

One in a *Ver* Million

Simunek is competes as a preliminary contestant

Autumn Simunek is competing in January for a position as a preliminary contestant in the Miss South Dakota Scholarship Program, a local preliminary pageant to the Miss America Organization. She was fourth runner-up in 2011 and 2nd runner-up in 2012 in the Miss South Dakota Scholarship pageant system. Autumn is also a long-term student volunteer at the VA Black Hills Health Care System. Autumn is forming a Holiday Homeless Relief Drive for Volunteers of America, Dakotas' Veterans Outreach who provide relief to our homeless or at risk of being homeless

Veterans and their families. She is advocating for our Veterans, reaching out for help for our jobless Veterans, more too often leading to homelessness and hunger – over 65,000 of our nations Veterans who are still homeless, even right here in South Dakota.

Autumn's platform is "Serving Those Who Served: Everyone's Role" – raising awareness for our Veterans and their families in our school systems and the community and encouraging people to volunteer for a Veteran's cause and Veteran's Organizations. Also, incorporated into her platform – she encourages

residents and business's to search her South Dakota HirePatriots website job board, and challenges you to begin posting full and part-time Career and Day jobs. Day jobs can be anything from cleaning windows to snow removal. She asks you to spread the word about this South Dakota Job Board and provide job opportunities for our Veterans and their families. If you would like to know more about Autumn and her cause, you can visit www.hirepatriots.com/south-dakota-ambassador. You can also go to <http://www.voa-dakotas.org/Services/Sioux-Falls/Housing-and-Homeless/Veterans-Outreach> for more information.

The Holiday Homeless Relief Drive will be from



December 1st to December 13th, 2012 and here is a list of items that can be donated to help out our Homeless Veterans and their family that are in need.

Items needed: Towels sheets (single bed), shower

curtains, alarm clocks, hygiene products, (shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, ect.), flatware sets (4-setting), gift cards (Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart, Hy-Vee, Shopko) – (No Cash or Checks), household

kitchen items (pots, pans, utensils, etc), winter coats, gloves and hats.

Donated items can be dropped off or mailed to: Vermillion Plain Talk 201 W. Cherry St. Vermillion, SD 57069



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City declares emergency to replace fire equipment

By Travis Gulbrandson
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An emergency was declared to make it easier for the city to replace some fire department gear that was damaged in the fire at the Vermillion Landfill last month.

The action was taken by the Vermillion City Council during their regular meeting Nov. 19.

"In working the fire, the firefighters had oil that was floating on the water contaminate hoses, gloves, boots, bunker gear pants and some coats," said city finance officer Mike Carlson.

While the fire department's insurance company has reimbursed the

costs of the hose and gloves, and acquired some coats, they still have 20 damaged pairs of pants.

"The insurance company has tried cleaning the pants and coats without any success," Carlson said. "There (are) concerns about how much cleaning you can do without damaging some of the fire-retardant characteristics of these materials, and if anybody would certify these after they've got them cleaned, that they would still be used."

If new pants were purchased, the jackets would have to be purchased, too.

"The company doesn't make individual replacements for them," Carlson said. "There (are) new models and

such out, and so to be replaced, you would have to buy both the coat and the pants."

The state's emergency procurement statute – 5-18A-9 – will allow the city to make the purchase without advertising for two weeks for sealed bids, Carlson said.

"Once the council acts on the low bid, the vendor would come in and measure the firefighters to get this equipment ordered, so it would probably take a minimum of three weeks ... to get that done," he said.

The city received two bids – from Heiman Fire Equipment for \$36,296.80, and from Danko Emergency Equipment for \$38,819.20.

The council members

approved the bid from Heiman Fire Equipment.

At the same meeting, the council members also heard a proclamation of appreciation of area fire departments for responding to the fire at the Vermillion Landfill.

The fire departments of Wakonda, Gayville and Volin were thanked for their assistance to the Vermillion Volunteer Fire Department, and providing equipment and firefighters to extinguish the blaze.

"The City of Vermillion is thankful for the dedication, bravery and hard work demonstrated by the volunteer firefighters who responded to the fire," the proclamation read in part.

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