

## KIDS AGAINST HUNGER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Thursday, Dec. 22, 32 students and staff from Crofton High School gave up a day of Christmas vacation to volunteer. The group participated in a pre-packing session led by a missionary from Bolivia explaining how the day's work and donation would feed hundreds of kids. The group packed 6,702 meals to be distributed locally and worldwide to people in need. The Student Council and National Honor Society paid for the food that was packaged with a \$1,000 donation. I have attached two photos. It proved to be a fun, rewarding day. Those participating and pictured were Brittany Hegge, Morgan Nelson, Jessica Wubben, Logan Schieffer, Brandon Hegge, Abby Braun, Tiffany Tramp, Dakota Miller, Stephanie Mann, Mary Fillaus, Miles Bossman, Justin Bossman, Gina Dendinger, Tracy Barnes, Jill Strom, Todd Strom, Hali Strom, Elijah Strom, Hannah Strom, Mary Hanson, Mitch Hofer, Hannah Kast, Katelyn Stewart, Sadie Erdmann, Jazmin Wubben, Molly Bossman, Tory Tammen, Abbey Kast, Lily Steffen, Tracy Leader, John Merkel, Roxie Pier, and Heidi Steffen. The other picture is Tracy Barnes (StuCo President) and Gina Dendinger (NHS President) presenting a \$1,000 check to the Kids Against Hunger organization to replace the food we packed. The website has much info about the process, distribution and outreach at <http://www.kahyankton.org/>.

## SACRED HEART GIVES



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sacred Heart Middle School St. Joseph (Mrs. Olson) and St. Rose House (Mr. Wheeler) challenged the students in grades 5-8 to "positively" change/affect the world around them by having a penny war where pennies were negative and silver was positive. They raised \$887.50 — half was given to Yankton Contact Center and the other half stayed at SHMS for something for their new school. The second part of their challenge was collecting canned goods (positive) and cereal (negative) in a food war. Almost 500 food items were collected for the Contact Center. The top two winners of the challenge had the opportunity to pick the design in teacher, Mr. Dustin Wheeler's face. Pictured: Hunter Cameron, St. Rose Co-Captain; Adrienne Kusek, St. Joseph Captain; Sydney Ingalls, St. Rose Captain; Mr. Dustin Wheeler and Keeli Bent, St. Joseph Co-Captain standing with the food items to Contact Center.

## NAMI WALKS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured left to right is Jennifer Helkenn, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist at HSC, Steve Schweitzer, President of NAMI-Yankton, and Sarah Hoxeng, MA NCC, Psychiatric Social Work at HSC.

## Yankton Team Wins NAMI Walks Business Award

The Yankton Bridge Builders Team earned the NAMI Walks 2011 Award for most money raised by a business. This impressive recognition has been awarded to the Yankton Bridge Builders annually since 2009.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) annually draws volunteers to walk together to raise money and awareness about the need for a world-class treatment and recovery system for people with mental illness. The walk is held each spring in Sioux Falls, during May: Mental Health Month.

Steve Schweitzer, President of

NAMI-Yankton, and past NAMI-South Dakota Board Member, promotes local awareness with the support of Yankton area treatment providers. The NAMI Walks Yankton Bridge Builders team includes representatives of NAMI-Yankton, the South Dakota Human Services Center (HSC), as well as Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services and their programs of IMPACT, CARE, and Cedar Village Assisted Living Facility.

Plans are being finalized at this time for the 2012 NAMI Walks to be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012, in Sioux Falls.

## LOCAL 3968 DONATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In an effort to serve the needs of our community, City of Yankton Employee Union members of AFSCME Local 3968, donated food and personal items to the Contact Center. In addition, Local member Joan Lammers presents Liz Lynch from the Food Pantry, with a \$125 contribution.

## HSC ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



COURTESY PHOTO

Folk singer and songwriter Jami Lynn Buttke will be the artist in residence at South Dakota Human Services Center (HSC) during the week of January 9-12, 2012. Buttke will conduct arts programming with patients from HSC's various treatment units and will lead a Jam Session for patients. An avid performer of bluegrass and folk music, Buttke brings her exuberance and musical talent onto the stage and into her residencies. She explores South Dakota history through local folksong, games, and storytelling. Cowboy ballads and mining songs from western South Dakota, and lumbering tunes and frontier songs from Eastern South Dakota and Minnesota will teach residency participants the diverse history of settlers in the Midwest. Buttke is a recent graduate of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion. She has shared her talent and love of local folk history with audiences across the Midwest and Pacific Northwest. She has also released two full-length albums of folk songs and originals. Buttke's residency is made possible through the Artists In Schools and Communities program of the South Dakota Arts Council. Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator Colleen Craig-Davis, CTRS, MA, is the local program director for HSC's arts residencies.

## PALTZ WINS ART CONTEST



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tiana Paltz, daughter of Virgil & Minette Paltz, of Holy Family Parish of Cedar County, Neb., was among winners selected by the Holy Childhood Association in their annual CHRISTMAS Art Contest. Twenty-three winning designs were selected from among some 10,000 entries submitted by children in Catholic elementary schools, religious education programs and home schools. Two students were awarded "first-prize" and their artwork was featured on two distinct national office Christmas cards. Tiana, and all of winners received, a plaque honoring their achievements; all also have their artwork featured on the HCA website for kids at [www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org) and, during Advent and Christmas as e-greetings. The 23 pieces of original artwork - featuring various mediums, from watercolor paint to crayon, marker and oil pencils - are displayed at the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., during Advent and Christmas 2011-2012. A Mass for winners and their families was celebrated at the Shrine on Friday, Dec. 9, at 12:10 p.m. Father Patrick Posey, Diocesan Director, of the Pontifical Mission Societies and member of the national board was principal celebrant and homilist. Entries are currently being accepted at the Holy Childhood Association national office for the 2011-2012 contest. The deadline for entry to this contest is Jan. 31, 2012. Entry forms and contest rules are available at <http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca.html>.

