Editorial: SADD students work to change peers’ attitudes

Editor’s note: Our Saturday editorial summarizes positive stories printed in the Leader-Telegram during the last week.

You hear it over and over again: Teenagers think they're invincible. Death is a long way off. A few beers isn't going to hurt. Everybody does it.

It's a hard thing for parents to counteract, so it was nice to see some 80 students from local high schools take the time to attend a day-long training session on ways to help reduce underage drinking.

The students, members of their respective school's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SAAD) organizations, took part in activities meant to raise awareness of the physical, emotion and legal risks of underage drinking.

"If I can make a difference for one person, it's worth it," said 15-year-old Memorial High School student and SADD member Betsy Fawcett. SADD students from North, Regis, Altoona, Augusta and Fall Creek high schools also took part.

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Few things are more generous than dedicating your life to helping others. That's why a special thank you is in order for Sister Charitas Prince, a Chippewa Falls native, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday and earlier this year observed the 80th anniversary of the profession of her vows.

During her lifetime, Sister Charitas cared for many people and animals in need, taught hundreds of nursing and medical students and taught English to Taiwanese people.

"I had nothing to do with it," she said of her service. "God is in charge, (and) I just (did) the best that I could with anything that I was given to do."

John F. Kennedy once said, "Here on Earth, God's work must truly be our own," and Sister Charitas continues to be a shining example.
Most of us find the sight of empty plastic water and soda bottles strewn along streets and sidewalks disgusting. That’s why it’s refreshing to see a program at UW-Stout promoting the use of refilling personal bottles with filtered tap water. There are 11 “hydration stations” on campus, mostly in dormitories, where students and staff can fill up. At one station in Fleming Hall students estimated the hydration station already had eliminated 3,150 bottles from the waste stream.

“(Students) feel good they are doing their part for the environment, and they love that it’s free,” said Aaron Pabst, director of Fleming and Hovlid halls.

Shawn Anderson may not have a household name, but the Chippewa Falls man is gaining notice in the world of drag-racing.

Anderson, 43, last month won first place and $10,000 in the National Hod Rod Association pro class division at a regional event in Topeka, Kan.

Anderson has competed in more than 40 events across the Midwest this year, and his win in Kansas qualified him for the national drag-racing championships Nov. 13 in California.

— Don Huebscher, editor