

## Legion Post 12 Donates To Boys & Girls Club



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
**Yankton's American Legion Post 12 recently donated \$200 to the Boys & Girls Club of Yankton. This is for replacing older sporting goods. Those items that are still in decent shape were donated to the Legion's sports equipment drive to send used sporting goods to the Indian reservations. Pictured are, from left: John Hollenbeck, commander of Post 12, Kelsie Thoreson, unit director of the Boys & Girls Club and Fran Johnson, children and youth director of Post 12. Through the years, organizers have picked up equipment throughout Yankton and several area communities to distribute on the reservations.**

## Board

From Page 1A

Ring said. "We're close to last in our percentage in our state share of funding elementary and secondary education. I hate to say it but when I say new money I think it means an increase in tax rates. ... We can't afford to do it without that Capital Outlay. They're going to have to cut back on some things like computers and that sort of things if they take half a million away from capital outlay."

A big challenge for legislators with this goal of new money to fund education is the other state legislators who will vote against anything which involves raising taxes regardless of the cause.

"They say my kids are all gone and my grandkids don't live here so it doesn't directly impact me but there are other people paying taxes for my kids going to

school," Rusch said. "I feel it's my civic responsibility but there are legislators who are against everything."

According to Ring, the state is at a 4 percent sales tax rate, on the lower side of most states.

"I think that's part of the reason we're providing such a low share of the total for elementary and secondary because we don't have a lot of state resources," he said. "Maybe it's time for the state to bite the bullet and say we need to provide a reasonable amount of government services generally but particularly education we're probably going to have to find another source of revenue or use to a greater extent the resources we have. Just about the only thing that's available is the sales tax. We've been saying we need to do more to fund education and the Republicans will also say that but somebody's going to have to take a leadership role and be bold and maybe pay the consequences and say, 'Look, Gov. Daugaard, it's time to



COURTESY PHOTO

**District 18 lawmakers Sen. Arthur Rusch and Rep. Ray Ring met with members of the Vermillion School Board Thursday to discuss issues looming in the 2016 legislative session.**

do something."

Both Rusch and Ring expressed desire for the public to become active and involved in the process.

Anyone can contact them through the state Legislature's website.

"The people that are from my district, I try to respond to that one way or another," Rusch said. "I don't always agree with their position. I

try to explain to them why not. Particularly last year there was a gun issue and I had people from the district contact me about that one way or the other. I tried to call them or email them back."

To contact Rusch or Ring, visit <http://legis.sd.gov/>, choose the 2016 session under the Legislative Sessions tab then select Legislators.

## Theater

From Page 1A

said. By crafting her own one-act plays, she can make the most of the students and their unique abilities.

"Sheila is a very talented writer. She can set the piece to fit our kids. She knows where their talents lie, and she can write a piece specifically for those kids," he said. "This year, we have well over three-fourths of our (approximately 70) kids in school who are involved in the play production."

Wausa swept the individual acting honors at the state contest, as Ryan Kumm won outstanding male performer and Regan Hennings won outstanding female performer. It marks the first state acting award for both of them.

Hennings credited her coaches for their support in making her not only a better actress but also a better person.

"It was such a shock for me when I heard my name

called for the outstanding actress award," she said. "I didn't think I was going to be nominated, let alone receive the award!"

Hennings portrayed an evil Valkyrie. The role represented a major change for her, as she played an ensemble role during her freshman year and a small speaking part last year.

"The most challenging part of the play for me was trying to channel my character," she said. "To play a convincing role, you have to not only make yourself into the character, but also become the character herself. The coaches helped me to unlock this unique character and push myself further than I ever thought I could."

Hennings credited a team effort in winning this year's state contest.

"Although the main speakers are the people who are noticed the most, it's the ensemble that is the real key to Wausa's one-act success because they add another dimension to the play," she said.

Hennings admitted to a case of the jitters, even with her past state contest experience and Wausa's success each year.

