

Five Generations Of Family



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Five generations of the Edna Winckler family: Great-great grandmother Edna Winckler, great-grandmother Norma Bender, grandmother Audrea Hecht, father Robbie Hecht and daughter Ellis Hecht.

Legislature Seeks College Students For Intern Positions

PIERRE — The South Dakota Legislature is looking for 22 ambitious college or university students to serve as legislative interns for the 2016 Legislative Session. The internship positions are open to all college and university students.

Applications for the intern positions must be filed with the Legislative Research Council in Pierre by Oct. 14, 2015.

The Legislative Research Council's internship program is designed so students can achieve a greater understanding of the government process, as well as provide assistance to the legislative branch of government. As interns, students will work with the legislative leader-

ship and assist them with bill briefs, constituent services, and other legislative tasks. The students may also earn valuable college credits for their internship and receive up to five thousand dollars in compensation for their services. Additional information regarding the program can be found at the Legislative Research Council's web site, http://legis.sd.gov/Students_Page/Intern. There are also legislative intern coordinators located on each campus to assist the student applicants.

Interested students may contact the Legislative Research Council, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 773-3251.

United Way

Imagine What Your Gift Can Become

As you consider a donation to this year's United Way of Greater Yankton Community Campaign, just imagine what your gift can become ...

Today at 9: a.m., River City Domestic Violence Center advocates visit with a domestic violence survivor and offer her crisis counseling, safety planning, and assistance with obtaining a protection order.

At 10 a.m., a volunteer from Senior Companions visits an elderly woman to assist with grocery shopping, share a cup of coffee and resume their jigsaw puzzle.

At 11 a.m., a 37-year-old begins a tutoring session with a volunteer from Yankton Area Literacy Council to learn to how to read.

At noon, an elderly woman opens her door to find a friendly face and a nutritious meal from the Meals on Wheels program.

At 1 p.m., an 8-year-old, whose family has no dental insurance, is treated for an advanced tooth infection, free of charge, at the Delta Dental, Smile Mobile.

At 2 p.m., a Yankton Transit bus driver picks up a young man in town who needs a ride to his weekly doctor's appointment.

An adult mentor picks up her "little friend" after school to go bike riding at the lake. The two were matched by Big Friend Little Friend two years ago and love spending time together studying, enjoying the out-



doors and being friends!

At 4 p.m., elementary school aged students enrolled in The Academy, a Boys & Girls Club of Yankton after school program, receive tutoring and enrichment activities that help them succeed in school.

At 5 p.m., an elderly man finds a friendly conversation and nice hot meal at The Center.

At 6 p.m., a family will be going to bed with their tummies full, because they stopped by The Contact Center's food pantry.

When 7 p.m. comes, a father opens up an Imagina-

tion Library book with his toddler before bed.

Your contribution to United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton works around the clock, all year long, right here in the Greater Yankton area, and touches the lives of many. Your gifts become shelter and support, food for a hungry tummy, hope for a better tomorrow, and so much more.

Giving has never been easier!

Option 1 — Mail your United Way pledge card to 610 W 23rd Street, Suite 11

or give via payroll deduction when your workplace holds its campaign! No matter where you are, you know someone whose life has been changed through the services you will be helping to support.

Option 2 — Give back to your community from the palm of your hand. On your smart phone, text the word YANKTON to the number 41444. You will then be prompted to give with your credit card.

Option 3 — Step up your giving and become a Heart Club Member! By giving \$250 or more, you will be recognized as a leader who supports what's working in our community to keep it strong and healthy. Go online to www.yanktonunitedway.org and click on GIVE for giving options.

Option 4 — Consider a Legacy Gift that will impact your community for years to come! Contact the United Way office at 605-665-6766 for further information about how you can leave a legacy of hope for our community.

United Way partner agencies and programs work hard to make our community the best it can be. Together, we can ensure these programs stay successful and continue to make an incredible impact on the lives of all who live here. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow.

Imagine what your gift can become. LIVE UNITED.

NRCS Helps Union County, SD Farmer Reclaim Land

BY LORETTA SORENSON
For the Natural Resources Conservation Service

HURON — Jefferson farmer John Corio was one of hundreds of South Dakota farmers who helplessly watched Missouri River floodwaters quietly and persistently swallow acres of farmland during the 2011 Missouri River flood.

The record high water that spilled over the riverbanks at the end of May 2011 and ravaged some areas along the river into September 2011 were estimated to cost billions of dollars in damage.

