

OUR TOWNS

Gayville
Mission Hill
Volin

■ To get a news item published on this page, contact Travis Gulbrandson at 665-7811 (x121) or e-mail travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net



High drifts sculpted by a Christmas blizzard virtually swallowed up portions of the Gayville-Volin School District building. The region received more than 20 inches of snow in a three-day storm that also saw high winds. (Travis Gulbrandson/P&D)

Snow removal issues seen in area towns

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net

It was a white Christmas for the Gayville-Volin area, thanks to the storm that dropped upwards of 20 inches of snow on many parts of the region.

But according to one resident, it wasn't the snowfall that was the problem.

"It was the blowing and drifting that was really bad," said Missy Taggart, Gayville resident and employee of CorTrust Bank.

As in the surrounding area, the drifting in Gayville and Volin made travel virtually impossible, and saw snowplow drivers working overtime to get the roads cleared.

"I talked to Dick Putnam from the town, and he said he had moved snow for 17 hours (Saturday), and he was still trying to move (Sunday)," Taggart said.

Volin had similar snow removal issues.

"I don't know what kind of effort they had, but (Volin was) dug out by ... Saturday afternoon," said Volin Postmaster Doug Riediger. "Then they must have worked all day Sunday moving it out of the main area in the thoroughfares. ..."

"There must have been quite a few people, because there was no way one little tractor could have done what they've got accom-

plished," he said.

Some snowdrifts in Volin reached nearly five feet tall, Riediger said.

"Darn things were hard," he said. "You try to drive over it, you're just going to get on top, and then sink in and be buried."

Despite these efforts, some areas were still inaccessible early this week.

"You're still not going to get out to the dump by the county line," Taggart said.

And even though the roads are passable, some of them still have big walls of snow on either side.

Many houses have limited accessibility, as well. Taggart said a path had to be cut to her front door, and that snow still reaches "over my head."

"We couldn't get out by our place at all," she said. "They had had to come down with a payload to scoop it out before we could get anywhere."

"Up where I live, we don't have anything blocking us," she said. "We're up by the school, so we have the whole football field open in front of us. So for me to judge is hard, because our road always blows shut. But here in town like this, I haven't seen it like this — and I've been in town 10 years."

The snow started falling Wednesday night, and the communities took precautions to



ensure that no one would get stuck in their cars or stranded at work as a result of the storm.

"They actually closed (the bank) here on Thursday," Taggart said. "I was supposed to be here until Thursday noon, and they said, 'Nope, you're closing.' So they were just going to have the bare number of people out and about."

No snowfall totals were available, but Riediger said they are probably similar to those of the surrounding counties. Yankton recorded 20.5 inches, and a Vermillion loca-

tion reached 23 inches.

"I've heard different rumors," he said. "I've heard people say 24 inches, I've heard some say more."

Drifting is a continuing concern, he said. "If we don't get a crust (on the surface), this stuff could blow," Riediger said. "If we do get a crust, the next one won't take quite so long (to dig out) with the ditches all full."

With no snowfall predicted until Sunday, Riediger said, "It's the cold that's going to get us now."

2009 — A pretty good year for the area

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net

Apart from some issues with unemployment and the harvest season, 2009 went pretty smoothly, one area official said.

"I think it was a pretty good year," said Gayville Town Board member Mike Petersen. "There were a few people unemployed in town, and I suppose there probably still are some that have jobs. I was one of them that was unemployed for a while, but (I) found a different job."

Apart from the economy, 2009 wasn't much different from 2008, Petersen said.

"I think the farming economy has been pretty good as far as that goes, because of the good crops, and the prices were up," he said. "I don't think the economy has really affected the area terribly, other than the people being unemployed."

However, there were problems with the fall harvest, thanks in part to some late October rains.

Jay Cutts, manager of the Farmers Elevator Co. of Mission Hill, had said the elevator's customers had only 20 percent of their beans out by Oct. 26. Usually, the beans would have started coming in around the first week of the month.

"We're a small elevator, so I suppose we have 30 to 35 customers. As far as beans, we've probably seen five (customers)," Cutts had said in October.

Some of the crops were still too wet even after October, which forced some farmers to wait much later than usual to bring them in.

"I think actually most of it did get taken care of. There might be some crops left out there, but there isn't a lot. There was still combining corn (two weeks ago), which is quite unusual, but they got most of it in," Petersen said.

