

Webster Spelling Bee



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The first annual Webster Elementary Spelling Bee took place on Thursday evening, March 26, at the school gym, sponsored by the Webster School Student Council. Nineteen students in grades 3-5 prepared by studying word lists ahead of time, and they competed in front of a large audience of families and friends. Staff at the school served as judges, pronouncers, timers, and in other ways to help the Spelling Bee run smoothly. First place winner of the Spelling Bee was Jayci Ellis, 4th grade. Second place winner was Zara Bitsos, 4th grade, and third place was Nora Welker, 4th grade. Pictured above from left to right are Robin Brooks, teacher; Nora Welker; Zara Bitsos; Jayci Ellis; and Faydra Christensen, teacher.

Kalins Indoor Comfort Appoints Comfort Advisor

Kalins Indoor Comfort is pleased to announce that Brad Haas has joined the company as a Sales Comfort Advisor. Brad will be developing and maintaining customer relationships while recommending indoor comfort solutions to support growing business in Yankton.



Kalins

Brad comes with a wealth of experience within the industry, having spent the last 21 years in service and installation. Brad is North American Technical Excellence (N.A.T.E.) certified and is a graduate of numerous Lennox® and industry training programs.

"I am excited to start a new challenge with Kalins Indoor Comfort and look forward to working with the team to further develop their

already extensive products and services in the Yankton area. I am fortunate to be joining such a respected company that prides itself on top quality service," said Brad.

For over 90 years and three generations of family ownership, Kalins is a Premier Lennox® Dealer and offers Residential and Commercial Heating and Cooling Sales and Service, Indoor Air Quality Systems, Whole House Diagnostic Services and Retail Fireplace Sales.

Sacred Heart's Catholic School Raffle A Success

The students of Sacred Heart School want to thank the community of Yankton and their friends and family for their support in raising \$12,675 for their school during the Catholic Schools Raffle, every cent of which will stay in their hands.

Students, staff and supporters of Sacred Heart School joined 86 other schools in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota to add \$1,019,695 to their collective coffers through six weeks of five-dollar ticket sales and donations.

"This program can do so much for our schools," Catholic United President Harald Bormann said. "Not only can we open doors with new technology and tools in the classroom, in some cases we can literally keep doors open. For a group that cares as much about Catholic schools as we do, I can't tell you how rewarding that is for all of us."

Catholic United Financial covers all of the Catholic Schools Raffle's costs, so that every participating school can keep 100 percent of the proceeds from their ticket sales. Catholic United also provides some incentives for the top ticket seller and classroom at each school, and the top schools

among the whole field. Based on tickets sold per student, three schools will receive a \$3,000 technology grant in addition to their raffle earnings, top classes win a pizza party and the top seller will receive a \$100 Visa gift card.

Because they pay no overhead to participate, all \$12675 that Sacred Heart School raised can be used for any need the school faces.

During the March 19 grand prize drawing, winners of almost \$45,000 in prizes, including a new car (or \$25,000) and a \$5,000 vacation package, were drawn from among nearly 200,000 tickets purchased during the six-week raffle. The event was broadcast live on the web and hosted by "WCCO This Morning" anchor Jason DeRusha.

The Annual Catholic Schools Raffle and Catholic United Financial have raised more than \$4 million dollars for Catholic schools in Minnesota and the Dakotas since 2009, and will seek to achieve a third consecutive million-dollar year in 2016. Video, photos and a list of prize winners and results will be available at www.catholicunitedfinancial.org/raffle/.

United Way

2015 Campaign Was An Outstanding, Record-Breaking, CommUNITY Success!

BY LAUREN HANSON
Executive Director

All of us at United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton would like to reflect on the generosity of our friends and neighbors during our record breaking 2015 Campaign.

Our community accomplished great things this past year, demonstrating our collective strength and proving that our campaign theme holds true, together we can LIVE UNITED.

We thank our loyal supporters as well as everyone who gave for the first time. You donated more than \$500,000 to help over 35 local programs address critical needs within the greater Yankton area. That is the MOST EVER RAISED from an annual United Way Campaign in Yankton! Congratulations to the Yankton community!

By so many people reaching in their pockets to give what they could, it is possible for others to have a better life. On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers of United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton, we want to say thank you for LIVING UNITED.

