

USD prof says winter in SD is 'for the birds'

David Swanson, Ph.D., University of South Dakota professor of biology and contributing author of "Birds of South Dakota," has spent more than 25 years studying birds. He recently has been publicized for his knowledge and work with bird adaptation to climate change in Audubon, a conservation magazine based in New York.

Birds go through physical, physiological and behavioral changes to prepare for the cold winters. Swanson is especially interested in these physiological changes.

"One major contribution to the birds' physiological adjustments during the winter is their bigger muscles, which we've been noticing more over the last few years," Swanson said.

While many larger birds are able to add more insulation from feathers, the smaller birds use their muscles to shiver explains Swanson. This produces heat for them.

According to Swanson, the birds that are in South Dakota year round include the Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Sparrow,

American Goldfinch, House Finch and the Northern Cardinal. Certain birds, including the Dark-eyed Junco and the American Tree Sparrow, fly from Canada to nest in South Dakota for the winter.

These birds are true of the eastern side of South Dakota. The western side of the state closely compares to all the northern states west of the Dakotas, though Swanson notes that Dark-eyed Juncos do live in the Black Hills year round, even though they are natives of Canada. It is because of the forests in that region that attract them, said Swanson.

Swanson also notes that although an extremely harsh or extremely mild winter does not really throw these birds off, the biggest problem is when there is a vast change in a short period of time. The preparation the birds go through before a winter takes at least a week.

Swanson teaches several biology courses at USD, including Ornithology, which is the study of birds. He is currently the secretary of the South Dakota Ornithologist's Union.

Public hearing set for sidewalk repairs

By Travis Gulbrandson
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The Vermillion City Council approved a resolution of necessity for sidewalk repairs in the Southwest Quadrant at its regular meeting Monday night.

This comes two weeks after a similar resolution was tabled because there may have been an issue regarding public notification.

A public hearing date regarding the repairs also was set Monday for Jan. 6, 2014.

State law requires the city to set a public hearing and to notify the property owners through publication and by mail.

"As you may recall from the last council meeting, there are two actual statutes that govern these sidewalk assessments, and they require different things," said City Engineer José Domínguez. "One of the statutes requires a single publication and a mailing,

while the second set of statutes requires two publications but no mailing.

"We're going to be doing two publications, and then we're going to be doing one mailing, and that covers both of the statutes," Domínguez said.

The council tabled a similar resolution of necessity for sidewalk repairs at their last meeting after several residents raised questions about publication of that night's public hearing.

Concerns about notification by mail were also voiced, as the city did not use return receipt mail to inform affected residents of the resolution.

The repairs in question stem from a 2010 program under which the city inspected sidewalks for defects.

"These could be trippers or little holes within the sidewalk," Domínguez said. "All of these items are reviewed, and as long as (they)

meet a certain criteria that the council had agreed to ... the property owner gets tagged, and we send them a resolution, which has to be published, and the property owners have to be notified by mail of the public hearing."

Packets with information the property owners may require will be available on the city's Web site, but owners can also call the city requesting a copy.

"The packets are going to be including contractors that can do the work, the type of repairs that might be required depending on the items that were marked on their sidewalks, and also the city's specifications and a permit," Domínguez said.

At the time of the meeting two weeks ago, the cost of all the repairs was estimated at \$102,000, along with an administration fee of either eight percent or \$50, whichever is greater.

OBITUARIES

Lorraine Brown

Lorraine C. Brown, age 89, of Vermillion, passed away on Monday, Dec. 16, 2013, at Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls. Memorial Services will be 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 20, 2013, at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion, with Rev. John Fischer officiating. Burial of her cremated remains will be in the BluffView Cemetery. Visitation was 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013, at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion, SD, with a 7 p.m. Rosary and Scripture service. Visitation will resume one hour prior to service at the church. The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, is assisting with service details.

Lorraine was born Oct. 23, 1924, in Kimball, to John and Helen (Mashek) Kubik. She married Densel Brown on March 3, 1944, in Elk Point, to this union, eight children were born. Lorraine was a member of the VFW Ladies Auxillary and Rebekah Order of Oddfellows. She had a deep faith and was a lifetime member of the St. Agnes Catholic Church. During her career, she was a Dietary Supervisor at the St. Agnes School and Dakota Hospital.

Lorraine enjoyed fishing and camping in the Black Hills. Her hobbies included bird watching, playing bingo, gardening, and cooking. She was full of

love for her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be remembered by many for the delicious cinnamon rolls she baked for her lunchroom crowd. Her dry sense of humor will be missed by all.

Lorraine is survived by her children, Marilyn Jensen of Beresford, Danny (Linda) Brown of Volin, Marie Ouellette of Vermillion, Douglas (Mildred) Brown of Vermillion, Donald (Diane) Brown of Vermillion, Marjorie Kjose of Vermillion, Linda (Mike) Holmes of Elk Point, Richard (Deb) Brown of Vermillion; 17 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; sister, Marjorie Dominiack of Oacoma; brother, Raymond Kubik of Corpus Christi, TX; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by husband, Densel Brown; sons-in-law, Edward Jensen and Richard Ouellette.

