

Althoff Completes Bus. Insurance Concepts

Rick Althoff, FIC, CLU, ChFC, MSFS has successfully completed the comprehensive and professional graduate course of Business Insurance Concepts for the Fraternal Insurance Counselor Fellows Program of Certification.

This allows him to be of greater service and enhances his ability to apply state of the art solutions to complex estates as well as to the simplest of estates. Congratulations to Rick on his continued accomplishments.



Althoff

Yankton Native Honored As Chef Of The Year

Yankton native Amanda Viau was honored with The Chef of the Year Award Sunday May 16th at the Annual Chefs Dinner in Hill City at The Alpine Inn. The American Culinary Federation of the Black Hills honors one chef in South Dakota per year for their outstanding leadership, culinary mentoring and culinary creativity in the industry. Amanda has been an active member for three years and has had roles as Vice President and Secretary of her chapter.



Viau

Amanda was raised in Yankton graduated from Yankton High School in 1999. Her first culinary experience was with The Quarry Steakhouse and Lounge. She gained her formal training and Associates Degree from the Culinary Arts School in North Mankato, Minn, at South Central Technical College. She graduated in 2001 and has expanded her knowledge as the Pastry Chef and Baker at Schumacher's Hotel and Restaurant in New Prague, Minn. Banquet Chef and Executive Chef at Westward Ho Country Club in Sioux Falls and is currently the Executive Chef for Avera Behavioral Health, Avera Cancer Institute and the Avera Main Campus.

Amanda is the daughter of Bruce and Betty Viau of Yankton

Federal Prison Camp Honors Employee

Warden Jordan R. Hollingsworth announced the following award on May 18, 2011, at the Federal Prison Camp, Yankton.

Cory D. Uecker, Special Education Teacher, was recognized as Employee of the Quarter for his dedication to the GED, ESL and special needs students at the prison camp. During the past quarter, Cory took on additional responsibilities in the absence of a staff member and supervised reorganization of office space in the Education Department. His dedication and initiative in making the department successful is to be commended.

Opsahl Earns Cert. Funeral Service Designation

Kevin Paul Opsahl, CFSP of Yankton, has recently qualified the designation of Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP), by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice.



Opsahl

A number of professions grant special recognition to members upon completion of specified academic and professional programs and "CFSP" is funeral service's national individual recognition.

The Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, since its 1976 founding, has had as its goals: 1) to recognize those practitioners who have voluntarily entered into a program of personal and professional growth, 2) to raise and improve the standards of funeral service and 3) to encourage practitioners to make continuing education a life-long process in their own self-interest, the interest of the families they serve, and the community in which they serve.

To initially receive this award, the practitioner must complete a 180-hour program of continuing education activities and events. In addition, the practitioner is required to accumulate 20 hours per year to recertify. Credits are awarded by the Academy for work leading to personal and/or professional growth in four areas:

- Academic Activities
- Professional Activities
- Career Review (for retroactive credit)
- Community and Civic Activities

Certified Practitioners may use the CFSP designation with their names for business letterheads, professional cards and other appropriate uses. Certification is for individuals only and is not used to imply certification of a firm.

Information about Academy membership and certification may be obtained by contacting: Kimberly A. Gehlert, Executive Director, Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, P.O. Box 2275, Westerville, OH 43086; phone (614) 899-6200; email www.apfsp.com.

Fred Haar Company Changes Ownership

Fred Haar Company, a 129-year-old South Dakota John Deere Dealership with three locations (Freeman, Wagner, and Yankton), has announced an agreement to sell has been made with C & B Operations, LLC headquartered in Gettysburg. During the announcement to their employees Jim Haar, President of Fred Haar Company, stated, "We are excited to announce the alliance of two historic South Dakota companies and the beginning of a great opportunity for us to join C & B Operations, LLC, one of the nation's premier John Deere dealers."

Haar continued, "This change creates new opportunities for our customers and employees by expanding our services and increasing our available inventory in John Deere parts and equipment, while maintaining our hometown approach of, you'll grow with us."

The Fred Haar Company's roots date back

to 1882, where in Freeman, it became a leader in agriculture for five generations. Al Haar, general manager of Fred Haar Company, said, "With each new generation the Fred Haar Company has brought an element of change, through the adaptation of advancements in equipment, process improvements, and growth of the business. Every generation did this while trying to match the growing needs of our customers and maintaining the philosophy of honest and ethical business practices. With this in mind, we felt that the best long-term decision was to grow into C & B Operations, LLC, where they embody the same philosophies."

C & B Operations, LLC owns and operates 16 John Deere dealerships in South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. It began in 1988 when Dan Cronin and Rod Burwell purchased the John Deere dealership in

Gettysburg, and has grown to be one of the premier John Deere dealers in the country.

