

500-Plus Attend Airport Breakfast

The 16th annual Chan Gurney Airport breakfast was held on Sept. 15 at Crop Dusters LLC hangar.

There were 511 people who attended the breakfast, but 11 aircraft flew in for the event (five from South Dakota, five from Nebraska one from Iowa) due to low cloud ceilings. One special aircraft was a twin-engine, fixed wing King Air 200 air ambulance from Sanford Medical Intensive Air in Sioux Falls. The air ambulance was open for tours and made an impressive departure from the airport.

The breakfast was put on by the Yankton Regional Aviation Association (YRAA) and was a fund-raising event for various YRAA projects including improvements at the Yankton's Airport Park and nine regional airports, flight training scholarships, and ACE Camp scholarships. The breakfast supplies were sponsored by HyVee courtesy of Tonya Graff. Other sponsors included Crop Dusters LLC (Brian & Kam Gradert, use of hangar, tables, chairs), Yankton Chamber of Commerce (PA system), Yankton Fire Department (100-cup maker),

and Chesterman Company (ground banners). Additional advertising was provided by KYNT, KVHT, WNAX, MidContinent Communications, Knology, Yankton Chamber of Commerce, *The Observer*, and *Yankton P&D*.

Exhibitors included Cowboy Rowland who displayed remote control aircraft and a R/C flight simulator, Francis Serr displayed 8th Air Force memorabilia, Devin Wagner with help from Perry Volden (Sioux Falls) displayed his powered hang glider, Gary Palmer displayed a hot air balloon basket and burner apparatus, and George Bitner (Mitchell) and Dwayne LaFave (DeSmet) displayed information about the South Dakota Pilots Association (SDPA) and a second display concerning the value of General Aviation. The SDPA has 379 members.

The airport breakfast was a great success due to the support provided by our sponsors and the great YRAA volunteers, both in organizing and promoting the breakfast, gathering equipment and supplies, and especially in making the breakfast run smoothly.

NARFE Chapter Honored

The Yankton Chapter 1053 of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) was honored at the 2013 Deadwood State Convention with an Award Certificate on its 45th anniversary.

Also received was the charter listing the original 51 members who established the Yankton Chapter 1053. Two of these original members listed remain members today, Milada Spry of Tyn-dall and Ida Foxhoven of Yankton.

Yankton NARFE is still a

very viable chapter with currently 54 members both active and retired. NARFE is dedicated solely to protecting and preserving the benefits of all federal workers and retirees. This organization has also been a strong advocate for The Alzheimer's Association. Having met the \$10 million dollar fundraising goal in November 2012, we are now working toward a total of \$11 million by end of 2014.

Any questions concerning NARFE can be directed to President Marvin Wilcox 260-1764.

MILITARY

ALEXANDER KELLER

Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Alexander R. Keller has graduated from the Army Basic Officer Leader Course, designed to ensure a tough, standardized, small-unit leadership experience for officers. The course develops and produces competent, confident and adaptable officers with increased maturity equipped to share a common bond with their combined arms peers. The officers are trained to solve dilemmas, make rapid decisions and lead soldiers in the contemporary operating environment. Graduates are prepared and readied to lead small units upon arrival at

their first assignment.

The focus of the course is to provide branch training related to the officer's job/duty assignment, which includes the required skills and training qualifications to perform his/her occupational specialty duties in a field environment. Engineer leadership and digitization training are also part of the course.

He is the son of Albert and Patricia Keller of Trail City.

Keller is a 2004 graduate of Timber Lake High School, and received a master's degree in 2011 from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

DALTON HOFERER

Army Pvt. Dalton C. Hoferer has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony,

marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesies, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Hoferer is the son of Twila Hoferer of Northeast 57th Street, Lincoln, and Bruce Hoferer of Garfield Street, Creighton.

He is a 2011 graduate of Lincoln Northstar High School.

SCHOLASTICS

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

The University of Nebraska Medical Center recently held ceremonies to signify the beginning of a health career for new students in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Scottsbluff and Norfolk. The students are enrolled in programs for medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, allied health and graduate studies.

The white coats were paid for in part with donations from UNMC alumni, faculty and friends.

Below are the colleges, hometowns and names of the area students.

• College of Dentistry/Dentistry students: Coleridge — Seth

Schroeder; Newcastle — Hillary Beldin; Viborg — Troy Larsen

• College of Medicine:

Wynot — April Lauer

• College of Nursing:

Crofton — Bryce Zavadil

• College of Nursing

Northern Division (Norfolk):

Creighton — Alexandra

Asher; Randolph — Taylor

Conner

• College of Nursing Lin-

coln Division: Crofton —

Cassandra Tramp

• School of Allied Health

Professions/Computed To-

mography/Magnetic Reso-

nance Imaging: Yankton —

Tanner Foxhoven

• School of Allied Health

Professions/Physical Ther-

apy: Verdigré — Lianne

Boggs

Road Over Dam To Close For Maintenance

The road that crosses Gavins Point Dam, also known as Crest Road or the spillway, will be closed from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept.

