

Babysitting Class Offered At YCL

A babysitting class for 12-18 year-olds will be held at the Yankton Community Library on June 11-12, running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

The class, a partnership between the YCL and 4-H, will be taught by Yankton County 4-H Youth Development Program Assistant Stephanie Smolek.

There is a fee to attend both days. The class is limited to 15 participants. Teens will need to bring a sack lunch each day.

Attendees will be given a training guide and fill a "goodie bag" that will be put together throughout the course for the babysitters to take on the job with them. Topics to be discussed include child development, entertaining children, first aid and safety, nutrition and the business of babysitting. Note that this is not a Red Cross CPR certified babysitting program.

Interested teens can register for the class at the Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut Street by June 6. Payment must accompany registration.

For additional information, call 668-5275.

Kocer Recognized By Am. Family Ins.

MADISON, Wis. — Eugene Kocer, an American Family Insurance agent in Yankton has been recognized for providing outstanding customer experience under the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification. Kocer joins other American Family agents who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to outstanding customer service.

Kocer has been an agent for American Family since February 1989. His offices are located at 413 W. 15th Street, Yankton and 300 W. Main St., Irene.

"There are many choices out there in the insurance marketplace," said Dan Schultz, American Family Insurance's president and chief operating officer. "The American Star Excellence in Customer Experience Certification lets consumers know these are agents with an established track record of excellent customer service."

The service excellence distinction was determined through an evaluation process conducted under guidelines established through the American Star Excellence in Customer Experience certification. The process consists of a customer satisfaction survey which measures customers' overall experience with their current American Family agent. Only agencies that perform in the top 20 percent of all insurance agencies nationwide, based on customer satisfaction surveys, are eligible to become American Star Excellence in Customer Experience certified.

Based in Madison, Wisconsin, American Family Insurance offers auto, homeowners, life, health, commercial and farm/ranch insurance in 19 states. American Family is the nation's third-largest mutual property/casualty insurance company and 14th-largest property/casualty insurance group.

A Note To The Class Of 2004

BY ALISON (EGGE) GERKEN, PH.D.

Dear Class of 2004,

As I sit here during my last days in Manhattan, Kansas, sorting through lists of genetic markers for cold tolerance, I am reminded of how I got here. Not to remind you of your age, but we have hit our 10-year high school graduation anniversary. Our class has become lawyers, moms, dads, factory workers, farmers, pharmacists, salesmen, doctors, politicians, and so much more. We have become the leaders and role models for the next generation. It's humbling to look back and say that I came from a town of 13,000 hard-working people. The work ethic and determination I learned from the town of Yankton allows me to compete with some of the best scientists in the world.

After 10 years of college and post-graduate education, I can certainly tell everyone one thing: Yankton schools did a lot for my creativity, education, and success than I ever realized in all my years there. I was not only taught the curriculum but I was taught to ask questions, to seek answers, to grow from my experiences, and to work hard for whatever it is that I want. I know everyone has their own set of teachers that changed their lives, but I have a set that made my life what it is today. So here's my salute to some of Yankton's finest teachers, who never get all the credit they deserve.

To my third grade teacher, who let me write cheesy plays and practice and perform them during recess. To my fourth grade teacher, who gave me a bad grade in math which taught me that bad grades are not the end of the world. To the Science Olympiad coaches, who tried to teach me how to think and not just regurgitate facts. To the theater directors, who taught me to be creative and express myself in non-academic ways. To the English teachers, who made us read the classics and taught me objective writing and journalism. To the band directors, who gave me the opportunity to lead and appreciate music. To my AP math and science teachers, who gave me a huge leg-up in math and science before I even entered college. To the athletic coaches, who taught me to work hard even if I wasn't the star of the team.

I realize I haven't even touched on the surface of those who have impacted my education. Thank you also to my parents who made me do my homework, practice the piano and flute (even though I put up a heck of a fight), and who made me play outside and enjoy my imagination in the South Dakota country-side. So I guess what I'm trying to say, to be cliché, is it really takes a village to raise a child. I bet if I dug out my old school photos I could think of a million memories for each teacher. Of course, I had my differences with a few of them, but that teaches everyone to persevere and may even give a person a little chip on their shoulder to push themselves even harder. So I encourage you, class of 2004, to think of your teachers and maybe give them a shout-out. Thank you, Yankton, for giving me a strong backbone to achieve whatever it was I wanted. Thank you for teaching me to seek answers and learn. Thanks for being patient with all of our childish behaviors and growing us into great adults.

