

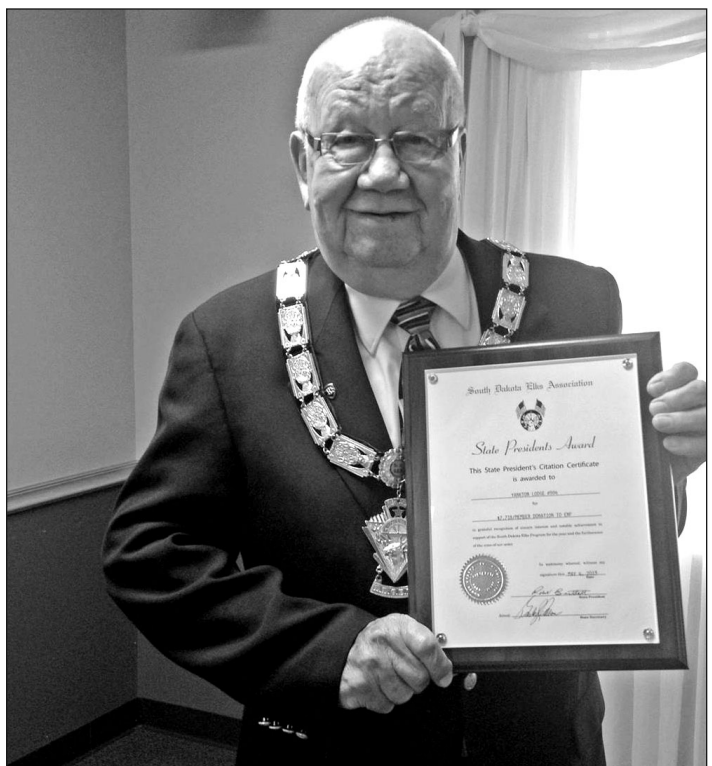
SACRED HEART AWARDS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sacred Heart Middle School end of the year Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 16 at the Sacred Heart Community Center. Shown here are Principal's Citizenship Award winners (left to right): Lauren Rezac, Alexis Rezac, Carissa Salvatori, Kristen Rezac, Maddie Binder, Principal Manning.

ELKS RECEIVE AWARD



SUBMITTED PHOTO

At the recent South Dakota State Elks Association meeting, Yankton Elks Lodge #994 was presented the State Presidents Award and Certificate. This Award is presented in recognition of sincere interest and notable achievement in support of the South Dakota Elks Programs through the support of the Elks National Foundation. The Elks National Foundation supports many youth programs such as the scholarship program, Hoop Shoot program as well as veterans' works and more. Pictured is Yankton Elks Lodge #994 Exalted Ruler, Ted Mickelson with the award.

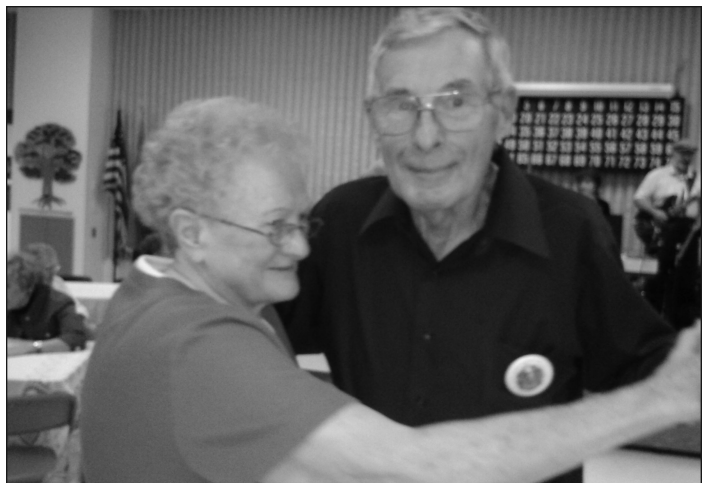
CHURCH KAH PACK



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hillside Community Church of Vermillion recently packed over 2,500 meals for children in need of our care at Kids Against Hunger. If your church or youth group would like to learn more about how you can make a difference in the lives of children, please visit www.kah.yankton.org.

CENTER BBQ AND DANCE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Center in Yankton held its annual BBQ and dance June 1 in the evening. Executive Director Christy Hauer said 135 people attended to take part in the festivities. The Bumblebees were the musical guests. Shown here are Charles and Mae Tiekens.

MEETINGS

YANKTON REGIONAL AVIATION ASSOCIATION

Twenty-one members and guests of the Yankton Regional Aviation Association (YRAA) met on May 19 at 6 p.m. for a potluck meeting in the terminal at Chan Gurney Airport. Participants were from Crofton, Hartington, Randolph, Menno, Tyndall, Vermillion, Yankton and Connecticut. The meeting was led by President John Lillevoid.

The Big Friend/Little Friend Young Eagles Rally will be held on June 11 from 5-7 p.m. in the terminal at Chan Gurney Airport. The International

Young Eagle Rally will be held from 9 a.m.-noon, on June 15 at the Chan Gurney Airport. Pilot training is active at the Yankton airport, and Dan Specht recently passed his check ride to earn his private pilot certificate. Lisa Bierema recently soloed. Cole Steffen of Crofton will be participating in the Advanced Air Academy in Oshkosh, WI, in July. The YRAA will pick up litter along the airport fence for Chan Gurney Airport on May 25. The EAA 1929 Ford Tri-Motor aircraft will be coming to Yankton on June 20-24 and available for rides on June 21-22-23. Yankton EAA Chapter 1029 is planning for the

Jill Wermers Heads Up Sack Pack Program

BY LAUREN HANSON

United Way and Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton

Since the 2009-2010 school year, just four short years, Yankton Sack Pack has provided over 45,000 packs filled with shelf-stable, kid-friendly, nutritious food to elementary school children who are at risk of hunger over the weekends.