Matt Cronin, president and CEO of C & B Operations, LLC said, "Both companies are excited to begin this new chapter. Fred Haar Company is known to be a leader in agriculture due to their solid infrastructure, stability of their employees, and their progressive management. By bringing our companies together, we will better serve our customers in all the market areas we support. We are thrilled to have the Fred Haar organization join our team and we want our customers in Freeman, Wagner, and Yankton, to know that we are Solid, Stable, and Still John Deere!"

The transition from Fred Haar Company to C & B Operations, LLC dba Fred Haar Company is anticipated to take place mid-summer.

Mary Wood Retires As Van Wagenen President

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — van Wagenen Financial Services announced that President Mary Rempp Wood will retire from the company at the end of May. Wood assumed the role as van Wagenen's chief executive in 2004, and under her leadership van Wagenen became the world's largest automotive insurance tracking company. van Wagenen provides both insurance products and insurance services to financial institutions across the United States and Canada.

"I feel privileged to have worked for such an outstanding company," said Wood. "It's been an honor to lead the finest teams of individuals in this business."

van Wagenen exemplifies honor, trust and respect, and I'm proud to have contributed to its success."

A graduate of both Yankton High School, class of 1967, and Augustana College, Wood joined van Wagenen in 1975 as the company's fifth employee. As an administrator, she was involved in virtually all areas of the company, including claims, customer service and operations. In 1977 she was named vice president of operations and in 1999, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Wood is credited with driving van Wagenen's commitment to developing and maximizing

cutting-edge technology. She was instrumental in the design and launch of the company's auto insurance tracking program where van Wagenen is the industry's largest provider. She was also instrumental in developing the company's collateral protection business. While Wood is retiring, she is leaving the company on solid footing with exciting new enhancements and products underway.

As she looks to retirement with excitement, Wood looks back with some nostalgia. "For 36 years I've lived all the dynamics of a family at work — births, deaths, challenges and successes. I will truly miss the daily

interaction with my team," she said. On her last day, Tuesday, May 31, Wood said good-bye while commanding one of the grills at the company's regular BBQ lunches.

van Wagenen Financial Services mitigates the risk of uninsured loss and maximizes insurance settlement for lenders and lessors across North America. In its 77th year, the privately held company provides auto, equipment and real estate lender insurance products and services. van Wagenen is headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minn., and has offices in the United States and Canada.

Job Profilers Available To Assist Businesses Statewide

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) has provided funding for three individuals to complete ACT's WorkKeys® job profiler training. These certified profilers are now available to assist businesses statewide.

ACT Inc.'s job profiling analysis system helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels employees must have to perform particular jobs effectively. It also gives individuals a clear picture of the skill levels they need to qualify for and be successful in the jobs they want.

"The WorkKeys job profiling component offers a concrete way for organizations to analyze the skills needed for specific jobs and to describe those needs to educators, students and job seekers," said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts.

Job profiling identifies the skills and WorkKeys skill levels an individual must have to perform successfully for each position. By comparing job profile information with individuals' WorkKeys assessment scores, organizations can

make reliable decisions about hiring, training and program development.

"The benefits of job profiling are reducing employee turnover, establishing an employee selection process, improving training practices and documenting employee and business competitiveness," said Secretary Roberts.

The profiling procedure is designed to systematically develop accurate profiles through a task analysis to select the tasks most critical to a job, a skill analysis to identify the skills and skill levels required at the entry level and for effective performance on that job, and skill ranking to determine the WorkKeys skills most critical to the job.

Larry Porterfield with Career Learning Center of the Black Hills, Davin Johnson with Aberdeen Cornerstones Career Learning Center and Sheri Duke with Southeast Job Link are available to assist businesses statewide. For more information, contact any DLR local office or visit www.sd-jobs.org.

Leadership Change For Areawide Business Council Announced

Rod Hartog, former Chairman of the Areawide Business Council, Inc., was recently recognized for 18 years of service on the Board of Directors, 16 of those years as Chairman.

Rod recently resigned his position on the board in order to devote more time to other development concerns including wind energy in Gregory County.

Larry McManus, Rod's successor to the Chair adds, "Rod will leave big shoes to fill. He has provided strong leadership and continuity for our organization. He has been instrumental in facilitating the growth of the RLF as over the years we have become recognized as a real partner in economic development in our region."

McManus, a founding member of the Council, will well serve the board as he is highly respected in the region and has worked in economic development for years. McManus brings institutional memory and strong leadership capability to the board.

The Areawide Business Council (ABC) is a regional revolving loan fund operated under the

umbrella of Planning & Development District III. ABC serves 15 counties in south-central and southeast South Dakota including Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Lyman, Sanborn, Tripp and Yankton. The ABC revolving loan fund provides low interest financing for new and expanding businesses. This assistance is intended to promote the development of business and industrial concerns, create jobs, leverage other public and private funds, and diversify the area's economy.

