

Sacred Heart Spelling Bee



SUBMITTED PHOTO
These are the top three kids who placed at the Sacred Heart Middle School spelling bee on Dec. 10. Pictured left to right (in 1st-3rd places): Ryan Trail (7th Grade), Cole Pedersen (5th Grade) and Emily Shuey (7th Grade).



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Stewart School recognizes Jon Anderson as a Friend of Education. Kathleen Bergeson, Stewart librarian; Jon Anderson; Jerome Klimisch, Stewart principal; Dr. Wayne Kindle, YSD Superintendent.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Students held up their THANKS to Jon Anderson — signed by all the students and staff of Stewart School. (Representing each grade level: Avery, Kaylee, Tate, Kenzie, Daylee and Zander.)

Students Show Thanks

There was great excitement and hands in the air as Stewart School showed their THANKS and appreciation to Jon Anderson.

The celebration was held December 22 to honor the generous book donations Anderson has made to all the Yankton School libraries. Students lined the hallways to give him high-fives and

energetic thanks.

Anderson is a Yankton alum and the president of Children's Books at Simon & Schuster Publishing in New York. Stewart School was pleased to recognize Anderson as a Friend of Education to honor his great contributions to our library and all the libraries of the Yankton School District.

Department Of Tourism Encouraging Industry To 'Be Monumental' At Governor's Conference On Tourism

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Tourism will host the annual Governor's Conference on Tourism, Jan. 19-21, 2016, in Pierre. The theme of the conference is "Be Monumental."

"The theme for the 2016 conference speaks to an innate drive in the tourism industry to continually be thinking big and looking for ways to innovate," said Jim Hagen, Secretary of the Department of Tourism. "With the 75th anniversary of Mt. Rushmore's completion and the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service both falling in 2016, this message is more appropriate than ever, and we hope to inspire conference attendees to be bold and think monumentally in the coming year."

This annual conference brings together nearly 600 people from across South Dakota and the United States to celebrate successes, network with peers, and educate themselves on the trends in the travel and hospitality business. Expert speakers are brought in from across the country with specialties in a diverse range of topics including customer service training, marketing trends and leadership skills.

In addition to expert-led

sessions, there will be a closing banquet featuring Gov. Dennis Daugaard presenting the annual tourism awards. The following awards will be presented:

* The Ben Black Elk award recognizes an individual or group whose passion and enthusiasm have greatly influenced South Dakota's visitor industry.

* The A.H. Pankow award recognizes a member of the media whose coverage and promotion of the state's visitor industry are unparalleled.

* The George S. Mickelson Great Service award honors two businesses/organizations, one corporate and one non-corporate, that are dedicated to excellence in customer service.

* The Excellence in Tourism Innovation award honors an industry member for thinking "outside the box" when it comes to promoting their business and elevating the visitor's experience.

* The Rooster Rush Cacklin' Community award honors an industry organization for fostering community-level support of the Department of Tourism's fall Rooster Rush campaign.

For more information about the conference, or to register, visit www.SouthDakotaTourismConference.com.

MILITARY

XAVIER SAGASTE

U.S. Army National Guard Pvt. Xavier R. Sagaste has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill

and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesies, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches and field training exercises.

Sagaste is the son of Jose Sagaste and grandson of Ike Denny and Wilmer Flying Hawk, all of Niobrara, Nebraska.

He graduated in 2015 from Niobrara High School, Niobrara.

United Way

End-Of-The-Year Thank Yous

From the Holiday Bed Giveaway to the Yankton Toys for Kids Program, the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton has been fortunate to witness firsthand the true spirit of giving this holiday season.

This year, through the annual Holiday Bed Giveaway, Slumberland of Yankton donated 24 mattresses and frames to referred families throughout the community. Slumberland has donated almost 20,000 new beds to families nationwide since Making Homes for the Holidays program began in 1993. More than 1,000 new beds are given away each year across the 12 states Slumberland serves.

THANK YOU to Slumberland of Yankton and to the Knights of Columbus for delivering the beds, for warming hearts, and for bringing hope and smiles to many.

The United Way & Volunteer Services also called on our community to support over 125 families within the greater Yankton area in need through our partnership with Pat Robinson's Yankton Toys for Kids and the Adopt a Family Pro-

gram. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of individuals and businesses that stepped in and made both annual gift giving programs a success.

Yankton Toys for Kids would not be possible without the efforts of Pat Robinson and caring neighbors who help Santa Claus ensure that every referred child received a toy. THANK YOU Pat for all that you do!

THANK YOU to this year's Toys for Kids drop off locations: Maurices, Menards, Dunhams, Walmart and Walgreens. Also, to the Yankton Mall for providing store space to use as the Yankton Toys for Kids headquarters.

Many thanks to the local businesses, individuals and families who participate in our Adopt a Family Program and, of course, to all the community members that donated. This program is made possible through your kindness!

