

Renner Claims Top Prize At Giant Vision Awards

VERMILLION — Thomas M. Renner, a University of South Dakota student, was the recipient of the first place prize of \$5,000 for his invention at the 2012 Governor's Giant Vision Business and Student Competition.

Renner of Hibbing, Minn., received top honors for "Remote Grain Moisture Sensor," a remote sensor device that can read moisture levels and the temperature of stored grain. According to Renner's product description, sensors, placed in an empty grain bin prior to filling, would measure moisture levels and grain temperatures. Farmers would be able to access this information using wireless technology. USD student Joel DeJongh from Rock Rapids, Iowa was the recipient of the third place in the student division garnering a prize of \$2,500 for DeJongh Manufacturing.

The Small Business Development Center, managed by USD's Beacom School of Business, assisted six of the top seven contestants in the 2012 business contest (non-student division). Both the student and non-student divisions were sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce and the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED).

"Our record of assisting entrepreneurs to success in the Giant Vision contest is a great testimonial to the quality of work done by Small Business Development Center counselors across the state and our entrepreneur program on campus," noted Michael J. Keller, dean of the Beacom School of Business. "The SBDC has been managed by the Beacom School of Business for 25 years and is an outstanding aid to South Dakota businesses. Not only did USD deliver multiple winners in the student division we helped, through the SBDC offices, most of the winning competitors in the non-student division."

Hosted by the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry, winners of the 2012 business competition and student business competition were announced during the GOED Conference banquet in Sioux Falls on April 10. Gov. Dennis Daugaard presented the top prizes in both competitions. The Governor's Giant Vision Business Awards and Governor's Giant Vision Student Awards, held annually in April, were established to help citizens realize that South Dakota is a great place to start a successful business. The program was designed as an opportunity for entrepreneurs to compete for seed money and a chance to achieve their dream.

Parks Advisory Board To Meet Monday

The City of Yankton Parks Advisory Board meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 7, at the Technical Education Center, 1200 West 21st St. This meeting is open to the public.

RSVP Celebrate Volunteers Fair Set For May 8

The RSVP Celebrate Volunteers Fair will be held Tuesday, May 8, at The Center, 900 Whiting Drive, Yankton. The fair will be held at 3:30-5:30 p.m.

This event will spotlight volunteer opportunities with local non-profit entities.

For more information, contact Deb at 605-260-3100 or doverseth@iw.net; or Tammy Matuska at 605-665-4685 or director@thecenteryankton.org.

Free Night Of Camping To Be Offered May 12

The Yankton/Missouri River KOA Campground, located at 807 Bill Baggs Rd in Yankton, is offering a free night of camping on Saturday, May 12, to all campers who stay at the campground as paying guests on Friday, May 11, as part of KOA's ninth annual Come Kamp & Care With Us Weekend.

Thousands of North American camping families will be headed to their favorite Kampgrounds of America locations for this very special weekend, the official start of the 2012 summer camping season.

Last year, more than 25,000 camping families stayed at nearly 400 participating KOA campgrounds in the U.S. and Canada. The event, created in 2004, provides a free night of camping on Saturday, May 12, to all campers staying as paying guests on Friday, May 11.

KOA campgrounds have several fun events planned that are designed to both entertain campers, and help raise funds to support KOA Care Camps, a system of 44 specialized summer camps around North America that provide a true summer camp experience for children with cancer and their siblings. Last year, more than \$370,000 was raised during the Come Kamp & Care With Us event to benefit KOA Care Camps.

"This event has become the official start to the summer camping season for thousands of camping families in North America," said KOA CEO Jim Rogers. "It is a wonderful way to reconnect with friends and family, give camping a try, or just pull your RV out to your local KOA and get it ready for a fun summer camping season. At the same time, you get to help raise funds to send some very deserving children to a much needed summer camp."

Campers can go to www.KOA.com to see a list of participating campgrounds and make their reservations. Some campgrounds will be offering their KOA Cabins and Deluxe Cabins for the event, so campers are encouraged not to wait to make their reservations.

YMS Competes In Knowledge Master Open

The Yankton Middle School Knowledge Master team and other middle school teams from South Dakota and the United States participated in the Knowledge Master Open on April 25. This is a nationwide contest designed to measure the students' academic knowledge.

