

Band

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experience no matter who's conducting or who's playing. You always learn."

She added that it provides a unique opportunity for everyone involved.

"This is an amazing experience because you can take eight graders and they can sit beside symphony players, college professors and it's just a great experience," she said.

Sunday's concert was opened with the "Star Spangled Banner" and included pieces such as "Sleigh Ride," "Christmas Pageant Overture," "On A Winter's Eve," "A Trumpeter's Lullaby," "Christmas Scrapbook," "The Polar Express" and "A Fireside Christmas."

Carr said in a busy holiday season, the Summer Band helps add to the festivities of the holiday season.

"There are a lot of concerts," he said. "It just adds to the holiday events that are going on and I think it's a good addition."

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SHS Donation



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Sacred Heart School students Chloe Perakslis, Hannah Nelson and Emily Shuey are shown presenting a \$3,200 check to Yankton Homeless Shelter Executive Director Eric Miller. This is the second donation from SHS this year. Earlier this fall a soup luncheon was held that brought in \$2,100 for the shelter.

Cities, Cooperatives Receive Hazard Mitigation Funds

PIERRE — Almost \$740,000 in Hazard Mitigation Grant money has been awarded to South Dakota cities and rural electric cooperatives for infrastructure projects since September.

The money comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The funds are administered by the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. The money is available through a presidential disaster declaration approved as a result of the Wessington Springs tornado and statewide flooding that occurred in 2014.

Hazard mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from natural hazards.

Funds were awarded to:
• City of Pierre, electrical infrastructure protection to move electrical line from the floodplain. Federal share of project is \$140,902;

• City of Bryant, electrical infrastructure protection to bury seven miles of line from the substation to the city limits, which is the main electrical source for the city. Federal share of project is \$401,344;

• West Central Electric, electrical infrastructure protection to bury four miles of line serving Okaton. Federal share of project is \$75,137;

• Codington/Clark Electric, electrical infrastructure protection to bury two miles of line in rural Clark County. Federal share of project is \$36,867;

• City of Dante, water infrastructure work to install culverts and reshape a ditch. Federal share of project is \$44,342; and

• Cam-Wal Electric Cooperative, electrical infrastructure protection to bury one mile of line in Walworth County. Federal share of the project is \$40,973.

OBITUARIES

Jack Gunderson

Jack Gunderson, 85, Yankton, died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Memorial services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Vangen Lutheran Church, Mission Hill, with the Rev. Velma Larson officiating. Private burial of his cremated remains will be in the Vangen Lutheran Cemetery with Military graveside rites by the Rudolph Christensen American Legion Post No. 237 of Gayville and the Air Force Honor Guard.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Online condolences may be sent at www.opsahl-kostel-funeralhome.com.

Evangeline Jensen

Evangeline Jensen, 93, of Yankton passed away Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Arlene Goeden

Arlene A. Goeden, 90, of Yankton died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Joanna Merkwan

Joanna A. "Jenny" Merkwan, 94, of Tabor passed away early Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are pending with the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Tabor.

Norbert Kirchmeier

Norbert Eugene Kirchmeier, 81 of Wynot, Nebraska, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the Holy Family (Sacred Heart) Catholic Church in Wynot with the Rev. Eric Olsen officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Wynot with military honors provided by the Wynot American Legion Post 31 and the Legion Riders.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 5-8 p.m., with a Vigil Service at 7 p.m., at the church. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services Thursday at the church.

The Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington is in charge of arrangements.

Christy Elkins

Christy Lynn Elkins, 33, of Yankton and formerly of Rapid City, died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Visitation is from 1-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton. Burial will be 11 a.m. (Mountain Time) Friday, Dec. 18, at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Rapid City.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

www.yankton.net

Past

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"Crazy Days was a big deal back then. Streets were closed off. I just remember that being a bigger deal than it seems like it is now. ... I remember going to the Fantle's building when they had the little restaurant in the basement as a kid."

Some experiences with downtown Yankton were uniquely personal.

Mike Huether, a Yankton native and current mayor of Sioux Falls, told the *Press & Dakotan* that, in spite of trying financial times for his family growing up, one positive downtown memory really stuck out.

"As we were struggling on one hand but capturing life on the other, there was Russo's Pizzeria," Huether said. "Russo's was downtown and my family would go down there — my mom and the four of us kids — and we had no money. They had a special where you could get a pitcher of pop and a large pizza for a cheap price. I remember we'd get a pitcher of root beer and a large pizza and that was kind of how we celebrated in a small way, but it was a big way for our poor family — and we did it downtown."

He added shopping for clothes was even more meaningful at the time.

"As I got older, the thing that I remember was buying the clothes for those fancy pictures we had to take, whether it was for a graduation ceremony or a confirmation ceremony," he said. "You bought those clothes downtown. That was kind of a big deal for a poor kid who lived out on the east side of Yankton."

A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE'

Kathy Church, secretary and treasurer of Historic Downtown Yankton, told the *Press & Dakotan*

"I think that what Yankton's downtown is lacking and is need of is a heavy dose of confidence.

I think that's what it had back then — downtown was kind of the place to be. ... I think when you look at downtown now, I think you'd have to probably challenge that a little bit."

MIKE HUETHER

she has a lot of memories of what downtown used to be like.

"We spent a lot of time downtown," Church said. "There were a lot of old stores down here — the old Fantle's, the Newberry's. Crazy Days, when they close of the streets and pull everything out into the streets. On Christmas, they'd have that huge tree on the corner, right in the middle of the street, on Walnut and Third St.

Church, who has lived in Yankton for all but 12 of the last 53 years, said it was a positive experience in her life.

