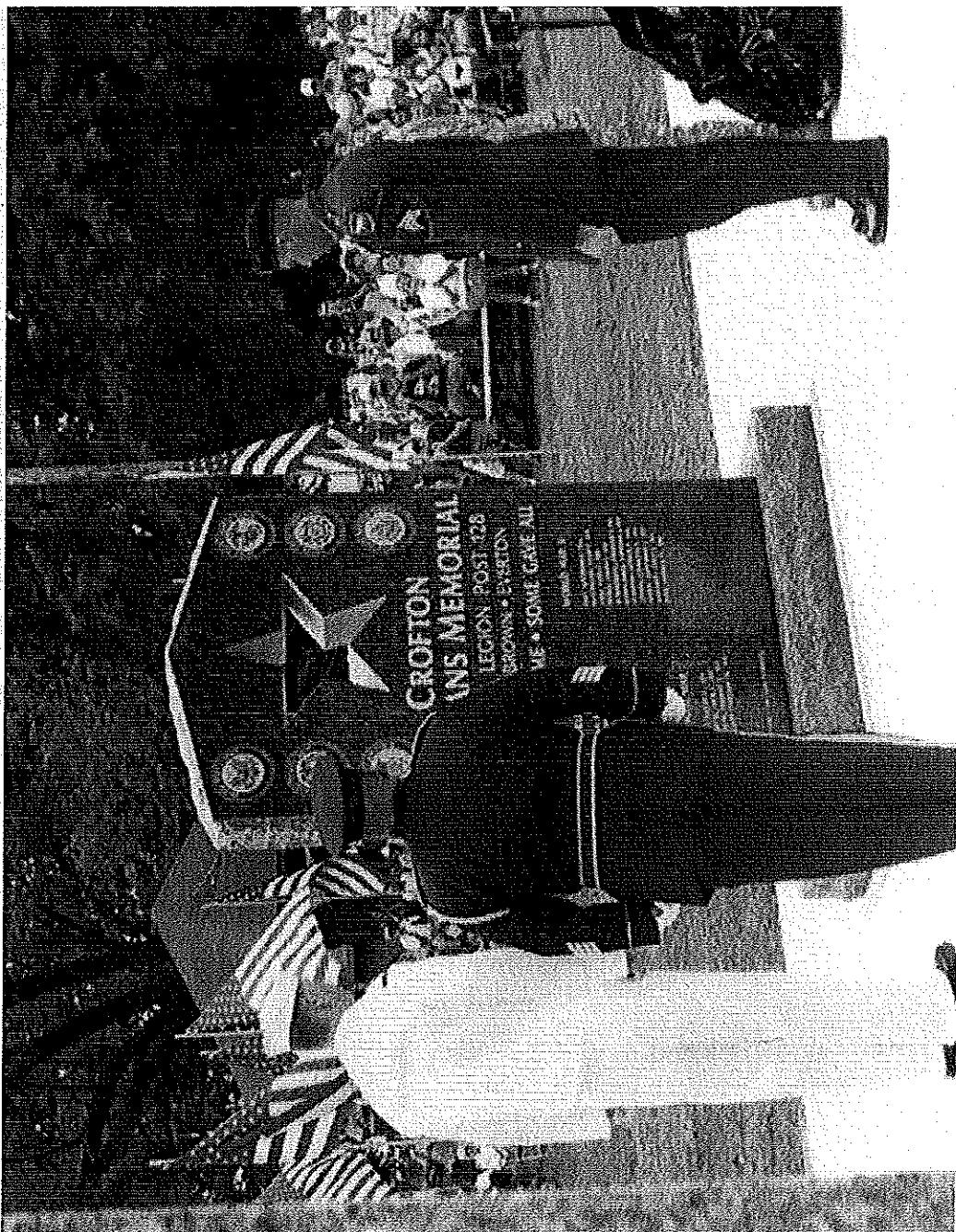
For a donation of \$150, names of servicemen, living or deceased could have their name placed on one of the granite slabs.

The oldest veterans listed on the new monument are from WWI but young servicemen who served in Iraq are also listed. Room is available for additional names if more donations come in.

The Legion has seven cemeteries in this area in which they decorate graves of American veterans for Memorial Day: Crofton Public, Crofton St. Rose, Aten, Beaver Creek, Beaver View, Constance and Frankfort.

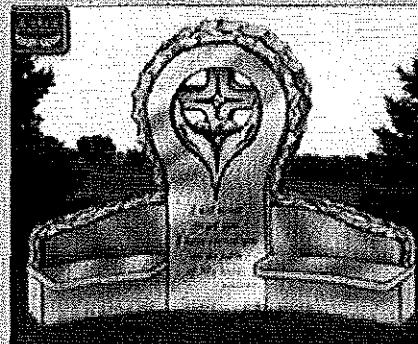
From these seven cemeteries, there are 137 names of Veterans for which Post Commander Phil Donner said he could not find a living relative or received no response to an inquiry. The Legion will pay for these etchings themselves.

The program will include the pledge of allegiance and patriotic singing. Crofton's mayor Wendell Strom will welcome the crowd and State Senator Cap Dierks will make some comments. District Two Commander Dave Donner will add a few remarks before the unveiling of the stones, 21-gun salute and playing of the traditional taps.



Bloomfield 7/3/68

# Benedictine Health Foundation 2008 Project



The Benedictine Health Foundation has chosen as its mission project for 2008 a new memorial for miscarried babies at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Life is the most precious gift that God has given. This supports Avera Sacred Heart Hospital's "Respect For Life" philosophy. More than 50 miscarriages occur each year in our community. If the baby is under 20 weeks, the parents have the choice to either

create a burial place for it, or entrust it to Avera Sacred Heart. If they entrust it to the hospital, these little ones are buried in an area located in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

The current area/monument is small and makes the area hard to find. The new memorial will speak to the sacredness of life. It will be a place of families to seek closure, and comfort that their baby is now in "God's Hands."

The Benedictine Health Foundation has chosen to raise funds to create such an area. A design has been created by Scott Luken, of Luken Memorials. If anyone is interested in making a contribution to this area please contact the BHF office at (605) 668-8310 or fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and send to the foundation office.

