

# Ptak Receives Lumbermen Award

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Retail Lumbermen's Association honored a local area man at their annual convention, Feb. 11-12 at the Best Western Ramkota in Sioux Falls. Richard Ptak of Tyndall received the Honored Lumbermen of the Year award Tuesday for his outstanding commitment and service to the lumber industry.



Ptak

40-year Lumberman's award. In his personal time, he volunteered 19 years as a fireman for the Elliot Hose Number One. He has also served as a member of the United Methodist Church board. He is currently a mason with Bon Homme Lodge 101 and also a shiner with both the Yankton and Sioux Falls shriners.

Ptak started working for Ptak Bros. Lumber Company after completing his army service. He bought the business from his father in 1997 and continues to run the business to this day. He has worked for the same lumber business for an outstanding 52 years. In 2005, Ptak was proud to have received his

Ptak said he is especially honored to follow in the footsteps of his father, Thomas K. Ptak, who received the Lumberman of the Year award in 1985.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The winners of Stewart Elementary School's Reflections Program participants.

# Stewart Reflections Winners Announced

Stewart Elementary School had a successful Reflections Program for the 2013-2014 school year. This year, 51 students participated with 65 projects being submitted. This was the 18th year that the Stewart PTA has sponsored this program. Students created works in Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production in response to this year's theme, "Believe, Dream, Inspire." Certificates and ribbons were presented to all participants, and medals and trophies were presented to all winners at a special Reflections assembly. First and second place works have advanced to the state level for further judging. The following students (pictured) placed in the programs:

- Zoeller; 2nd Place: Brody Burgeson; 3rd Place: Nicholas Doby; Honorable Mentions: Tristan Redman, Lillian Vetter
- Primary Photography:  
1st Place: Elise Haarsager; 2nd Place: Madison Ryken; 3rd Place: Zac Briggs
- Intermediate Photography:  
1st Place: Makayla Palecek; 2nd Place: Ty Miller; 3rd Place: Sara Carr; Honorable Mention: Macy Schramm
- Primary Literature:  
1st Place: Shayce Platte; 2nd Place: Hudson Burgeson
- Intermediate Literature:  
1st Place: Sara Carr; 2nd Place: Brody Burgeson; 3rd Place: Madisyn Bietz
- Primary Dance Choreography:  
1st Place: Madison Ryken
- Intermediate Musical Composition:  
1st Place: Annika Gordon
- Primary Film/Video Production:  
1st Place: Griffin Johnson
- Intermediate Film/Video Production:  
1st Place: Cora Johnson; 2nd Place: Alex Hacecky

## United Way

# Edge, Isburg Volunteers Of The Month

BY LAUREN HANSON  
United Way Yankton

The Head Start Program provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. The program is designed to foster stable family relationships, enhance children's physical and emotional well-being, and establish an environment to develop strong cognitive skills.

When the Yankton Area Head Start recently had a Teacher's Assistant go on maternity leave, Area Manager Julie Nohr was unsure how she would be able to fill the staffing gap. Thankfully two well-qualified Retired & Senior Volunteer Program volunteers were ready and willing to lend a hand. Because of their valuable efforts, Sharon Edge and Sandi Isburg are United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton's January Volunteers of the Month.

When asked about Edge and Isburg, Nohr stated "Sharon is kind, patient and the children adore her." Nohr continued, "Sandi is a wonderful role model. Their backgrounds bring much expertise to our program."

We asked Sharon and Sandi to tell us about their volunteerism in their own words.

### SHARON EGGE

I have lived here in the Yankton Area since: 1975 after graduating from USD. I began volunteering: after "retiring" from working daycare for 20 years. I love working with kids so I was happy to find an opportunity

with Head Start. I continue volunteering because: I enjoy working with children. It's fun working with others who also care about kids.

I volunteer at (list organizations and duties performed): Head Start and Sack Pack, and I'm also active at church.

Approximate hours per year that I volunteer: about 30 hours per month.

Volunteer work is enjoyable because: I get to meet many nice people, and I feel like I'm helping fill a need in the community.

My best volunteer experience was: getting to know the kids at Head Start and seeing their welcoming faces when coming in the door of the school!

The advice I would give to those thinking about getting out there and volunteering in their communities is: Get involved! I'm humbled by this award. I know lots of people that volunteer and contribute so much to our community!

### SANDI ISBURG

I have lived here in the Yankton Area since: June 1975.

I began volunteering: about 1980.

I continue volunteering because: I am a "social person" and enjoy the interaction with others. I enjoy the satisfaction of helping others of all ages. It provides purpose and contentment in my life.

I volunteer at: Head Start by helping in the kitchen, serving food, eating with the children, and cleaning the dining area afterwards. I also volunteer at the Clothing Closet by sorting clothes



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sandi Isburg (left) and Sharon Edge (right) were named United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton's January Volunteers of the Month.

and helping clients when possible, providing volunteer skilled nursing at the Servant's Heart Clinic and volunteering as Parish Nurse at Calvary Baptist Church by providing some home care and education, and I maintain Advancement Tracking for the Boy Scouts.

