

HOMETOWN DIGEST

February 2010 Volunteer Of The Month

United Way & Volunteer Services Volunteer of the Month is Allison Spak. If you have been involved in some way with the Children's Theatre by participating, volunteering or simply sitting back and watching the artists blossom you have seen the works of Allison Spak. Allison is dedicated to the children that are involved in theatre. "Watching the kids grow up on stage is what inspires me." Allison said. "Moms will say I have sat through hours and hours of practice and they were on stage just a short time, but it was all worth it". Allison got involved in theatre as a child. Her mother did Children's Theatre in New Mexico while she was growing up. Her family was always collecting items for backdrops or stage props, never throwing anything away. It could have come in handy for one of the plays someday. Allison has two teenage children that help her in and with the shows.

When Allison started with Yankton Children's Theatre Company she had a youth base of about 25 and now she can easily cast up to 110 youth with 150 auditions. She now receives help from the youth she started with. They come back to Yankton to help her. They know the hard work and responsibilities required in putting a show together.

Spak is also involved in the Elks Easter Egg Hunt by gathering youth to help fill thousands of Easter Eggs to make hundreds of little children happy. Every June 14th, you can find Allison at the Elks surrounded by children in red, white, and blue. Allison helps the Elks meet their rule to celebrate Flag Day by teaching children about flag history and flag etiquette. You can also find Allison with her Yankton Children's Theatre Company youth at Riverboat days and putting in a tireless amount of extra hours in as Sound Director for The Academy of Dance and Light Manager for Lewis & Clark Theatre Company.

"Putting it all together and watching the enthusiasm and excitement from the kids, making it fun and entertaining is what brings an inspiring opening night every time," Allison remarked. So whether it is your child, grandchild or your neighbor's child, remember the person behind the scene, Allison Spak.

MMC Nursing Students Receive Recognition

Mount Marty College nursing students attended the 2010 annual convention of Nursing Students Association of South Dakota (NSASD) the weekend of February 18-20 in Mitchell, SD. The association empowers nursing students throughout the state with the information they need to become leaders in the nursing field.

Mount Marty nursing student, Tana O'Neill, Emmet, NE, was named Outstanding Nursing Student of South Dakota. She was selected among students from SDSU (east and west river), USD (east and west river), Presentation College, Dakota Wesleyan University - Huron and Mitchell. Each school nominates one of their students based on academics, abilities, personal qualities and campus involvement.

In addition, Vodi Vellek, Verdigr, NE, of Mount Marty was awarded the Naomi Jackson Leadership Award. The award-winner must demonstrate strong leadership, dedication, and be an active participant in the association.

Mount Marty College's Director of Nursing, Dr. Jacqueline Kelly, stated, "It was a great weekend for Mount Marty College's nursing program. We can be very proud of our students. They have done fabulous work individually and together have helped bring the NSASD to a higher level."

Student nursing board leadership at this year's convention included five Mount Marty students: Jodi Vellek, Tana Bonnet, Newell, SD, Joan Clement-Moysis, Yankton, SD, Adrian O'Brien, Albion, NE, and Traci Krienert, Osmond, NE.

At the conclusion of the NSASD convention, four Mount Marty students were elected to the state board: President, Tana Bonnet, First Vice President, Jodi Vellek, Recording Secretary, Joshua Wenande, Mitchell, SD, and Corresponding Secretary, Jennifer Duff, Clearwater, NE.

Mount Marty College Theatre Casts Drama

MMC Theatre has recently cast their spring production, Rabbit Hole, by David Lindsay-Abaire. The 2007 Pulitzer Prize winning drama tracks the story of how a life-shattering accident turns the lives of a small family upside-down.

The five-member cast includes Lisa Keogh (Stuart, NE) as Becca Corbett, Jordan Foos (Scotland, SD) as Howie Corbett, Sarah Klug (St. Helena, NE) as Izzy, Bethany Bakker (Marshall, MN) as Nat, and Steven Hoff (Omaha, NE) as Jason Willette. Rabbit Hole is under the direction of Andy Henrickson, Associate Professor of Speech & Theatre, with scenic and lighting design by Stephen English, MMC Theatre's Designer/Technical Director, and costume design by Keryl Brady.

Rabbit Hole is set to run March 25, 26 & 27, with tickets going on sale March 14. The play is rated PG-13 due to language. For more information please call 668-1533.

SAC Releases New Programming Options

The Summit Activities Center is offering a 12-class session on yoga that meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:15-6:15 p.m. from March 16-April 22. Participants interested in joining a session will need to register in advance at the Summit Activities Center. There is a limit of 14 participants per class.

Also, the SAC is offering a "Yoga Lunch Break" drop-in class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:10-12:45 p.m. For further information, call 668-5234 or stop by the SAC.