So as we pass into 10 years since graduation, let's remember each other, those we see often and those we don't see often enough. Those we have lost and who'll never be forgotten. Let's remember our friendships, our successes, and let's celebrate our futures. And most of all, be good to each other. Show each other the kindness that Yankton taught us and be a positive light for those around you.

United Way

Yankton 211 Calls On The Rise

BY SUSAN KROGER
211 Helpline Center

In just a few short months, the 211 Helpline has proven to be a valuable asset to the Yankton community. 211 has been available to Yankton and Bon Homme County residents since February 2014, and calls are on the rise.

Residents can call 211 from any landline or cell phone and be connected with the Helpline Center, whose trained call specialists can provide information on everything from emergency food supplies to local library hours to addiction treatment programs - basically, any service provided by a non-profit organization, social service or government agency.

211 is serving residents in need, like Amanda. "I needed a sounding board, I got my feelings out and I was able to rest better that night. I've used the line a few times and it helped me so I didn't



react so [strongly] to situations." Call Specialists offer listening and support, and they're trained in suicide and crisis intervention. In fact, Helpline Center is the only certified suicide crisis center in South Dakota.

For Amanda, it was not the first time she had called the Helpline Center. "I felt like the person listened really well and asked questions that helped me work through my struggles so I was able to work things out." Many callers in crisis find it comforting to know that

someone is there for them simply by dialing 211.

Anyone can use 211 to find quality information in a confidential and convenient way. Residents no longer need to spend time looking for resources or making multiple calls to find appropriate support. Callers can call for information on where to find food, how to get to doctor's appointments, and where to get help for a loved one's addiction among many others.

"We are encouraged that callers are reaching out to us in higher numbers," said Janet Kittams-Lalley, Executive Director of the Helpline Center. "We hope that Yankton residents continue to dial 211 and encourage their neighbors to do the same."

Calls are free, confidential, and the service is available 24/7. Residents can also search for community resources via the online resource database at helplinecenter.org.

Four Generations



RECENTLY, four generations of a family gathered for one picture. Pictured are, in front from left: Amelia Hahn, 3; Gwendolyn Hahn, 5; and Marie Weinandt; back row: Tricia Berrigan and Jane Berrigan.

Honorable Service



ARMY LT. COL. RANDELL R. TORNO has retired from the U.S. Army after serving honorably for 31 years. Torno was last serving as Training Officer with 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), McGarity US Army Reserve Center, Pa. Torno is the husband of Rahel Deleso of Dallas, Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree in 2014 from University of South Dakota, Vermillion. Lt. Col. Randell Torno, retiring after 31 years of service, receives a Legion of Merit in a celebration of service ceremony held at the McGarity US Army Reserve Center, in Coraopolis Pa. May 18. Torno and his wife reside in Dallas.

USD

Cutler Awards Honor Three Faculty Members

VERMILLION — Three distinguished members of the University of South Dakota faculty are recipients of the 2014 Richard and Sharon Cutler Faculty Awards in Liberal Arts.

Shane Semmler, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication studies, Paula Mabee, Ph.D., professor of biology, and Chad Newswander, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, will be honored at the 127th Spring Commencement and receive a \$4,000 cash prize payable through the University of South Dakota Foundation. The Cutler Awards are presented annually to faculty who advance liberal arts education through teaching and research over a three-year span.

Semmler, the recipient in the Humanities Division of the College of Arts and Sciences, is an assistant professor with the department of communication studies. He has taught at USD since 2011 in addition to teaching courses on communications, public speaking, persuasion, and political communication, he has authored several articles on everything from presidential election campaigns to the art of making conversation. Semmler received his Ph.D. in communication from the University of Oklahoma, his M.A. in communication studies from USD and a B.A. in government from Augustana.