## RESPECT FOR LIFE MEMORIALS

Sacred Heart School  
Benedictine Sisters  
St. Isidora Circle  
Kevin, Lisa, Isaac, Luke,  
& Simon Schulz  
Mr. & Mrs. Marlin Slagle  
Hubert & Henrietta Manch  
Patricia Gleason  
Anonymous  
Ron & Mary Pesek  
James & Jean Fitzgerald  
Clark L. Redlinger  
Dr. Michael & Ellen McVay  
Pal & Pal Christensen  
Mary Lynn Black  
Betty Drotzman  
Harris & Corinne Kruse  
Roy Jr. & Nancy Johnson

Lekoy & Joyce Schumacher  
Agnes Grovijahn  
South Dakota Magazine  
Michael & Gerri Healy  
Lou Ella Machin  
Tony & Lisa Erickson  
Duane & LuAnn Jones  
W.B. "Jim" & Roma Cimpl  
Sr. Kevin Irwin  
Wayne & Karen Muth  
Dr. Terence & Lori Pedersen  
Richard & Susan Bruening  
Brad & Nancy Wenande  
Kevin & Mary Pishulka  
Byron & Beryl Olson  
Welt Construction  
Crescent Electric Supply Company  
Kevin & Patricia Zavadil  
In memory of Jim Lichter  
Geneva Lichter

In memory of Vlnatieri babies  
that died pre or at birth  
*JoAnn Flaw*

In memory of  
Michael, Austin, & Natalie Engen  
*Chuck & Ann Engen*

In memory of Don Dendinger  
*Edna Dendinger*

In memory of  
Anthony & Patricia Cacek  
*Mariamie Skovly*

In memory of Bobby Drotzmann  
*Service Master Clean of SE SD*

In memory of Chad Poppe  
*Service Master Clean of SE SD*

In memory of Patricia Ann Fessar  
*Sylvia Fessar*

In memory of Nicholas Feilmeier  
*Mari Morgan*

In memory of  
Michael Phillip Quatier  
*Lois Quatier*

In memory of the baby  
I lost through miscarriage  
*Allen & Kay Kohner*

In memory of Baby Hacecky  
*Brett, Tanya, Harlie,  
& Simon Hacecky*

In memory of  
our two angels in heaven  
*Dale & Marianne Merkel*

In memory of  
infant Jack Mitchell Lauer and the  
baby lost in miscarriage  
*Ron & Carmen Lauer*

In memory of Arty Ibarolle  
*Wayne & Lori Ibarolle  
Dr. Terence & Lori Pedersen*

In memory of our three little angels  
*Randy & Wendy Eichacker*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BENEDICTINE HEALTH FOUNDATION • Yankton, S.D. • Winter 2007-08

## 'Respect for Life' Infant Memorial helps give closure



The mission of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital has always included treating all life with dignity and respect. This includes the unborn who may have survived only weeks of life. Through the years, the early miscarried infants [under 20 weeks gestation] were either taken home by their parents to be buried or were buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Yankton, S.D.

As a hospital staff chaplain, ministering in the Obstetrics Department, I have seen firsthand the sense of comfort mothers and

fathers experienced upon being informed of the care that their baby would receive.

I remember a young couple who had recently moved to this area. The support they received at the time of their early miscarriage was primarily provided by a very caring and compassionate OB department and staff chaplain. I remember the tears that fell as the couple asked "What will happen to our baby after delivery?" I was able to

*Continues on page five*



# The Benefactor

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BENEDICTINE HEALTH FOUNDATION  
Philanthropic Arm of Avera Sacred Heart Health Services

Spring 2008

Yankton, S.D.

## Benedictine Health Foundation 2008 Project

*Continued from page one*

tell them their baby would be treated with dignity and respect. As a staff chaplain I was able to offer the option that if they chose to leave their baby at the hospital the funeral home would bury the baby in Sacred Heart Cemetery and that a chaplain would offer special prayers at the graveside burial. The couple expressed their gratitude knowing the hospital would provide what they couldn't at this time.

A few months later I received a call from the mother who asked where the area where her infant had been buried was located as she wished to visit the place where her precious baby was buried. It touched in my heart the loneliness I often feel when I do a prayer for the infants who are being buried. The area sits on the edge of the cemetery, neatly mowed with a small Memorial stone, no seats to sit for grieving parents or grandparents. There is no light to illuminate the area for a quiet night visit. It is a small memorial considering approximately 50 miscarriages are laid to rest in this area each year.

An idea was brought forward to provide a memorial that would readily identify this as a place of rest for unborn infants. In a collaborative effort of many – the endorsement of Avera Sacred Heart Hospital and the talents of Scott Luken, Luken Memorials – a vision and a plan for an 8-foot tall by 15-foot wide granite Memorial is becoming a reality. The Memorial has God's hands gently

cradling a newborn with the following inscription from Isaiah: *I will never forget you. I have carved you in the palm of my hands.*

There will be benches to sit and reflect. This is being created to be a place of beauty and comfort for all those who desire to remember their baby who will always be alive in their hearts. I believe it will truly speak of the sacredness of life, no matter how brief.

The Benedictine Health Foundation has adopted this project for 2008. Donations have been generous, yet additional funding is necessary to complete this project. Many have donated in memory of their baby who died, some recently and some many years ago. Others have donated because of the value they hold in respect for life. We greatly appreciate you considering such a donation.

### RESPECT FOR LIFE MEMORIALS

(continued from previous newsletter)

*Shair-Co  
Jeff & Jolene Pravecek  
Dakota Chiropractic Clinics  
Carolyn L. Kissel  
Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory  
Richard & Brenda Vellek  
Steve & Sarah Sager  
Faith United Lutheran Church,  
Volin, SD  
Robert & Jean Gullikson  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bender  
4th - 6th grades  
Hartington Public School  
Dallas Ristling  
Don & Janice Lysy  
Southeast Properties LP  
Anonymous*

*Robert & Dawn Ferrell  
Kathie Steffen  
Sr. Evangeline  
David Potas, M.D.  
Sacred Heart Catholic School  
Russ & Carleen Dendinger  
Rodney & Marlys Kaiser  
Larry & Dianne Siewert  
Brian & Cheri Knittel  
Jim & Lori Karolevitz  
Michael & Laurie Johnson*

*In memory of my mother's  
two miscarriages*

*Sister Gabriella Baumberger  
In memory of infant Albrecht  
& Angel Hochstein  
Jean & Mary Hochstein*

*In memory of our four little angels  
Joe & Nichole Vondracek and  
Nicholaus & Eliann*

*In memory of our miscarried child  
Patrick & Mary Ann King*

*In memory of Sara Losquest  
Eugene & Mary Jo Shemek*

*In memory of four little angels  
in heaven*

*Delores Bohlmann*

*In memory of Baby Cabalka  
Laddie & Janene Cabalka*

### Dear Benedictine Health Foundation

*It was decided by the Faith  
United Lutheran Church council  
to use our Christmas Eve offering  
towards the mission to honor  
"life" no matter how brief. We  
are all precious in God's sight.  
In deepest respect,*

*The congregation of Faith  
United Lutheran Church*



**RIBBON CUTTING:** Tyndall Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting June 3 for two businesses, Tyndall Memorials and Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home who will be sharing a business front on Main Street.

Attending the ribbon cutting include back row from left, Nikki Wynia, Krista Sutera, Connie Kniffen, Lisa Van Winkle, Carolyn Becker, Scott Luken of Tyndall Memorials, Bryce Knudson, Steve Burtz, Marty Koch, middle

row, Amanda Dieder, Jane Sedlacek, manager of Tyndall Memorials, Cameron Luken of Tyndall Memorials, Kevin Opsahl of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home, Robert J. Luken Sr. of Tyndall Memorials, Robert

Luken Jr. of Tyndall Memorials, Mark Nelson and front row, Bryant Burke, Tammy Keller of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home, Eric Tycz and Diane Helsingier. The businesses will host an open house June 11-13. (photo by Becky Tycz)

## Opening Spring 2008

Finest quality, personalized memorials as unique as the lives they honor.