"Winning state is always exhilarating, but this year was extra nerve-racking," she said. "Being one of the upper-classmen, it was my responsibility to lead our team to another one-act victory. I also knew how stiff the competition was going to be this year, even more than normal."

"As soon as we got on stage, though, all the hours of practice my team and I had put in took over, and the nerves went away."

Kumm played Heimdall, a role that offers humor in contrast to Hennings' serious role.

Kumm couldn't be reached for comment. However, Brad Hoelsing said Kumm, a senior, has competed in the state one-act contest all four years of high school. Kumm won the outstanding male performer award in his first lead role in state competition, Hoelsing said.

Wausa isn't the only state

champion from northeast Nebraska. Hartington-Newcastle won the trophy Thursday in Class C2 with its production, "I'm Not Ebenezer Scrooge." Hartington-Newcastle won top honors with 176 points while runner-up Loup City finished with 171 points and third place Lourdes Central Catholic finished with 170.

When it came to Wausa's success, Brad Hoelsing pointed to the important role of assistants Patricia Marks, Tanya McFarland, Karen Eddie and Wendi Ketelsen. The unique Viking costumes presented a special challenge, he said.

"My wife worked with Tanya McFarland and Patricia Marks to create the costumes for the kids. They created the costumes from scratch, and they were beautiful. The women did a really good job," he said.

"We have a cast number in the 50s, and it took all fall (to outfit them). The women were making costumes right up to the end, but it turned out well."

The community of about

600 residents has also provided tremendous support for the one-act plays in terms of both finances and attendance at productions.

"It's nice for us as a small community to have the state contest in our area. We have a lot of people come watch, and it's much easier for them to get to Norfolk than when the state contest was in Kearney," he said. "At Wednesday's production, we had a big following. The community is really proud of our kids and what they accomplish."

The state one-act championship has its roots in hard work and dedication, Brad Hoelsing said. The play was cast last August, and the members have conducted twice-weekly practices through the fall despite students' heavy involvement in academics and other activities, he said.

"We have really good, hard working kids," he said. "The trophy is the end result, but we try to focus on the process. The coaches set hard standards. There are high expectations for all our

activities, not just athletics."

The Hoesings see the one-act play as a their passion, and the students have responded well through the years. The husband and wife have coached older brothers and sisters of current cast members.

"These have been great kids. It's been very fun working with great kids," Brad said. "It shows the kids, if they work hard, they can achieve whatever things they want. It takes a lot of really hard work to put on a really strong show."

Hennings agreed the lifelong lessons mean more than the state championship trophy itself.

"My favorite part is all of the memories we made and the friendships that were created," she said. "Medals are exciting, but they will eventually be forgotten. The memories we all have because of this experience will never be forgotten."

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## OBITUARIES

### Bonnie Hoelsing

Bonnie Lou Hoelsing, age 87 of Coleridge, Nebraska, died on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the Park View Haven Nursing Home in Coleridge.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington, Nebraska with the Rev. Jeffrey Loseke officiating. Burial will be at St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington.

Visitation will be on Sunday, at church, from 2-6:00 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 5:30 p.m. Visitation will continue on Monday at church one hour prior to services. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

Pallbearers will be her grandsons. Honorary pallbearers will be her granddaughters.

Bonnie Lou Hoelsing was born October 5, 1928



Hoelsing

at Pierce County, NE, to John and Wilma (Carstens) Bargstadt. She was raised in Pierce and Cedar Counties, NE and graduated from Randolph High School, Randolph, NE, in 1944. She attended Northeast Nebraska Junior College. She taught Rural School #113 for 2 years. It was here she met and married Hilary J. Hoelsing on October 5, 1948 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartington. The couple farmed in Cedar County, NE, their entire married life. She was active in many social clubs and was a teacher's aide in the Hartington Public Schools. In their later years they moved to Coleridge where they owned and operated a restaurant and bar. Hilary died March

18, 1998. After his death, Bonnie continued living in their home in Coleridge and remained active in her church and community. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and St. Michael's Catholic Church in Coleridge, Christian Mothers, Catholic Daughters of America, the Sunnybrook Extension Club, and belonged to several card clubs.

