

Mockler, Lynch named Students of the Month



MOCKLER



LYNCH

Congratulations to Jordyn Mockler and Jonna Lynch as the recipients of the Vermillion High School Students of the Month for April. They will each receive a \$100 scholarship from First Bank & Trust. This is in recognition of their hard work and dedication as students at VHS.

Jonna was nominated because of her great class involvement and her desire to succeed. Her plans after graduating are to get her degree in nursing. Her parents are Patrick and Teresa Lynch.

Jonna has been busy participating in activities such as choir, volleyball, basketball, cross-country, and softball. She has been a part of Students Against Destructive Decisions, National Honor Society, and a Natural Helper through the guidance office. She has been active in her community helping with Volunteer Day, Vermillion Clean-up Day, Race for the Cure, and being a volunteer at the

Vermillion Public Library. Congratulations Jonna!

Jordyn was nominated by her faculty endorsee saying "she sets the bar for student achievement in my class." Her plans for the future are to attend Mitchell Technical Institute for culinary. Her parents are Bruce and Cathy Mockler.

Jordyn has been busy participating in reading club, soccer, tennis, and track. She is a part of Students Against Destructive Decisions and went to Mitchell Tech Institute for Culinary Camp. Her honors include National Honor Society, Outstanding Sportsmanship and Player Award in soccer, lettering in track and field and sanitation certificate from the Mitchell Tech Institute. She has been a part of the Vermillion Community volunteering for the Food Pantry, Welcome Table, VHS Volunteer Day, Race for the Cure, and Project Sudan.

Way to go Jordyn!

NOT A DRILL



When the fire alarm sounded at Austin Elementary School early Wednesday afternoon, students and teachers quickly discovered it was not a drill. According to unofficial reports, smoke was emitted from an air conditioning unit at the school, which was either discovered by a staff member who set off the alarm, or perhaps may have caused the alarm to sound automatically. Members of the Vermillion Fire Department responded as students were evacuated. They inspected the units on the roof and used fans to vent smoke from the building. Attempts to reach school officials before press time were unsuccessful.

(Photo by David Lias)

First Dakota National Bank awards scholarships

First Dakota National Bank and the South Dakota Bankers Foundation have teamed up to award a \$1,000 scholarship to Kristina Zalud, Vermillion. First Dakota agreed to match Foundation funds to provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors in our local communities.



ZALUD

One of the requirements of the SD Bankers Foundation is the recipient will attend a post-secondary South Dakota institution of higher learning. Zalud plans to attend either South Dakota State University or the University of South Dakota.

All First Dakota FirstChoice Student Checking participants who are seniors in high school or college students attending a post-secondary accredited American college, vocational technical school or university are invited annually to apply for this excellent scholarship opportunity. Applicants are judged on leadership, financial responsibility, school and civic involvement, and satisfactory scholastic progress. First Dakota awarded 14 scholarships in all.

Winners from other First Dakota locations include Amanda Janssen, Crofton NE; Terry Huber, Yankton; Matt Gubbels, Yankton; Adam Fendrich, Salem; Jacqueline Juffer, Wagner; Jenna Ripp, Parkston; Kendra Cersosimo, Mitchell; Mariah Nelson, Mitchell; Ross Kieffer, White Lake; Michael Krogstad, Chamberlain; Mahalia Olson, Kimball; Laura Hurley, Sioux Falls; and Zachary Schneider, Sioux Falls.

First Dakota was founded in 1872 and holds the first bank charter issued in all of Dakota Territory. It has 14 full-service banking locations in ten South Dakota cities. It also has six loan production offices throughout South Dakota and Nebraska.

THIS WEEK IN S.D. NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY

By CW5 Duke Doering (Ret.) SDNG Historian

In recognition of the South Dakota National Guard's 150 years of service to the state and nation from 1862-2012, the SDNG will be publishing significant dates in the history of the organization all year long for the media's use in your publications or broadcasts.

For more information on these events, please contact the SDNG Historian, CW5 Duke Doering at (605) 737-6581, or e-mail duke.doering@us.army.mil.

On this date in SDNG history:

May 15, 1862
Fort Randall, Dakota Territory: Company A, Dakota Cavalry. The long-awaited uniforms, arms and accoutrement had arrived May 15, 1862. Company A departed on May 20 for Fort Randall and was listed on that point's May post returns (Morning Reports) with three officers and 43 enlisted men. Cap. Miner was shown on detached service at Sioux Falls, pursuant to the orders of the governor of Dakota Territory. Company A increased in strength to three officers and 80 enlisted men by the end of June.

Earlier in May 1862, a resolution was passed by the Territorial Legislature which allowed the governor to station the troops where he deemed necessary for the protection of the settlements of Dakota. Consequently, by the July 31 return (Morning Report) no Dakota Cavalry were shown at Fort Randall and it appeared that the governor had decided to station Company A, Dakota Cavalry at strategic places about the territory.

