



SDNG PHOTO BY SGT. JESS MYERS
South Dakota Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rath (left) accepts a ceremonial sword from Capt. Zach Hague, 730th Area Support Medical Company commander, during a Change of Responsibility ceremony in Vermillion, S.D., Dec. 1, 2012. The passing of the sword signifies the passing of responsibility from the outgoing senior non-commissioned officer to the incoming. Rath assumed the responsibility of first sergeant from 1st Sgt. Douglas Mahoney.

Vermillion Guard Unit Has New Senior-Enlisted Leader

BY SGT. JESS MYERS
730th Area Support Medical Company

VERMILLION — The South Dakota Army National Guard's 730th Area Support Medical Company has a new first sergeant following a Change of Responsibility ceremony Saturday, Dec. 1, in Vermillion. Outgoing 1st Sgt. Douglas Mahoney passed responsibility to Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rath.

Rath is now the senior non-commissioned officer for the 730th and will advise the unit's commander, Capt. Zachary Hauge, on all enlisted matters.

Rath, who has served in the 730th for 33 years, deployed twice with the 730th (Desert Storm, 1990-1991 and Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003-2004). He has also served as a medic and overseen missions in places that include: Germany, Honduras, Jamaica, Hurricane Katrina and Suriname. His promotion to first sergeant is scheduled to be held during January drill.

Rath, lives in Vermillion, with his wife, Corinne. He recently retired from his civilian career as a mechanical supervisor for the University of South Dakota after 34 years.

FIGHTING HUNGER



COURTESY PHOTO
Hillside Community Church of Vermillion recently packed food for children in need of our care at Kids Against Hunger. If your church would like to learn how you can make a difference in the lives of children around the world and around the corner, please visit www.kahyankton.org

A Scoop In Time Gives Boy Scouts Some Prehistoric Lessons

Ordinary service projects for Boy Scouts often involve displaying American flags, picking up trash, serving soup kitchens, and other community services; but once in a while an extra special opportunity comes along in a scout's life that makes a memory to last a lifetime.

In this case, the opportunity was first created more than 12 million years ago when ash from a Bruneau-Jarbridge volcano in present day Idaho drifted into low places like the prehistoric watering hole discovered at Ash-fall Fossil Beds in Antelope County, Nebraska, some 1000 miles East of the volcano.

To help prepare a new area for excavation in the "Hubbard Rhino Barn," 17 boy scouts from Yankton's Boy Scout Troop 102 moved 11 yards, or one dump-truck of volcanic ash from the barn using the tools of a paleon-

toologist — trowels, scoops, and five gallon buckets. The boys razed two feet of upper level ash from a particular area which will later be excavated down to depths where it is more likely to discover fossil remains from the prehistoric volcanic event. The detailed excavation will happen in upcoming years by student paleontologist from universities all around the country. The service work done by the scouts helps alleviate some of the pain staking work of initial site preparation so the student paleontologists can inch their way closer and closer to new fossil finds.

The project was closely supervised by the museum's superintendent Rick Otto. Though the chance of the boys digging into a fossil find at the depths in the ash they were working was unlikely, it was not beyond possibility. Rick gave the boys

instructions to bring to his attention anything that seemed unusually compact, off color, or produced a different sound when tapped with the trowel. With the exposed fossils of prehistoric rhinos, horses, and camels just 20 yards behind the boys, they scooped with great anticipation of finding fossil remains. When the boys came across something other than the fine powder of ash, almost the consistency of white baking flour, they called out to Rick saying they think they found something! With a whisk broom and trowel, Rick would patiently participate in their eager interest to find a fossil remain. In the end, there were two finds of significance — a few possible plant seeds that Rick preserved in a vial for further study and the signs of a modern day, ground squirrel's burrow.

The day was filled with good

hard work coupled with great anticipation characteristic to those who choose careers in paleontology or archeology. The boy's reward for the service project was twofold. First, they received a personally guided tour of the museum by expert Rick Otto which included lessons in the disciplines of paleontology and prehistoric plants and animals.

Second, the boys enjoyed two nights of camping at nearby Grove Lake where the boys worked in teams to set up camp in the dark and woke in the morning to near freezing temperatures. The boys enjoyed fishing and hiking at beautiful Grove Lake, and is customary with all Boy Scout camping, they left their campsite in better condi-

tion than they found it under the scouting principle known as "leave no trace behind."

'Small Business Saturday' A Success In Yankton

Staff from the Yankton Chamber of Commerce surprised holiday weekend shoppers during the third annual Small Business Saturday event on Nov. 24. Small Business Saturday, which falls between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, is a day to support the local businesses that create jobs, boost the economy and preserve neighborhoods around the country. American Express created Small Business Saturday in 2010 in response to small business owners' most pressing need: more demand for their products and services.

American Express and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce offered an exclusive opportunity for 100 local Chambers to bring Small Business Saturday to their communities. The Yankton Chamber submitted a proposal to American Express and was selected and received a prize package that included promotional materials, balloons, door mats and Shop Small gift cards to help celebrate Small Business Saturday events.

On Saturday, Nov. 24 the Chamber staff took to the streets and gave away over \$4,500 in \$25 American Express Gift Cards and Yankton Chamber Dollars. The Chamber staff, dressed in costume, visited member retailers and handed envelopes to shoppers and thanked them for shopping local and shopping small business that day.

