

United Way

‘A Foundation Of Love’: RC Family Connections

BY KAYLA HEBER

River City Family Connections Coordinator

River City Family Connections is a special place with a mission that's built on a strong foundation of love and respect for the most vulnerable part of the community, children.

Family Connections serves children in the Yankton community who have been subjected to, or have witnessed, violence in the form of child abuse and domestic violence. Our agency offers preventative services that provide safety, advocacy, and care to children in high-risk situations in their homes.

The two services that Family Connections provides clients are supervised visitation and safe exchanges. Supervised visitation provides noncustodial parents access to their children in a safe and supervised environment where there's been documented or suspected instances of domes-

tic abuse, child abuse, or conflict involving visitation. Supervised visitation helps protect children from potentially dangerous circumstances and provides the noncustodial parent and child a safe place to nurture and repair the parent-child relationship.

The safe exchange service provides high-conflict parents a neutral place for the safe exchange of a child in order to have no contact between one another. To ensure the child is not put in a dangerous situation or put in the middle of parental disagreements, a Family Connections employee will walk the child from the custodial to noncustodial parent, and vice versa, to ensure the child is safely transferred from one parent to the other. Safe exchanges help to protect children from potentially dangerous circumstances when there's a history of domestic abuse or conflict involving visitation.

River City Family Connections



SUBMITTED PHOTO

continues to grow in the number of parents and children served each year. In 2014 RCFC provided 936 hours of supervised visitations

and 1068 safe exchanges to 106 children and 147 parents. Through its partnership with United Way of Greater Yankton, Family Connec-

tions is able to provide scholarships to low income families to help pay for the costs of supervised visits and safe exchanges. Thanks to support from United Way and the Yankton community, 63 local children no longer face the fear of violence in the home.

The rise of child abuse and domestic violence in the Yankton area, and the traumatic effect it has on children and families, is not just a problem our agency faces; it is a community problem that requires a community solution. In partnership with United Way and our community, Family Connections staff members work to provide safety to children who need it the most, and to spread awareness of the negative and lasting impact that violence has on children.

We hope that you'll join us in taking a stand to end child abuse in our community. For more information on River City Family Connections, call us at 605-665-1204.

Area Students, Teachers Honored By VFW



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VFW Post #791 Commander Cody Mangold presented the Patriot Pen Essay Winners at the local level with their certificates and checks at the Middle School Awards Ceremony. These were the top five winners from 365 essays that were written between Yankton Middle School and Sacred Heart Middle School. ABOVE: 8th grade class: Commander Mangold, Madison Eggen-Fourth Place, Tiffany Nelson-Third Place, Miles Carda-Second Place and Teacher Amy Long. BELOW: 7th grade class: Commander Mangold, Hailey Reisner-Fifth Place and Principal Todd Dvoracek. Not pictured was Kylynn Briest-First Place.



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Middle School Teacher of the Year Certificate was presented to Brooks Schild by VFW Post #791 Post Commander Cody Mangold with a check as the local Middle School Teacher winner by the local VFW judging. Brooks Schild and Principal Todd Dvoracek were presented Certificates from National VFW Headquarters on Middle School Teacher of the Year by State VFW Commander Donald A. Dahlin. Pictures L to R: VFW Post Commander Cody Mangold, Brooks Schild, Principal Todd Dvoracek and State VFW Commander Donald A. Dahlin.



RIGHT: FW Post #791 Commander Cody Mangold presented the Voice of Democracy winner at the local level her certificate and \$150.00 check to Morgyn Jaquith. (Submitted Photo)



MEETINGS

YANKTON REGIONAL AVIATION ASSOCIATION

Thirty-five members and guests attended the YRAA meeting on May 17 in the terminal at Chan Gurney Airport for a potluck dinner. Attendees came from Bloomfield, Crofton, Hartington, Randolph, Jefferson, Menno, Mission Hill, Plankinton, Springfield, Tyndall, Utica, Vermillion, and Yankton.

President Petra Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting. YRAA Lifetime Membership certificates were presented to Jacob Hoffner and Wilson. Stevie Holmes of Vermillion announced that she would be teaching a ground school course in the terminal at Chan Gurney Airport on Thursdays from June 11 to August 27 in the evenings. A Young Eagles Rallies for giving free airplane rides to kids aged 8 to 17 years old was held on May 12 for Big Friend / Little Friend at Chan Gurney Airport. Other Young Eagles Rallies will be held on June 20 at Chan Gurney Airport, June 27 at the Vermillion Airport, and in October for the 6th Grade Reading Program students in Yankton. The Airport Litter Pick-up Day at Chan Gurney Airport was set for May 23. Steve Barney announced Bloomfield will be hosting a "Hometown Heroes" event in honor of U.S. Veterans. A fly-over of the American Veterans Traveling Tribute wall (80 percent size of the Vietnam traveling wall) on June 21 at 2 p.m. Planes and pilots are encouraged to meet at the Bloomfield Airport around noon. A hot dog lunch will be served followed by the fly over. The next YRAA meeting is set for June 21 in the airport terminal at Yankton and followed by Fly-A-Member rides at 7 p.m. and a Flour-Bomb Drop at 8 p.m. For more information about the YRAA contact Steve Hamilton at 605-665-8448 or skyhawk@iw.net.