Jane Poindexter

Jane Poindexter, 66, formerly of Beresford, passed away Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013, at home in Sylmar, CA under hospice care following a short battle with cancer. Memorial services will be held at Grace Baptist Church, Santa Clarita, CA, on Jan. 3, 2014, and at Dalesburg Baptist Church, rural Beresford, on Jan. 18, 2014, at 1 p.m.

Jane Margaret Gustad was born Nov. 22, 1947, to Ben and Adena (Anderson) Gustad in Vermillion. Janie grew up on a farm in rural Centerville, and attended school there until after her mother passed away in 1959, when she and her dad moved to Beresford. Janie graduated from Beresford High School in 1966, and moved to Burbank, CA in 1967, where she worked for Valspar Paints for 32 years, retiring in 1999. On Nov. 20, 1982, Janie married Bob Poindexter in San Bernardino, CA, who is grateful to have shared his life with her for 31 years.

Although Janie spent the majority of her adult life in southern California, she remained true to her South Dakota roots, missing few class reunions and keeping in touch with her friends from "back home." Janie was the "family historian" and maintained subscriptions to the Beresford, Centerville and Vermillion papers, reading and sharing the news faithfully. With a strong faith, she enjoyed being a member of the "Women of Grace" Bible Study Fellowship at Grace Baptist Church in Santa Clarita, where she was also a member. Janie had a warm and lively spirit, and her laugh was infectious.

Among those who survive and who gratefully shared her life are her husband, Bob, of

Sylmar and their dachshund, Lady; two sisters, Annette (Carl) Norberg, Highlands Ranch, CO, Karen (Jerry) Swangel, Sioux Falls; a stepson, Mark (Sharon) Poindexter and step-granddaughter, Elizabeth, Papillion, NE; two nieces, Lana Shogren, Sioux Falls and Shelli (Steve) Washel, Bloomington, IN. Janie was preceded in death by her parents.

Jack Russell

John N. "Jack" Russell, 77, of Vermillion, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013, after a brief battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family.

A prayer service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, at St. Agnes Catholic Church. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 23, also at St. Agnes Catholic Church, with burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Jack was born June 2, 1936, in Vermillion, to William R. and Alma (Nelson) Russell, the fourth of eight sons. He graduated from Vermillion High School in 1954 and married his high school sweetheart Mickey O'Connor on Sept. 2, 1957, at St. Agnes Church. They were blessed with nine

children and 25 grandchildren.

Jack served in the Army from 1958-1960. In 1961 Jack went into the construction business with his father and four of his brothers building concrete grain elevators throughout the Midwest. He and Mickey called Shenandoah, IA home for 19 years before moving to Seward, NE, and eventually back to their childhood home of Vermillion in 1988.

Jack was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church. He was a quiet man with a strong presence and an unparalleled sense of humor. The greatest joy in his life was his family. He was fiercely devoted to his wife, children and numerous grandchildren, who thought the world of their "Papa Jack."

Jack is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Mickey of Vermillion; his nine children, Randy Russell of Council Bluffs, IA, Patsy (Rick) Cogdill of Tyler, TX, Sheila (Keith) Pearson of Vermillion, Jack (Mary) Russell of Seward, NE, Kathy (John) Stampfel of Red Lodge, MT, Marty (Wendy) Russell of Spring, TX, Melissa (Luke) Wolsky of The Woodlands, TX, Annie Russell of Houston, TX, and Tim Russell of Denver, CO. He is also survived by and is the proud Papa to 25 grandchildren, Taylor Russell, Mickey Russell,

Danielle Russell, Dylan Russell, Nick Cogdill, Max Cogdill, Daniel Pearson, Thomas Pearson, Andrew (Danielle) Pearson, Sam Pearson, Matt Pearson, Katie Pearson, Ben Russell, Alex Russell, Jack Russell III, Annika Stampfel, John Stampfel, Jacob Stampfel, Grace Stampfel, Henry Stampfel, Morgan Russell, Molly Russell, Joe Russell, Charlie Wolsky and Sarah Wolsky.

Additional survivors include five of his brothers, Bob (Dodie), Roger (Carol), Bill (Valerie), Mark (Susan) and Dennis; in-laws, Pat and Jerry Pratt, Fran and Joe Zuppo, Jerry O'Connor and Tim O'Connor, and daughter-in-law Kyle Russell. Jack also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews and many close friends who will miss his colorful personality. He is preceded in death by his parents, William and Alma Russell; and two brothers, Byron and Jim.

The family would like to acknowledge with special thanks: Sanford Hospice Care (Joanne and Kay), Dr. Bill Dendinger, Rennee Ondrozeck and Linda and Gordon Reetz.

Condolences may be posted online at www.hansenfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Agnes Charities or The Vermillion Food Pantry.



Brown



Poindexter



Russell

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