

Students complete second Summer Bridge Program

Knox Boxes available for residential use

The second University of South Dakota Summer Bridge Program concluded last week with a Summer Bridge Closing Banquet on Friday, July 26, at the Muenster University Center Ballroom.

Thirty-one first-year students received a head start on their college careers thanks to this unique program, which began July 1 as a four-week intensive program to assist first-year students in their adjustment to academic and campus life at USD. The program was established for incoming students to strengthen their leadership and math skills. They also had an opportunity to network with USD faculty and their new classmates as well as complete USD's Speech 101 course.

"The Summer Bridge Program is a great opportunity for first-year students to get individual help in courses that will

provide a foundation for their academic careers," noted Christina Keller, associate dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at USD. "A program like this gives first-year students the confidence to achieve their academic goals because of the hands on academic advising and study plans they receive. It also gives students a chance to meet new people and become more familiar with campus resources before classes start this fall."

Additional Summer Bridge Program activities included a trip to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, paintballing at the local arena and tasting the variety of unique food available in the Vermillion community. Move-in Day for all new USD students is Friday, Aug. 23.

For more information about USD, visit <http://admissions.usd.edu> or e-mail admissions@usd.edu.

By Travis Gulbrandson
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The Knox Boxes seen on Vermillion city buildings and some businesses are now available for residential use.

Two residential Knox Boxes have been donated to the Vermillion Fire Department by the Lions Club. Fire Chief Shannon Draper said the boxes were donated at the request of Police Chief Matt Betzen, also a Lions Club member.

"He and I are colleagues, so in speaking with him, he thought he would take it to their group and discuss it," Draper said. "They decided it was a good idea, and they went ahead and purchased the two boxes."

"I'm hoping that some other businesses would like to sponsor also," he said.

Knox Boxes are keyless entry systems that allow firefighters to enter a building during an emergency without causing damage to it.

The keys are stored inside the boxes and accessed by emergency responders via a code they receive over the radio dispatch.

"If the doors are locked and nobody's (able) to let us in, we would have to force our way in," Draper said. "This is a way that we can quickly gain access to their house

securely, assist them and then re-secure the house."

Draper said the use of the residential Knox Boxes will be to aid residents who are injured or are critically ill, and will be limited to up to eight weeks due to the low number of boxes owned by the fire department.

Those who are eligible are classified in a number of ways:

- Individuals who live alone and have existing medical or physical conditions that could prevent them from opening a locked door in the event of an emergency,
- suffering from a short-term medical conditions,
- recuperating from a hospital stay, or
- are awaiting placement in an assisted living or skilled nursing facility.

Unlike the business and city Knox Boxes, which are permanently attached to the buildings, the residential boxes are designed for quick, temporary installation.

"They have a hanger that (hooks) on their front door, so that it stays secure," Draper said. "When the door is closed, nobody can take it off, but when the door is open, it easily lifts off without any damage to the door."

Even though the fire department has only two residential Knox Boxes, Draper said interested residents can purchase their own boxes, which retail from about \$165 to \$195.

For those who use the boxes owned by the fire department, a deposit of \$100 will be required.

"That's just a check that we'll hold, and then give back to them," Draper said. "It's just because the boxes are so expensive that we have to take a deposit."

Draper said that Vermillion is not the first community in which he's served that have participated in the business Knox Box program, but it is the first for the residential program.

"It is not a new concept, though," he said. "There are a lot of communities on the east coast (who participate)."

The Knox Boxes make it a lot easier – and safer – for emergency workers to do their jobs, he said.

"It's 100 percent easier to gain access to a building without having to force your way in," Draper said. "We're always concerned about creating unnecessary damage to a building. When we're not sure what's occurring inside a building, you really worry that you're causing undue damage. But, you still have to get in and look at it."

"So, it makes it so much easier to gain access safely. It's safe for us, also, because we're not breaking glass or using tools that we could be injured in the normal use of," he said.

For more information about the Knox Box program, contact the Vermillion Fire Department at (605) 677-7097.

CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S PRESS BRIEFING

07/21/13 15:28 – A deputy observed a vehicle speeding at 71 mph in the 55 mph zone on Greenfield Road. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was cited for the offense.

07/21/13 15:46 – A deputy observed a vehicle in operation in Vermillion with a tail light out. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was informed of the problem.

07/21/13 17:01 – A deputy assisted a family that was stranded on Highway 50 when their vehicle broke down.

07/21/13 19:43 – A deputy responded to a report of a jug full of pennies stolen from a residence in Wakonda.

07/22/13 04:47 – A deputy responded to a report of a vehicle parked off the road along University Road. The deputy learned there had been no accident and the vehicle was parked there due to mechanical issues.

07/22/13 13:52 – A deputy mediated a dispute over personal property between two women in Wakonda who were no longer getting along with each other. The property was exchanged without incident.

07/22/13 13:57 – A deputy investigated a report of a theft of copper wire from Irene.

07/22/13 14:59 – An inmate was transported to a doctor appointment and then returned to the jail.

07/22/13 15:20 – A deputy observed a vehicle travel through a stop sign east of Wakonda without stopping. The vehicle was stopped and the driver cited for the offense.

07/22/13 18:45 – Deputies arrested a wanted person in Vermillion.

07/22/13 20:02 – A protection order was served to a man in Vermillion.

07/23/13 01:17 – A deputy checked on a vehicle parked along Greenfield Road in the dark. He found the driver had stopped to rest after becoming too sleepy to drive.

07/23/13 13:49 – A deputy transported an inmate to a doctor appointment and then returned him to the jail.

07/23/13 16:31 – A vehicle was stopped for speeding past the park in Wakonda. The driver was cited for having no valid driver's license.

07/23/13 19:18 – An inmate was transported to a doctor visit and then returned to the jail.

07/23/13 20:26 – A deputy transported a wanted person from the Minnehaha County Jail to the Clay County Jail after being arrested there for the Clay County warrant.

07/24/13 02:10 – A deputy responded to a dispute over property in Burbank. Two women were fighting but neither wanted

the other prosecuted for the offense. The situation was calmed down.

07/24/13 11:36 – A deputy mediated a domestic dispute between a woman and her teenaged son.

07/24/13 13:15 – A rural resident reported an unauthorized charge on her credit card. The charge occurred in China. The bank refunded the amount charged to the account.

07/24/13 14:06 – Deputies assisted the Vermillion Police with searching for a man who left the hospital against medical advice. A mental illness hold was placed when the man was located.

07/24/13 16:00 – A Wakonda resident reported she suspected a neighbor of going into her apartment and taking items as well as photos while inside. The matter is under

investigation.

07/24/13 22:55 – A complaint was made about a semi driving erratically. A deputy responded and observed the vehicle that did not seem to be erratic. No action was taken.

07/25/13 07:01 – A deputy took a report of a car/deer accident west of Vermillion.

07/25/13 14:46 – Reports were received of cattle on the road near Wakonda. The owner was contacted and the cattle were caught.

07/25/13 18:37 – A Wakonda resident reported theft of some photographs and prescription drugs from her husband. She suspects a woman who made a similar complaint about her. The incident is under investigation.

07/26/13 12:41 – A deputy took a report of an

accident that had happened days earlier east of Volin.

07/26/13 18:32 – Deputies mediated a domestic dispute at a residence near Burbank.

07/27/13 13:17 – A deputy transported an inmate from the Yankton County Jail to the Clay

County jail after she was arrested in Yankton for an outstanding warrant.

07/27/13 14:47 – A deputy checked on a report of a 911 hangup call on the east side of Clay County. A child had been playing with a phone.

07/27/13 17:32 – A deputy transported an

inmate to a doctor visit and then returned him to the jail.

07/27/13 22:54 – A deputy checked on a vehicle parked behind the Wakonda School. The couple in the car stated they were there to talk in private. There was no criminal activity taking place and the vehicle left the area.

Total Records: 31

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