"It was just a family atmosphere," she said. "It was always busy and there was always something to do downtown, so it's a great memory."

Huether said it was the center of town for everybody.

"It was the place where people went to get their stuff," he said. "You'd get your clothes there. You'd get your hardware there. You'd get your paint there. You'd get your groceries there and you'd get your entertainment there."

Hunhoff recalled a few of the special events that he witnessed growing up each year.

"Gurney's was still having big promotional events back then," he said. "The tractor dealers would show off the new tractors, sometimes with movies in the old Dakota Theater. It was always a big deal with the car dealers when the new car models came out every year and they'd be wrapped in paper in the showrooms

until the designated day when the wrappings came off and everybody was excited about that. Holidays were a crazy time and it was really festive during the holidays."

GREAT LOSSES

With the march of time and growth of the city, many downtown business have either moved to other parts of the community or shuttered completely, leaving vacant storefronts and a void in the district.

"The biggest losses, I feel, are the retail stores that we had down here," Church said. "We have a big variety, still, but there was an even bigger variety — a shoe store, a men's clothing store and anything you wanted, you could get in downtown Yankton."

She said a number of factors have led to this point.

"People moved to bigger cities," she said. "Yankton grew north and a lot of people went that route instead of staying down here with our smaller store-fronts."

Cardea said men's clothing options and hours stand out as major losses in the district.

"From what I see as a male, there's really no shopping for a guy to get clothes that I know of," he said. "The times the stores are open is probably a little difficult for people that work."

But Huether said one of downtown Yankton's biggest losses isn't a physical property at all.

"It's all about confidence," he

said. "I think that what Yankton's downtown is lacking and is need of is a heavy dose of confidence. I think that's what it had back then — downtown was kind of the place to be. ... I think when you look at downtown now, I think you'd have to probably challenge that a little bit."

GREAT GAINS

Not all changes in downtown Yankton have been negative.

Hunhoff said today's downtown draws on the Missouri River far more than it ever did when he was younger.

"Back in its heyday, we were not capitalizing on the river, he said.

"Today we're starting to really understand that the river is a unique gift that we can build on. I can remember when the (riverside) was almost a dump — there was actually a city dump down there at one time and it was the manufacturing area."

Changes include the building of Riverside Park on this location and the repurposing of the Meridian Bridge into a pedestrian walkway. Throughout the last summer, improvements were also made to the north entrance to the Meridian Bridge including splash pads and a fountain.

Church feels that even today, the downtown area is a bright spot for the City of Yankton, but there is room for improvement.

"Downtown Yankton, in the past, was the heart of the community, and it still is today," she said. "It used to be better, but it's still good and it could always improve."

Next Monday, the *Press & Dakotan* will detail the current state of downtown Yankton.

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USD

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established a ranch which has now been in operation for 100 years.

Holcomb shared with the graduates the words of Albert Einstein.

"We cannot solve our problems by using the same thinking we used when we created them," Einstein said.

Holcomb encouraged the graduates to apply this thinking in their own lives.

"Don't fall in love with your dream," he said. "Don't dream so much that you're still on the couch in your parents' basement waiting for you chance. Be a doer. Don't ever stop. What you think what your path may be isn't necessarily going to be what it is."

"The dream changes but it's not a bad thing," he said. "Your path isn't always going to be straight and you may

have to ditch the dream. You may have to just alter the dream and look at it from a different perspective. What you think you will be doing now may not be what you end up doing, but that's not a bad thing. You will find your way and you will find great success."

"The university has given you all the tools you need for success. You have the theory to practice, and all of those tools will work well for you. One of the things the university also gave you was this community. This incredible family that are your colleagues, your friends, your associates — that is what will change the world."

Students' achievements were not the only things recognized during Saturday's ceremony.

"The academic success of our students is a direct result of our extraordinary faculty who go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that our students thrive in the classroom, the

courtroom and the laboratory," said University President James W. Abbott. "Our faculty's commitment to making USD a center for competitive research and creative activity helped generate almost \$20 million in grants and contracts this past year. Their service to our state and nation is outstanding."

Parents, relatives and

friends of the graduates were also recognized by Abbott for the support, encouragement and inspiration given to those receiving their degrees.

A printable PDF of graduates can be found online at www.usd.edu/news/2015/usd-holds-40th-winter-commencement.

THOUGHTS For Your Family



Directors Jim, Steve, Paul & Jerry Wintz



WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME and
CREMATION SERVICE

SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

The news that someone with whom you are acquainted has died usually elicits a mix of shock and sadness. After that, the decision to attend the funeral of the deceased is likely to be based on your feelings for the departed individual and your relationship with him or her. However, in many cases, the decision to attend a funeral is not entirely clear cut. While the deceased may have been a family member, relations may have been strained or the departed individual may have been estranged due to a divorce in the family. In these latter instances and others, it's important to remember that death reminds people that past grudges and grievances take a back seat to life-altering events. Death heals differences.

At WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME, we have a history of assisting those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one. We are here for you whenever you need us at (605) 665-3644. No detail is too large or too small for us to handle. Please visit our facility at 2901 Douglas Ave. Visit us at www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

"The emotion that can break your heart is sometimes the very one that heals it..."
Nicholas Sparks

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Honoring Their Memory

Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them
Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Wayne Allen Hill, Jr.
who passed away
December 14, 2014

Dean R. Kuchta
who passed away
December 15, 2014

Donald Herrboldt
who passed away
December 16, 2014

Marie A. Manas
who passed away
December 16, 2014

Anna Kuehn
who passed away
December 20, 2014

Bea Merrigan
who passed away
December 14, 2010

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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