



(From left) Bonnie Oswald, Sanford Vermillion; Robin Hower, Vermillion Police Department; Layne Stewart, Clay County Emergency Management; Andy Howe, Clay County sheriff; and Richard Draper, Vermillion fire chief.

(Submitted photo)

Heroes Blood Drive helps boost local supply

The seventh annual "Heroes Behind the Badges" blood drive ended with tremendous success.

The blood drive held on Monday, Jan. 14, was a friendly competition between Vermillion Law Enforcement and Fire Department.

The departments put up a good fight. In the end it was the Vermillion Law Enforcement bringing home the trophy with 49 donation votes vs. Vermillion Fire Department with 24 donation votes.

During the blood drive donors could designate their donation to the department of their choice. All the blood collected helped local and area patients.

"We are very happy with the support for this blood drive. January has been very difficult to keep up with the need for blood because of the strong cold and flu season," said Ken Versteeg, executive director of Community Blood Bank. "The need for blood

within the community continues to be consistent. This was an overwhelming response from the community to help save lives."

Community Blood Bank is a nonprofit cooperative effort between Sanford Medical Center and Avera McKennan Hospital. Community Blood Bank is the sole provider of blood and blood products to Vermillion Hospital since 1993.

For more information about Community Blood Bank, donating blood or to schedule a blood drive log onto www.cbblifeblood.org.

On behalf of Sanford Vermillion Hospital, Community Blood Bank would like to thank the more than 70 volunteer blood donors making the difference in the Vermillion community. A person must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more and be in good general health the day of donation.

Researcher's work is 'for the birds'

By Travis Gulbrandson
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An ongoing research project at the University of South Dakota aims to determine how birds respond physiologically to changes in their environment.

Far from being a local interest-only situation, the results yielded by the project could have implications for the study of global climate change.

"If we know how birds respond to those changing temperatures, changing photoperiods, then we can make some predictions about how birds will be able to respond (to changes in climate) and whether they can withstand those changes," said Dr. David Swanson, professor of biology at USD.

The project was started at USD by Swanson in 1990, and concerned the physical changes the birds undergo season to season.

The metabolic rates of birds that stayed in the area all year, as well as only part of the year, were studied because the total amount of energy a bird uses is directly related to its heat production.

"We looked at what their maximal capacity for heat production was in the summer, and compared that with their maximal capacity for heat production in the winter," Swanson said. "What we found was that the winter birds generally had higher maximal heat production than summer birds by about 25-50 percent on average. That enabled them to survive a lot colder temperatures than the summer birds could."

Heat production in birds is primarily the function of the skeletal muscles, specifically their

flight muscles, although Swanson points out that muscle growth isn't related to the amount of time the birds spend flying.

"If anything, they're probably flying around a lot less (during the winter) because they're not taking trips back and forth to the nest," he said. "But they're shivering like crazy, so heat production in birds is (caused) primarily by shivering with those big flight muscles."

"The bigger muscles allow them to increase their shivering capacity, and that allows them to increase their cold tolerance," he said.

The USD researchers now are looking into the factors that regulate seasonal changes in muscle size, in particular a protein called myostatin, which is a muscle growth inhibitor.

"What we were hypothesizing was that this myostatin gene was down-regulated in the winter, and so ... that would free up the muscle to grow," Swanson said.

Tests on house sparrows showed that the gene was decreased by 55 percent in the winter, and the capacity for activating myostatin also was reduced, he said.

A broad spectrum of natural changes is being studied, as well. "We're looking at it in several other wintering species," Swanson said. "We're also looking for changes in myostatin in migration because ... prior to engaging in migration birds get bigger muscles, and that helps to support their migratory flights."

Swanson said it will be interesting to see if it shows the same results as the regular change of seasons, as well as the switch from longer to shorter days.

"That should tell us if it's really



a general mechanism that birds use to regulate change in their muscle size whenever they need those changes," he said.

The results of these and other tests could give the researchers insight into the global issue of climate change.

"If the habitats that they need and the temperatures that they can tolerate become mismatched, then there could be some potential problems for the populations of these birds," Swanson said.

Studies like the one at USD could give researchers a better

idea of how and if the birds will acclimate to long-term change, he said.

In addition, there also could be positive outgrowths for humans. Swanson said that while it isn't a specific interest of the USD project, one possible spinoff is in the field of muscle-wasting diseases such as muscular dystrophy.

"The role of myostatin in some of those diseases is actually being targeted by some research to look at potential treatments," he said.

OBITUARIES

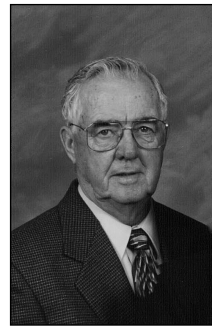
Lester Johnson

Lester Johnson, 86, of Wakonda, passed away Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013, at the Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

Lester was born July 13, 1926 in Hooker, SD to Thomas and Ella (Andahl) Johnson. He graduated from the Centerville High School and attended South Dakota State University and also served in the Army during WWII. He married Beverly Oursland on June 4, 1950 in Volin, and the couple farmed and raised livestock for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Arnold and an infant brother.

He is survived by his wife Beverly, of Wakonda; three sons, Dennis (Donna) Johnson of Coon Rapids, MN, Douglas (Lorie) Johnson of Aberdeen, and Duane (Michelle) Johnson of Vermillion; and a daughter, Diane (Mick) Ramey of Cottage Grove, MN; two sisters, Ruth Ostrem of Medina, MN, and Louise (Dorwin) Larsen of Flat Rock,



JOHNSON

NC; two brothers, Eldon (Nory) Johnson of Vermillion, and Kenny (Lois) Johnson of Litchfield, MN; and a sister-in-law, Sylvia Johnson of Vermillion.