24, and Wednesday, Sept. 25. Crews are scheduled to conduct maintenance on the spillway.

Project Connect Coming Sept. 24

BY LAUREN HANSON

Yankton Executive Director, United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton

Project Connect, sponsored by the newly formed Yankton Homeless Coalition, will bring information regarding services of all sorts to one location on September 24th. People who walk through the doors can get help ranging from housing information, credit counseling services available or to how to get in touch with social services.

The Yankton Homeless Coalition, whose mission is to prevent involuntary homelessness by fostering partnerships and developing creative solutions, started gathering this summer to start the conversation about inadequate housing and homelessness in our area.

Coalition members include representatives from the City of Yankton, Yankton Police Dept., Homeless Shelter, Yankton Women's & Children's Center, Yankton Housing, Habitat for Humanity, Department of Social Services, SD Human Services Center, The Contact Center, Planning & Development District III, Family Education and Counsel-

ing Center, LSS Consumer Credit Counseling, Head Start and United Way & Volunteer Services.

"The problem is that most struggling individuals or families are employed, yet they're not making enough money to be able to afford food and rent, so they're stretching one or the other," Julie Dykstra member of the Yankton Homeless Coalition and Executive Director of Yankton Habitat for Humanity said.

Dykstra says unfortunately the problems regarding inadequate housing in the area are growing, making events like Project Connect increasingly more important.

"There are approximately 700 working households that spend more than thirty five percent of their income on their housing. These are cost burdened households. They are just this close. One little bump in the road could push them over," Dykstra said.

While the service providers at Project Connect can't change everything, this convenient event can help start the turnaround of a tough situation.

According to Nathan Johnson, Board member of the Yankton Homeless Shelter and Coalition member, "Project Con-

nect serves a dual purpose. It is a way for those without housing or without adequate housing to learn about the services available to assist them. It also gives the agencies providing services a clearer picture of the population they are serving so they can better plan for the future. I think it will be an important learning experience for everyone involved."

Yankton Homeless Coalition member and Yankton Police Lt. Todd Brandt, agrees saying that "it is important to gain an understanding of individuals or families that are in need of housing, but don't know where to go for assistance. We as a Coalition want to figure out solutions and provide that information to those that are in need."

The first annual Project Connect will be held at the United Church of Christ on Tuesday, September 24th from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Free pizza, sponsored by Wal-Mart, Pizza Ranch, Little Caesars, and Godfathers will be provided. Local gardeners are also donating fresh vegetables to share.

For more information on Project Connect or the Yankton Homeless Coalition, please contact the United Way & Volunteer Services at (605)665-6766.

FFA Chapter Receives Grant

VIBORG — The Viborg-Hurley FFA chapter received a \$2,000 Working Here Fund grant to implement a hydroponic system so students can produce healthy and nutritional fresh fruits and vegetables and learn about the benefits of local, sustainable production methods. The grant is provided through Farm Credit Services of America's (FCSAmerica) Working Here Fund.

Viborg-Hurley agriculture students will learn plant science principles, develop hands-on plant care skills in hydroponics and greenhouse management and learn the importance of fresh fruits and vegetables as part of a healthy diet.

"There continues to be an emphasis on locally produced, nutritional school lunches that include more fruits and vegetables," said John Rist, chapter advisor, Viborg-Hurley FFA. "During the first year, the goal is to develop a sustainable source of local fresh tomatoes and strawberries."

The hydroponic system also will allow the FFA chapter to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the local food pantry to help those in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Viborg-Hurley FFA chapter. The chapter recently received a \$2000 grant through Farm Credit Services of America.

need in their own community.

"The opportunity to help educate the future generation of agriculture creates a high return on investment for our community," said Neil Connot, vice president, FCS America Yankton.

The Viborg-Hurley FFA chapter is one of 44 organizations to receive a Working Here Fund grant. FCSAmerica awarded \$74,200 during the latest grant cycle ending June 30, \$13,000 of which will help fund community projects in South Dakota.

The Working Here Fund provides up to \$2,000 each

for projects and organizations that make a positive, long-term impact in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota or Wyoming in the areas of agriculture education, young and beginning producers, or hunger and nutrition programs. Grants are determined quarterly based on specific selection criteria. To complete an application, visit www.fcsamerica.com/work-ingherfund.

About Viborg-Hurley FFA

The local Viborg-Hurley FFA Chapter has 70+ members from grades 7th to 12th, as well as some out of school

SCHOLARSHIPS

BRIAN MEYER SCHOLARSHIP

PIERRE — The South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) is now accepting applications for the Brian Meyer Memorial Scholarship. One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded for the 2014 spring semester.

The scholarship is available to applicants who have completed at least two semesters of course work at an accredited post-secondary school in South Dakota and reside in an SDTA member company service area. The scholarship can be used at any post-secondary educational institution in South Dakota including public and private universities as well as technical schools.

