

Tutors

From Page 1

The adult students in his class come from a variety of nationalities — Mexico, Vietnam, El Salvador, Ethiopia and Guatemala. Their reasons for taking the class include wanting a better job, making it easier to do daily tasks in the community and intending to get a higher education.

“One of the biggest challenges is that I have people from different parts of the world,” Buitrago-Suarez said. “They have the basic English, but to explain some things, I have to use signals. It’s a challenge. I’ll write something on the board, and they’ll start asking questions about it. But these are the kinds of challenges I want in my life.”

Two native English speakers, Patricia Smith and Veronica Trezona, also attend the Sunday meetings to assist Buitrago-Suarez and help him fill in the

blanks where his knowledge of English falls short.

“They help me out when I can’t pronounce something right,” the professor said.

According to Bev Calvert, the coordinator for the Yankton Area Literary Council, the demand for English as a second language tutors has seen a dramatic increase during the last several years. Currently, the organization has 27 volunteer tutors, of which about a third are not currently available for different reasons, and approximately 26 students.

As a result of doubling its student load in the last couple years, the United Way-supported agency has seen a need for more tutors and funds to buy learning materials.

Tutoring opportunities vary from the group class on Sunday afternoon to one-on-one teaching interactions at other times.

“We do this for the community,” Calvert said. “That’s the big thing. These people live here, and they want to be a part of the community. You can see their dedication.”

She sees the improvement from week to week in the students’ speaking skills and hopes it helps them enjoy Yankton more and get better jobs and pay.

“The real reward of this work is what it does for your heart,” Calvert said. “It warms it to see this happen. When you meet students on the street, they will come up and hug you because they really appreciate your help.”

Jose Alonso, 43, has lived in Yankton for 15 years and works at the Cimpr Packing Company. With five children and a job, he hasn’t been able to improve his English skills as much as he would like, but for the past month he has been attending Buitrago-Suarez’s class.

“I know a lot of the words already, but it’s good practice,” Alonso said. “I’m learning spelling, too. In Mexico, I had no schooling. That’s why it’s hard for me to learn.”

While Alonso’s children are bilingual, he said they don’t always have the patience to help him with his English.



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

The students in the class have a wide variety of backgrounds, hailing from Mexico, Vietnam, El Salvador, Ethiopia and Guatemala. In attendance last weekend were (from left) students Jose Alonso, Rodrigo Trujillo, Ricardo Melgoza, Patricia Zamudio, tutor Veronica Trezona, tutor Patricia Smith, Buitrago-Suarez, and students My-phuong Nguyen, Zulma Argueta, Samra Abdi and Freddy Garcia.

He hopes that improving his speaking will assist him at work and other areas of life.

“I think I’m afraid to talk sometimes because people don’t always understand me,” Alonso said. “That’s why I’m taking classes — to learn a little bit more.”

On Sunday, Buitrago-Suarez focused on the concept of singular versus plural nouns and definite versus indefinite articles.

Each of the eight students was called upon to participate. When one had difficulty, other students would jump in to help them.

At one point, when Buitrago-Suarez said it was almost time to end the day’s lesson, the students asked him to continue. He takes pride in that.

“People have a good time, and that is what I want,” he stated. “I think that is a good way to teach and for people to learn.”

Knoff

From Page 1

bers are going to increase substantially which allows the city to offer far more to its residents and perpetuate even more growth. What is happening on the north retail development is only the beginning in my opinion and I’d like to be a part of that expansion.

2. The city has the opportunity to purchase 35 acres of Human Services Center ground from the state at a cost of approximately \$1.95 million. Do you think this is an option that should be pursued? Why?

Yes. Although it is a large sum of money, the opportunity for that location will make the purchase price seem small in comparison for what could develop. The city is being far more aggressive about retail growth and this fits in nicely. In the meantime, soccer will have the opportunity to continue where it is at while looking at their future plans.

3. The Meridian Bridge opened for pedestrian use in November and has become a popular recreation spot. Plans are to put in green space and some landscaping on the north side this spring. Do you think the city should do more to develop the bridge and surrounding area in the future? If so, what?

The city should and is pursuing development. For now we are cleaning up the foot of the bridge by putting in some green space. Plans will continue to develop that area. We recently had a planning session and there is some traction right now to improve the visual appearance of our city. This location is an obvious place to start.

4. When it comes to working on economic growth, do you believe there are opportunities that the City Commission and its economic development allies have not fully explored? Do you have ideas on how the city could improve its economic development approach?

