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Vermillion

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Standoff in Vermillion has tragic end

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

A domestic altercation in Vermillion that began in the early morning hours of Christmas day ended tragically.

A Vermillion man is dead and his two children are safe after a standoff that began at approximately 1 a.m. Tuesday.

The man apparently died of a self-inflicted gunshot after keeping local law enforcement at bay for approximately 12 hours.

At 1 a.m. Tuesday, officers were called to a residence on South Crawford Road near Main Street and determined that an armed man was in the residence with two of his minor children.

The immediate area was evacuated and negotiators made contact with the subject, according to a statement released Tuesday afternoon by the Vermillion Police Department.

At approximately 4:30 a.m., the man agreed to release his children and they were evacuated from the area.

Despite efforts to negotiate with the man, he stopped communicating with law enforcement officials at approximately 10:20 a.m. Tuesday.

Police secured nearby residences and used other resources to safely approach the residence in an effort to once again begin communicating with the subject.

At 1:30 p.m., the man was found dead in the residence. According to the VPD press statement, "Initial investigation points to single self-inflicted gunshot wound as the likely cause of death."

The Vermillion Police Department,

the Clay County Sheriff's Department, and the state Division of Criminal Investigation are currently investigating the incident.

The Yankton Police Department, the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the University of South Dakota Police joined these agencies in the early morning hours to stabilize the standoff situation with hopes to bring it to a peaceful conclusion.

Photo exhibit explores issue of Native American identity



The fine art exhibit "Picturing Native: Photographs from Edward Curtis, Horace Poolaw and Zig Jackson" will be on display at the John A. Day Gallery in the Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on the USD campus through Jan. 30, 2013.

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

The history between American Indians and photography is a complicated one, and the difficult issues and questions it raises will be explored at the John A. Day Gallery through Jan. 30, 2013.

"Picturing Native: Photographs from Edward Curtis, Horace Poolaw and Zig Jackson" went on display Dec. 20 in the gallery, which is located in the Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on the USD campus.

Essentially a fine art photography exhibit, it includes the work of three different photographers from three different photographic periods of the 20th century.

"Hopefully, the viewer will come in and see how the depiction of the American Indian has changed over that period of time, and really that there is such an interesting relationship between the photographic medium and the depiction of American Indians," said Alison Erasmus, director of the University Art Galleries and curator of the exhibit.

"Picturing Native" features a small selection of photogravures by Edward Curtis from his study, "The North American Indian (1907-1930)," which are on loan from the University Libraries Archives and Special Collections at USD.

"Curtis treated his project ... as a way to preserve what he thought was a vanishing race," Erasmus said. "He felt like his photographs had a social utility."

Despite its intent, Curtis' work has come under criticism for maintaining stereotypes, as well as its lack of input from the subjects themselves.

"Because Curtis' work was so problematic and political for some viewers, it's best to contextualize it, and I thought, 'What better way to contextualize that than showing it with two other examples of photographic works that explore indigenous identity?'" Erasmus said.

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Verbos, PhD Project, strive to diversify corporate America

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Since 1994, The PhD Project has encouraged African American, Latino American and Native American college students across the United States to enroll in Ph.D. programs.

This, in turn, will put more professors of color at the head of business classes, which may help to diversify corporate America.

For close to a decade, Amy Klemm Verbos, Ph.D., J.D., an assistant professor of management at USD, has been working with The PhD Project to encourage Native Americans and others to consider business-related academic careers.

"It's just a great organization," she said. "It's very well-run, very professional."

A member of the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi Indians, Verbos was asked by the project itself to get involved in 2003. She said she attended her first official conference the next year.

"There's a Chicago conference that they have every November, and at the Chicago conference, they pre-screen potential PhD students, and then bring them in," she said. "There are a number of sessions to get them to understand what the life of an academic is like, what you do as an academic, and to give them a realistic preview of what it would be like to be a professor."

Generally speaking, the students who get involved already have their master's degrees.

After they sign on, they become Doctoral Student Members.

"The support is fantastic," Verbos said. "When you graduate The PhD Program, you become a faculty member, and as a faculty member, I have presented three times."

Verbos also has presented to Native American students in the First-Year Experience class for the past three years, encouraging them to consider a business major.

"I talk about what's going on in Indian Country in respect to economic development and the exciting things that are going on with businesses that are owned

by tribes, how business degrees can be beneficial to the community because of all of this new business development that's been going on," she said.

She also has made similar presentations for high school students.

According to The PhD Project, there were only 12 Native Americans enrolled in business doctoral programs last year.

"(The program) has been very successful with African American and Latino American (students), less so with Native Americans because of the limited population," Verbos said. "There are just a few of us around the country, but one thing that's really great about The PhD Project is, we know each other from working together, and we're doing a number of research projects together."

Verbos has collaborated a number of times with Deanna Kennedy, assistant professor of operations management at the University of Washington Bothell; Joseph Gladstone, assistant professor of public health management of New Mexico State University; and Dan Stewart, associate professor of management at Gonzaga University.

"We're trying now to set something in the literature so we know that in the future, people can find that literature and say, 'I see that there's a good connection between Native American values and business,'" she said.

Verbos said she's glad she became involved with The PhD Project.

"There are always a few students who are interested (during my presentations)," she said. "This is a relatively small population that we would have in any given class, so a few students is a good start. That's kind of how I look at it."

"A few students is a good start," she said.

In addition to her involvement with The PhD Project, Verbos also serves on her tribe's economic development board, the Mno Bmadnsen Board, which conducts all the non-gaming, for-profit businesses for the Pokagon Band. She has taught at USD since 2009.

For more information about The PhD Project, visit www.phdproject.org/.



AMY KLEMM VERBOS, PH.D., J.D.