The Yankton Middle School team finished 245th out of the 565 middle schools in the United States and sixth out of South Dakota schools that chose to enter the contest.

The firm Academic Hallmarks provides the questions used in the contest. The questions are selected from all middle school academic areas and are designed to stimulate enthusiasm for learning and recognition for academic accomplishment. The contest runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. An emphasis is placed on speed as well as accuracy in answering the 200 test questions. The coded test results are phoned into Academic Hallmarks and the company tabulates the results to determine the state and national winners.

The Yankton Middle School team is coached by Cathy Kuhl and JoAnn Moses and is comprised of the following eighth grade



COURTESY PHOTO

These Yankton Middle School students took part in the Knowledge Master Open last month. The team finished 245th out of 565 middle schools that participated.

students: Ted Anders, Skylar Elle, Natalie Ferris, Danielle Gillis, Sam Gusso, Olivia Jeffcoat, Erin Luken, Ben Mooney, Brett Pardy, Alexis

Sejnoha, Key Schaffer, Ethan Schantz, Mikayla Trenhaile and Alex Withrow.

Lesson

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sentence of up to one year in jail and a suspended license for 30 days.)

He chose to have a jury trial, where he was found not guilty of manslaughter but was convicted of reckless driving. At sentencing, the judge gave him the maximum sentence, but offered him a choice: Iburg could serve the one year in jail or he could choose to give up his license for five years, serve 100 days in jail, be on probation for two years and give 25 presentations to groups telling his story.

In sharing his message, he said he hopes people learn from his mistake. "Is one life worth that one text message?" he asked the audience.

Iburg explained that while traveling at 40 miles per hour, you travel 58 feet in one second. Traveling at 60 miles per hour, in the time it takes you to read a text message you will cover more than the length of a football field.

"You are 23 times more likely to get in a crash while texting and driving," he said. "Distracted driving, anything that takes your attention off the road, has an effect similar to drinking and driving, except it is worse because you have taken your eyes off the road."

Following his presentation, he said texting and driving was something he had always done without thinking about the consequences. He said that, even after the crash and before the trial, if his phone vibrated, his first response was still to grab for it — a heartbeat later, he would realize

what he was doing.

"I am an average American kid," Iburg said. "I am no different than anyone else. But the decision I made that day changed everything."

Iburg, who works as a mechanic in Mitchell, said one thing most kids are curious about is what was it like while in jail.

"There is no privacy, you have no windows, no interaction with the outside world except from visits from family and friends and the television," he said. "You are around criminals. You have no freedom. ... It is not something you want to experience."

Iburg was not asking for sympathy, he just hoped that the people in the audience could learn from his mistake.

He explained that a few days before the accident, he had been praying for two things, the financing to get a new truck and to grow in his relationship with God.

"Be careful what you ask for," he said. "My faith has grown tremendously, but this is not how I would have asked for it."

When asked if he has spoken with Christensen's family, he said while he has written an apology to them, he has not been able to apologize in person.

"It is not something they are ready for," he said. "I hope some day to be able to do it, though."

Iburg has given his presentation 18 times now. While he's required to do 25, he has already scheduled 27 and says he will talk to any group that wants to hear his story.

In a hope of spreading the message beyond the groups he speaks to, he has set up a Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/lburg> with videos of his story.

Economy

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— HOUSING

The housing market has been a dead weight on the economy. The single-family home market, in particular, is still struggling. House prices dropped for six straight months through February, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home-price index. And Americans bought fewer previously owned homes in March.

The economists polled by the AP worry that the lingering effects of the housing bust are slowing the economy's expansion. They say growth can't accelerate until national home prices finally hit bottom.

Still, spending on home construction and renovations rose from January through March by the most in nearly two years. And housing investment, led by apartment construction, is expected to contribute to economic growth this year for the first time since 2005.

The warm winter may also have led more people to buy earlier in the year, essentially stealing sales from March. Reduced prices, record-low mortgage rates, higher rents and the improving job market appear to be emboldening would-be buyers. Many seem to have concluded that prices won't drop much further, if at all.

And builders are laying plans to construct more homes in 2012 than at any other point in the past 3 1/2 years.

— CONSUMERS

Americans have proved surprisingly willing to spend in the face of a wobbly economy. In the first three months of the year, consumer spending grew at an annual pace of 2.9 percent, the fastest in more than a year.