Sack Pack, a United Way & Volunteer Services Partner Agency, is a volunteer run organization headed by Board President Jill Wermers. Wermers, a Yankton native, truly pours her heart and soul into the program. "She is a real go-getter and does so much to make it all happen. Always running to schools, for photo ops, making calls, writing, you name it - she does it. Her energy is unbelievable and her passion for the Sack Pack program is unstoppable," says Carla Hummel, Sack Pack board member.

On Friday May 31, the last day of Hunger Awareness Month, we were honored to award a teary-eyed Wermers with the United Way & Volunteer Services Volunteer of the Month award during a meeting at her employer, Ability Building Services.

We asked Jill to tell us about volunteerism, in her own words.

I have lived here in the Yankton Area since: I have lived in the Yankton community my whole life.

I began volunteering: I have been involved in volunteering most of my life.

I continue volunteering because: It is important to me to be involved in my community. Volunteering gives me the opportunity to stay connected to my community.

I volunteer at: Sack Pack Program- I am the current president of the Sack Pack Board and have been involved in the program from the very beginning. A large part of the Sack Pack Program is providing community awareness, as well as helping to raise funds for this valuable program so we can continue to provide easy to prepare, nutritious food to children in need in Yankton.

Relay for Life — I'm a committee member and help with the planning of the annual Relay for Life event. I also volunteer with the Yankton Youth Wrestling Club and at my church when and where I am needed.

Approximate hours per year that I volunteer: I have never been one to keep track of the hours that I volunteer. I have a passion for the organizations I volunteer for, so the time I spend supporting these causes is irrelevant to me.

Volunteer work is enjoyable because: One of the most enjoyable parts of volunteering in Yankton is the amazing support that is shown from the people

Young Eagles Event At Chan Gurney Airport

A Young Eagles event will be held at the Chan Gurney Airport terminal building on Saturday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Yankton Chapter 1029 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) are holding the 20th annual event. The Young Eagles Program of the EAA has the goal of giving 100,000 kids age 8-17 a free airplane ride in 2013. The EAA achieved their previous goal of flying 1 million kids by December 17, 2003, which was the 100th anniversary of powered flight first accomplished by the Wright Brothers. The current total is 1.7 million Young Eagles. The YRAA has flown over 2,500 kids in Young Eagle events at local airports including Yankton, Bloomfield, Gregory, Hartington, and Vermillion over the past 20 years.

A parent of guardian must sign a registration form that will be available at the registration desk in the airport terminal. Young Eagles receive a flight certificate, pilot logbook for free web-based ground school training (ages 13-17 years old), and their name is placed in the world's largest logbook at www.young eagles.org. For more information contact Steve Hamilton at 605-665-8448.

aircraft visit. Francis Serr showed a PowerPoint presentation about the Experimental Aircraft Association, Young Eagles Program, and Ford Tri-Motor Tour and discussed the tour requirements and volunteers needed for the tour stop at Yankton. A media flight in the Ford Tri-Motor at Chan Gurney Airport is planned for June 20 after the aircraft arrives from Quincy, Ill. The major sponsor of the Ford Tri-Motor visit to Yankton is Country Ford of Tyndall, plus donations from 11 individuals.

The next YRAA meeting is set for June 16. For more information about the YRAA, call 665-8448.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jill Wermers is the Board President of the Yankton Sack Pack program and also volunteers throughout the community as well, including with Relay For Life and church events.

and business of our community.

My best volunteer experience was: One of my best volunteering experiences was in the fall of 2011. The Sack Pack Board could easily see that we were not going to have enough funds to continue to provide weekend meals to all 3 of the elementary schools we were currently providing to. It was decided by the board and the schools that we would need to drop Stewart School since they were the last school to be added. Stewart School was told that we would provide packs up until Christmas. This was one of the hardest decisions we as a board had to make. At our meeting in November a couple of us said, "maybe a

Christmas angle will bless us with a large donation and we wouldn't have to drop Stewart." Within days of this conversation, I received a phone call from Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether. Mike is also a Yankton High School graduate and grew up in Yankton most of his life. Mayor Huether explained that he had heard about our funding difficulties and wanted to know how much we would need to be able to continue all three schools through the entire school year. When I gave him the amount, without hesitation, Mike said, "I'll have a check in the mail today." Hence we didn't have to drop Stewart School!

Mike then wanted to know

what it would take to add Beadle School, which was the last of the elementary schools that needed to be added. When I again gave him what our budget would need to be, (\$55,000.00), he came up with the idea of challenging the Yankton community to help raise the funds. He and his wife Cindy would match dollar for dollar up to \$25,000.00. The Yankton community stepped up and in 4 weeks we had over the \$25,000.00 for a total of \$27,500.00. The Sack Pack Program was presented with a check from the Huether Family for every dollar that was raised up and beyond the agreed upon \$25,000.00. We now refer to the Huether Family as "Our Christmas Angels."

The advice I would give to those thinking about getting out there and volunteering in their communities is: My best advice to people is to get out and get involved! Volunteering is a great way to connect with people and places that help make Yankton such a great place to live and work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Sack Pack Program Board of Directors. Carla Hummel, Vice President, Brenda Rueb, Treasurer, Gigi Healy, Secretary, Deb Overseth, Volunteer Committee, Shawna Hatch, Fundraising/Publicity, Sandi Kramer, Menu Planning, Melanie Ryken, School Representative, and Beau Marie Huerta, Committee Member. This award would not be possible without their support and dedication to the program.

For more information about volunteerism in the greater Yankton area, please contact the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton at (605)665-6766 or volunserve@iw.net.




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