

HOMETOWN DIGEST

Summit Activity Pool Closed This Morning

The Yankton Swim Team has rescheduled its winter swim meet to today. Therefore, the Summit Activities Center's pool will be unavailable to members and guests from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The pool will open at 1 p.m. for the Morning Optimists "free" swim and gym.

The weight and fitness area, track and gymnasium will still be open for members and guests as normal. For further information, call the Summit Activities Center at 668-5234.

Yankton Area Arts Exhibit Opens

Yankton Area Arts will be hosting a reception and gallery talk for our current exhibition entitled "Collaborationism" on Saturday, Jan. 23, at the G.A.R. Hall Gallery.

The doors open at 1 p.m. with the gallery talk beginning shortly after; all ages are encouraged to attend.

This exhibit features the works of USD Art Chair Cory Knedler and Sioux City Art Center Curator Shannon Sargent. The reception is open to the public and everyone is invited to take this opportunity to meet artists and visit with them about their work.

The G.A.R. Hall Art Gallery and Yankton Area Arts are located at 508 Douglas. The gallery is open to the public free of charge from 1-5 p.m. weekdays and from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays. For more information call 665-9745, e-mail Pam@YanktonAreaArts.org or see www.YanktonAreaArts.org.

South Dakota Picnic Planned In Florida

The 58th Annual South Dakota Picnic will be held indoors on Sunday, February 28th, 2010, at the Woodbrook Estates Mobile Home Park Recreation Center, 1510 Ariana Street, Lakeland, FL. Please bring a LARGE covered dish or dessert to share, also plates and utensils for your own family. Coffee, iced tea, and pop will be furnished. Lunch will be at 1:00 p.m., but feel free to come after 11:30 a.m. and visit with fellow South Dakotans. If you have any questions, please call or email June Clark, (863)646-1131, jclark01@msn.com, or Sue Kelly (941)792-8235, suehelly@verizon.net.

Women Of Distinction Luncheon Feb. 15

The Women's Community Leadership Committee will be hosting its second annual "Woman of Distinction" award luncheon on Feb. 15. The award luncheon will be from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Mount Marty College Roncalli Center.

The featured speaker will be MK Mueller, presenting "The Power of Process and Dreams."

Tickets are \$20 each and are available at Yankton Rexall, HyVee Food Store and the Yankton Area of Commerce. For more information, call 665-3636 or view the information on the Yankton Area Chamber Web site at www.yanktonsd.com

Cheerleading Applications Being Taken

The North Star Cheerleading Clinic will be held at the Yankton Middle School on Saturday, March 13. The clinic runs from 9 a.m.-noon.

The clinic is open to kids in grades K-8.

There is a fee for this event. For more information, contact Sara Tebben at 605-261-3130, e-mail sara@northstarcheerleading.com or visit www.northstarcheerleading.com.

Hugs For Heroes Seeks Valentines

Hugs for Heroes, a group that sends valentines to our troops overseas has set a goal of 80,000 valentines to be sent to our troops this year.

The group — co-chaired by sisters Sheri Edmisten of Bloomfield, Neb.; Cindy Milner of Yankton and their mother, Carolyn Milner of Atkinson, Neb. — are requesting the public's help. Simply purchase or make valentines and make them out to a U.S. soldier and sign your name. Last year, Hugs for Heroes sent more than 50,000 valentines overseas.

You can drop off valentines at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital main lobby and Benedictine Center lobby in Yankton; People's Grocery in Crofton, Neb.; Country Market and Speedway Truck and Auto in Bloomfield; Avera Sacred Heart Medical Clinic in Hartington, Neb.; and at West Holt Schools in Atkinson.

It takes almost \$12 to send one box of valentines and donations for postage are greatly appreciated. More names of soldiers to send boxes to are welcome.

For more information or to send a donation or name, contact Sheri Edmisten at 304 South Pierce, Bloomfield, NE 68718 or call 402-373-2167.

The deadline for valentines is Jan. 28.

YMS Parent Teacher Conferences Feb. 1 & 2

Yankton Middle School will be holding Parent/Teacher conferences on Monday, Feb. 1, and Tuesday, Feb. 2, with sessions running from 4-8 p.m.