Carmen Schramm, Director of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Member Services, was pleased with how the day went, she stated "The Yankton Chamber has been re-enforcing the shop local message years and this promotion gave us the opportunity to spread the message and put money in the hands of the consumer at the point of purchase. It was a great way to bring awareness to our small businesses and put smiles on the faces of those shopping that day. Our retail

community is made of roughly 85 percent small businesses so it's extremely important for consumers to recognize what these businesses do for the local economy. Every business in Yankton is vital to our area and we want to continue to encourage people to shop local this holiday season."

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) reported that Saturday's

expectations were exceeded when Saturday's total surpassed \$5.5 billion spent at small businesses. Over 350 business organizations, more than 50 chambers and 60 groups organized events and activities in support of the day.

To follow the staff Small Business Saturday photos, go to [Facebook.com/YKTNACC](https://www.facebook.com/YKTNACC) or visit www.yanktonsd.com.

A TREE-MENDOUS GIFT



COURTESY PHOTO

The Yankton High School Student Council presented a check of \$300 to the American Red Cross - Sandy Disaster Relief. The money was raised at the annual Remembrance Tree Ceremony held on Monday, November 26. After Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast the Student Council decided to donate all proceeds from the Remembrance Tree Ceremony to the American Red Cross - Sandy Disaster Relief. The Red Cross is still actively assisting the victims of Hurricane Sandy. So far, 5.8 million meals and snacks have been served in New York and New Jersey. After receiving the check Debra Bodenstedt of the American Red Cross told the students, "This donation is a true testament to the good students at Yankton High School. Their thoughtfulness and compassion for the victims of Hurricane Sandy is remarkable." Pictured are (from left) Student Council Vice President Kayla Sylvester, Advisor Becky Tasa, Debra Bodenstedt of the American Red Cross, and Student Council President Drew Konopasek.

BIG HEARTS, LITTLE FRIENDS



COURTESY PHOTO

In keeping with their annual tradition, First Dakota Employees presented Stacy Starzl of the Yankton Big Friend Little Friend program with gifts for many of the Little Friends. The children had their annual Christmas Party on December 6. Photo includes back row: Susie Frick; Sheila Schieffer; Dave Brown; Casidy Potts, Jessica Schaeffer. Kneeling: Stacy Starzl, Mandy Hanson.

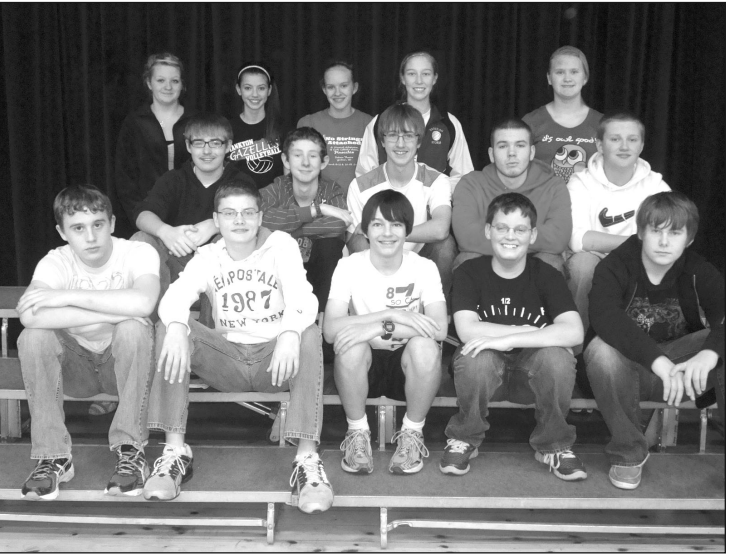
Yankton Middle School Competes In Knowledge Master Open

The Yankton Middle School Knowledge Master team and other middle school teams from South Dakota and the United States participated in the Knowledge Master Open on December 5, 2012. This is a nationwide contest designed to measure the students' academic knowledge. The Yankton team finished 2nd among the middle schools in the United States that chose to enter the contest.

A company named Academic Hallmarks provides the questions used in the contest. The questions are selected from all middle school academic areas and are designed

to stimulate enthusiasm for learning and recognition for academic accomplishment. The contest runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. An emphasis is placed on speed as well as accuracy in answering the 200 test questions. The coded test results are phoned into Academic Hallmarks and the company tabulates the results to determine the state and national winners.

The Yankton Middle School team is coached by JoAnn Moses.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Yankton Middle School Knowledge Team consist of 8th graders. They are: Back row: Sophie McKee, Jacey Anderberg, Kelsey Westerman, Lynsey Hale, Desirea Sanders. Middle Row: Ike Johnson, Cole Schlaefli, Hunter Lippert, Ethan Emmerich Rob Marlow. Front Row: Dylan Grant, Brock Goeden, Ben Rust, Dilyn Tramp, Ian Bruder.

It's a special time of year. Enjoy the time with your family and loved ones and take time to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

from the **DOUBLE T TRUCK STOP**

Steve, Theresa, Karen, Michelle, Sally & Terry

Aprons, Chef Hats Available in Solids, Stripes, Prints, Grilling & Novelty

Also a variety of cookbooks available

THE PANTRY 215 W. 3rd
Historic Downtown Yankton
665-4480