The greater Yankton community continues to go above and beyond to make the holiday season special and we are appreciative of your generosity. THANK YOU and Happy New Year!



Hicks Hired As Parts Sales Development Engineer To Help Grow PDQ, OEM Parts Lines

KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens has hired Nate Hicks as a new parts sales development engineer as part of its ongoing strategy to grow its PDQ and OEM parts lines.

Hicks recently relocated from Colorado, where he mostly recent served as a project engineer for Springs Fabrication. He graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Hicks, who is originally from Yankton, S.D., previously worked for KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens' South Dakota manufacturing facility as a design drafter intern in 2008.

KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens is a premier worldwide manufacturer for



Hicks

the aggregate, construction and recycling industries.

As a parts sales development engineer, Hicks' primary responsibilities will include increasing customer uptime and reducing overhead costs through improved

parts design. Director of Parts Ryan Newman said the addition of Hicks was an important step in growing the company's PDQ and OEM parts sales.

PDQ parts are a collection of high-performance, after-market parts developed by in-house design teams

and experienced engineers that are supported in the same way as the company's OEM parts.

"We are thrilled to have Nate on our team," Newman said. "The combination of his education, prior work experience and his exceptional personality will make him a valuable team member. I am confident he will be an extraordinary asset to our team as we expand our parts offering."

To contact Nate Hicks, call him directly at 605-668-2635 or e-mail him at natehicks@kolbergpioneer.com. For more information about parts from KPI-JCI and Astec Mobile Screens, visit www.kpijci.com/parts.

SD Aviation Art Contest Being Offered

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Transportation is hosting a youth art contest to celebrate aviation and space exploration as part of the 2016 International Aviation Art Contest.

More than 800 letters to schools are being sent to South Dakota schools throughout the state seeking contest entries. Aviation has a rich history in South Dakota dating back to the early 1900s when Charles Lindberg flew into Pierre heralding the possibilities of flight in the state.

The theme of this year's art contest celebrates the "Air Sports In Harmony With Nature." The beauty of the earth is never clearer than when seen from the air. Every day, thousands of people flying in airliners look at the earth with a new

perspective from above. Another group of boys, girls, men and women involved in air sports are fortunate to have a special view of the grandeur below them as they soar in gliders or float through the air in balloons. Others feel the rush of air as they parachute down to a beautiful field or cross the sky in an ultralight or helicopter.

From above, the fullness of nature is seen in ways unknowable from the ground. Helicopters give tours of the inaccessible rivers and canyons as balloons float across home towns, each giving new insight into how land, water, animals, and people share their environments. From the air, one is able to take pictures and film land that would otherwise never be seen. Aircraft do this without the need for

roads. An airport or open field will do for the intrepid aviator.

While the air sport participants enjoy this freedom, they also must be very good neighbors to all the people and animals and the environment. This "good neighbor attitude" is especially important as they take-off and land. Air sports enthusiasts are happy to do this because the beauty of the earth is one of the reasons they love flying so much.

The South Dakota Pilots Association is a co-sponsor for the contest and is encouraging eligible youth to show off their imagination and art skills by making an entry into the contest. Entries will be grouped into three age categories: Junior (age 6-9), Intermediate (ages 10-14), and Senior (ages 14-17).

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each age category and the top three entries will be displayed at the South Dakota Air and Space Museum located adjacent to Ellsworth Air Force Base.

All applications must be submitted to the SD Department of Transportation by Jan. 22, 2016. Specific information for submitting artwork can be provided by going to the SDPA web site (www.sdplots.org) or by contacting Jennifer Boehm (605-773-4430 or jennifer.boehm@state.sd.us). South Dakota DOT Office of Air, Rail & Transit. Additional information can also be provided by contacting Steve Hamilton, Executive Director, SDPA (605-665-8448 or email skyhawk@iw.net).

Highway Patrol To Be First Agency To Have New License Plate

PIERRE — South Dakota's Highway Patrol will ring in 2016 by having its vehicles be the first in the state to sport the newly designed South Dakota license plate.

The new license plates will be available on-demand beginning Friday, Jan. 1, using self-service terminals and the SD Cars system found on the South Dakota Motor Vehicle Division's website, or Monday, Jan. 4, at County Treasurer offices statewide.

But officials of the Highway Patrol have worked with the Department of



Revenue to make sure the Patrol's trooper vehicles could have the new license plates before Friday. Copies of the new plates were shipped to the Patrol's offices statewide this month.

Starting Friday, troopers will make sure the new plates are installed on their vehicles before they begin duty for the first time in 2016.

"It is an honor to be the first state govern-

ment agency with the new plates," says Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. "I want to thank Revenue Secretary Andy Gerlach and the Department of Revenue for helping make this work."

South Dakota's new license plate design, announced in October, was a cooperative effort led by Gov. Dennis Daugaard, the Department of Revenue's Motor Vehicle Division and the Department of Tourism.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is part of the Department of Public Safety.

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