Conferences will be scheduled in 10-minute time slots with parents/guardians meeting with one of their child's academic teachers. Conference time will be available with Exploratory, Computer, Music and PE teachers but will not be scheduled for specific times.

Students will receive a conference notice on Wednesday, Jan. 20, that needs to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to school. If a conflict exists, call 665-2419 to reschedule.

Parents of students presently in grades 6-7 will complete registration forms for their students on these evenings as well.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

HOMETOWNNEWS

BIG FRIEND LITTLE FRIEND



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Big Friend Little Friend is promoting January as Yankton's Mentoring Month with support from Mayor Dan Specht and the Yankton City Commission. The proclamation was read at the Jan. 11 City Commission meeting.

January has been recognized yearly as National Mentoring Month since President Bush signed the proclamation in 2002. Big Friend Little Friend's mission is to improve the lives of local Yankton children. If you would like to impact a child's life, call Big Friend Little Friend at 665-6365. Big Friend Little Friend is a United Way agency.

HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Yankton Slumberland Furniture helped make "Homes for the Holidays" for area families with donations of beds. Slumberland donated approximately 1300 mattress & box spring sets to nonprofit partners throughout the communities it serves, in which the Yankton store donated 18 sets. A warm bed has become a luxury, especially in today's tough economy, Slumberland is working to ensure everyone in our communities gets a healthy night's sleep.

SCHOLASTICS

U. Of Nebraska White Coat Ceremony Held

Fifty first-year physical therapy students at the University of Nebraska Medical Center donned white coats on Jan. 8 to mark one of their symbolic first steps into the profession.

The students, who will graduate in 2012, also took an oath of professionalism.

Donations from UNMC alumni helped pay for the white coats, which students will wear until they graduate.

Below are the hometowns and names of the physical therapy students who participated in UNMC's white coat ceremony:

Verdigré — Cody Konopasek

Northwestern College Dean's List Announced

ORANGE CITY, Iowa — The Academic Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester at Northwestern College has been announced. The Dean's list includes students who achieved a semester grade point average of 3.5 or above while carrying a minimum of 12 graded hours. To receive Collegiate Scholar distinction students must have a semester average of 3.75 or above, designated with an asterisk. A perfect 4.0 is designated with a pound sign.

Local students were: Leah Mabey* and Meghan Schuster* of Yankton.

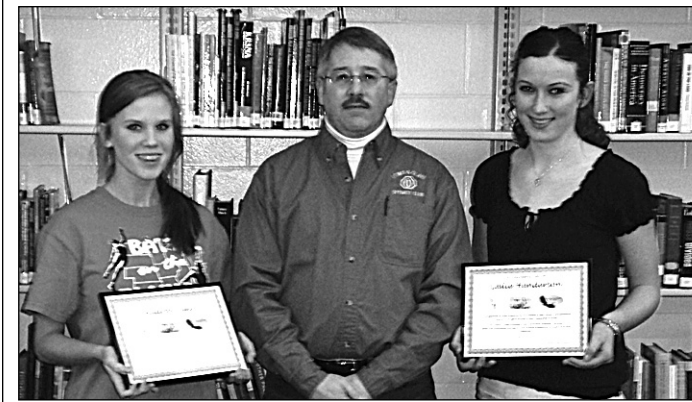
U. Of Iowa Holds Graduation Ceremonies

The University of Iowa awarded an estimated 1,300 degrees at the close of the fall 2009 session during December commencement ceremonies. The ceremonies were held at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, Boyd Law Building and Macbride Hall Auditorium. Among the students from the Yankton area who received degrees at the UI commencement is Christopher David Moen, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance, Economics with Highest Distinction.

Northern State University Dean's List Released

Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. has released the Dean's List for the 2009 fall semester. Full-time students who have completed 12 credit hours or more, and who have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester, are eligible for the Dean's List. NSU students who achieved a 4.0 status are listed with an asterisk. Area students are: Parkston: Heather Konrad; Tripp: Larissa Buchholz, Jessica Horn; Viborg: Maria Francker; and, Yankton: Lacey Garvey, Kelli Gill, Bridget Henderson, Carissa Kinsley.

