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2014 Citizen Of The Year

The Belief In Local Opportunity

Ben Hanten Honored For Entrepreneurial Endeavors

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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One number sets businessman Ben Hanten apart from Yankton's previous Citizens of the Year.

His age.

At only 33 years old, Hanten becomes one of the youngest recipients of the honor.

"It's humbling when you go back over the list of past winners. They were icons of the town," he said.

also

For a list of the all the past "Citizens Of The Year," see page 2A.

But Hanten also looks at his 2014 Citizen of the Year

selection another way.

"In the past, it seems like it was recognition of a person for the past 30 or 40 years of his or her work," he said. "Hopefully, as this year's Citizen of the Year, I'll be able to go forward and contribute to the community for another 30 or 40 years."

In addition, Hanten sees his selection possibly starting a new Citizen of the Year trend.

"Maybe this (award) will honor our young people for their work now and encourage them for the future," he said.

Hanten, the owner of Ben's Brewing Company since 2005, has been on a fast track when it comes to community leadership.

As part of Historic Downtown Yankton (HDY), he co-founded Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest in 2007. Last year's one-day event drew an estimated 15,000 people to Memorial Park.

Ribfest originated during a conversation between Hanten and then-HDY executive director Ronda Barry. "We noted they had Ribfest in other cities. Why not have one in Yankton?" he asked.

The inaugural event went beyond organizers' wildest expectations, he said.

"We expected 1,000 people, and we ended up drawing 5,000 that first year. The vendors ran out of food, and the bars ran out of beer," he said. "We wondered, how can we grow on this? How can we make it a better experience for every year? On a different scale, it has continued to grow. It's an event that rivals other cities."

In meeting the event's continued growth, Ribfest organizers doubled down with two changes. The event was moved from September to June and from downtown to Memorial Park.

HANTEN | PAGE 2A



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton businessman, promoter and entrepreneur Ben Hanten has been chosen as the 2014 Citizen of the Year, as chosen by representatives of several service organization. Hanten was one of the founders of Yankton Ribfest and has been an avid promoter of start-up businesses and local development. The Press & Dakotan is a co-sponsor of the award.

Sports



Yotes Begin Summit League Play Today

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* * *

Convincing Scam Targeting Yankton Businesses

From P&D Staff Reports

Local businesses are reporting being hit by a very convincing scam attempt to defraud the businesses out of money by telling them a payment for utilities is late.

Paul Cuneo of Cheers Bar and Grill in Yankton told the Press & Dakotan Thursday that he received such a call Wednesday. The individual said he was from NorthWestern Energy and told Cuneo a payment for an electrical bill was needed.

"The guy was pretty good," Cuneo said. "I had my cash in hand. ... Thank God for my wife (who stopped me before I paid)."

Cuneo said the caller said he was late with a payment and needed to make a payment through a money order-type system that can be done through Walgreen's.

SCAM | PAGE 9A

Hunter Returns To His First Love, Finance

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

MADISON — Jon Hunter didn't plan to be a third-generation president of the family's newspaper and publishing business. He really wanted to work in finance, which he did for his first decade after college.

Then in 1990 he and his wife, Mary, moved their young family back to his hometown of Madison from the San Francisco Bay area of California. A few months later, his father, Merrill, died.

The community's daily newspaper and the



Hunter

family's business became Jon's responsibility. During the quarter century since then, family-owned and -run daily newspapers became a true rarity in South Dakota and the nation.

The Madison Daily Leader didn't join that trend.

Jon Hunter kept operating the publishing business from the historic building downtown. He carefully innovated, adding new ways to strengthen the business. His printing press, for example, puts

ink on paper for places as far away as Texas.

Meanwhile the Daily Leader carries a subscription base of 2,570, the smallest daily in South Dakota, and his carriers deliver to local doorsteps five afternoons a week.

He became a newspaperman, like his grandfather George Hunter, who moved to Madison in 1946 from Michigan and put everything he had and then some into buying the Daily Leader.

Jon didn't lose his desire for finance, however. He read about a vacancy on the South Dakota

HUNTER | PAGE 5A

Memorial Trust Finishes Otto Ullrich's Good Work



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Dick Kulbel (left) and Duane Frick have been two of the trustees overseeing the disbursement of funds from the Otto Ullrich Trust. Ullrich, who died in 2006 set aside a portion of his estate to give back to the town he called home. "Establishing the trust as a part of his will was something Otto felt he owed the community," Frick said. "He had made his money here in Yankton, and wanted to leave some of it here to the community."

Fund Gives More Than \$627 Thousand To Yankton Organizations

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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The total: \$627,137 and change.

For the past several years, a trust set up by the late Otto Ullrich of Yankton has been quietly honoring the memory of a man who just wanted to give back to the community he lived in and loved.

Ullrich was of the generation that knew you had to be frugal and work hard to achieve success, said long-time friend and trustee Dick Kulbel.

A life-long resident of Yankton County, Ullrich farmed, worked for the Wilson Farworthy Company, the Yankton Police Department,



ULLRICH

Johnson Appliance and, is most remembered as clerk of the Manhattan bar in downtown Yankton, where he worked for more than 30 years. During that time, Ullrich saved more than he spent, took care of others and, at the time of his death at the age of 99 in May 2006, dedicated a large portion of his estate to giving back to the people of Yankton.

"Establishing the trust as a part of his will was something Otto felt he owed the community," Trustee Duane Frick said. "He had made his money here in Yankton, and wanted to leave some of it here to the community."

Kulbel and Frick, along with Ullrich's son James, served as trustees for the fund, of which the final amount distributed was \$627,137.87. An additional \$600 was given to

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