

# Parks and Rec SDNG names 1st woman to position director named

With the retirement of Parks and Recreation Director David Nelson after more than 30 years of service, the city embarked on a search for a new director.

After several interviews, the city has selected James Goblirsch as the new Vermillion Parks and Recreation director. He will begin his duties in Vermillion in late February.

Goblirsch comes to Vermillion from his most recent experience as Recreation Director in Casper, WY. He is a Minnesota native who attended college in that state before transferring to and graduating from South Dakota State University.

Previous work experiences include a recreation therapist position at HSC in Yankton, teaching a class at SDSU, serving as Community Education Director for the Canton School District, and a position as a Recreation Program Coordinator for the City of Sioux Falls.

Since October 2007, Goblirsch has served as Recreation Supervisor for the City of Casper, WY.

With his experience in facility management, recreation administration, and community relations, we are excited to have him and his family joining our community.

By 2nd Lt. Becky Linder  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota Army National Guard appointed its first female to the highest ranking senior-enlisted position in the state during a change of responsibility ceremony Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Joint Force Headquarters building on Camp Rapid.

Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe replaces State Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Zimmerman as the new state command sergeant major, the highest-ranking noncommissioned officer position for the South Dakota Army National Guard.

Shoe becomes the first female to serve in the position, as well as the eighth state command sergeant major, since the position was first established in the state in 1975. In this role, Shoe will serve as the assistant adjutant general's personal advisor on all enlisted matters for the Army Guard. "Command Sgt. Maj. Shoe was selected for this position

from five of our top senior NCO applicants from within the Army National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Craig Johnson, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, during the ceremony. "Her personal qualifications, leadership ability, competency and can-do attitude distinguished her as the right person, at the right time, to lead our NCO Corps."

"This selection means a great deal to me, and I am honored to have been selected as the first female command sergeant major for South Dakota," said Shoe. "I have so much pride for the coyote patch on our left sleeve and I will champion its history and its future for this patch represents."

During the ceremony, many quests, friends and family members gathered to honor and thank Zimmerman for his service and to welcome Shoe as she begins her new assignment. "Command Sgt. Maj. Zimmerman and I have worked together off and on for many,

many years," said Shoe. "This time around, Zimmerman has provided me with the transitional advice, knowledge and guidance to begin my tenure as the new state command sergeant major."

Zimmerman, a resident of Rapid City, served as the state command sergeant major since 2009, and retires with nearly 30 years of military service – 26 of which was in the National Guard. Zimmerman was recently appointed as the first Secretary of Veterans Affairs in Gov. Dennis Daugaard's cabinet, where he will manage the Department of Veterans Affairs and its programs.

"My favorite part about being in this position was taking care of Soldiers needs and seeing great service members working together," said Zimmerman. "During my time as state command sergeant major, I got to rebuild the Enlisted Promotion System, bring soldiers and airmen together; getting to know each other during the 2011 Missouri

River flood, and I also got the opportunity to take two trips to Afghanistan and Iraq to visit soldiers and airmen and see them do their thing."

Shoe, who has more than 23 years of military service, 16 of those as a member of the SDARNG, will also continue her full-time duties as the senior logistics NCO for Joint Force Headquarters.

Shoe will be responsible for assisting and advising Brig. Gen. Johnson, as well as advising the state's new senior enlisted advisor, Chief Master Sgt. James Welch, on all Soldier issues that affect the enlisted and NCO Corps within the nearly 3,300 members of the Army Guard.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Shoe is very well prepared to complete this challenging assignment and it's great to have someone with her depth and breadth of experience leading our NCO Corps," said Johnson. "I know she will be relied upon heavily by me and our senior leadership as we move forward in this great organization."

## SD gas prices skyrocket

The Feb. 5 South Dakota average price of gasoline (\$3.337) is 26 cents above the state's price just 20 days ago, on Jan. 16. The recent price surge has been largely the result of higher crude oil prices and the "rubber-banding" of midcontinent retail gasoline prices, which fell dramatically to end the year and are now swinging back to the upside.

At Tuesday's close of formal trading on the NYMEX, the price of West Texas Intermediate settled down \$1.60 at \$96.17 per barrel. While prices moved lower Tuesday, WTI traded last week at its most expensive level since September 14.

Nine states have a lower gasoline price average today than South Dakota: Wyoming \$2.95, Montana \$3.04, Utah \$3.15, New Mexico \$3.18, Colorado \$3.20, Idaho \$3.26, Arizona \$3.30, Tennessee \$3.32, and South Carolina \$3.32.

Today's national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is \$3.53. This price is 17 cents more expensive than one week ago, 23 cents more than one month ago and a nickel above last year's price on this date. Today's price is the highest on record for this calendar day. The national average has exceeded the year-ago level and set a new daily record for six days in a row.