There were some positive changes in 2009, as well. One was the Volin-Gayville Horizons Community Development Project. Horizons focuses on community leadership to reduce poverty, and is funded with grants from the Northwest Area Foundation.

One of the projects established under the Horizons banner was the Volin-Gayville Food Pantry. The pantry is mobile, meaning the food is stored at a certain location and then taken out once or twice a month to be distributed in both communities.

The pantry was established in November and is fully stocked thanks to food drives

held by area schools, churches and organizations. More than \$600 has been raised, all of which will go toward the purchase of more food.

The Horizons Project is still looking for volunteers to develop items such as a phone directory and calling trees, as well as the community garden. The communities are also looking toward the future. For Gayville, 2010 may also see the completion of a city project: The replacement of a water main located on Main Street.

"We've been working on it for a couple of years," Petersen said. "You have to get on the state water plan, and apply for grants and loans and whatever, so it takes a little while. It's not an emergency situation, so we have the time to do it."

Petersen said he hopes the water main project will be finished next year. "It just depends on how the funding and stuff goes, but we are hoping to be able to get something done on it next year," he said.

Overall, 2010 looks promising, Petersen said.

"I think it'll be all right," he said. "I don't think it'll be much different from this year, unless something major comes up that we're not aware of. You just kind of handle it as you go along, I guess."

Hanson Family Receives Royal Donation

By Shauna Marlette
shauna.marlette@yankton.net

The Doug Hanson family's recovery effort from a fire that destroyed their rural Meckling home in mid-December received a boost last week when it was learned the family would be receiving a \$1,000 donation from the Kansas City Royal Alumni Association.

"The alumni association is a group of former players that feel they were blessed with good pro-baseball careers, and they wanted to find a way to give back to those who had supported them through their playing days," said Kansas City Royal Alumni Association representative Fred White. "Last year we gave away more than \$25,000 to families. We have developed a good relationship with Kurt Dykstra and the guys at (Yankton radio station) KYNT. So, when Kurt e-mailed us and told us what had happened, our guys jumped on it."

The Hanson family has children who attend Gayville-Volin schools.

The \$1,000 donation will be administered through the local Red Cross chapter and given to the family in the form of Yankton bucks, which can be spent at any Chamber of Commerce business in the area.

"The donation has to go through a 501c3," White said. "When we first started this program, we were going to give the families the money directly and someone said

don't do that. So, by working through a charity, in this case the Red Cross, we can help them out."

White said the members of the association are very sympathetic to the Hansons' losing their home at any time, let alone right before Christmas.

"(The former players) know that there are a lot of fans, not just in Kansas City area. So, we reach out through our radio network," White said.

Service
Any Time
Any Day

Carrier
Turn to the Experts

No Trip Charge to
Vermillion.

Larry's
HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway • 665-9461 • 1-800-491-9461

COYOTE TWIN &
VERMILLION THEATRES

Downtown Vermillion 624-3331
WEEK OF JANUARY 1-7, 2010

"AVATAR"
— PG-13 —

"SHERLOCK HOLMES"
— PG-13 —

"ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS:
THE SQUEAKUEL"
— PG —

Call 624-3331
For Show Times

Visit us at www.jitheatres.com

BARRY'S

(605) 624-6530

PLUMBING

STOCKS • BONDS • CDs
IRAs • MUTUAL FUNDS

Curt Robinson
Financial Advisor
23 Market Street
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-2028

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

THE REGION'S MOST COMPREHENSIVE ORTHOPEDIC CARE



Our Commitment Is
To Keep You Active.

Specialists will be available in the following communities on these dates.

Vermillion Medical Center	Dr. Rodman	Jan 7, 21
Vermillion Olson Clinic	Dr. Rodman	Jan 14, 28
Freeman	Dr. Watson	Jan 19

Please call to schedule an appointment.

SPECIALISTS IN:

- General Orthopedics
- Spine Surgery
- Sports Medicine
- Hand & Upper Extremity
- Joint Replacement
- Arthroscopic Surgery
- Foot & Ankle
- Pediatric Orthopedics
- Microsurgery

Vermillion Medical Center • Vermillion Campus • 624-9111
Olson Medical Clinic • Vermillion • 624-5666
Rural Medical Clinic • Freeman • 925-4219

www.ortho-i.com

No physician referral is needed unless required by your insurance.



The One To Trust