TOASTMASTERS CLUB 6217

Steve Anderson called Toastmasters Club 6217 to order May 7th at noon in the Pavilion Conference Room with a warm welcome and an invocation by Jane Miller. Returning guest were S Valerie Cheney and DJ Knadel.

Stan Sudbeck presented the word of the day, "audacious" and tracked its use by the speakers as well as unusual and interesting phrases, like "constructive criticism" and "self-evaluation."

Greg Stach's evaluation team included timer Eric Taylor and "ah" counter Muriel Stach.

Speakers were Amy Williams

and Guest S Valerie Cheney. Williams spoke of ways to raise the bar for her women's basketball team at USD. She was evaluated by Chelsi Hames who gave praise for her great use of hand gestures and voice tones along with great enthusiasm for her love of her job. Cheney spoke about dealing with problems and judging others. She was evaluated by Kary Beltz giving her compliments for her life lesson with added humor making it a very entertaining speech.

Table Topics Master Fran Kocer did a Mother's Day theme. Eileen O'Connor spoke of her gratitude towards her mother for her love of reading. Joyce Stevens's most memorable Mother's Day gift she received was her daughters nominating her for Mother of the Year Award which was her jump start to be involved in such a great organization. Mandy Green's most memorable graduation was when she graduated from college which has prepared her for bigger and better things and set her up to be successful. Guest Knadel believes Obama coming to Watertown will be a great experience she just wishes it would not have taken him this long to get to South Dakota.

Interested in seeing what Toastmasters Club 6217 is all about? Contact Greg Stach at 605-665-6776. We would love to show you!

ROY ANDERSON UNIT NO. 12 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Roy Anderson Unit No. 12 American Legion Auxiliary met May 18, 2015, with President Betty Adam presiding. Chaplain Brandt presented the opening prayer followed by the Pledge to the Flag. Members recited the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary and observed a moment of Silent Prayer for our honored dead.

Seven officers answered Roll Call after which 15 members present introduced themselves. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurers Report was presented and approved on motion by Joyce List seconded by Cheryl Van Dyke.

President Adam read a letter from District President Geiman concerning State Convention to be held in Huron and the delegates that will be attending. Sign up sheet was passed for those wishing to assist with poppy days May 22 and 23. Bills presented for payment were approved. Financial assistance for the children's programs at Yankton City Library was also approved. Election of officers was conducted. Newly elected officers

are: Betty Adam, President; Joyce List, 1st Vice President; Dianne Bahn, 2nd Vice President; Priscilla Mazourek, Treasurer; Dot Blaha, Secretary; Theresa Brandt, Chaplain; Martha List and Mary Kuchta Sgt. At Arms. Those elected were installed by Betty Adam and Joyce List. Chaplain Brandt presented the closing prayer.

Winners of the Americanism essays and poetry contest were on hand for presentations and photos. The efforts of these young people are greatly appreciated by the Auxiliary members.

Following adjournment lunch was served by Floris Woodhouse and Joanne Christensen. The next meeting will be held June 15.

ERNEST BOWYER VFW POST 791 LADIES AUXILIARY

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary to Ernest Bowyer VFW Post 791 opened at 7:30 by President Joyce Stahlecker. Roll Call of Officers found the following officers absent: Sr. Vice-Novak; Jr. Vice-Mangold; Color Bearer-Larson

Opening Prayer: Slowey Patriotic Instructions: Olson Pledge to the Flag Star Spangled Banner Applications for Membership: None

Reading of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Accepted as read with correction.

Treasurer's Report: Shelly Stoddard Accepted as read.

Bills were presented and filed with the trustees.

Correspondence: OFFICIAL: A letter from District President Donita Mullinix concerning the District meeting and results of election. Yankton members elected were: Sr. Vice, Joyce Stahlecker; Chaplain, Jane Slowey; Guard, Dorothy Stange; Patriotic Instructor, Carly Mangold; Historian, Jackie Simonson.

GENERAL: Thank you notes from Sarah Stoddard; Delores Gwinn and Charlotte Herrelin. Thank you notes from the families of Larry Mayer, Margaret Harts, Helen Severson, and Joe Gratzfeld, Jr.

