



Pictured above from left to right: Dan Eisenbraun, Kelly Delaney, Catherine Mitchell, Jeb List, Chelsea Koepsell, Lori Hansen, MD, and Frani Kieffer, Director of the Avera Sacred Heart Foundation.

Four USD medical students receive Avera scholarships

Four third-year medical students Kelly Delaney, North Sioux City, SD; Catherine Mitchell, Burke; Jeb List, Yankton; and Chelsea Koepsell, Sioux Falls, were recipients of the 2012 Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota Medical Student Scholarships from Avera Sacred Heart Hospital and the Avera Sacred Heart Foundation. Presenting the scholarships were Dan

Eisenbraun, Avera Sacred Heart Foundation Chair, and Lori Hansen, M.D., Dean of the Avera Sacred Heart Campus of the SSOM/USD. The scholarship criteria are based on interest in the geographic area, interest in primary and/or rural care and community activities. All four students will be part of the Yankton Ambulatory Program on the Avera Sacred Heart campus this year.

Boys and Girls Club information meeting set for June 21 in Vermillion

Kelly Sandland of Vermillion is endeavoring to start a Boys and Girls Club of America in Vermillion.

For 140 years, Boys and Girls Clubs have been impacting young people by reducing delinquency, assisting in raising academic performance and providing a safe, supervised place to be. Boys and Girls Club of America is a non-profit organization that provides many opportunities and support to young people. Time spent at local Clubs is not wasted and makes "hanging out" meaningful. Boys and Girls Clubs aid in developing social skills and can

meet diverse needs of, not only the individual, but also the community. Boys and Girls Club creates employment and volunteer opportunities.

She is asking area residents to help fill a critical need and invest in Vermillion's future. Ways to show you are in: Contribute funds; Serve as a board leader; Enlist a Club member.

Another way is to attend an informational meeting at 5 p.m. June 21 at City Hall in the large conference room. Please attend and learn more about this fantastic opportunity for Vermillion's youth.

Mentors needed in area

The Clay-Union Foundation is seeking adult mentors to match with youth. The program has a 13-year-old boy in Elk Point, a 12-year-old boy in Jefferson and two 14-year-old girls in Elk Point, as well as a 16-year-old girl in Vermillion.

Mentors can make a big impact on a child's life, and the program concentrates on spending time with the matches to build a good relationship.

Please call John Gille at (605) 421-5050, e-mail jgille60@yahoo.com or go to the Web site www.clay-unionfoundation.org for an application.

The program is supported in part by the United Way of Vermillion, many area businesses and individual donors. It has been matching youth for 15 years, and would like to add new members and matches.

Johnson accepting nominations for Angels in Adoption now

U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) has announced that he is accepting nominations for the Angels in Adoption program. Each year, Johnson recognizes South Dakotans who have made a difference in the lives of children in need of a family.

"As the grandfather of two adopted children, I understand the tremendous impact that adoption has on both children and the families that welcome them into their homes," Johnson said. "Throughout our state, hundreds of families have opened their homes to children in need and I encourage people to nominate deserving individuals or families."

To nominate a South Dakota family, visit

<http://www.johnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=angels>.

A longtime supporter of adoption programs and member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, Johnson has supported legislation to make the adoption tax credit permanent. The tax credit helps lessen the financial burden that families face when adopting a child. Adoption fees and legal proceedings for some domestic adoptions can cost more than \$40,000.

In South Dakota, nearly 1,500 children are in the foster care system. Each year, approximately 75 children in the state age out of the foster care system before they are adopted.

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital plans 'Northern Lights' addition

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital will be bringing a new light on health care in the Yankton Region beginning this summer with the addition of the three-story "Northern Lights" addition.

When Avera Sacred Heart's current hospital was built 30 years ago, the planning process at that time included discussion of building a new kitchen area. However, the decision was ultimately made to keep food preparation in the Benedictine Center located to the south of the hospital because Sister James Nursing Home was located in that facility, as well.

During the intervening years, the need to update the hospital's kitchen was not forgotten.

"But it always took second place to the more clinical and technological projects," said Pam Rezac, the president and CEO of ASHH. "The Sisters finally said it is time."

We need to provide for that basic hospitality that our patients and staff deserve. Further impetus to do it was the fact that we need to replace the laboratory and build a new pharmacy. It became a multifaceted project."

That decision led to what hospital officials have named the "Northern Lights" project. In addition to a new kitchen, the more than \$17 million expansion will include a cafeteria, pharmacy, laboratory, physician amenities, sleep lab, environmental services space and meeting areas, among other things.

Located on the northwest corner of the existing hospital, the facility will have many windows to allow in natural light — thus making the "Northern Lights" name appropriate.

"It is going to change the entire north face of the hospital," Rezac said. "It will be a three-story, spacious facility that will let in light and create a warm and healing atmosphere. We created it based on a lot of

input from the patients, families, staff and physicians. We wanted this project to prepare us for the future. It will be something the whole region will benefit from."