1- DAKOTA PANORAMA, page 292, Dakota Territory Centennial Commission 1961.

May 16, 1953
Korea - Silver Star: Col. Lowell M. Davis was USP & FO for South Dakota from 1981 until his retirement in 1989. Davis had a long history with the SDNG having joined the 211th Engineer Battalion, Lemmon, SD, in 1956.

During his career he held many leadership positions in the engineers and at state headquarters. For many years he held the position of military support to civil authorities, and he was later promoted to plans, operations and training officer for the South Dakota National Guard. He was well known for his many years of service to the National Guard.

But few people were aware that he had prior service with the U.S. Army as an infantry officer in the Korean War. Davis received both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star during his service in Korea.

On this date, May 16, 1953.

Davis was recognized for his courage under fire with this citation from the 3rd Infantry Division.

Silver Star
Headquarters 3D Infantry Division, General Orders # 204 - 24 June 1953

1st Lt. Lowell M. Davis, 065394, Infantry, Company "G", 65th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, United States Army. During the early morning hours of 16 May 1953, Davis was directing his company in the defense of Outpost "Harry" against a numerically superior hostile attack in the vicinity of Songnae-dong, Korea. The enemy began shelling the area with artillery and mortar concentrations. Soon after, the hostile troops began their attack with small arms fire and grenades.

Davis immediately took control of the situation and began planning operations to strengthen the defense of the outpost. He moved through the platoon areas that were subjected to intense mortar, artillery and small arms fire to observe the

attack and keep well informed of the enemy's action. He exposed himself to the enemy fire to rally his men and direct their fire at the oncoming foe.

As a result of his courage and inspirational leadership, his men repelled the attack. Davis' outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Davis entered the Federal service from South Dakota.

May 17, 1969

The adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard on May 17, 1969, was Maj. Gen. Junior F. Miller. He had been appointed to the position of adjutant general by the governor of Iowa on Dec. 15, 1961. Prior to this appointment, Miller was assigned as deputy brigade commander, 34th Infantry Division and where he had been promoted to Colonel on June 9, 1959.

During World War II, Miller, as a captain, was early to the European Theater and spent more than 500 days in the

combat zone. He fought the battles at Tunisia in North Africa, and in Italy at Napple-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and the Po Valley. He was still in Italy when Germany surrendered in May 1945.

Miller was awarded several medals including the Bronze Star Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, with six battle stars.

Miller's military career began on Oct. 3, 1927, when he enlisted as a 20-year-old private in Company F, 109th Engineer Regiment at Deadwood. Miller transferred to Sturgis in 1930 when Company F moved to that location. In the 1930s Miller moved to eastern South Dakota and was a 2nd lieutenant in Company C, 109th Engineer Regiment at Huron, when the unit was activated on Feb. 10, 1941.

During the mobilization he was assigned as company commander and various staff positions with the 109th before being assigned to staff of the 34th Infantry Division.

When the war ended and he returned to the United States he stayed with the 34th ID. Miller, who passed away on August 8, 1998, was the first of the SDNG soldiers who have risen to the position of adjutant general in other states or territories.

May 18, 1977

Col. Ken Scurr was commander of the 147th Field Artillery in the South Pacific for almost all of World War II. In order to capture the history of Scurr, Col. Guy H. (Homer) Harding, who was commander of the 147th Field Artillery Group from 1969-1977, took it upon himself to interview Scurr for the recorded responses in a book entitled, "Reflections of Service," 147th Field Artillery Group by Col. (Ret.) Kenneth R. Scurr. In this book, Scurr told Harding that replacements who were assigned to the 147th became as loyal as the original South Dakotans.

Two examples that Scurr cited were first, from the infantry commander, Gen. MacNider, whom the South Dakota artillery

gunners were supporting. MacNider said, "The 147th FA Battalion was an integral part of the hardest fighting Independent Task Force in the Pacific. The Bushmasters were outstanding from its organization to the routing out of the last of the enemy from the southwest Pacific. No infantry was ever better served by any group of gunners in any Army. It was a privilege to be associated with that magnificent group of South Dakotans."

The second quote comes from a 36-year-old PFC Thrum of LaPorte, IN, as he leaned against a pillar to watch the 147th go to work on Japanese entrenched on a nearby ridge. Thrum swore softly and admiringly as he told a correspondent from the Chicago Tribune, "Maybe you don't know about artillery. Take a look at the best artillery outfit in the world, the 147th. We love those boys. They are so good we let them fire 40 yards ahead of us." Thrum yawned and stretched drowsily, "I'm getting sleepy. When the 147th gets going I can sleep like a baby."

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