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

MILITARY NOTICES

VA BEGINS NATIONWIDE GI BILL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a two-month, nationwide advertising campaign to assist student Veterans and servicemembers applying for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

"VA, student Veterans and our schools have made significant progress in implementing the GI Bill this spring, but we still have more to do," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We won't rest until all student Veterans have received the education benefit they earned in defense of our Nation."

Since inception of this historic new program, VA has issued nearly \$1.9 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit payments and opened the door to higher education to 209,490 people.

As of Feb. 12, VA has received spring semester Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollments from approximately 180,000 student Veterans and already paid nearly 90 percent of students. All Post-9/11 GI Bill participants whose spring enrollments were received by Jan. 18 have been paid.

The GI Bill Advertising campaign includes half-page ads in top college publications, online and social media, print, radio, and outdoor advertising such as posters and flyers. Public service announcements are being delivered to approximately 150 college radio stations and 750 local stations in areas where there is a high density of students, as well as military installations.

Student Veterans on college campuses will also see a variety of posters in registrars' offices, dormitories, cafeterias, student union buildings and other high traffic areas.

"This comprehensive, nationwide advertising campaign will help us reach those student Veterans, servicemembers and educational administrators who need help in understanding the GI Bill and their role in the benefits process," said Keith Wilson, director of VA's educational service.

Social media and online advertising will be extensively used to reach the

younger generation of student Veterans. VA will place banner ads on social media sites such as Facebook, Google, MySpace, Yahoo, and other outlets.

Text messaging ads will also link student Veterans to VA. By texting "GIBILL," Veterans will receive the basic message: "You Served. Get Benefits." Veterans will then be directed to follow three steps: "Review your benefit options online. Submit your application. And check with your school certifying official to confirm that your VA enrollment certification has been sent to VA."

VA also developed a hip pocket guide and checklist with helpful tips to assist Veterans and servicemembers in the application process.

Information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill, as well as VA's other educational benefit programs, is available at VA's Web site, <http://www.gibill.va.gov>, or by calling 1-888-GIBILL-1 (or 1-888-442-4551).

11TH BIENNIAL OCS ALUMNI REUNION PLANNED

Registration cut off date for the 11th Biennial OCS Alumni Association Reunion, April 22-25, 2010 is closing in on us. Please make a special effort to get your registration form and payment into our office as soon as you can. This is important so that your Association can start firming up the numbers to the caterers and your Board of Directors can finalize all the details.

1. Go to our website www.ocsalumni.org and download the reunion registration form located at the Reunion Tab.

2. Complete the registration information to include credit card information (if this is your payment method).

3. You may fax registration form to our office at 706-322-2409, or scan the form and email to Army@OCSAlumni.com; or if you choose mail to our office at 5636 Whitesville Rd, Suite E-1, Columbus, GA 31904 (make sure you include your check if that is your payment method). Call Kathy Malaney, the Executive Director, at 706-221-8720 if you have any questions.

HOMETOWNNEWS

BEADS FOR HAITI



SUBMITTED PHOTO

MMC Nursing Students Raise Money For Haiti

A group of Mount Marty College nursing students raised over \$630 for medical supplies to send to Haiti during their February Beads for Haiti fundraiser. Students, faculty, and staff on the Mount Marty campus offered a donation in exchange for red beads worn during the week as a show of concern and awareness for the Haiti earthquake victims.

Nursing student organizer Jodi Vellek, Verdigr, Neb. was joined by fellow nursing students Darlene Fickbohm, Vermillion, Kari Caruthers, Yankton, Meghan Nelson, Sioux Falls, Brittany Fischer, Sioux Falls, Elizabeth Hoffman, Yankton, Brandon Phizacklea, Colorado Springs, Colo., Jessica Christensen, Yankton, and Ashley Merkel, Yankton.

The Avera Health Foundation is assisting the group in directing the funds for medical supplies to go to the Haiti Health Foundation.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured are: Diane Kisch and Gena Brandt, leaders, with students Casey Johnson, Erika Trapp, and Tiffany Toussaint, presenting the check to Kelli Stange, Yankton's Food Pantry Director.

Souper Bowl: Giving To The Contact Center

A seminary intern named Brad Smith led a prayer back in South Carolina in 1990 something like this:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game - help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This simple prayer gave birth to this idea: Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good - helping to do our part to fight hunger and poverty in our own back yard. The first Souper Bowl of Caring in 1990 raised \$5,700.

But since then, communities across the country have generated millions for soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities. The total for 2010 collections reached \$8,453,522.

The senior high youth at First United Methodist Church collected \$368.53 and 69 food items in the church's annual Souper Bowl event. The youth offer a huge thank you to the congregation of their church, in support of this worthwhile effort. 100 percent of the money collected is given to a local organization to feed the hungry.

CLASSROOM GUESTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

HHS Visits First Grade At Sacred Heart Elem.

Tasha Anderson, Executive Director of the Heartland Humane Society and canine alum, Annie, recently spoke to Jane Goeden's First Grade class at Sacred Heart School in Yankton.