Applicants must complete an application, write a short outline of their career plans following completion of their post-secondary education, and submit a brief essay on the future of small town South Dakota and what can be done to enhance the quality of life in rural areas through the use of technology. Also needed are a copy of the applicant's most recent transcript and at least two letters of recommendation. The deadline to submit an application for the Brian Meyer Memorial Scholarship is Oct. 31.

For more information on the Brian Meyer Memorial Scholarship, contact any post-secondary institution financial aid office, the South Dakota Telecommunications Association at 605-224-7629 or gregdean@sdtanline.com. The application is also available online at www.sdtanline.com/resources/scholarships/.

SDTA membership is composed of the state's member-owned cooperatives, privately-owned, municipal and tribal telecommunications companies which collectively serve almost 80 percent of the state. Members of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association are: Alliance Communications (Garretson); Beresford Municipal Telephone; Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (Eagle Butte); Faith Municipal Telephone; Fort Randall Telephone (Wagner); Golden West Telecommunications Companies (Wall); Interstate Telecommunications (Clear Lake); James Valley Telecommunications (Gorton); Kennebec Telephone Company; Long Lines (Jefferson); Midstate Communications (Kimball); RC Communications and Roberts County Telephone Coop (New Effington); Santel Communications (Woonsocket); Swiftel Communications (Brookings Municipal); TrioTel Communications (Salem); Valley Telecommunications (Herreid); Venture Communications (Highmore); West River Cooperative Telephone (Bison); West River Telecom Cooperative (Hazen, ND); Western Telephone (Faulkton).

ELKS SCHOLARSHIPS

Yankton area high school seniors have the opportunity once again to apply for Elks National Foundation scholarships. Information concerning scholarship applications have been forwarded to area high school guidance counselors. Additional information is available to students by logging onto the Elks website: www.elks.org/enf/scholars

Ray Kooistra, who served many years as an educator in the Yankton school system, has been chairman of the scholarship committee for Yankton Elks Lodge 994 for years. He advises seniors who may be seeking higher education, either college or vocational education, to strongly consider an Elks scholarship application.

"Only the federal government provides more money for higher education scholarships than does the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks," says Kooistra.

Oprah Winfrey furthered her college education's, due in part, to an Elks National Foundation scholarship.

Any high school senior who is a U.S. citizen may apply. Applications will be judged on scholarship, leadership and financial need.

Applications must be submitted before Dec. 6, 2013, to the Elks lodge closest to the student's permanent U.S. residence, regardless of distance. Selection of winners begins at the local lodge level and continues through district, state and national judging.

Vocational education scholarship applications are also due Dec. 6.

Those seniors who come from an Elks family should take heed of the 2014 Legacy Awards. Established in 1998, the ENF Legacy Awards scholarship program awards 250 college scholarships worth \$4,000 each to the children and grandchildren of current Elks members.

Those eligible are college-bound high school seniors who are the children or grandchildren of current, dues-paying Elks are welcome to apply. Applicants compete

members that choose to maintain their membership until age 21 to pursue advanced degrees and reach career goals. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Chapters assist members in making a positive difference in their schools and communities through community service projects while partnering with agricultural businesses.

About Farm Credit Services of America

Farm Credit Services of America is a customer-owned financial cooperative proud to finance the growth of rural America, including the special needs of young and beginning producers. With more than \$19 billion in assets and more than \$3 billion in members' equity, FCSAmerica is one of the region's leading providers of credit and insurance services to farmers, ranchers, agribusiness and rural residents in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Learn more at www.fcsamerica.com.

against other children from the state of their sponsoring Elks lodge. They are judged on the core values of the Elks National Foundation — knowledge, charity, community service and integrity.

Applications are available online and must be submitted on or before Jan. 31, 2014. For more information: www.elks.org/enf/scholars

Elks National Foundation emergency education grants were established in 1944. These are intended to aid children of Elk members who lost their lives or were incapacitated as a result of having served in the Armed Forces during World War II.

This opportunity for college financial assistance is available to all children from families where an Elk parent is deceased or totally disabled. Such scholarships come in the form of renewable, one-year grants of up to \$4,000. This grant is for educational assistance only and is not intended to cover the entire cost of a college education.

Eligible applicants must attend an accredited U.S. college or university as a full-time (12 semester hours) student; demonstrate financial need and be unmarried and under the age of 23 as of Dec. 31 in the year of application.

Applications are available by request between July 1 and Dec. 31 of the academic year for which assistance is desired. Contact the ENF Scholarship office at 773-755-4732 or scholarship@elks.org.

For more information on emergency educational grants: www.elks.org/enf/scholars/.

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VA Vaccination Clinics Set To Begin Sept. 25

SIoux FALLS — The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System offers enrolled veterans influenza, shingles, tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccinations.

Walk-in clinics for enrolled

veterans will be available at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center in the front lobby, Room F07 from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on the following dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 8, Oct. 21, Oct. 30, Nov. 5, Nov. 18 and Nov. 22.