For assistance prior to opening please call:

Jane T. Sedlacek  
Local Area Representative

605-583-2202

or our Home Office at 1-800-888-1407



**Tyndall**  
**MEMORIALS**

1711 Main St. • Tyndall, South Dakota

JOIN US  
FOR OUR...

## OPEN HOUSE

June 11th thru 13th  
12 noon - 6pm



**Tyndall**  
**MEMORIALS**  
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for consultation on  
funeral planning

- Register for Mens and Ladies Door Prizes
- Coffee and Cookies

**OPSAHL-KOSTEL**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM INC.

1711 Main St • Tyndall, SD 57066 • 605-589-9979

### 7-7-08 SCOTLAND Open house winners

Tyndall Memorial and Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory announce winners from their recent open house and were very pleased with the turnout.

The open house was held June 11, 12 and 13 with people registering from Avon, Scotland, Springfield, Tabor, Tripp, Yankton, Sioux Falls, Crooks, Renner and Tyndall.

June 12 the doors remained open during Hot Dog Night for tours of the new business. They also served many hot dogs and will try to outdo themselves next year. It was very enjoyable for their first event with the Tyndall Chamber.

The winner of the free laser portrait was Duane Mogck of Scotland, ladies basket went to Jeanne Hisek of Crooks and gentlemen's basket went to Leonard Hajek of Tyndall. Stop by and pick up the gifts during business hours, Tuesday or Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. or anytime by appointment, 589-9944 or call Jane at 583-2202 or 661-2587. On display are many beautiful memorials or they can customize anything for your loved one.



**Decendents of the Clark family pose with Joe Gill of Jackson with both the old and the new monuments on the Clark family plot in St. John's Cemetery in Jackson. Since the old stone had become illegible the family decided to purchase a new stone to honor their family legacy.**

### Clark Family Decedents Visit Jackson

Several members of the David and Ann (Donahue) Clark family returned to Jackson this weekend to view a new family monument placed in St. John's Cemetery and to attend the Beacom family reunion. David and Ann Clark came to America from Ireland in 1850 looking for a better life. The Clarks and their children eventually settled in the St. Johns/Jackson area. Susan Brauer, the great, great, great, great granddaughter of David and Ann Clark has become the family genealogist. Through her research she discovered the family ties to the Beacom family and found a distant cousin Dan Clark, great grandson of David and Ann. Susan was able to collect

family information from the records of the Dakota County Historical Society based in the Dakota City Library; she even found a copy of the original will from David and Ann Clark. Jerry Duggan was also able to help Susan fill in some of the missing pieces of their family history. Susan had a picture of the original Clark memorial in St. John's cemetery. The original memorial was barely legible even in person. Family members began to explore restoring the original stone. Joe Gill recommended the family contact Lukken Monuments who recommended purchasing a new monument. The new monument now sits next to the original one on the Clark family plot. Dan Clark, of California; Susan Brauer, Raymond Clark, Helen Clark, all of Colorado and Theresa Heinemann, of South Sioux City were some of the members of the family who returned to Jackson for the Beacom family reunion and to view the new monument.

JOIN US FOR OUR...

# OPEN HOUSE

LUKEN MEMORIALS

**June 12th thru 18th**

7 Days!!

Coffee & Cookies

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Thurs., Fri., Mon., Tues. & Wed.

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday; 1 - 4 p.m. Sunday

Register for Drawings

1310 N. 130 St., Norfolk, NE 68701 • 402-571-2834 • 1-888-671-2837

Norfolk 6/16/08

JOIN US FOR OUR...

# OPEN HOUSE

**June 11th thru 13th**

**12 noon - 6pm**

**Tyndall**  
**MEMORIALS**  
GRANITE • MARBLE • BRONZE

- Coffee & Cookies
- Register for Drawings
- Price Incentives

**BECAUSE IT'S  
IMPORTANT TO YOU,  
WE MAKE IT  
OUR BUSINESS**

FINEST  
QUALITY FAMILY  
MEMORIALS,  
DESIGNED &  
CRAFTED  
WITH PRIDE IN  
SIOUXLAND.

Manager  
Rick Garvey

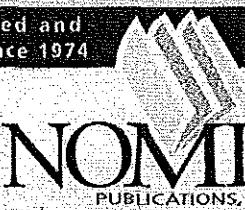
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of Hamilton Blvd.  
& Interstate 29

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FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY

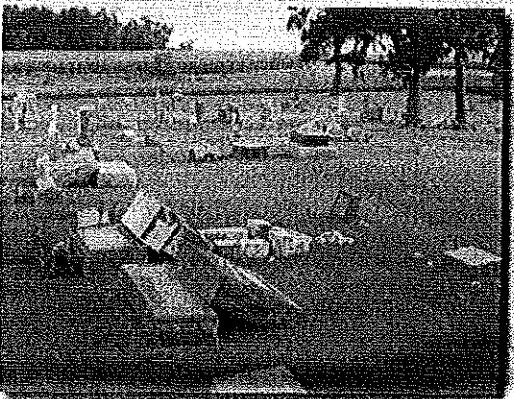
# NEWS

OCTOBER  
2008

PO Box 5159 Youngstown OH 44514 1-800-321-7479 Online at [www.nomispublications.com](http://www.nomispublications.com)

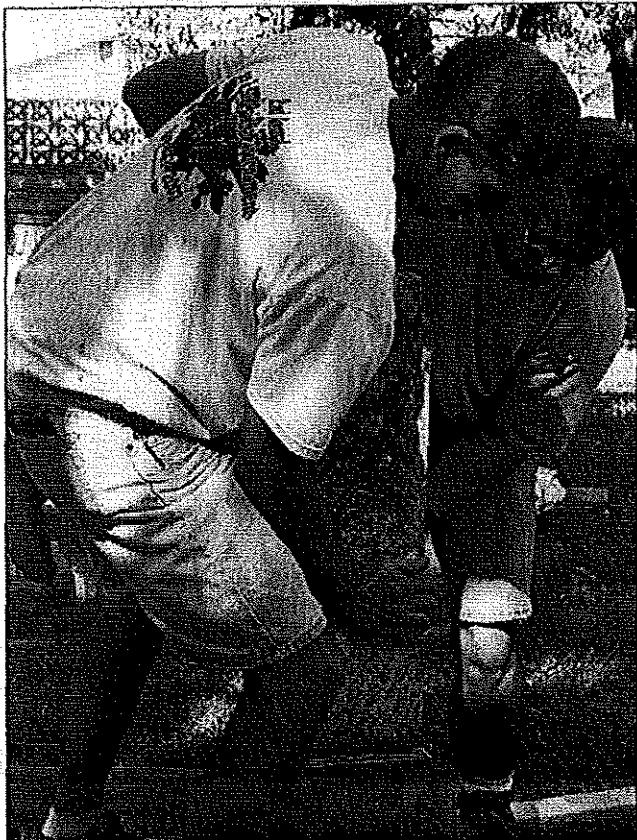
Previously Published as the YB News Still the Place for Your News!