Various committee reports were heard and filed. Funeral Committee reported that a funeral lunch was prepared and served for Larry Mayer. National Home reported that there will be three Seniors graduating this year.

Unfinished Business: Gold Star Mothers dues and banquet at state convention. It was stated that the Department pays for the Gold Star Mothers portion of that banquet during the State Convention.

A reminder that the State Convention will be held in Yankton on June 18-21. Motion by Marge Olson second by Jackie Simonson that the Auxiliary secure a page ad for the Convention Book passed. Members are asked to meet on June 4 at 7 p.m. to help to fill bags for Convention.

Evie Potts of Advance America presented a brief summary of their efforts to collect items for the military outside the United States. They began collection May 1 and will close collection on June 30.

A report of the Trustees was heard and bills paid. Special Olympics will receive \$3,000 due to the efforts of the Leprechauns on motion by Marge Olson seconded by Jane Slowey which passed.

Officers elected in April were installed by Joyce Stahlecker. Linda Zimmerman won the 10 cent cup.

The meeting was adjourned until June 9 at 7:30 p.m. Lunch was provided by Holli Novak and Dorothy Stange.

INTERCHANGE

Interchange met at noon on Monday, May 18, at Minerva's, with Ann Clough, President, presiding. The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members were invited to make announcements regarding business news, opportunities, and upcoming events.

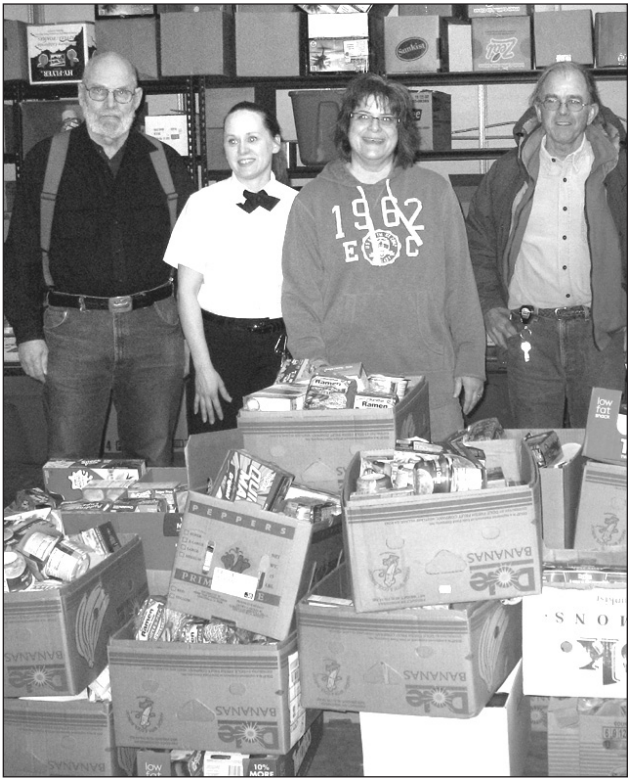
Kathy Wibbels with the Yankton Community Library shared the schedule for the 2015 Adult Summer Reading Program titled "Escape The Ordinary" which begins June 2.

Carmen Schramm of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce reminded everyone about the State of the Community luncheon which will be held May 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Minerva's.

Marcy Moser with First Dakota National Bank was hostess and speaker was Carmen Schramm of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce. Carmen provided an update for Onward Yankton. She briefly explained how the committee came to be, the process of submitting "big idea" contest entries, how those ideas will be narrowed down and brought before the community of Yankton for input, as well as described the various options for implementation once a winner is chosen.

There will not be an Interchange weekly meeting on Monday, May 25, due to Memorial Day. The next meeting is June 1 with Michael Carlson, Yankton Children's Choir Director, the featured speaker.

Appreciation



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Sack Pack: A Big 'Thank You'

The Sack Pack Program would like to thank the United Church of Christ (UCC) for the amazing job and hard work they did, hosting the food drive at HyVee for the Yankton Sack Pack Program. A huge thank you goes out to the volunteers of UCC that helped to make this event such a great success.

More than 1,600 pounds of food was donated through this event along with many cash donations. With the great success of this food drive, nearly eight weeks worth of food will be provided to children in need of food

on the weekends. We cannot express the gratitude we feel toward UCC. Without their dedication to our program, this event would not have been possible.

We would also like to thank Charity, from HyVee, for being there to help make things run so smoothly. Through this event and the support of the people of our community, the Sack Pack Program will be able to continue our mission of being able to provide meals to children at risk of hunger on the weekends.

— Sack Pack Program Board of Directors