He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6 at the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, rural Wakonda, with burial to follow in the church cemetery. Visitation began at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. hansenfuneralhome.com.

Eldonna Bartlett

Eldonna Iltie (Peterson) Bartlett was born April 6, 1936 in Washburn, ND to Ellsworth and Ida (Oakland) Peterson. She died Monday, Feb. 4, 2013 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Viborg, surrounded by her family, at the age of 76 years, 9 months and 28 days.

Eldonna graduated from Centerville High School in 1954. She married Ronnie Bartlett on Dec. 31, 1955. She was a member of Scandia Lutheran Church and Esther Circle. She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, 20th Century Club and the General Federation Women's Club of South Dakota which she served as State President from 1996 to 1998.

Eldonna was an interviewer with the Department of Labor from 1964 to 1986 in Yankton and Sioux Falls. She worked at USD in Vermillion and later worked at First Midwest Bank in Centerville from 1992 to 2002.

Her family was most important in her life. She is survived by three daughters, Sandy (Gary) Edman and Lori (Allen) Hise, both of Centerville and Sheri (Mitchel) Morse, Vermillion; two sons, Roger (Lori) Bartlett, Joplin, MO and Brian (Nicole) Bartlett, Centerville; 11 grandchildren, Jason (Nicki) Hise, Nathan (Angela) Hise and Alison Hise and her fiancé Nick,



BARTLETT

Tara (Jeff) Cole, Tim (Jen) Edman, Bobbi Bartlett, Erik (Cathy) Bartlett, Michele Morse and fiancé Jordan,

Stephanie Morse, Matthew Morse and Michael Morse; eight great-grandchildren, Hannah and Bryan Hise, Jacob and Aidan Cole, Haleigh and Khloe Edman and Karson and Charlee Whitaker; two sisters, Marlys (Noble) Nelson and Priscilla (Dick) Landsman; a brother, Ronnie (Jenny) Peterson; in laws, Claire (Bob) Jacobsen, Punk (Connie) Bartlett, and Lila Smit; and many special nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband Ronnie, her parents and a brother Bud Peterson.

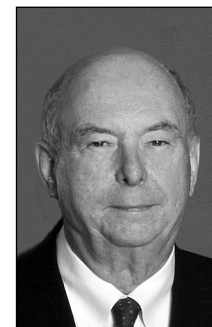
Funeral services were held 10 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 7 at Scandia Lutheran Church in Centerville with burial at Riverview Cemetery. Visitation was Wednesday at the Scandia Lutheran Fellowship Hall from 4 to 8 p.m. with family present from 6 to 8 p.m. and a prayer service at 7 p.m. www.wassfuneralhome.com

Michael Crew

Michael B. Crew, age 70, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2013 of complications from Alzheimer's disease. A memorial service including Masonic rites will begin at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8 at Miller Funeral Home, 13th & Main Avenue, Sioux Falls. A private committal will be held at BluffView Cemetery in Vermillion. Memorials may be directed to The Sioux Falls Humane Society, the El Riad Transportation Fund or sender's choice.

Michael Barton Crew, son of Phillips B. and Betty (Beasom) Crew, was born Sept. 6, 1942 in Vermillion. He grew up and graduated from high school there in 1960. Michael then attended USD and later graduated from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL in 1964. He then graduated from Harvard Law School in 1967.

He worked on Capitol Hill following law school and later returned to Vermillion to practice law with the Crew Law firm. Michael was united in marriage to Karen Whipple on May 26, 1973. The couple



CREW

moved to Sioux Falls in 1981. He practiced law with Tom Muilenburg and Dave Nelson until 1984 at which time he and Karen established

the firm of Crew & Crew. He retired in 2009.

He was a member of the State Bar of South Dakota, Lambda Chi Alpha, and a Mason. He was also a member of the Scottish rite and El Riad Shrine Clown and Steel Drum units.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Karen; sisters, Mary (Jack) Smart, Winter Park, FL; and Margaret Crew of Vermillion and his dachshund, Oscar.

His parents; brother-in-law, Ted Pfeil; and sister-in-law, Kathy Whipple; preceded him in death.

Thelma McGregor

Thelma D. McGregor, 89, of Vermillion, died Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013 of natural causes.

Thelma Dewsbury was born Feb. 8, 1923 in Auburn, MA, to Clarence and Evalina (Seamon) Dewsbury. She graduated from Auburn High School and received her bachelor's degree from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, in 1946. Thelma married Duncan J. McGregor of Lawrence, KS, on June 30, 1946, at the Congregational Church in Auburn. They lived in Kansas, Utah, Michigan and Indiana before moving to Vermillion in 1963.

Thelma is survived by Duncan, her husband of over 66 years; daughter, Lynn (Jerry) Ochs of Yukon, OK; sons, Scott (Karen) of Rapid City, Brett (Valarie) of Nebraska City, NE; grandchildren, Melissa (Everett) Robins, Andromeda McGregor; great-granddaughter, Sophie Robins; two brothers, Raymond (Joan) Dewsbury of Mashpee, MA, and Robert (Sharon) Dewsbury of Auburn, MA; and many other family members and friends. Memorials in Thelma's name may be sent to the Vermillion Public Library Foundation.

Memorial services will be at a later date. Hansenfuneralhome.com

50th Anniversary Celebration

Larry & Beth Mitchell

will celebrate their
50th Wedding Anniversary
on **February 16th**
Greetings may be sent to:



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