## Luken Memorials is There When You Need Them



**MADISON, NE**— Luken Memorials came to the rescue after vandals toppled forty-nine monuments at **Crown Hill Cemetery** in August. The company sent three experienced professionals from Yankton, SD to get the cemetery back in order free of charge. Within a day and a half, all the monuments had been recemented to their bases. The men also replaced headstones at two other local cemeteries that were vandalized during the same period. Luken is to be commended for its generosity and dedication to service.

## Needed repairs



Luken Memorial employees spent a day at the New Lutheran Cemetery recently to fix headstones that were vandalized in early August. In the picture at left, Dustin Olson (left) and Stacy Barns place a headstone on its base. Below, Jon Mahnke (left) and Barns prepare the base of a headstone. Luken Memorial used a lift to raise some headstones onto their base. Over 30 headstones were damaged in this incident. Two other cemeteries — in Madison and near Battle Creek — also were vandalized in the same period of time.

Photos by  
Grace Petersen

Norfolk 8/6/08



Norfolk 9/11/08

PHONE CALL	
TO	3:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.
FROM	8/27
DATE	TIME
MESSAGE	Huge thank you! to you for setting up the stones @ Madsen
OF	Ed Wright
PHONE	402 454-3576
FAX	
MOBILE	
NUMBER	
AREA CODE	
EXTENSION	
PENNED	
TELETYPE	
TELEFACSIMILE	
WILL CALL	
AGAIN	
CAME TO SEE YOU	
WANTS TO SEE YOU	
SIGNED	

Forms FORM 4003

## Thoughtful kindness

NORFOLK — Compassionate and caring are two words to be used to describe Luken Memorial Co. They donated their labor and time to strangers and to those of us whose loved ones' graves were desecrated by the vandalism at our cemeteries.

We all need to remember the unsolicited and thoughtful kindness of Luken Memorial Co. and forget the hateful acts of a few individuals. Thanks to them for restoring our cemeteries and faith in humanity.

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY TRUSTEES  
NEW LUTHERAN CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION  
CROWN HILL CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION

# THE MADISON STAR-MAIL

MADISON (MADISON COUNTY), NEBRASKA

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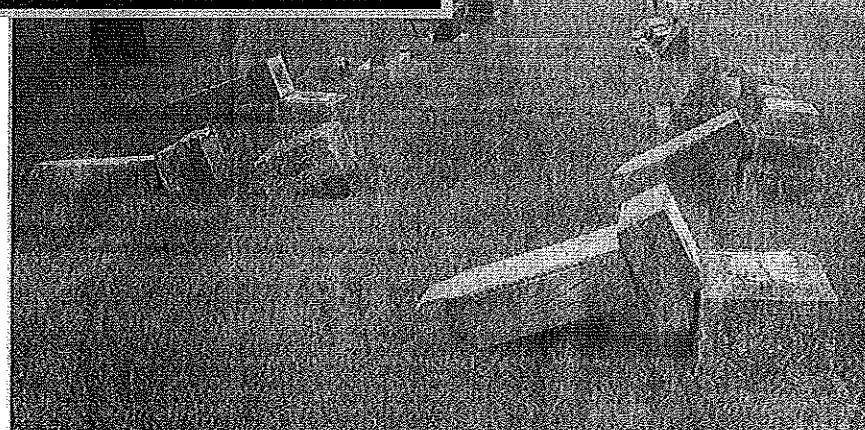
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2008

## CARDS OF THANKS

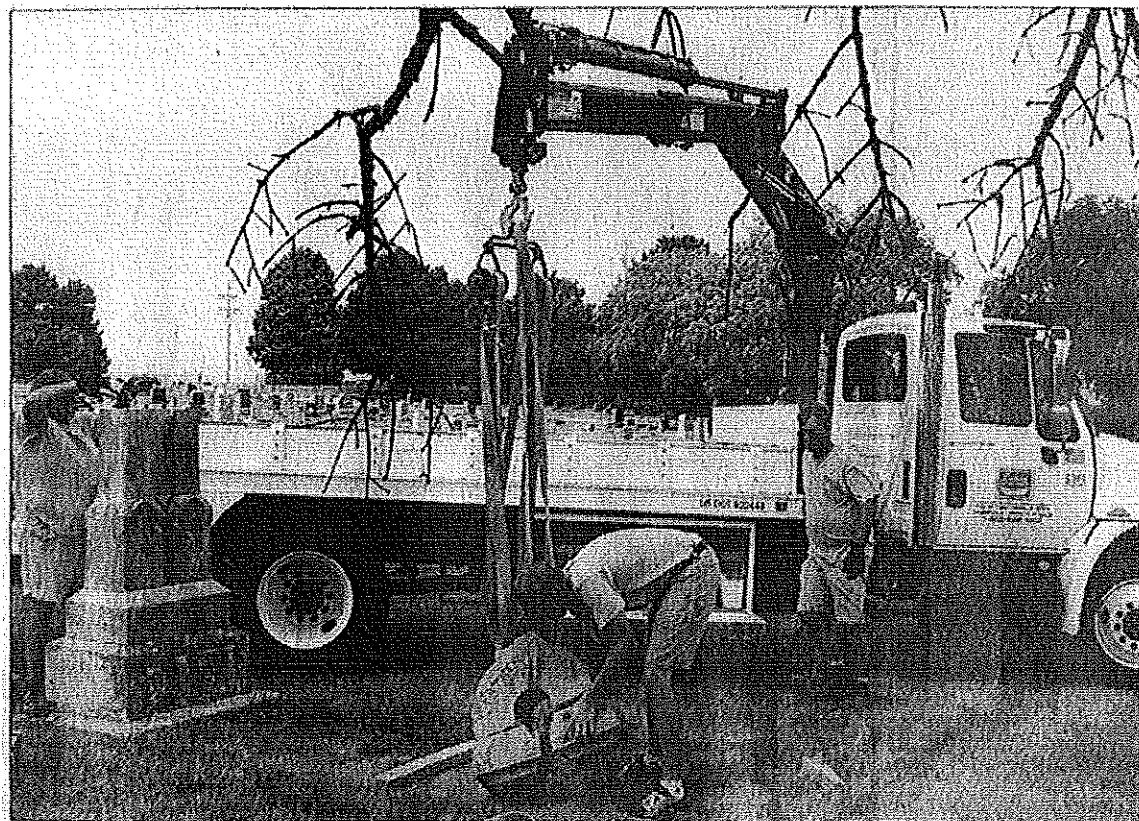
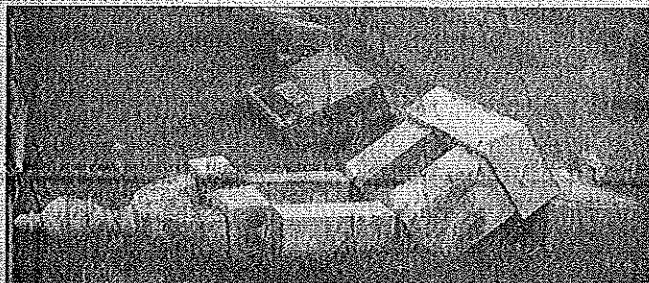
Compassionate and caring are two words to be used to describe Luken Memorial Co. They donated their labor and time to total strangers, and to those of us whose loved ones were desecrated by the vandalism of our cemetery.