## BICYCLE GIVING



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Yankton Police Department officer, Greg Shoberg, presented Eliza M. and Moises M. with refurbished bicycles donated by the Yankton Police Department. Eliza and Moises were selected from the various students at Webster Elementary School to receive the bicycles. Special thanks to the Office Shoberg and the Yankton Police Department. The bicycles are truly appreciated. Pictured above: Eliza M. and Officer Shoberg.

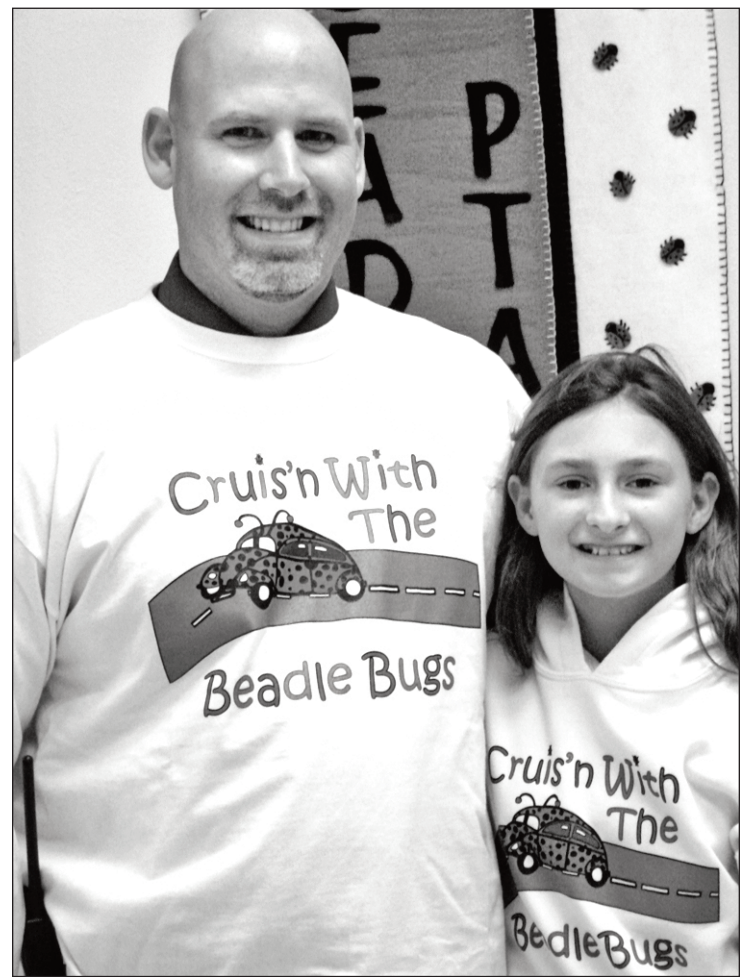
## TROOPERS DISTRIBUTE GIFTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

South Dakota Highway Patrol troopers got into the holiday spirit by distributing mittens and stocking caps handmade by Department of Corrections inmates. Inmates hand-knit the stocking caps and mittens from donated yarn and the finished products were delivered to the Highway Patrol. Troopers volunteered to deliver the items to domestic shelters in their service areas. Trooper Thompson made a delivery to the Women's Shelter in Yankton. In December, the Highway Patrol was among numerous agencies that distributed similar items to those in need.

## THE BEADLE BUGS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alexa Johnson, pictured with Beadle Elementary principal Carey Mitzel, won the annual Design a Shirt contest sponsored by the Beadle PTA. Her design was voted the favorite concept by the students. The design featured a VW bug and the theme "Cruis'n With the Beadle Bugs."

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## MEETING MINUTES

### NORTHEAST NEBRASKA RC&D

The Northeast Nebraska RC&D Executive Committee met on Tuesday, December 27, 2011 for the last meeting in 2011.

A new project was discussed and agreed upon for an upcoming E-Waste Recycling Event to be held during the month of February at the RC&D office. The Council will know whether a grant will be forthcoming in January to help with this project. More information will be available soon, so please watch your local paper and RC&D website for more details.

Northeast Nebraska RC&D will be hosting the Nebraska RC&D State Conference September 25 - 27, 2012 tentatively to be held in Wayne, NE. Plans are being made for a successful Conference and hopefully bringing people from across the State to the Northeast Nebraska area. A tentative theme of the Conference is "Reduce -

Reuse - Recycle."

A new 2012-2014 Strategic Plan prepared by Volunteer Jan Jorgensen and a 2012 budget were reviewed for full board approval next month.

The next Council Meeting will be held in Hartington at Outdoorsmen Productions, LLC on January 23, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### RIVERCITY HARMONY SWEET ADELINES

The Rivercity Harmony Sweet Adelines have had a busy month of December. It was their pleasure to share Christmas joy with many local shut-ins. Each Monday night they sang in two different facilities. The first Monday was shared with the Sacred Heart Monastery and Cedar Village. The second Monday they visited Autumn Winds and majestic Bluffs. The last Monday before Christmas their concerts were at

Yankton Care Center and Sunrise Apartments. The last concert was followed by a pot luck furnished by the chorus and shared with the residents of Sunrise Apartments. A great time was had by all.

The Sweet Adelines regular Monday rehearsals will begin again Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the United Methodist Church.

All ladies are cordially invited to visit and sing along.

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