Survivors include three sons: Dr. Daniel (Jill) Hoelsing of Schuyler, NE, Alan (Jean) Hoelsing of Hartington and Jeff (Mary) Hoelsing of Randolph, NE; six daughters: Patricia Allison of Omaha, NE, Joan (Jim) Andrew of Tekamah, NE, Theresa (Pat) Hoarty of Wessington Springs, SD, Carlene (Douglas) Oines of Sioux Falls, SD, Bernice (Donald) Maxwell of Coleridge and Rose (Terry) Brewer of Dakota City, NE; one brother, Gary Bargstadt of Ankeny, IA; three sisters

Dr. Joyce Nelson of Sioux Falls, SD, Janet Backman of Ponca and Kathleen (Lowell) Provancha of Lincoln, NE; 40 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her parents John & Wilma Bargstadt; husband Hilary in 1998; one son, David H. Hoelsing in 1995; one daughter, Ann Hoelsing Rooney in 2015; one brother, George Bargstadt in 1985; and one son-in-law, Robert Allison in 2011.

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ner Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the YST South Housing Gym in Wagner. Burial is in the Holy Name Episcopal Cemetery, Choteau Creek.

Wake services began Wednesday at the Gym. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner is in charge of arrangements.

### Janice (Tharnish) Kruse

Janice Fae (Tharnish) Kruse, 64, of Yankton died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, at her home in Yankton.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton with the Rev. Robert Wullweber officiating. Entombment will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton.

Visitation is from 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a rosary and vigil service at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the Mass on Monday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial may be directed to the American Cancer Society or Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

To send an online message to the family, please visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

### Willard Zephier

Willard J. Zephier, 53, of Yankton died Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, at the Golden Living Center in Salem.

Funeral services are 10:30

a.m. Monday, Dec. 14, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with the Rev. Ken Lulf officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791.

Visitation is from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home with a

vigil service at 3 p.m. Visitation continues one hour prior to the funeral service.

To send an online message to the family, please visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

### Roberta Fox

Roberta Fox, 71, of Wagner, died at her home in Wag-

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## Teen Activities Set For Yankton Community Library

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) of the Yankton Community Library met Dec. 7 to finalize plans for the upcoming Christmas party. Other topics of discussion included planning activities for January through April and ideas for the summer reading program.

The library's teen Christmas party is Saturday, Dec. 19, from 2-4 p.m. Join the TAB members for games and activities and a \$5 gift exchange. All 'twens and teens in grades 6-12 are welcome.

Events planned for 2016 include a game day, a cake decorating contest and an after-hours event with Capture

the Flag and other activities. The teens also plan to make Valentine bookmarks and Easter favors for patrons.

Applications for new members for the TAB are always available at the circulation desk. If you are in grades 6-12 and would like to have a say in the types of services and programs the library offers for teens, pick up an application and join the TAB. The next TAB meeting is Monday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m.

Questions about the TAB or teen activities may be directed to Joyce Moore by calling the library at 605-668-5275 or by e-mailing [jmoore@cityofyankton.org](mailto:jmoore@cityofyankton.org).

IN REMEMBRANCE

<b>Willard J. Zephier</b> 10:30 AM, Monday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton	<b>Bonnie L. Hoelsing</b> 10:30 AM, Monday Holy Trinity Catholic Church Hartington
<b>Janice Fae (Tharnish) Kruse</b> 10:30 AM, Monday Sacred Heart Catholic Church Yankton	

**WINTZ & RAY** FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICE Yankton  
605-665-3644 [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com) 402-254-6547

**WINTZ** FUNERAL HOME INC. Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton

18th Annual **FREE!** Yankton Area Summer Band Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 13th • 4pm

Summit Activities Center Theater

Cider, coffee and cookies donated by the Services Center Federal Credit Union following the concert in the high school commons area.

NO TICKET IS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION. Public is encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by Yankton Area Arts & Yankton Parks & Recreation