"Our initial projections are that it will take 24 months to complete, but we're hoping it will be a shorter timeframe than that," said Doug Ekeren, vice president of planning and development for ASHH.

He said the focus during planning for the project was what the institution could do to improve its hospitality services for patients, visitors, physicians and staff.

"Right now, when our kitchen staff has to take food from the kitchen to the farthest nursing unit, that is a long haul," Ekeren said of the process of carting food throughout the facility. "It makes it a challenge for everybody to have fresh, hot food delivered. Make no mistake, I think our nutrition services staff and patient care staff do a great job with the situation we've had for the last 30 years. But we can make it so much better."

"By moving over on to the north side of the hospital and building a new kitchen, we can be much more efficient with our use of staff and other resources. We can also make it a safer work environment for staff and provide better options for anyone coming through the cafeteria. We can be more responsive to food requests from patients because the kitchen will be in the same building."

Besides the kitchen and cafeteria, another major component will be a new pharmacy.

"Currently, the pharmacy and our biomedical services share space on the third floor of the hospital, and there is really only room for one of them," Ekeren said. "With the growth that both of them have seen, we're going to move the pharmacy to the third floor of the new addition, and

biomedical services will expand into the former pharmacy space."

Some other changes include:

- When the laboratory moves into the Northern Lights addition, the radiology department will expand into the former lab space. The expansion of both of these departments will meet the growing regional demand for their services.

- In-patient physical, speech and occupational therapy services will be offered in the addition.

- New amenities for physicians in the expansion will include meeting rooms, dining facilities and more computer work stations.

- Space will be created for a hospitalist — which is a physician who specializes in the delivery of comprehensive medical care to hospitalized patients — that will be starting after the first of the year.

- A support area will be created in anticipation of future internal medicine residents.

- Finally, there will be a new office area for patient care management.

Despite all the added space at the hospital, Ekeren said an increase in employees is not anticipated at this time.

Rezac said she is excited about what the addition will mean to the hospital and residents in this region.

"I think the Northern Lights project overall is going to provide a much more hospitable environment for patients and staff," she said. "The services provided will be much more efficient and effective. We'll be able to utilize technology that has not been available to us because of the space shortages in the pharmacy, the laboratory and the preparation of food. It will also offer space for facilitating the teamwork that is going to be necessary in our new system of care. We have to be more focused on a coordinated delivery system."

Good participation in first Westreville Festival

On a beautiful Saturday morning, over 30 participants rode bikes, ran, and walked at the first Westreville Festival. Thirty more folks came for coffee and pie and to talk about memories of Westreville. The kids enjoyed various games and the highlight of Justice Mews' Chicken Bingo. The scorching temperatures and high wind were issues, but not enough to dampen spirits. Over \$1,200 was raised for the Eckert Children Scholarship Fund and the Westreville Historical Marker.

The guest of honor was Evelyn Girard, who will turn 94 this year. Evelyn joined us from Vermillion to share her photos and memories of running the last Westreville Store. Her son Roger and his wife Karen came from Yankton to celebrate as well. Attendees came from Sioux Falls, Brandon, Wakonda,

Vermillion, and of course, Westreville.

Nancy Carlsen was on hand to guide interested folks through the nine-volume 2008 Cemetery Inventory she had compiled about the 28 cemeteries in Clay County when she served on the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission. Women from Pleasant Valley Church and neighbors made pies and sweet rolls, including 8 pies from Carla Ostrem (now famous in the area for her pies!) Rhonda and Andy Howe, with the Eckert Children Scholarship, were there to walk, assist with sag wagon duty, and talk about the scholarship fund. This year's Irene-Wakonda High School recipient was Melissa Hessman, from Wakonda.

Many thanks go out to the newspapers who helped advertise this event, neighbors



Scores of people gathered Saturday at the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church to take part in the first Westreville Festival.

(Photo courtesy of Rhonda Howe)

Dick and Linda Anderson who took care of all the road signs, Ron and Kathy Madsen who helped with the sag wagon crew, the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Jones' Food Center for water bottles, Clay Rural Water

for water coolers at the cemeteries, the core crew who put many hours into getting Westreville ready for this festival, and to the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church for hosting the event.

Officials launch effort to provide fire information

Fire officials recently met to discuss coordinating the release of fire information and staffing and have established a new fire information phone number and e-mail account for the Great Plains fire area.

This is an interagency effort by federal and state agencies in South Dakota to provide timely and accurate fire information for the Great Plains Dispatch area during initial attack.

"Our aim is to provide one common phone number and e-mail where the best available fire information can

be acquired," Beth Hermanson, Public Information Officer said.

New Great Plains Fire Information Contact Information:
 • Phone Number - (605) 923-8868
 • Email - greatplainsfireinfo@gmail.com

The new phone number and e-mail will be staffed during initial attack fires by state and federal public information officers (PIOs). PIOs will work closely with the dispatch center to provide

interagency fire information. "We encourage the media and public to use this resource to obtain the most accurate

fire information," Kelly Stover, Public Information Officer said.