

THURSDAY \*\* AFTERNOON/PRIME TIME \*\* JANUARY 10. BROADCAST STATIONS: KUSD, KTIV, KDLT, KMEG, KTTW, KXNE, KCAU, KELO, KSIN, KSFY, KWSD. CABLE STATIONS: TWC, CSPAN, WGN-A, TVG, QVC, KAUNLP, HSN, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, SPEED, LIFE, WE, FOOD, SOAP, HALL, HGTV, NICK, CART, TVL, FAM, A&E, TRAV, APL, DSC, TLC, SYFY, HIST, FNC, CNN, MSNBC, HLN, CNBC, TCM, AMC, BRAVO, FX, WTBS, USA, TNT, SPIKE, COM, E!, TRUTV, TBN, EWTV, INSP, UNI, MTV, VH1, CMT, DXD, RFD-TV, CSPAN2.

DETAILS

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body. According to the police statement, the subject's wife fled to the nearby residence of an off-duty police officer at 1 a.m. Dec. 25. She told the officer that her husband had held her against her will for several hours, assaulted her, threatened to kill her and destroyed her cell phone to prevent her from calling for help.

A call was placed to on-duty officers to respond. Before police arrived, he was seen entering his garage, where he was known to keep several firearms.

Responding police officers contacted the man by phone, and he told them he was armed and intended to kill himself or force officers to kill him. He

also said the couple's two minor children were in the home and he would not let them leave.

Following further negotiations, the man agreed to release the children at approximately 4:30 a.m. The children were reunited with their mother, who had been taken to the hospital for her injuries.

In an attempt to bring the situation to a peaceful conclusion, the Vermillion Police Department continued negotiations with assistance from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), the Yankton Police Department, the South Dakota Highway Patrol, the Vermillion Fire Department and the University of South Dakota Police.

People living in homes adjacent to the Girard house

were contacted and given an opportunity to evacuate to a safe location. The Sioux City Journal reported that some residents were taken to The Bluffs Golf Course clubhouse, located nearby. Roads leading to the neighborhood also were blocked.

At 10:20 a.m. Dec. 25, the subject stopped communicating with negotiators. Perimeter officers heard a gunshot and saw that a round had exited through the rear window of the home. Officers used tactical resources to approach the residence, assess his condition and reestablish communication.

At 1:30 p.m., he was found dead in the residence.

The Vermillion Police Department, Clay County Sheriff's Office and DCI continue to investigate the incident.

BK

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Steve Wiborg, North America president of Burger King Worldwide, in a news release. "Guest service and the happiness of their employees are a top priority for Tom Walsh Sr. and Tom Walsh Jr., which is why they have continued to experience great success at all of their Burger King restaurant locations, performing nearly 10 percent above peer average."

Walsh Jr. said it is an honor for his franchise's teams to be recognized as some of the best in the business.

"Their hard work and caring attitude towards our guests and our communities is what has made us successful," he said.

Walsh Sr. began the business in 1974, opening his first Burger King location in Sioux Falls. Since then, the franchise has

grown to include 30 restaurants in the South Dakota area, including Yankton's location, which opened in 1986.

The company has won numerous local, regional and national awards for operational excellence, community involvement and development programs. The franchise also is involved in more than 300 charitable and non-profit programs, such as the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

"With each of these communities we came into, it's been our goal to be involved in each community and to make things better and really develop people," Walsh, Jr. said.

He said this is especially true for the communities' youth, noting that Dakota King, Inc., is the largest employer of teenagers in South Dakota.

"It's our belief that it's up to us to teach them right and get them off to the right start with

their work ethic, and develop them so they're ready for life in general, and they're ready for their next career if they choose to leave us," he said. "Over about 95 percent of our managers have started with us as a teenager and continued on into management and have chosen to make it part of their careers."

Walsh Jr. said that in addition to developing its employees within its operations, Dakota King, Inc., also has successfully promoted community involvement with its workers. He said he has seen many employees go above and beyond their normal duties, including visiting regular customers in the hospital.

"It's just a small-town piece that we love, and that's what South Dakota is about," he said.

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d\_bartos

DRIVE

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not able to donate, but I have run into parents and grandparents of firefighters who are there because the firefighter asked them donated in their name."

Other members of the community have done their part as well by making donations on behalf of the department of their choice, Hower said.

"We try to contact people, get it out through fellow officers," he said. "We have fliers that we post, we try to get it out through the local papers. ...

"We try and get it out through the community so they are aware of it when the date arrives," he said.

To reach the goal of 100 units, both men said approximately 125-130 donors would be needed.

"Historically, we have a very high refusal rate," Stewart said. "We've been running about 25 percent denial."

Hower said that while this may sound strange, a number of potential donors are turned away because they recently were sick, while others are refused for other reasons, such as having recently acquired a tattoo.

"There are certain requirements that prohibit them from donating," he

said. The drive started six years ago when Community Blood Bank of Sioux Falls contacted Stewart and Detective Lowell Oswald.

"They had done (similar competitions) in other places, and decided to do it here as well," Stewart said. "Just a lighthearted competition between law enforcement and fire, just a way to create a little excitement and try and help get more and more people to donate blood."

In that time, Heroes Behind the Badges has become the biggest single blood drive in Vermillion.

It's an important drive, Hower said, because Community Blood Bank is

the solve provider of blood and blood products to Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

"The blood that is donated actually stays here in Vermillion," he said. "When you have an accident where a person is injured and they need blood, it could take up to several units. So it's important we have this supply on-hand."

For the record, the local police have won the competition the most.

However, Stewart said that's not the important thing.

"In the whole scheme of things, it doesn't really matter who wins as long as we get people out and donating," he said. "This year, I hope we have a very

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