LEADERSHIP AWARDS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Audrey Fuks, Lewis & Clark Optimist Club Immediate Past President Lee Gass and Leslie Henderson are pictured after being given their certificates celebrating their selection to the 2010 Hugh O' Brian Youth Leadership Forum.

2010 Hugh O'Brian Leadership Forum Selections Announced

The Lewis and Clark Optimist Club is proud to sponsor the Yankton High School representatives to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Forum to be held at Dakota Wesleyan University. Selected to represent YHS from this year's sophomore class are Audrey Fuks and Leslie Henderson.

Audrey and Leslie were presented certificates of recognition from the club, along with having their registration fees paid for by the Lewis and Clark Optimist Club. Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Forum's mission is to provide lifelong leadership development skills that provide opportunities for individuals to achieve their highest potential.

Since 1958, Hugh O'Brian and the organization he founded have had a vision to motivate

and empower youth to make a positive difference with our global society through understanding and action based on effective and compassionate leadership.

The South Dakota event will be held in Mitchell June 10-13, 2010 on the Dakota Wesleyan campus. Select students from this event may be able to attend the HOBY World Leadership Congress in Washington, D.C. in July 2010. That event brings sophomore students from across the United States and other countries together to provide additional leadership opportunities.

Yankton High School and the Lewis and Clark Optimist Club would like to congratulate Audrey and Leslie on their selection for this prestigious program.

Yankton Native Sylvia Endicott-Sullivan Named Cambridge Who's Who Professional Of The Year

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Sylvia Endicott-Sullivan, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Management Analyst has been named Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year in Veterans' Service. While inclusion in Cambridge Who's Who is an honor, only two male and two female members in each discipline are named the Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year.

Over the past 28 years Endicott-Sullivan has been a driving force in promoting, planning, and implementing positive changes in the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record. Endicott-Sullivan has also functioned as the Veteran's Health Administration, Deputy, Project Manager for the Federal and Bidirectional Health Exchange, a large interagency project which allows for the exchange of clinical, administrative and demographic data between Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Defense.

Endicott-Sullivan's expertise in Program and Project Management has been instrumental in the advancement and modernization of electronic health information systems throughout various departments within the Federal Government. She participates as a Veterans Health Administration representative to the National Health

Information Network and considers her work in electronic health information exchange her proudest professional accomplishment.

Endicott-Sullivan has a Masters Degree in Project Management from George Washington University and a Bachelors Degree in Public Administration from Doan College. She is a member of multiple professional healthcare organizations, including the Project Management Institute, Healthcare Informatics and Management Systems Society, American College of Healthcare Executives, and the National Healthcare Information Network.

The many special awards and professional honors she has received are a direct reflection of the skills, commitment and devotion she brings to the workforce. These honors include the 2006 Excellence in Government Award presented to her by the International Association for Computer and Information Science. In May 2007 she was also recognized for her outstanding contributions toward improving the continuity of care for wounded warriors via the first successful electronic transfer of digital images and scanned health care records from Department of Defense to Veterans Health Administration facilities.

MEETING NOTES

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS #967

Court Willard #967 met December 17 at Saint Benedict's Parish for our annual Christmas party. Regent Velma Kuchta welcomed all the members, guests and especially all the priests and Benedictine sisters.

The Dec. committee entertained us with a wonderfully decorated dining room and, with the help of all the members, a delicious meal complete with a variety of desserts.

After the dinner, special gifts were presented to the parish priests. The party continued with the exchange of gifts between all members, priests and Benedictine sisters.

The party concluded with Regent Kuchta wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Msgr. Herman closed with his words of wisdom.

INTERCHANGE

Interchange met at the Waterfront at noon on Monday January 17, 2010. President Stacy Winteringer called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Marcy Moser introduced Anne Doherty-Stephan and Lavonne Halvorson introduced Marilyn Broker.

Carla Schlingman was the hostess. She introduced speaker Gwen Maag, Nurse Educator/Education Manager from Avera Education & Staffing Solutions who presented on the eStroke Project. She shared a

PowerPoint presentation developed by the American Stroke Association which gave a comprehensive overview of a stroke. Next week, January 25th, Carla Scott's Program will feature Angie O'Connor with Healthy Yankton who will present on the Yankton Community Gardens Project.