Some economists doubt that consumers can keep it up. They probably can't afford to. Americans' after-tax income in the first three months rose just 0.6 percent from a year earlier. That was the skimpiest pay increase in two years. People spent more, in part, because they saved less. Economists worry that people won't keep spending more unless their income grows.

On Thursday, big retailers including Costco, Macy's and Target, reported that sales last month came in below expectations.

— CORPORATE PROFITS

U.S. companies earned more money than analysts expected from January through March. They're beating Wall Street estimates at the best rate in more than a decade. Improved earnings have propelled the Dow Jones industrial average up nearly 4 percent since April 10.

U.S. corporations excluding banks and other financial firms are sitting on more than \$2.2 trillion in cash, up from \$1.7 trillion in 2009. That surplus means they can afford to expand and hire whenever they're confident enough.

— MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing has provided much of the fuel for the U.S. recovery since the recession ended roughly three years ago. American manufacturing expanded last month at the fastest pace in 10 months. New orders rose to the highest level in a year, a signal of more production in coming months. Export orders also rose, despite worries that weaker economies in Europe and China could hold back U.S. exports.

And the busier factories are hiring. Manufacturers added 120,000 jobs a month through March this year, their fastest three-month pace since 1997.

But the economists surveyed by the AP think manufacturers will fill jobs more slowly the rest of the year. If so, that could weaken overall job growth.

OBITUARIES

Joy Lien

Joy Anita Lien, age 101, of Yankton, South Dakota, died Saturday, April 28, 2012 at Avera Yankton Care Center.

Graveside services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at Trondhjem Lutheran Cemetery in rural Volin, South Dakota with Reverend David Wildermuth officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Joy was born April 14, 1911 in Viborg, South Dakota to Charlie and Matilda (Madsen) Wood. She married Elmer Alvin Lien on September 17, 1932 in Yankton, South Dakota. After their marriage, they resided in Yankton and had three children: Daryl, Eudell and Donna Rae. Joy loved living in Yankton. She was a stay at home wife and mother until the children were grown. Then she went to work at Fintles in the cafeteria until the fire destroyed the store. Joy always loved spending time in her garden.

Joy is survived by her



Lien

daughter and son-in-law, Donna Rae and Jack Hansel of San Diego, CA; 10 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; 25 great-great grandchildren; and many nieces

and nephews.

Joy was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Elmer on July 27, 1980; two sons, Daryl and Eudell; grandson, Jack II; and a sister, Maxine Collins.

She will be greatly missed and loved by all.

To send an online sympathy message, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
May 4, 2012

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.

Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Marilyn Homan

MITCHELL — Marilyn Homan, 78, Mitchell, died Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Funeral services will be Saturday, May 5, 2012, 2:00 p.m., at the Bittner Funeral Chapel in Mitchell. Burial will be in the Mount Vernon Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday evening at the Bittner Funeral Chapel.

A Memorial Fund has been established.

Marilyn Yvonne Christensen was born to Edward and Tillie (Larsen) Christensen on July 2,



Homan

1933, on the family farm near Freeman. She grew up in Turner County, and graduated from Freeman High School in 1951. On January 9, 1952, she married Ralph Homan in Parker. They raised their family and lived on their family farm near Mt. Vernon until 1996. She was a member of the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, the Mt. Vernon American Legion Auxiliary and Mt. Vernon Order of the Eastern Star where she was Worthy Matron in 1972.

Marilyn was employed at Nelson Real Estate from 1982 until 1988, and then worked with her husband at the family-owned business, Mid Dakota Land and Auction in Mitchell for 20 years.

She is survived by her husband Ralph, one son, Bruce Homan and wife Judy, of Gillette, WY; one daughter, Barbara Collins and husband Joe of Pebble Beach, CA; one sister, Virginia Pederson of Yankton, SD, three grandchildren, Michael Boisen of

Pittsburgh, PA, Patrick Homan of Gillette, WY, and Stephanie Homan of New River, AZ, and three great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Genevieve McGinnis and one brother, Edward Christensen.

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May 4, 2012

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IN REMEMBRANCE

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Bob Beig
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Hartington

Joy Lien
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Trondhjem Lutheran Cemetery
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