Approximate hours per year that I volunteer: I do not know how many hours I volunteer during the year. I have not established a routine schedule. I try to provide support as the needs arise. (Though per RSVP Sandi volunteered 183 hours in 9 months' time last year.)

Volunteer work is enjoyable because: I meet new people and maintain variety in my life. I work with the young and the old. It provides excitement. It is a natural antidepressant for me!

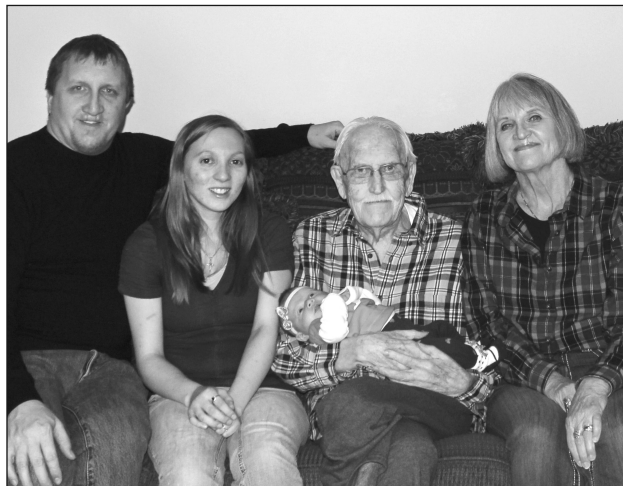
My best volunteer experience was: seeing that I could make a difference in a person's life. Watching a family work together to help their family member, providing dignity to a person who was dying, respecting the family

and individual during the journey of death. On the lighter side, I love watching children helping each other at Head Start. They have the natural joy from life and innocent curiosity.

The advice I would give to those thinking about getting out there and volunteering in their communities is: that there is something for everyone. There is a volunteer opportunity for those who like to work alone or in groups; for short or long intervals and commitments; in a high pressure environment or slow paced activity; in the home or out of the house. There is really no excuse for not volunteering because there is a volunteer opportunity of everyone. It is just a matter of taking a step out of your routine and giving a little of yourself to someone else!

For more information on volunteering or to nominate a Volunteer of the Month, please contact United Way & Volunteer Services at 605-665-6766 or volunserve@iw.net.

## Five Generations



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A recent five-generation photo, with (from left): Grandpa Bryan Highland (Yankton); Mother Skye Highland (Yankton); Great-Great-Grandpa John Heemstra (Yankton) holding Baby Eden Strike (Yankton); and Great Grandma Kris Kirchgaser (Hot Springs).

## Kids Against Hunger



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Yankton Sertoma Club recently packed over 4300 meals for children in need of our care. If your service club would like to learn more about how you can make a difference in the lives of children, please visit www.kahyankton.org

## MEETINGS

### TOASTMASTER CLUB 1294

Yankton Toastmaster Club 1294 met Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President Steve Hamilton. The invocation was given by Janice Stone followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kathy Hejna was introduced as the toastmaster of the meeting. She called on the Master Evaluator, Roy Wilcox who introduced his evaluation team, including John Swenson, who was the Grammarian and gave the word of the day. The word of the day was "pernickety," meaning fussy and fastidious. Table topics were led by Jana Lane on the subject of Valentine's Day. Speeches were given by Jack Dahlseid, "Reading the Newspaper" from project two for organizing your speech in the competent communication manual, and Kevin Buhl on "Get Over Your Fear" as an impromptu speech. Master Evaluator, Roy Wilcox evaluated the meeting and called on Angela Mann to evaluate Jack Dahlseid, and Joy Winther to evaluate Kevin Buhl. Presentations were also given by joke master Roy Wilcox, aah counter/nail dropper Vern Arens, timer Steve Hamilton and vote counter Kevin Buhl. Table topics winner was John Swenson, best evaluator was Angela Mann and best speaker was Kevin Buhl. Other participants at the meeting were Toastmaster member Teresa Rentsch and guests Deanne Geditz, Zach Vakke and Rachel Hejna. We appreciate guests who come to our meetings and invite them to come and enjoy future meetings.

For more information, call 665-8448.

### GET UP & GO

The Get Up & Go 4-H club met on Feb. 2, 2014, at the Irene Legion Hall. There were 8 members and 1 visitor at the meeting.

Reporter Stephanie Hauger called the meeting to order. The American flag pledge was led by Emily Dangel and the 4-H pledge by Garrett Dangel. The roll call topic was "Who do you want to win the Superbowl, the Seahawks or the Broncos?" Stephanie Hauger filled in for the president. Our leader Karen Richelieu handed out fruit sale forms. Fruit sale forms are due into the extension office by Feb. 27, 2014. Stephanie Hauger's illustrative talk was about "Kennel Cough." After the meeting, we made paper plate maracas and African drums out of Styrofoam cups. Lunch was served by Keyuana and Neely Gustad.

Our next meeting will be on March 2, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in the Irene Legion Hall.

### TOASTMASTERS CLUB 6217

Jennifer Wubben called Toastmasters Club 6217 to order Feb. 6 at noon in the Pavilion Conf. Rm. No. 2 with a warm welcome and an invocation by Kary Beltz, praying for Thanks.