Our Last Blast 2015 Final Campaign Push was held on Thursday, March 26

and was a huge success with over \$12,000 raised. A big thanks to Scott Kooistra, KYNT 1450 and Riverfront Broadcasting for their publicity efforts to help us raise the final monies needed to make our 2015 Campaign a success. We could not have done it without you! Scott, your hard work and dedication to United Way is so appreciated. We would also like to thank the *Press & Dakotan* for a preview story that ran the day before.

Thank you to Hy-Vee for hosting us all day and to Wal-Mart for the grand prize donation of an iPad Mini.

A big thanks to our Heart Club Committee. Thank you for volunteering your time and talents. You are all extraordinary examples of what it means to LIVE UNITED.

Thank you to those community members who shared WHY they LIVE UNITED on KYNT, which include Marc Bies, Yankton Public Schools; Rob Stephenson, First Dakota National Bank; Dr. Jessi Scott, Scott Family Dentistry; Melanie Ryken, Yankton Public Schools; Chuck Rezac, The Chuck Stop; Cynthia Miller, KK93 Riverfront Broadcasting, and Heart Club Committee member Denise Cody.

Thank you to our Partner Agencies for sharing their United Way stories on-air; Sherri Rodgers Conti and Carla Hummel, Southeast CASA; Desiree Warren Johnson, River City Domestic Violence Center; Jesse Bailey, Big Friend Little Friend; Frani Kieffer, Boys & Girls Club of Yankton; Christy Hauer, The Center; Deb Overseth, RSVP; and the coaches and girls from Girls on the Run. The efforts you and other partner agencies put forth every day, to help our neighbors and make our community the best it can be, is so impressive. Thank you for all that you do!

So many of you have given in so many ways, and WHY you give to United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton is critically important. Your gift supports our partner agencies, projects and programs that help so many people within our community. Giving through United Way embraces services to people of all ages, facing circumstances they had never imagined, bringing them possible solutions, adding quality of life to each of us.

THANK YOU for making the 2015 Campaign a record breaking community success and thank you for LIVING UNITED.

Yankton American Family Insurance Agent Recognized

Eugene Kocer, an American Family Insurance agent in Yankton and Irene, has been recognized for providing outstanding customer experience under the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification Program.

"At American Family, the customer is at the center of all we do, and these agents have proven they are committed to consistently providing the best experience," said Bill Westrate, American Family Insurance's chief operating officer. "The agents who earn the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification are those who have been given the highest marks from their

customers for outstanding service."

The service excellence distinction was determined through an evaluation process conducted under guidelines established through the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification Program. The process consists of a customer satisfaction survey which measures customers' overall experience with their current American Family agent.

Kocer has been an agent for American Family since February 1989. His offices are located at 413 W. 15th St., Yankton, and 300 W. Main St., Irene.

Local Resident Wins Free Fuel from Cenex

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A local resident has received a special thank you for his contribution to the community. Kenny Hirsch of Yankton was selected to receive free fuel from Tanks of Thanks®, a program that rewards people who do good deeds to help make their community just a little bit better.

The Tanks of Thanks program from CHS and Cenex® retailers encourages people to nominate friends, family and neighbors for free fuel as a way to say thank you for doing good in the community. Each month, CHS and Cenex give away more than \$5,000 in free fuel through the Tanks of Thanks program.

Hirsch was nominated for offering assistance to elderly community members. Whether it is shoveling driveways, yard work, or giving elderly neighbors rides to doctors' appointments, Kenny is happy to volunteer his time. Recently, Hirsch was selected to receive a \$50 Tanks of Thanks gift card, which is redeemable at any Cenex location.

"There are people doing good things in every community, and these acts of kindness do not go unnoticed or unappreciated," explains Akhtar Hussain, CHS refined fuels brand marketing manager. "Congratulations to Kenny Hirsch, and thank you for your contribution to the community."

According to Hussain, Tanks of Thanks is a multiyear program, so there is plenty of time to nominate someone for free fuel. "Nominating someone for Tanks of Thanks is easy, and anyone can nominate or be nominated for any act of kindness — big or small."

To make a nomination, visit TanksOfThanks.com and briefly describe why someone deserves a Tank of Thanks.