We all need to remember the unsolicited and thoughtful kindness of Luken Memorial, and forget the hate-filled acts of a few individuals. Thank you Luken Memorial for restoring our cemetery and faith in humanity.

*Fairview Cemetery  
Board of Trustees*



Above and at right are some of the approximately 47 headstones that were either toppled or destroyed at Crown Hill Cemetery this weekend. Investigator Mike Boersox of the Madison County Sheriff's Office said the cost to repair the damage "could be an astronomical amount." The cemetery's insurance does not cover individual stones. Boersox said the police have suspects. Caretaker Dave Holmberg said some of the damage occurred to some of the oldest stones in the cemetery - people no longer having relatives in the area.



### Cemetery Vandals Repaired

Courtesy Photo

Luken Memorials sent a truck and three people to Madison from Yankton, S.D. recently to help repair damage done by vandals at Crown Hill Cemetery. Police are still searching for the people who pushed 49 monuments off their bases at Crown Hill and did similar damage to Fairview Cemetery near Battle Creek and a cemetery near Norfolk. Luken volunteered its service to help caretakers and volunteers repair the damage at all three cemeteries. Work at Crown Hill was completed in a day and a half. Dave Holmberg, president of the Madison Cemetery Association, said all three cemeteries are back to normal, and Luken did not charge for its services.



# Vandalism believed to be connected

By GRACE PETERSEN  
gpetersen@norfolkdailynews.com

Three cemeteries were vandalized sometime over the weekend.

One of them, the New Lutheran Cemetery, 700 N. 12th St., had nearly 30 grave stones damaged, said Capt. Leon Chapman of the Norfolk Police Division.

"It's a very poor thing to do to the cemetery," said Bob Lindsteadt, New Lutheran Cemetery board treasurer.

About every five years there's an vandalism incident at the cemetery, but nothing of this magnitude, he said.

"There were not beer bottles, no road tracks. It's like they pulled over," Lindsteadt said. "It must have been a gang of them, trying to push those things (over)."

Chapman said the caretaker of the cemetery contacted the police division on Monday in regard to the vandalism. About four stones received other kinds of damage, but most were tipped over, Chapman said.

There were no damage estimates as of Wednesday morning, he said.

Lindsteadt said Lukens Memorial of Yankton will be repairing the headstones for free.

The other two cemeteries in Madison County also had extensive damage, said Madison County Sheriff Vern Hjorth.

Crown Hill, located in Madison, had about 30 head stones knocked over. Another cemetery, Fairview — located seven miles south of Battle Creek — had about 20 head stones damaged.

Chapman and Hjorth said since all of the vandalism occurred over the weekend, there is a high probability the same people were involved.

There are no suspects at this time, they said.

If you have any information on this crime, call the Norfolk Police Division at 644-8700 or the Norfolk Area Crime Stoppers at 371-7300.



GRACE PETERSEN/DAILY NEWS

**ABOUT 30** grave stones were damaged at the New Lutheran Cemetery over the weekend, according to Capt. Leon Chapman of the Norfolk Police Division. During the same time period, similar damage was done to a cemetery in Madison and another cemetery located seven miles south of Battle Creek.

Norfolk 8/13/05

# THE RAPID CITY WEEKLY NEWS

## Piedmont Cemetery damage outrages community, causes extensive work

**Historic graveyard will be in even better condition after work is done, say volunteers**

BY ANDY JACOBS & WENDY PITLICK  
The Weekly News

PIEDMONT — Vandals caused several thousands of dollars worth of damage to the Piedmont Cemetery and locals are upset, angry and, in some cases, in tears.

Investigators from the Meade County Sheriff's office responded on July 11 to the cemetery, where approximately 45-50 headstones were either destroyed or pushed over. Among those monuments that were damaged were veterans' headstones, including eight from the Civil War, one from the Spanish American War, and several World War I, World War II and Vietnam War markers.

"There is very little of it that they didn't vandalize," said Piedmont Cemetery board member John Honerkamp. "I don't know what kind of people these are. I put them in the same class as bin Laden."

Mark Luken, of West River Monument, volunteered time and equipment for the clean-up effort. "We're even fixing some of the cracked ones that they broke," Luken said.

He was puzzled by the amount of damage. "It's like it was personal," Luken said. He was particularly moved that the vandals had "shattered all the little angel statues. This one's just an infant. I don't care if it's a 100 years old, they just had no regard."

Luken predicted it would take two weeks to repair the damage.

"A lot of the older stones have no family around to keep us from putting them up," he said. "But, the newer stones, we have to wait for permission because of property rights."

The cemetery would be in better condition after the repair work was completed. "We'll actually make them stronger — old ones were set with plaster and lead — now-a-days we use a compound and weight of the stone to create a vacuum and keep 'em down," he said. "After about two weeks they won't be knocking them down without breakin' their backs. Marble is lighter than granite but after a couple stones it doesn't matter, you're tired."

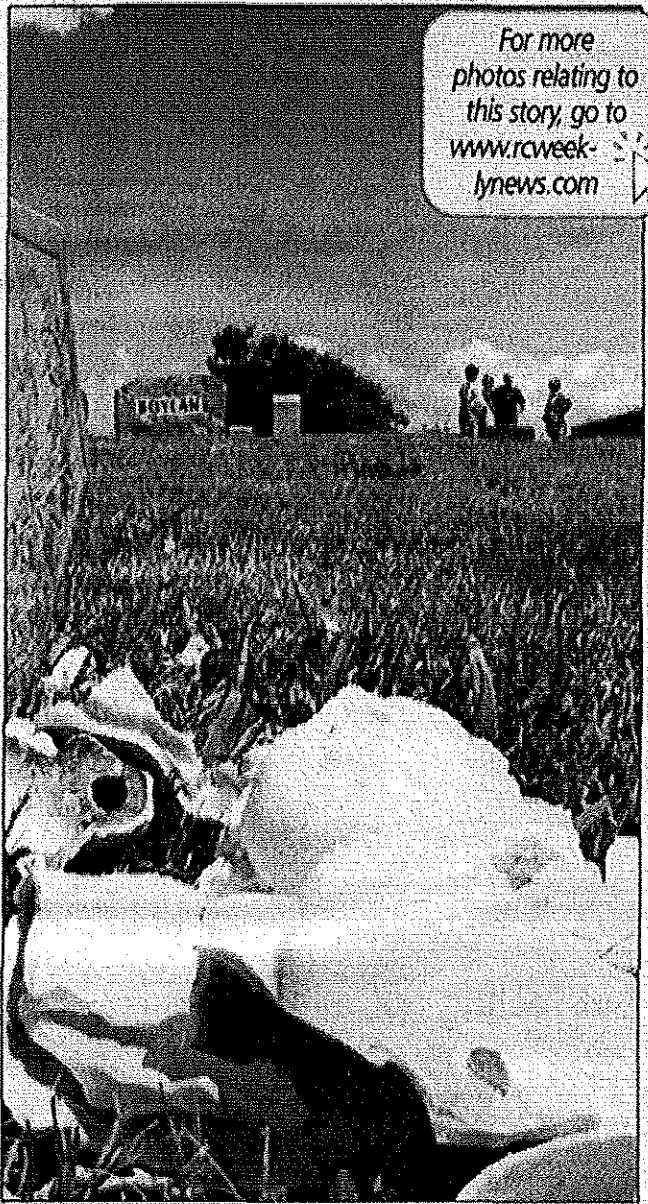
Don Whitney, a Piedmont Cemetery board member, said the work would bring finished and the cemetery restored to its former peaceful place. Whitney even found a chance to offer some humor as he pointed out some headstones.