Jeff May presented the word of the day, "simpatico," and tracked its use by the speakers as well as unusual and interesting phrases, like "mutated" and "Minnesota accent."

Chelsi Hames's evaluation team included timer Eileen O'Connor and "ah" counter Gale Vogt.

Speaker Muriel Stach gave a sample Ice Breaker speech (speech that helps the speaker break the ice when speaking for the first time at Toastmasters by giving you a little insight to who

the speaker is) for the Speech Craft members.

Stach was evaluated by Tim Bohn with praise for her great topic and strong opening. He enjoyed that she just picked a specific part of her life rather than trying to give her life story in a short period of time. She was well prepared and seemed very relaxed.

Table Topic Master Jen Hovland asked impromptu questions, using ideas of an ice breaker speech. Jeff May's recent promotion to KPI President has got him plotting a strategy for the company. Sandy Spady's personal achievements consist of being a district manager of a retail store and traveling to Casper, WY to open a new store in the mall in a short period of time. Stan Sudbeck's favorite high school memory is when he wrote an off the cuff story in his creative writing class about the difference between George Wallace and bacteria called Wallacituous. Mandy Green grew up in Minnesota and remembers all the great things about growing up with many different activities to do for all seasons.

Wubben awarded trophies to Bohn as Best Evaluator, to Stach for Best Speaker and all respondents for Best Respondent in Table Topics. Wubben then asked President Hovland for announcements, which were: Three of the Speech Craft members will be giving their first speech, Ice Breaker Speech, on Feb. 13.

### TOASTMASTERS CLUB 6217

Jennifer Wubben called Toastmasters Club 6217 to order Feb. 13, at noon in the Pavilion Conference Room No. 2 with a warm welcome and an invocation by Stan Sudbeck.

The Speech Craft Program, a brief course to improve public speaking abilities, began this week with 3 new speakers, Sandy Spady, Jennifer Suing and Mandy Green. They gave their Ice Breaker Speeches in which they give a little insight about themselves and "broke the ice" by speaking publicly.

Spady, who is from small town O'Neill, Neb., was big into cheerleading. It was cheerleading that made her find herself and become a leader. In fact, it was the cheerleading that helped her pursue becoming a district manager for a retail store.

Suing informed us that education and family are the most important things to her. Her love for learning got her back into schooling and where she is today.

Green let us all know her family thinks they, she and her husband, are crazy. She is the head college coach and her husband is her assistant coach. She said, "With all the time we put into our jobs and working together, we must be crazy, right?" She believes in doing what you're passionate about and getting paid for that is the icing on the cake.

All speakers were evaluated by their assigned mentors, Spady by Greg Stach, Suing by Jane Miller and Green by Jen Hovland. They were praised for stepping up and giving their first speech and breaking that ice. They had good volume and eye contact and were easily understood. All had passion in their speeches and it came through. Some unneeded "ums" and "ahs" were used; yet, with little use of notes, all in all each gave a very good first time speech.

Tim Bohn gave an educational speech for the Speech Crafters on "Selecting Your Topic" and had a written evaluation by Eric Taylor. Next week's agenda is the

next three Speech Crafters giving their Ice Breaker Speeches.

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Roy Anderson Unit No. 12 American Legion Auxiliary met on, February 17, 2014 with President Betty Adam presiding. There were 16 members present. Chaplain Kathleen Ekeren presented the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge to the Flag. Members sang America the Beautiful, recited the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary and observed a moment of Silent Prayer.

Seven officers answered Roll Call after which the 16 members present introduced themselves. Minutes of the January 20 meeting were read and finding no additions or corrections were approved. Priscilla Mazourek presented the Treasurers report that was also approved on motion by Audrey Lubbers seconded by Lily Pokorney. Membership reports that there are currently 114 paid up members. This year's quota has been set at 120 members.

Discussion concerning the sending of cards: It was decided to stay with the current policy of sending cards of sympathy to the family of members and get well cards to members.

Monies toward the Bakeless Bake Sale continue to arrive. Members were reminded

that this is a major fundraiser for the Auxiliary and that there is still time to make contribution.

Dorothy Johansen reported on the Bingo Party at the Human Services Center. Interviews will begin this week for potential Girls State attendees.

On Monday, March 24 all members of the American Legion and its Auxiliary and their spouses are invited to attend a Legislative Forum. Members of the Legislature will be on hand to offer their views and answer questions of concern at the regular meeting of the Auxiliary beginning at 8 p.m.

President Adam read the letter from District 8 President Linda Youngbluth. District 8 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 6 in Wagner. Watch for further announcements.

The Legion membership dinner was well attended. Helen Simps! on moved, second by Dorothy Johansen to contribute \$400 toward the dinner. Motion carried.

Marlys List reported on the Midwinter Conference held in Huron.

The coin march netted \$15.55.

Kathleen Ekeren offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held March 24, 2014.

Marlys List and Cathi Darcy served a lovely Valentine themed lunch.

**Brightway Electric LLC**

**Affordable Quality Service**

Let us "Brighten" your way!

**605-760-3505 • 605-661-9594**

- www.brightwayelectricyankton.com -