The class is learning about animals in their science studies, and the HHS program about the basic needs of animals was a great fit. Heartland Humane Society offers humane education services for classrooms, civic groups and professional groups that includes topics such as the function of the humane society in the community, proper animal care, choosing the right pet for your family's lifestyle, and the importance of spaying and neutering to prevent pet overpopulation. A program can be tailored to meet your specific needs as well.

Humane education is another way the shelter serves the community. "Children are always interested in animals and eager to learn," stated Tasha Anderson, Executive Director of Heartland Humane Society. "The first graders were an excellent audience and had a lot of personal experiences with animals to share."

If you would like a representative from Heartland Humane Society to speak to your classroom, civic group or other group, please contact Tasha Anderson at 605-664-4244 or email hhs@midconetwork.com.

BRRRRRR...



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Krista Jacobs, left, RN, LTC and Ann Bossman, RN, Director of Nursing, LTC, show some style plunging. They won runner-up trophy for raising the most money, and 1st place trophy for costume, jumping as "Dumb and Dumbrrrrr."

Pioneer Memorial Hospital Polar Plunge

Seventeen brave souls answered the challenge of Pioneer Memorial Hospital & Health Services Third Annual Polar Plunge. Close to 200 watched the event and those who plunged turned in nearly \$5,000 in pledges and donations. All proceeds from the event will be used for a special project in Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton Rotary President Pam Kettering, right, recently presented \$1,000 checks to Dr. Derek Wesley (left), vice president for Institution Advancement at Mount Marty College, and Josh Svatos, General Manager, RTEC, Inc. The checks were presented as part of the Rotary Scholarship program.

MEETING MINUTES

INTERCHANGE

Ann Clough, City of Yankton, announced that a Yankton city and school board election will take place on April 13.

Gert Thomas, Walnut Village, reminded Interchange members that scholarship applications are available to members.

Susan Schavee, Yankton Medical Clinic, shared information on South Dakota Small Business Workshops that will take place across the state.

Jan Garrity, Yankton College invited Interchange members to the program, Legacy of One Room Country Schools, on March 9.

Lisa Sheve, Yankton CVB, announced fundraising events for the River Walk project. Marcy Moser, First Dakota Bank, distributed a letter inviting businesses to purchase sponsor signs at the Ice Arena.

The hostess this week was Pam Frick whose program featured Peter Dretsch, the Acting Superintendent of the National Park Service.

The next Interchange meeting will be held Monday, March 8 at

noon at the Waterfront.

Ronda Barry will host guest speaker, Jim Reese, an Assistant Professor of English at Mount Marty College. Reese has been the National Endowment for the Arts Writer-in-Residence at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp since 2008. He will discuss his work at the Yankton Federal Prison and his visits to San Quentin and Arts in Corrections.

ASHH TOASTMASTERS

Taylor O'Bryan spoke at Club 6217 on February 28 at noon in the St. Benedictine Center. O'Bryan's speech was entitled "What Horse Shoeing Taught Me about Brain Surgery". O'Bryan humorously compared the right and left sides of the brain. He related these to his horse shoeing endeavors. His evaluator was Gale Vogt and Eileen O'Connor timed his speech. O'Bryan won the Best Speaker trophy.

Sheryl Schwartz was Toastmaster. She asked Fran Kocer for the invocation and Sherry Soukup for the word of the day. Kocer prayed for thankfulness and

Soukup's word was "impeccable".

Bruce Viau was General Evaluator. Viau named Fiebelkorn the Best Evaluator for his critique of Muriel Stach's speech, which was entitled "Welcome to Parliamentary Parlor Games". Viau's other team member was Connie Stetson, who counted the "ums".

Marie Steckelberg carried the Olympic "Table Topics" torch. She quizzed MJ Rogers (who has experience as an Olympic coach), Jen Hovland (who uses handshakes to show the Midwest's culture), and Tim Bohn (who prefers quality of figure skating jumps to quantity). Hovland received the Best Respondent award.

Bohn reviewed the schedule for the training program of March 4 and then adjourned the meeting

NARFE 1053

NARFE membership convened on Feb. 22 at The Center.

The South Dakota NARFE Federation convention that is to be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre, S.D. on May 17-19 was discussed. A letter from their chapter was read regarding the registration fee, cost

of lodging, and other pertinent information. There will be a silent auction again this year to benefit the Alzheimers research fund. A motion was made by Doris Peterson to spend at least \$25 on our chapter's contribution to the auction. All agreed. Raffle tickets for cash prizes to be awarded at the convention were offered for sale.

President Wilcox reminded the members of the National NARFE convention to be held in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The results of the dues referendum were read to the group and it was recommended that we read the article in the February issue of the NARFE magazine written by our National President for additional information and her comments on the results.

A suggestion was offered to have members donate \$1 to the chapter treasury on the month of their birthday/anniversary. They would be recognized and this would be one way to increase the treasury balance.

It was also suggested that each member talk about their federal service and the agency of employment.

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