## HEALTH

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situation," she said.

The wellness fair enabled visitors to take a more active role in community health through the Community Blood Bank, which was taking donations for Sanford Vermillion.

Executive Director Ken Versteeg said he hoped the blood drive would generate enough blood to get Sanford Vermillion through February.

"We go to a lot of health events around the 200-mile radius of Sioux Falls, and I would say this is our best health fair event for turnout," Versteeg said. "We collect the most donors at this event every single year. It's been very consistent for us."

Merrigan thanked USD for its involvement in the event, which incorporated 10 departments from the USD

Medical School and Health Sciences divisions.

"We appreciate the med school opening their doors to us, especially using all the students from USD," she said. "And they, in turn, are very excited about having more people into this building to see what all those dollars were used for – to build this incredible facility in Vermillion."

Versteeg added that the yearly health fair offers a number of good opportunities for area residents.

"Under one building, you have so many resources for people to check out," he said. "My family came with us and they got hand massages over at a station and got to learn about aromatherapy. That was something unique. It really is an advantage for any age group from young to old. ...

"It's a wide variety of educational tools for people to learn a little more about their body and what they can do to improve their health," he said. "I think it's a fantastic event."

## FORUM

From Page 01

poll the people of District 17, and I was surprised by the people who said yes, and I was surprised by the people who said no.

"I think it's scary; I think guns and the things we've been seeing in our society are scary," Rasmussen said. "I voted for this, because the people I contacted were 2 to 1 in favor of this."

Jones said he is concerned about putting too many weapons in school buildings.

"The best solution that I've heard, to date, is that we have each classroom with inside door locks," he said. "And if those classrooms have windows, they should be covered on the inside with some type of mesh."

Jones said he is also concerned with the extra challenges this bill may pose to law enforcement.

"When a police officer responds to something happening at a school, the first thing he looks for is somebody else with a weapon. I'm not comfortable with that," he said.

Becky Rider, who teaches at Vermillion Middle School, asked the lawmakers if they had sought input from students.

"I did, and when they heard you were debating a bill that would allow weapons in schools, my seventh-graders said to me, 'Why?' Our kids are concerned," she said, "but they also understand that statistically, their chance of being involved in a school shooting is roughly that of being struck by lightning.

"It seems to me we're spending a lot of time on something that has a miniscule chance of happening," Rider said, "and there's a 100 percent chance that the kids in our district are in classrooms that have seen the effects of 8.6 percent cuts in the last few years and maybe that's where you should be spending your energy."

The three legislators responded that they didn't seek input from students.

"I didn't think about asking students because the bill is focused at the local level, which is school boards," Rasmussen said. "I do think hearing what students have to say about this is a good idea, though."

"Nancy has mentioned school boards a couple different times, and I don't remember hearing from any school board members from here," Ring said.

He noted that he was strongly influenced by two people who testified before the Education Committee. Both individuals have long-time military experience; one serves on a school board; the other serves as school superintendent.

"They both gave, I thought, truly compelling testimony that

without training, these people are an accident waiting to happen," Ring said, noting that one of the unintended consequences of this legislation will be an inevitable accidental shooting.

"That really was the reason I voted against this bill," Ring said. "I just think putting guns in school, especially out of the hands of law enforcement officials, is just ridiculous."

Ring and Rasmussen, both newcomers to the state Legislature, told the forum audience that their experience in Pierre has, so far, been positive.

"Being a freshman, I've been very pleased with the atmosphere in the Capitol," Rasmussen said. "Everybody works together well, everybody is respectful and everyone has been very, very helpful in introducing me to how everything works so we can get involved in the process."

"I have to agree with Nancy – the atmosphere is a lot different than what I expected," Ring said, "and as best I can tell, it's a lot different than what it's been for the last couple years."

Jones, who served in the state House of Representatives before

being elected to the state Senate last fall, told the forum audience he is encountering new experiences this session, also, thanks mainly to his being a member of the Appropriations Committee.

"We (committee members) are absolutely, totally isolated from the rest of the Legislature. We start at 7:15 every morning ... we have a briefing from the Legislative Research Council, and at 8 a.m., we go live on the Internet and we have hearings from each department within the government," he said. "We hear what their budget requests are and also their relationship to what the governor requested in his budget address last December."

Jones said the committee adjourns each day at about noon, and members then prepare to take part in the day's legislative session on the House floor at 1 p.m.

Later in the afternoon, after the session has adjourned for the day, it is not unusual for the Appropriations Committee to meet once again to receive additional input, he said.

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AUBREE	DREUX	KEZLYN	OWEN	ZACHARY
AUBREY	ELI	KYAMI	PATIENCE	ZANDER
AVERY	ELLA	KYNDALH	PEYTON	ZOEY
AYDDEN	ETHAN	LAE-LA	PRESLYN	
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