A large amount of effort is put into trying to bring quality jobs to Yankton by both the city and our allies. In fact, there’s a current gap in the number of available jobs and lack of qualified workers. I’d like to see more effort, likely on the part of the city, to work at community development in conjunction with economic development. It’s one thing to have jobs available. It’s another to create a city atmosphere that people want to move to. Working to have a great educational system, recreation, events and retail will attract more people. It obviously works for the population centers across the country and you only have to look to rural South Dakota to see that a lack of vibrancy is a bad sign for a community.

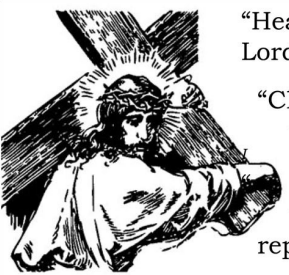
5. The Joint Vermillion/Yankton Solid Waste System is completing its long-term masterplan, and that includes consideration of the recycling program. Do you believe it is important to expand recycling services for this area, and if so, is it important enough to contemplate raising the cost of service?

This should generate a fair amount of discussion in the future. Recycling works when everyone participates. Personally, I’d like to see the city look closely at a recycling program where you put everything into one container and everyone participates (or pays even if they don’t). Remember that there is a cost either way. It is not free to put items that can be recycled into a landfill. I even reuse disposable silverware and cups until they break so that should give an indication of how I feel about “reduce, reuse and recycle.”

6. Any closing thoughts?

I feel positive about what is going on in Yankton right now. Our retail trade is picking up and our economy is going well. It is easy to forget the accomplishments we have made in the last 10 years but we have moved forward. The next 10 will bring a more vibrant feel to our community. I’d like the opportunity to continue to pursue those opportunities for Yankton.

God’s message of hope for us.



“Hear the word which the Lord speaks to you.”
Jeremiah 10:1

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”
Timothy 1:15

The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent and believe in the gospel.”
Mark 1:15

Steamway

CLEANING & RESTORATION



Bruce Tirrel
IICRC
Certified Master
Textile Cleaner
and Restorer

the clean trust

Satisfaction
Guaranteed

24hr
Emergency
Response
TEAM!

“THE AREA’S LARGEST CLEANING & RESTORATION COMPANY”

- Carpets
- Upholstery
- Duct Cleaning
- Water Restoration
- Fire Restoration
- Mold Testing & Remediation
- Tile & Grout Cleaning

WATER · SMOKE · FIRE

FREE ESTIMATES (ask for details)

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Yankton 665-5700 | Mitchell 996-6921 | Chamberlain 734-0733 |
| Vermillion 624-4666 | Huron 352-5252 | Sioux Falls 334-1991 |

Toll Free 1-800-529-2450
www.steamwaycleaning.com

MasterCard
VISA

BIG SAVINGS!



PLUS
DELIVERY & SET-UP AVAILABLE

SPECIAL BUY!
RESTONIC MODEL Comfort
\$299
Queen Set

| Belmonte | Cancun | Donovan ET |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Plush or Firm | Plush or Firm | Plush Euro Top |
| \$599 | \$799 | \$999 |
| Twin \$499/Set | Twin \$599/Set | Twin \$799/Set |
| Full \$579/Set | Full \$779/Set | Full \$979/Set |
| Queen \$599/Set | Queen \$799/Set | Queen \$999/Set |
| King \$899/Set | King \$1099/Set | King \$1399/Set |

HUGE SAVINGS!

HUGE SELECTION!

restonic
SUPPORTING DREAMS™

Our LARGEST MATTRESS SALE EVER!

Brunick FURNITURE & FLOORING

VERMILLION
1100 W. Cherry • 605-624-8688

YANKTON
207 W. 3rd St. • 605-665-5625

Celebrate Women 2012



NOW is Your Time

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Riverfront Event Center, Historic Downtown Yankton
Doors Open 4:30pm
Dinner Served 5:00-7:00pm
Booths Open 4:30-7:00pm
Speaker 7:30pm at Dakota Theatre

**Advance Tickets:
Only \$20**

Available at Hy-Vee and the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan until April 20

Contact the Press & Dakotan Advertising Department by April 16 to showcase your business at Celebrate Women, 605-665-7811



Come Enjoy This Year’s Speaker...

Elizabeth Hagen

presented by...

her·voice **YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C.** **FIRST DAKOTA NATIONAL BANK** **HyVee**