TOASTMASTER CLUB 1294

Yankton Toastmaster Club 1294 met Saturday, January 16, at 7:30am at the Fry'n Pan Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President Jeremy Skrenes who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Joy Winther gave the invocation. Toastmaster of the Day was Steve Hamilton who conducted the meeting. Grammarian Skrenes gave the word of the day, "viable," which means a capable of existing or living. John Swensen gave a speech titled "Guilty as Charged" from the Competent Communication manual with the objective of using gestures and facial expressions to enhance his speech. Table topics was led by Angela Mann who asked members to respond to scenarios from the book "Kokology," which involved stories that gave insights into your core values. Vernon Arens evaluated the meeting, and called on Winther to evaluate Swensen's speech. Presentations were given by grammarian Skrenes, ad counter Mike Arens, timer Roy Wilcox, and joke master Winther. Trophies were presented to Hamilton, Mike Arens, and Wilcox who all tied for best table top-

ics, Swensen for best speaker, and Winther for best evaluator. The business meeting was led by Skrenes. Guests are welcome. For more information call 665-8448.

ASHH TOASTMASTERS

Toastmaster Steve Anderson called the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Toastmasters Club 6217 to order on January 14 at noon in the Benedictine Center. Anderson asked Muriel Stach to lead the group in prayer and to count the votes, which would determine the trophy winners. Anderson then invited Jane Miller, as General Evaluator, to name her team.

Miller's team consisted of "ah" counter Mindy Schweitzer and timer Fran Kocer. Miller introduced the grammarian, Stan Sudbeck. Sudbeck's word of the day was "abate" and he suggested our politicians could abate their "ahs" by joining Toastmasters.

Anderson welcomed the speakers,

Marie Steckelberg and Gale Vogt. Steckelberg spoke on her research showing disparities in spending for Indian Health Service with "Are You Surprised?" Vogt's speech, "Health Care Expense Strategies" gave a personal overview on ways to cut family health care costs. Vogt and Steckelberg tied for the Best Speaker award.

Melissa Bader was Table Topics Master and asked impromptu questions under a "truth or dare" theme. Bader's Best Respondent was Kocer. Kocer gave his opinion on what he would do with the money if he should become a millionaire.

The speakers' deliveries were evaluated by Eileen O'Connor for Steckelberg and Greg Stach for Vogt. O'Connor had compliments for Steckelberg on her use of visuals. Stach congratulated Vogt on using pauses properly. O'Connor and Stach tied for the Best Evaluator trophy.

Toastmaster Anderson then turned

the gavel over to Jennifer Wubben for the business portion of the meeting.

LEGION AUXILIARY

Yankton American Legion Auxiliary met January 18, 2010. President Betty Adam presiding. Shirley Juffer was welcomed as a new member; an additional member is needed to reach goal.

Get well and sympathy cards were sent. Junior girls and their parents will be sent a letter regarding Girls State. The Yankton County Legislators will speak at the March 15, 2 010 meeting.

It was reported at the HSC Christmas Gift Shop there were 180 Christmas gifts wrapped and sent to families of veterans.

Americanism essays and poem guidelines have been taken to participating schools.

There were 270 dictionaries distributed to third graders in all

Yankton schools; thank you notes received from schools were passed around and read.

A Bingo party for veterans at HSC will be Thursday, January 28, helpers can come at 12:50 pm, bars or cookies are also needed to be served.

Denise Cody gave an interesting talk about the Yankton Women's/Children's Center and Family Visitation Center and the new facility being built to accommodate more women and children; she said furnishings are also needed.

The Mid-Winter Conference of the American Legion & Auxiliary will be held at Cedar Shore Resort February 12-14, 2010.

The Hugs for Heroes program of sending valentines to military persons was discussed; anyone wishing to do this, bring valentines to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital by January 25.

The next meeting is February 15th, the program will be Children/Youth/Education Reports.



Do you have difficulty using the phone because of a hearing loss? Do you always hear the phone ring? Do you have trouble understanding voices on the phone? Different phone equipment might help!

The Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program has equipment available at **no cost** to South Dakotans with hearing loss or speech impairments. Call (866) 246-5759 or visit www.sdelay.com/tedp.



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