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Veterans

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Hosmer, who hope to eventually produce a full-length documentary. They recently began meeting with area World War II veterans to record interviews and compile documents about their wartime experiences.

"This was an extraordinarily fast-paced ordeal," Hosmer said. "I think we interviewed 41 people in 30

With help from YHS students, Hosmer and Haar produced the short films for Monday's event.

However, more interviews will take place in the near future and the editing process

will begin again, Hosmer said. Any area World War II veteran interested in participating who has not done so can contact Haar at 605-660-306 or Hosmer 605-661-2947.

Once the documentary is completed, the goal is to hold a public screening with proceeds benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project, Haar said. The final project also will be registered with the Library of Congress, he



Yankton High School students speak with area World War II veterans during a program Monday. The event was held to introduce students to the veterans so they could learn from their first-hand expe-

"All the resources and information we gather will be saved and stored here in Yankton so future generations can have access to those memories," he said.

In addition to the films, Monday's program featured readings of letters from U.S. Sens. Tim Johnson and John Thune and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem. The YHS choir also performed for the veterans.

Following the assembly, those in attendance moved to the YHS commons and were divided into small groups. Students were given the opportunity to visit with the veterans within their groups and learn more about their experi-

"It was good to get to know all of them and hear their life stories," said YHS junior Broc Mauch. "One gentlemen I interviewed had some artifacts he brought from Japan. It was really cool to get to see all of those and listen to their stories and how they grew up." Mauch added the experience was eye-opening, and he was pleased to see so many veterans participate.

"I can't believe what some of them have gone through," he said. "I thank all of them for their service.'

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss www.yankton.net/.

Wermers

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stated at the time. "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.'

The annual community volunteer celebration is about praising the spirit and practice of volunteerism, as well as honoring the accomplishments of those who give their time and talents to make the community the best it can be, according to United Way executive director Lauren Hanson.

"Jill Wermers is an inspirational example of a passionate volunteer playing a key role in a nonprofit's success," she said. "Every year, hundreds of volunteers like Jill donate their time and energy to improving the lives of local individuals and families who are in need. United Way is extremely proud of our community's volunteers, and our well-deserving volunteer of the year, Jill Wermers."

Wermers has served on the board of the Sack Pack Program since its inception in 2009. She has been board president for three years.

She also volunteers for Relay for Life, the Yankton Youth Wresting Club and her church.

Volunteering as much time as she does would not be possible without the approval of her employer, Ability Building Services (ABS), Wermers stated. She supervises the supported employment and community inclusions department for the non-profit organization.

"When they got the Sack

Pack Program started, I talked with my director and supervisor to ask them if it would be possible for me to get involved," Wermers recalled. "It does require me to be away from my full-time job at times. I'm thankful to Ability Building Services for allowing me be able to come and go when I need to for the program. I could not fulfill my duties with Sack Pack if not for their un-

derstanding." The Sack Pack Program and the Yankton School District have a partnership to provide weekend meals to elementary school students who need assistance.

"We are adding Head Start and the public school pre-school program next year," Wermers said.

That will result in an estimated 60 more meals per week — bringing the total to just more than 400.

"I think it's hard for some people in the community to realize there is that need in Yankton, but there truly is," Wermers said. "There are a lot of parents working two jobs to make ends meet. Our program helps to shore things up a bit in the home.

"The kids keep me volunteering," she added. "But it's also about the many wonderful people I've met through volunteering. These are people I never would have met would it not have been for the organization I'm involved

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.



Mitchell Marks Decade Since Fire

MITCHELL (AP) — Residents of Mitchell are remembering a fire a decade ago that destroyed three Main Street businesses and damaged two

The blaze on May 1, 2004, destroyed The Scoreboard sports bar, The Little Red Hen store and the recently reno-

vated Mitchell Area Community Theatre. The building the businesses were in had stood for nearly a century. Firefighters narrowed the start of the blaze to upstairs apartments but no official cause was ever determined

The fire devastated Main Street but didn't put an end to any of the affected businesses. All five are still in operation, in different locations. Community theater group board member Al Jacklin and The Little Red Hen owner Cathy Weber tell The Daily Republic newspaper that people were determined not to give up.



"Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord"

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May 11, 4:00 p.m. United Church of Christ (Congregational) 5th & Walnut, Yankton

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- Accompanied by extraordinary group of instrumentalists & Ted Powell, organist

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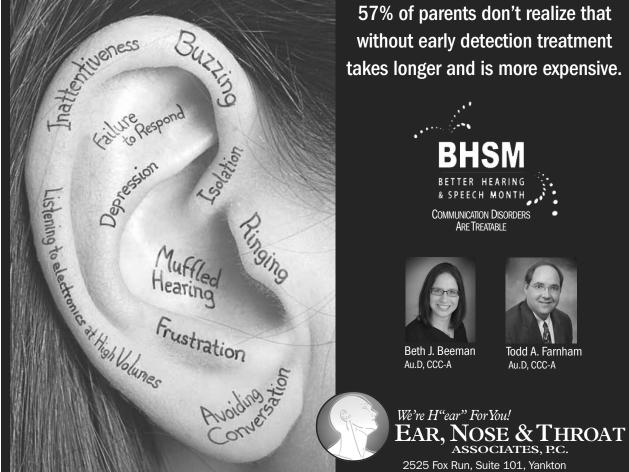


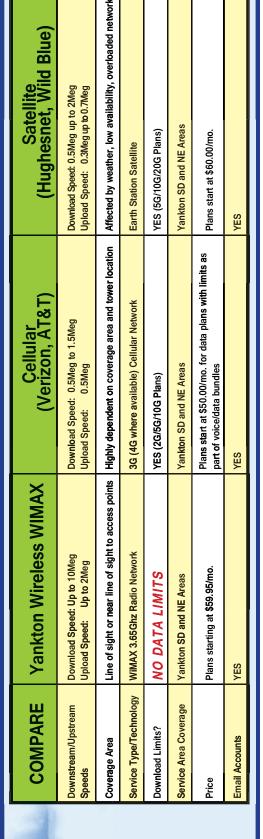
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