"My wife and I's stones are over by the trees," he said. "We're not in them yet."

But he said there was one word for how he felt: "Disgusted."

Phil Anderson, a veteran who has family members interred in the cemetery, said he felt "disgust, anger — this is my first time out. Fifty years ago half this

For more photos relating to this story, go to [www.rcweeklynews.com](http://www.rcweeklynews.com)



RCW/AVAR HERES

A tiny cherubic face stares into the sky amidst its own ruin as volunteers, at the top of the hill, assess the damage done to Piedmont Cemetery July 10-11.

town was my family."

He had little sympathy for the vandals. "I think they should publish these kids' names," Anderson said. "It just protects the parents who've done a poor job of raising these kids."

Damaging the graves of people who served the country was particularly painful, he said. "It makes me sad to see these veterans' stones knocked down," Anderson said. "When you've got an old Civil War

vet stone, the V.A. will replace it, but you hate to do that when the old stone's a piece of history."

Tom Morrison's mother-in-law, Billie Roth, was inserted Friday. Morrison said he wondered how the cemetery could be protected from such desecration.

"Yeah, with the repeat performance last night of vandals — you don't know what they're gonna do," he said. "I'm sure it [the cemetery] will be a little more watched but why anyone would do something to effect so many people — what are they gainin'?"

Meade County investigator Caleb Deyo said investigators were able to recover some physical evidence from the scene, which he hopes will lead to suspects. Deyo said it appears the culprits did some of the damage between Sunday evening, July 9, and early Tuesday morning, July 11. Then, the vandals returned sometime Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning to finish the job.

"It seems like that type of ground should be off-limits to just about anything other than remembering family and friends," Deyo said.

Honerkamp said many Piedmont residents met July 12 to organize a workday when they will repair the damage.

Representatives from West River Monuments, of Rapid City, will be on-hand to help repair some of the damaged headstones and set the larger monuments back in place. Overall, Honerkamp said the financial donations and volunteer labor to restore the historical, sacred ground has been overwhelming.

"People are coming by with hundred-dollar bill donations," he said. "One guy came by with I don't know how many cases of soda pop for the workers."

However, Honerkamp said he hopes all their efforts aren't futile.

"What if we get all done restoring this thing and put all this effort in and have it happen again?" he said. "I guess that's what really worries me."

Nevertheless, the people of Piedmont are willing to take that chance to restore a piece of their history back to its original grandeur. But the clock is ticking, since a funeral was scheduled on Friday, July 14.

"If all goes well like it did today it will be in pretty good shape," Honerkamp said of the cemetery. "Pray for the vandals. One lady called up and was crying her eyes out and she said 'What can we do with people who do these things?' I said, 'Don't hate. They're definitely on the wrong track and they need help.'"

Honerkamp said the Elk Vale Cemetery at Elk Creek was also vandalized last week.

Anyone who has information related to either of these incidents should contact Deyo at the Meade County Sheriff's Office,

- Obituaries, B2-4
- Black Hills Journal, B3
- Comics, B5, 6

# LOCAL

## Piedmont cemetery re-vandalized

By BILL HARLAN  
Journal Staff Writer

Vandals hit the historic Piedmont Cemetery for a second consecutive night Tuesday, dumping cement figures of deer onto a gravel road and damaging at least two more headstones.

"I was hopping mad when I heard about it," said Chief Deputy Tom Wills of the Meade County Sheriff's Office. "It's a direct slap in our face."

Vandals also damaged at least half a dozen headstones at the small Elk Vale Cemetery on Elk Vale Road, north of the

Flying J Truckstop on Interstate 90. Wills believes that vandalism also was Tuesday night.

Two of the Elk Vale headstones appeared to have been shot, Ardie Tatum of Rapid City said.

The vandalism Tuesday night comes after about 50 headstones were damaged Monday night at the historic Piedmont Cemetery, which is a quarter mile east of I-90 Exit 46, (A Rapid City Journal story Wednesday incorrectly identified the location of the cemetery.)

The Piedmont Cemetery Board held a public meeting

Tuesday night at Piedmont Grace United Methodist Church.

The board voted to establish a repair fund and a reward fund, to be paid after the arrest and conviction of the vandals. Board President Paula Honerkamp said she already had received about \$500 in donations.

One donor even offered to pay for solar-powered security lights and a surveillance camera. The board voted to research whether such a system was available.

Board member Don Whitney, who is also a memorial counselor at West River Monument Co. in Rapid City, already

has begun repairs at the cemetery. Whitney and two colleagues worked in 100-degree temperatures Wednesday to reset more than 20 of the tipped headstones. West River Monument volunteered their labor, but the cemetery board likely will reimburse them for at least part of the work.

Families who own the plots are financially responsible for the vandalized headstones, Honerkamp said, but she also pointed out homeowner's insurance might cover the loss.

Board member Chris Boylan, who lives near Piedmont, also suggested holding a service on a Sunday, presided

over by area pastors, to re-consecrate the cemetery. "We need to make our cemetery holy again because it doesn't feel like that to me anymore," Boylan said. A number of her relatives are buried in the cemetery, and graves there date to the 1880s.

About two dozen people attended the meeting, and many signed a sheet passed around to authorize repairs to headstones of family members. After the meeting, many approached Honerkamp with checks or cash for the two cemetery funds.

Wills said the Meade County Sheriff's Office could work with the association to admin-

ister the reward. So far, he said, there are no leads in the investigation.

To contribute to the repair or reward funds, or both, send checks made out to the Piedmont Cemetery Association to 8106 Chicory Lane, Piedmont, SD 57769.

If you have information about the vandalism of either cemetery, call the Meade County Sheriff's Office.

### Handling with care



Photo by ANDY JACOB

From left, Don Whitney of the Piedmont Cemetery Board operates the knuckle-crane boom while Mark Luken, of West River Monuments, and Whitney's son Brandon carefully place a cemetery headstone back on its mount. All three men donated their time and skills to help Piedmont Cemetery recover from recent vandalism. For the complete story and more photos, go to Page 2.