ABC requires primary bank lender involvement as it is intended to be a subordinate, secondary lender that will fill the "gap" existing in a financing package. Since its inception in 1982, ABC has loaned more than \$9.8 million to projects in the region. Currently ABC has 75 active loans totaling more than \$3.4 million. For more information about the Areawide Business Council, contact Lori Cowman at Planning & Development District III (605)665-4408.

SHS

From Page 1

were the farewells and sentiments scrawled on the walls.

For many, the old middle school carries pleasant memories. But Manning has coped with the 1922 building's rapid deterioration and looks forward to the new facilities.

"During my four years (as principal), the majority of my relationship with the building has been headaches. It's been the boiler or the water or the electricity," he said.

Those distress calls are now just a memory, Manning said.

"It's been a joy to serve here (at the 1922 school), but I am ready to leave behind a lot of those (structural) problems and move to the new school," he said.

With the move of furnishings now complete, a final check of the old middle school will be undertaken this week, Manning said.

"We will do some taping (today) and Tuesday. We just want to catch anything that we may have missed," he said. "On June 17, the contracting company takes possession. They will begin demolition June 20."

The camera used to show construction progress on the new building will now be turned around to show demolition progress on the old building, Manning said.

Earlier Saturday morning, the Rev. Mark Lichter of Sacred Heart Church blessed the new addition and each of its rooms. He expressed gratitude for rapid completion of the facility.

"God has really blessed us. We are 2 1/2 months ahead of schedule," he said. "That makes a tremendous difference in allowing people to start using the parish center right away and to move into the school over the summer."

The new addition, with its multi-purpose center, will serve the school, both parishes and the entire community, Lichter said.

Link Auditorium, which has stood next to the old middle school, will also remain as a resource.

Lichter marveled at the response for Saturday's school move, particularly with the area's Missouri River flood-fighting and sandbagging efforts.

"Things have gone really well and have been very organized. People have been very cooperative," he said. "It's a blessing to have so many people who helped. I am overwhelmed by the generosity of people."

People have also shown financial generosity toward the \$5.5 million project during a tight economy, Rezac said. The fund raising effort has received \$3.8 million in pledges, of which \$2 million has been collected.

In addition, the project has sold \$2 million in investment certificates, Rezac said. "We are paying a higher interest rate than CDs (certificates of deposit), but it's a lower rate for us than we would pay in interest," she said.

The parishes will continue distributing 5 percent of the collected funds from the campaign to local charities, Lichter said. The committee has shown interest in contributing to flood-relief needs, he said.

Manning has seen people respond even more than before when asked to meet a need.

"I love this community. They are just willing to pitch in and help," he said. "There has never been a project where I needed someone and they didn't help out. When it's tough times, people dig deeper."

The new school will help handle growing pains, Manning said. The entire system of pre-school through eighth grade enrolls around 390 students from 225 families, the highest figure since the 1960s.

"The enrollment has been higher than it's ever been, especially at the middle school," he said. "When I came here four years ago, we had 90 students in grades 5-8. Now, we have 140 students in those four grades."

The tight squeeze was affecting the educational process at the middle school, Manning said.

"We were getting so cramped, this past year we had shared classrooms. Two teachers were using the same room for two different classes," he said. "Now, we should have ample space, where people won't be tripping over each other."

The new middle school should be able to handle the larger classes moving through the system, Rezac said.

"The old school had nine classrooms, and the new one will have 13," she said. "We can't grow too much more, though, as we are reaching our enrollment limits at the elementary school."

The new addition will host two July open houses, one for the parishes and the other one for the general public, Rezac said. Bishop Paul Swain of the Sioux Falls Diocese will celebrate a dedication Mass for the new addition later in the year, she said.

The new school marks the latest chapter in the history of Sacred Heart School, which began in 1884 just west of the current Sacred Heart Church, Rezac said.

"The amount of ministry that has gone on in Yankton is unbelievable," she said. "There has been 140 years of history that has occurred here, and this is just another step."

"It's an exciting time, and it's something that Catholics can be proud of."

Big, Boom, Bang Fundraising Ongoing

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce announces the kickoff fundraising drive for the 150th Big, Boom, Bang Fourth of July Celebration.

The annual Yankton Fourth of July celebration takes place in Riverside Park. The fireworks display is funded by the community through donations. The celebration is always held on the July 4. (In the event of inclement weather, it will be held on July 5.)

"Pete Hittle and My Jazz Friends" will be performing patriotic music starting at 7:45 p.m. up until the fireworks beginning.



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Send Recipes To: Press & Dakotan HerVoice Recipes
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AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS
MONDAY-FRIDAY

Monday

7:40 Doug Russell
8:15 Diane Hall
8:45 Christ Episcopal Church

Tuesday

7:40 JD O'Grady
8:15 Chuck Lambertz
8:45 Crystal Nelson