Skating

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"We are beginning to see a greater demand for an adult figure skating class and plan to implement that option next season," she stated. "Adults can also opt for private lessons for a nominal fee and an ISI

membership."
The club's ice season runs from October through the second week in March. However, interested skaters can join the program through the beginning of January at a pro-rated fee.

"The costs of our figure skating programs are \$25 per session/\$50 per season for tots and those learning to skate," Hanson said. "Pre-Alpha and Alpha is \$120 for the season and Beta, Gamma, Delta and Freestyle levels are \$160 for the season. We also rent skates and safety equipment at a minimal fee.'

As the figure skating program and its skaters' skills grew, there was a need for more advanced coaches.

"We weren't sure where we'd find coaches we could afford with the skills we needed," Hanson said. "Fortunately, a few competing figure skaters with coaching experience moved from

Minnesota to our area to attend the University of South Dakota. Bri Erzar began coaching for us in 2008, and Katelyn Breen started in 2010. Since then, we've obtained help from USD's Josh Scherrer, Mount Marty's Kaylee Fly and a number of other assistant coaches. Their experience and guidance have made a tremendous difference to our program."

Last season, a team of 11 skaters competed at Spring Fling in Luverne, Minn., and were awarded a third place team trophy. Two skaters represented Yankton Figure Skating as individuals in world competition in Blaine, Minn., in August and received first- and second-place medals in each event.

"Our goal this season was to work on core training, attend at least one out-of-town competition as a team and have one inhouse competition," Hanson said.

The club held its first competition Dec. 9 and attended Frosty Blades in Blaine. They'll also attend Luverne's Spring Fling in March. While they're still learning as they go, the club plans to host their first invitational during the 2013-2014 season.

Aside from paid head figure skating coaches and judges, all others involved with the figure skating club are volunteers. Since the rink is one of only two privately owned rinks in South Dakota and is maintained primarily by private donations, registration fees, fundraising and volunteer staffing, the organization requires each skater to complete 15 hours of volunteer work and help with any extra fundraising.

'I don't know what I'd do without my co-coordinator, Sue Zavadil, support from the YAIA board, student helpers and countless parents that head up committees," Hanson said. "Without their dedication, encouragement and ambitions, our program wouldn't be what it is today.

"Our club has really spread its

wings, and our skaters have taken it upon themselves to become mentors for all new skaters, volunteering to teach skating levels below them," she added.

The public is invited to attend the club's "Skating Through The Decades" performance at 5:30 p.m. March 10.

For more information about the Yankton Figure Skating Club or other ice programs available through the Yankton Area Ice Association, contact Barb Hanson at (605) 661-2941, or visit www.YanktonIce.org.

www.yankton.net

YAPG

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We know other service companies have the same story. As a banker, I'm always a little skeptical and try to maintain that skepticism to be careful. (The direction of the economy) feels good, though.

Among the accomplishments YAPG lists for 2011 are:

- a \$10,000 grant to Bow Hunting Science, Inc., for engineering and prototype construction/testing. The local company has patented a radio frequency tracking device for wounded game and is working toward commercialization and production of the product;
- assisted with completion of a 42,000-square-foot, \$2.625 million expansion of the L&M Radiator building, which led to 130 new jobs;
- provided a \$180,000 real estate incentive that led to a ribbon cutting for the new Dakota Trailer Manufacturing, Inc., facility;
- saw the Yankton Data Center it helped build achieve positive cash flow with DataWare Green as a leasing tenant;
- approved a \$35,000 training grant for Baldwin Filters, Inc., to assist with its \$27 million, 70-job expansion currently under way;
- approved a \$96,000 forgivable loan for Shorma Commercial Properties for its SRS Rail project;
- awarded a \$20,000 grant to Mount Marty College for its IBM
- Leadership program;
 committed \$100,000 to Two
 Bridges Capital, LLC, which is creating a \$1 million "angel" investment fund for Yankton;
- continued giving \$57,800 to its partner, the Yankton Economic Development Council; and
- continued providing \$30,000 to the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC).

During the meeting, Josh Svatos of RTEC told the audience of the upward swing in activity at the facility during 2011 after the recession slowed things. In the last year, he said 57 welders were trained at RTEC and 32 of them are employed today.

In all. 2.284 students have received an education at RTEC since 2004, Svatos said.

Dan Specht spoke of the effort to establish an angel investment fund that can provide money to businesses with high-growth potential. Several such funds already exist in the state, but Two Bridges Capital will focus on the Yankton area first and foremost.

"We want to bring wealth to the

community," Specht said. Also, Paul Lowrie of Gurney Landing addressed the crowd about progress on the former Gurney Seed & Nursery site. Improvements to the main building such as a boardwalk have allowed more businesses to move into it. Also, additional exterior work is planned for the buildings on the site, and a restaurant expansion will get under way at The Landing this year. The Landing is owned by the Gurney Landing partners.

With the YES! campaign wrapping up at the end of the year, Brian Strahl, president of Dakota Trailer Manufacturing, Inc., encouraged YAPG to mount a similar economic development initiative

for the next five years. "(Dakota Trailer has) benefited greatly from that campaign and your efforts, but as a Yankton guy, there has been some pretty good success in the last five years even though there has been some economic downturn," he said. "I can't believe that you wouldn't want to keep that momentum going. There has been more stuff happening in Yankton in the past five years than in the previous 10 that I remember. You've got momentum. Keep it going."

Stephenson said those discussions are currently under way between YAPG members.

One of the things Dellinger said he would like to do in 2012 is build a new industrial spec building similar to the one that now houses

L&M Radiator. "We know that in our community, when YAPG builds a spec building, within three years it has 50-100 jobs in it," he stated. "If we can do that type of thing and try to continue to attract the type of job where we see an incremental growth in the value of the wage and benefit, that's good for the local workforce."







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