### Piedmont Cemetery Association

**T**hanks, friends near and far, for the outpouring of cash donations and volunteer labor following the vandalism at the Piedmont Cemetery on July 10 and 11.

Thanks to relatives, friends and local citizens who have donated to our reward and cemetery care funds.

A special thank-you to West River Monument Company of Rapid City for donating their time and labor to re-set nearly 70 monuments and to repair several historic headstones.

Thanks to your loving memories and civic pride, things have been set right at the Piedmont Cemetery.

Piedmont Cemetery Board Members



# West River Monument Co.

8-23-08

Lukens Memorials!

Re: Carl Bathke's Memorial

I would like to give special Thank You  
To the owners and employees of Lukens Memorials  
For the fine job of resetting of Carl Bathke's stone  
Our whole family appreciated the nice job

Thank You very much  
I am the great-great grandson of Carl Bathke

We purchased the stones for our Mother & Father  
from Lukens.

Thank You again  
John Bathke

ROBERT BATHKE  
603 Pierce  
NORFOLK, NE 68701

Shirley Tschamer Sister To Robert Bathke

Madison, Ne.  
Sept. 1 - 08

A note  
for you...

Dear Sir -  
I personally wish to  
from  
Darlene  
Brett  
806 So. Nebraska

Thank You for your  
volunteer service in  
erecting the vandalised  
tomb stones at Crown  
Hill, Madison, Altha

I was fortunate, nothing  
happened to my 4 stones  
Your service was  
sincerely appreciated

Darlene

Lukens Memorial

Yankton, So. Dak.

August 19, 2008

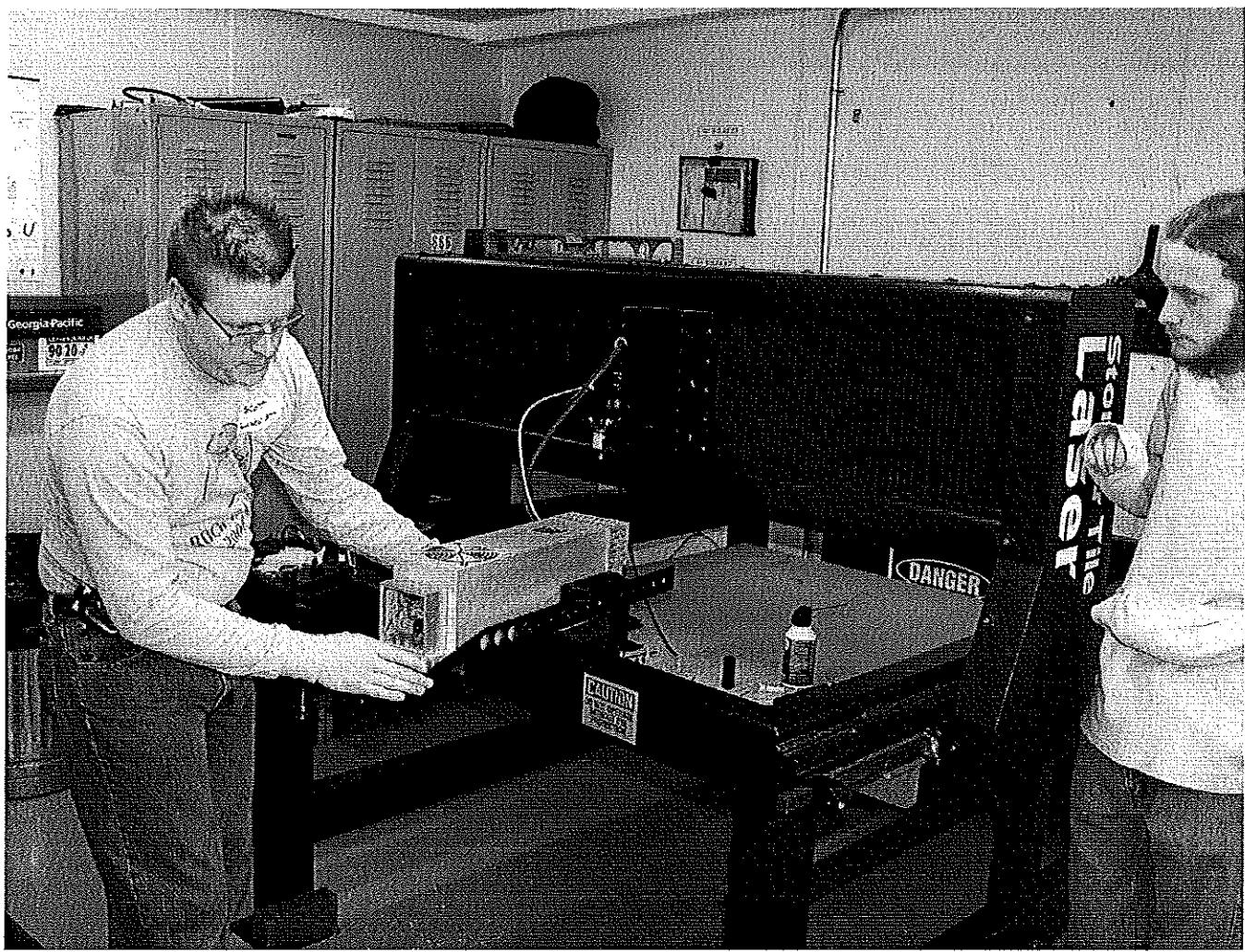
With sincere appreciation  
and gratitude, thank you  
for repairing the headstones  
in the New Lutheran Cemetery,  
Norfolk, Nebraska.

One was my Great-great  
Grandfather Bathke -

Sincerely,

Shirley M. Tschamer

great-great Granddaughter



**Luken Memorals, Inc. Yankton & Dakota Monument Co, Fargo put on the annual Vytek Laser users seminar, Feb. 2008 in Fargo ND.**



March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent support and contribution to  
The BIG Miniature Show.

Our first annual Juried Art Show was a huge success with a  
total of 298 entries from local area children K-12.

Much appreciation and our hats off to the following sponsors:

Dakota Aerials (Dave Tunge)

First National Bank (Kim Nelson)

Larson Juhl Co

First Dakota Bank

Cor Trust Bank, N.A.