Missouri River water levels along Corio's land in southern Union County have always been affected by the upstream operation of the Gavins Point Dam at Yankton. It's something Corio watched his father deal with and learned to manage once he took over the farm.

Corio's flooded 26-acre tract of cropland along with several acres of pastureland lies at the foot of a 20-foot bluff just west of his farm site. Both he and his father raised crops and hay on the land since the farm was established in 1939. While the land always tended to be wet, the soil was productive and careful management usually netted an acceptable yield.

"It wasn't unusual for changes at Gavins Point Dam to cause water levels here to rise around harvest time," Corio says. "Then it was

challenging to get the crop out."

When the 2011 flood waters came, Corio watched soils he and his father had toiled for years to build up and protect disappear under 10-feet of wayward water.

"Once the water finally went down, there was a thick layer of mud all across the field," Corio says. "Some people had a lot of sand wash in during the flood. For me, it was mud."

As spring 2012 approached, Corio wasn't sure how or if he would reclaim the land. As he contemplated his options, he received encouraging news from his local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, Jeff Loof. NRCS was offering landowners in Corio's area an opportunity to enroll land in a special Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) perpetual easement designed to help alleviate further erosion of land along the river, restore Missouri River floodplain wetlands and improve wildlife habitat. The easement agreement provided a plan and funding for restoring the land.

"John was one of four landowners who took advantage of this specially funded WREP opportunity," Loof says. "Altogether, more than 600 acres of land adjacent to John's land in southern Union County that was severely affected by the flood was enrolled in this easement."

Much of the land entered into the easement was



LORETTA SORENSON/USDA NRCS SOUTH DAKOTA
John Corio was discouraged with the severe erosion of the fragile sandy soils of his frequently-flooded cropland along the Missouri River. With the conservation easement, native vegetation is thriving and soil structure is improving.

covered with up to four feet of sand, which was so deep it hindered reclamation of roads and all reclamation efforts in the area. The eroding, shifting sands began blowing and moving immediately after floodwaters receded.

"You can easily see the water line on the cottonwoods that survived the flood," Loof says. "Dead cedar trees are also very obvious. They didn't survive the floodwater. Many trees tipped under the pressure of the floodwater's strong current. After the water went down, some landowners harvested logs from the area."

Once flood waters receded, sand deposition made it unfeasible to farm some of the land. Several irrigation

systems and wells were also destroyed in the flood.

"John was one of four farmers who worked cooperatively to develop this easement, protecting a total of 600 acres," Loof says. "They recognized that there was a great benefit to them, to the area and to the nation to preserve this large expanse of Missouri River floodplain. Restored, the area will be important to migrating waterfowl as nesting habitat and to pollinators in this area."

The easement agreement included a one-time per-acre payment to landowners, which Corio invested in some more profitable land tracts on his farm. Enrolled acres were seeded with native plants intended to

provide wildlife habitat and natural weed control. Plant selection also included an emphasis on pollinator habitat. The seed mix included many grass species typical of the Tall Grass prairie, such as Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Sand Bluestem and Prairie Sandreed. Flowering species included Purple Prairieclover, Illinois Bundleflower, Maximilian Sunflower and Prairie Coneflower. Other species suitable for the wetlands areas were also seeded.

"Before any reclamation could begin, the ongoing affect of water levels as a result of operations at Gavins Point Dam was thoroughly explored," Loof says. "We wanted to be certain that reclamation was worth doing and could be successful. Officials also reviewed the environmental issues, including potential effects to threatened and endangered species, related to establishing the easement."

Many of the affected acres had been previously enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) because of their marginal cropland characteristics and vulnerability to flooding. Under the WREP perpetual easement agreement, no fences or water developments can be established on the enrolled acres. If necessary, enrolled acres are mowed to help manage weeds. Landowners can also realize benefits through the use of periodic haying to fa-

cilitate improved grass vigor and production. This use, however, requires additional permitting with the development of a Compatible Use Plan.

Seeding was completed in Spring 2013. In the 2014 growing season, seeded vegetation had plenty of weed competition. However, by Spring 2015, Big Bluestem, switch grass, and Indian grass suppressed weeds. Prairie Coneflower, Gray Goldenrod and other blooming perennials drew butterflies, bees and other wildlife to the area.

"It took time for the seeded plants to become established," Loof says. "But now, barring any further flooding, the land should be self-sustaining."

What are the chances the area will flood again.