Mabee, who has taught at USD since 1998, received the award for the Mathematics/Natural Sciences Division. She has been honored several times for her outstanding research, including in 2009 at USD as a recipient of the President's Award for Research Excellence; the President's Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at USD



Newswander



Mabee



Semmler

(2003); and as a AAAS Fellow for "Fundamental studies on the development and evolution of fishes." Her articles have been published in the Journal of Biomedical Semantics, the Journal of Fish Biology, Standards in Genomic Sciences, and Journal of Morphology. Mabee received her Ph.D. in zoology from Duke University; and a B.A. in biology and religion from St. Olaf College.

Newswander was recognized in the Social Sciences Division and his research focuses on public administration, power and politics, domestic security, administrative statesmanship, and constitutional governance. He has been published in Public Administration Review, Administration & Society, American Review of Public Administration, and Administrative Theory & Praxis. A member of the

Hunhoff Award



REGAN MANNING, principal at Sacred Heart School, was recently named as the recipient of the Jean Hunhoff Courage, Faith, and Love Award. This award is given each year to a person who continually inspires others to live with courage, have faith in God, and love one another. Pictured above are Dick Hunhoff, Regan, Maddie, Julie and Ava Manning.

Olympics Donation



THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO ERNEST BOWYER V.F.W. POST 791 was glad once again to donate to the Yankton Special Olympics at the May 2014 meeting. With the help of the Leprechauns, Ladies Auxiliary and the support of the Community, President Joyce Stahlecker presented Barb Clayton, the Special Olympics Organization, with a check for \$2000.00. Ms. Clayton advisor to the Special Olympics from Yankton, will be going out of town to compete and this donation will help with expenses.

MEETINGS

V.F.W. POST 791 LADIES AUXILIARY

The Meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary to Ernest Bowyer V.F.W. Post 791 opened by President Joyce Stahlecker. Roll call was made, followed with opening prayer by Slowey, Patriotic Instructions by Stoddard, the Pledge to the Flag and sang the Star Spangled Banner. Reading of the minutes by Schramm and the Treasurer's Report by Stoddard. Report by Committees: Church by Christensen, Cancelled Stamps given to Sons of Norway. Cancer Aid and Research, Ways and Means, Member-

ship by Stoddard. There are 16-Life, 12-new, 7-Reinstates, 226-Continuous, 412-total, previous there are 432 Members. Yankton Care Center by Gwinn, January thru May report: 15 Volunteers with 169 Benefiting. EARTH by Gwinn Feb through April: 9 Volunteers and 125 Benefited. Poppies by Blaha, there will be a center piece going to State Convention. National Homes: a letter from National Home was read with a Thank you for the Campbell Soup Labels and reminding to continue to save Soup Labels. Hospital by Slowey, HSC-26 Projects with 992 Benefiting and cards to Members 18-projects with 20 Benefiting.

New Business: President Stahlecker mentioned the cemetery flags will be placed Saturday morning at 9 a.m. for Memorial Day. On Memorial Day, Monday May 26, all should meet at the Veteran's Plot at 9 a.m., then on to G.A.R Plot, Sacred Heart Cemetery, Human Service Center, Garden of Memories and then to the Memorial Park for the 11 a.m. Program. Mike Bjerkaas sends his thanks and appreciation for the birthday gift. Installation of new officers with Dorothy Stange as Installation Officer. Installation warrant was read by Schramm. Officers installed were as follows: President:

Joyce Stahlecker, Sr. Vice: Holli Novak, Jr. Vice: Carli Mangold, Treasurer: Shelly Stoddard, Secretary: Jackie Simonsen, Chaplain: Jane Slowey, Guard: Iona Fisher, Conductress: Marlene Schramm, Trustees: 3 yr. — Dorothy Stange, 2 yr. — Shirley Christensen, 1 yr. — Judy Potts.

Stoddard made a suggestion to purchase a computer, in order to put the Auxiliary information on, to simplify the Treasurer's report, motion by Olson and Seconded by Simonsen.

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary will be attending the State Convention in Custer, in June.

Next month lunch Volunteers are: Zimmerman, Potts and Stahlecker. Meeting was adjourned after a gift Certificate was presented to President Stahlecker for the past

year services and a lovely angel wind chime was presented to installation office, Dorothy Stange.

Next meeting will be June 10, at 7:30 p.m.

COUPON

YANKTON MALL
DC Lynch Shows
Spring Carnival
May 29th - June 4th

8 Rides
Additional coupons available from mall merchants
for \$10

1 Ticket Per Ride - except Zipper (2)