Merle Norman (Jody Brady)

KYNT (Lynette Bolle)

P&D (Gary Wood)

The Pantry (Louise Anderson)

YAA (Jan Garrity)

Sally & Terry Broker Associates

Gift n' Giggles/Lu Lu's

Bruce Jensen (Missouri Valley Shopper)

Mr. & Mrs. Zylstra (In honor of Dave Tunge)

Dakota Archery (Bruce Cull)

River Front Event Center (Curt & Cena

Bernard)

Anderson Realty (Lisa Noeker)

Joe Labarge Reality

Pro Center Hearing (Dan Smith)

Bonanza (Bob Luken)

River Bank Bathing (Mary Johnson)

Scott Luken

Paul Lowrie

Art RedHorse

Walmart

Kelly Graves

Christ Episcopal Church of Yankton

Golden Photography (Linda Nielson)

Sister Kathleen Hickenbotham

Hy Vee

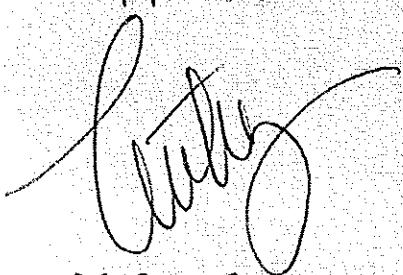
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital (Betsy

Midthun)

LilyCrest Cottage (Cathy Clatworthy)

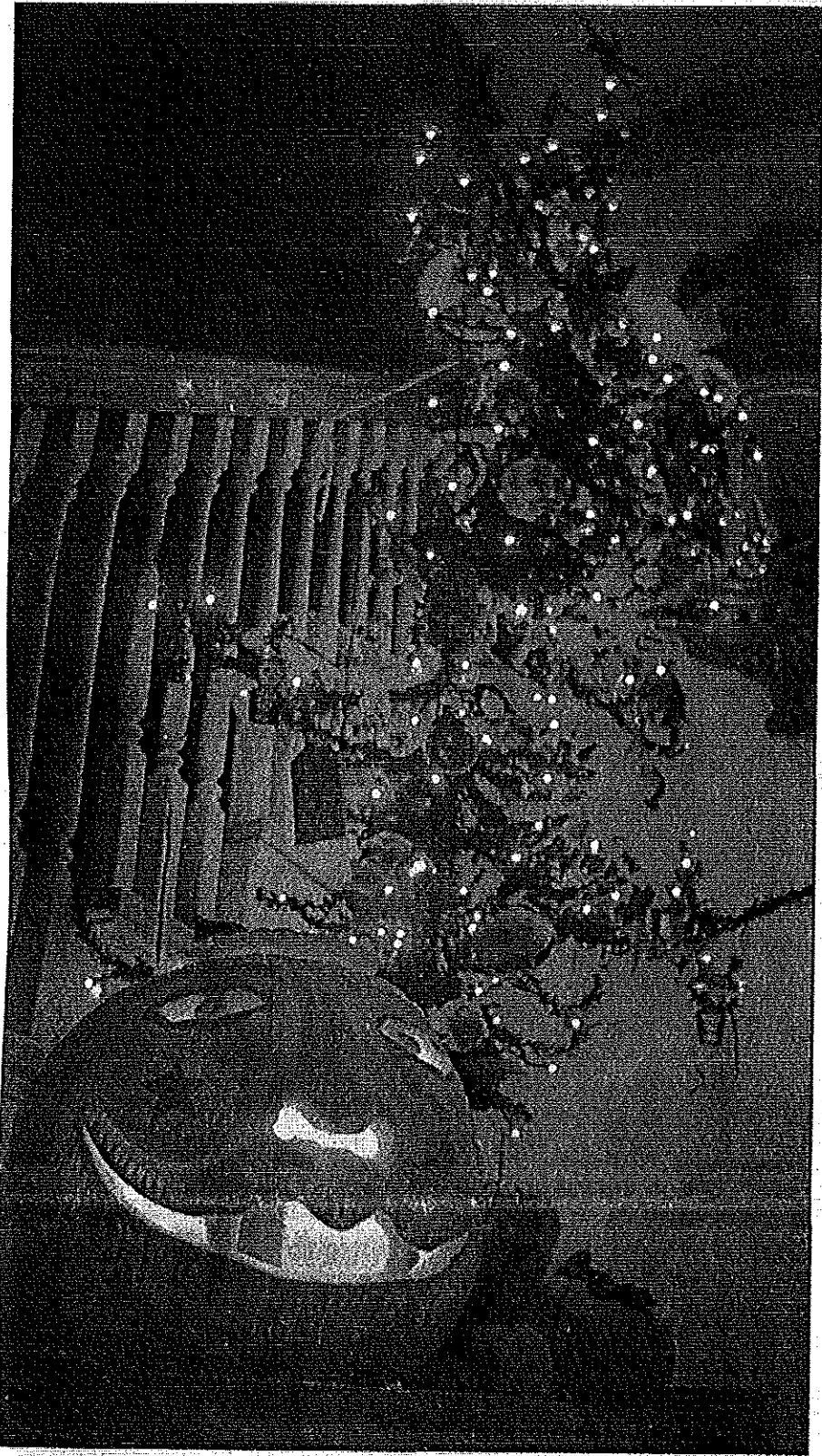
OneTen Fine Art (Jennifer Cull)

We look forward to working with you next year as we're expecting an even  
BIGGER event!



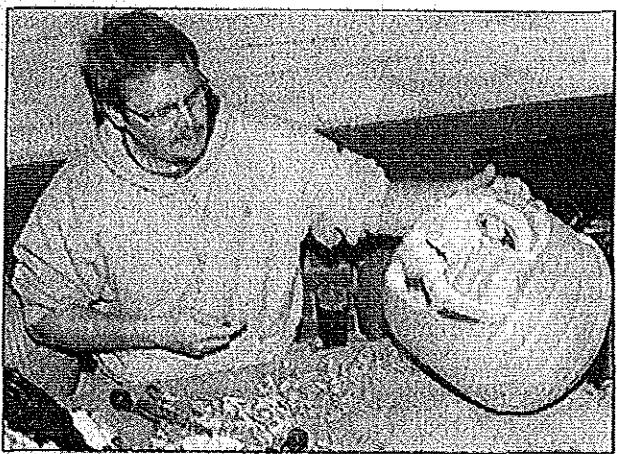
LilyCrest Cottage

Catherine Clatworthy  
211 W Third St, Yankton, SD



Scott Luken of Yankton creates monuments at Luken Memorial, but every Halloween he also creates works of seasonal art as an accomplished pumpkin carver. He is shown, above right, working on some of the finer details of a jack-o'-lantern. The finished product, shown above, was placed beneath a "Halloween tree" he and his family have set up in their house, which is festively (or ghoulishly) decorated for the Halloween holiday.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D



# Scaring Up Some Fun

**Luken Turns Pumpkin Carvings Into Ghoulish Halloween Works Of Art**

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

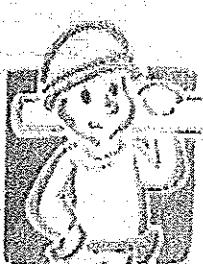
At Halloween, Scott Luken puts the best face on his work.

Luken considers himself one of the die-hard pumpkin carvers in Yankton, creating jack-o'-lanterns with more than the usual triangular eyes and thin smile.

"This is an ornate pumpkin," he said. "It's sculptured rather than the traditional Halloween fare. This pumpkin has a real wide grimace."

Many people don't make jack-o'-lanterns, Luken said, which may be why people of all ages find his work at 418 Linn Street so intriguing.

"I wish more people would do intricate work, but I think a lot of them are skittish about vandalism," he said. "They put their pumpkins out on the porch, then the kids come at night and they smash them. I would find that to be upsetting."



**On The Job**  
[www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

■ PUMPKIN, Page 6A please