"About 99.9 percent," Corio says. "It may not be as bad as 2011, but it's pretty certain it will flood again."

If that happens, the easement acres will help absorb floodwaters and reduce damage to surrounding crop acres. If restoration or reclamation is required again, NRCS will take on that responsibility.

"Well established vegetation will help buffer the area from flood damage and erosion if it floods again," Loof says. "In the meantime, it provides important wildlife habitat and preservation of an area that's invaluable to the general public and the residents of Union County."

MEETINGS

INTERCHANGE

Interchange met on Monday, Oct. 5, 2015, at noon at Minerva's. The meeting was called to order by President Sherri Rodgers-Conti. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members gave the following announcements:

Marie Steckelberg of Steckelberg Consulting announced the Chamber of Commerce will host a leadership program entitled "The Brave Ones" at the Kolberg-Pioneer Training Room on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015. Anyone interested may register on the Chamber of Commerce website.

Julie Amsberry of Yankton Area Arts announced the new exhibit that opens on Friday, Oct. 9, featuring the oil paintings of artist, Karen Kinder, entitled "Impressions on the Prairie."

Jos Jaime-Santacruz of

the NFAA Archery Center reported that weekly league nights will be starting this month. They will also host a number of special events beginning on Oct. 31 with a Halloween Shoot, Nov. 14 with a Thanksgiving Tournament and Dec. 12 with a Toy Drive/Shoot in partnership with the United Way and Yankton Police.

Kathy Greenway representing the Yankton School Board reported that the District's online survey ended on Sept. 30. Results of the survey are being compiled and will be released in the near future.

Frani Kieffer of the Boys & Girls Club announced that local contractors have begun breaking ground for their new facility at the Middle School site. The Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors will be holding a special meeting on Oct. 8 for strategic planning.

This week's Member Spotlight was on Kathy Greenway of Raymond James Financial at First Dakota National Bank. Kathy gave a brief overview of growing up in Dante, her family and career background and how she came to be a certified financial planner. Kathy also serves on the Yankton School Board.

Today's hostess was Michele Tycz of Koch Insurance Agency. Her speaker was Kenny Tomek, the registered dietician at Hy-Vee. He gave an interesting and informative talk on healthier food options when grocery shopping. He pointed out how seemingly similar food items can vary greatly in their nutritional value based on such things as sodium, sugar and protein content.

The next meeting of Interchange will be held Monday, Oct. 12, 2015, at noon at Minerva's. Member Spotlight

will be on Kathie Gerstner. Joyce Stevens will be hostess with her speaker Elizabeth Koerner the 2015 S.D. Young Mother of the Year. She will share highlights of her trip to Washington, D.C., last April.

TOASTMASTER CLUB 6217

Guest Rita Nelson was welcomed by Toastmaster Steve Anderson upon calling the Oct. 1, 2015, meeting of Club 6217 Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Toastmasters to order in Pavilion Room 3; and asking Greg Stach to lead the invocation.

After complimenting Anderson on his segues, Master Evaluator Jennifer Wubben introduced her evaluation team: Jan Schiferl, Fordyce, Nebraska, who timed the speakers, and Gale Vogt, Pierce, Nebraska, who counted the unneeded and repeated words, like "and, and."

As Grammarian, Fran Kocer, Wagner, presented his word of the day "faux pas." He also noted interesting phrases used by the speakers throughout the meeting, such as "fast refresher" and "Uncle Festus."

Speakers Eric Taylor and DJ Knodel, both of Yankton, were speaking to inform. Taylor handed out tips on avoiding credit card and identity theft using a humorous relationship to the "Addams Family" to get the audience's attention. Knodel also used handouts to enhance her audience's appreciation for examples of body language and differing physical sensations.

Jesse Bailey and Chelsi Hames gave the speakers ideas for improvement and compliments on what the speakers did well. Bailey liked Taylor's vocal variety, handouts and use of humor, while Hames complimented

Knodel on her confident appearance and use of "understandable examples" to make her points.

Table Topics, the impromptu section of the meeting, was conducted by Jane Miller using a "career" theme. Miller quizzed Stach about a boss that influenced him with Stach naming his railroad boss. Vogt would not change either of his two careers, being an engineer and a rancher. Nelson wanted to be an accountant when she was little, but as an adult prefers business management. Muriel Stach's career counseling advice for college freshmen would be to delay both parenthood and settling on a final career choice.

The Oct. 8 meeting will also be held at noon in Room 3 and guests are welcome.