A Big 'Thank' You To The Yankton Community

BY BILL MARTI
Bismarck, N.D.

During the past three years, we were blessed to be part of the Yankton community.

I particularly wish the thank the leadership of Calvary Baptist Church in allowing me to serve as their first full-time Business Administrator. I thank God for my loyal and faithful support staff who served me on the support staff there: Mary Holdahl, Mary Williams, Pam Cooke, Jeff Pfeifle, Rick Peterson and Audra Hovorka.

Thanks to those that served me at the County and City offices. Thanks for the safe and secure environment provided by the Yankton Police Department and my friends there: Sgt. Dean Larson, Corp. Brad Parker and Officer Steve Wuebben.

Thanks to Dr. Jeff Johnson, Bradi and the entire staff at Lewis and Clark Family Medicine and team at

Neighborhood Dental. Thanks to Deb Specht and Vision Realty for their assistance in buying and selling our home there. Thank to the folks at Vogt's Cleaners for their fine service and to all that served us in the area restaurants.

Thank you for the experience of the annual Community Dinner held on Thanksgiving eve and all the volunteers and donations that made it happen. Thanks also to all who volunteer for Riverboat Days.

Thanks to Gloria and Mary and all the team at

First Dakota for helping us with our mortgage. Thanks to John and Donita Brandt for including us in your lives and family gatherings.

Thanks to the Stibrales for including us with their family one Thanksgiving (and allowing their daughter to court and ultimately marry our godgrandson, Ryan Chartier) and Tony and Lana Frederick to join their family on another Thanksgiving.

Thank you for the church planters of Discovery Church allowing me to be part of that experience. Thank you for my great

neighbors and friends in the community, especially Kevin Watt, Jeff Herron, Don Campbell and Tony Frederick.

Lastly I want to thank my dear pastor and mentor, Pastor Jon Cooke, who taught me, was patient with me and above all — always preaches the Gospel without compromise.

As God has called us away from Yankton we will always remember the wonderful blessings while we were there. May God bless you all!

MEETINGS

INTERCHANGE

Interchange met on Monday, March 23, at noon at Minerva's. The meeting was called to order by President Ann Clough and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Crystal Nelson, Yankton County Historical Society, introduced her guest, Laura Bell, the new Marketing Coordinator for the Historical Society.

Members gave the following announcements:

Ann Clough, City of Yankton, reminded everyone that the Interchange Scholarship deadline is April 1. Applications can be picked up from one of the Board Members and returned to Mt. Marty College, who administers the scholarship.

Tammy Matuska, Modern Woodmen of America, was this week's hostess. Her guest was Laurie McKee, and Tony Burke, the Regional Director for the American Red Cross, who gave the program. Burke explained the restructuring of the Red Cross and its new focus on prevention. While continuing to respond to disasters, the Red Cross focuses on how they can prevent and alleviate human suffering, which includes the surveying of particular neighborhoods to assist residents with prevention strategies. On April 11, the American Red Cross will be hosting Growing Resilient Yankton where they will be canvassing 300 homes to install fire alarms, educate about disaster preparedness and assess high blood pressure.

The next Interchange meeting will be Monday, March 30, at noon at Minerva's.

YANKTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Yankton Community Forum, a group composed of people 50 years old and older, met the first three Tuesdays in March at the Hillcrest Country Club. Coffee and rolls were served at 8:30 a.m. and the programs began at 9 a.m.

The interesting programs that were presented were:

• March 3 — Mark Dameron, Rock and fossil collector, displayed rocks that he has found. He focused mainly on those from Eastern South Dakota. He explained how they were formed and how

many of them came here in glaciers.

• March 10 — Fraser Harrison, English author, spoke of Winter, Old Age and Death. He stressed the importance of being proactive with our mental and physical health.

• March 17 — Jenny Kapla, Kathy Frank, and Kimberly Eide along with Beadle Principal, Cory Mitzel and Yankton Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Wayne Kindel-Dis discussed the Reading Recovery program founded by Dr. Marie Clay. They covered how it works, the end results and how it is funded.

We will meet the first three Tuesdays in April. You may contact President Joan Neubauer at 260-9564 or Rose Mather at 665-4615 for more information

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