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**VHS**

From Page 4

another field goal, and again Vermillion was down by only two at 42-40.

But in the final 3 1/2 minutes Tea's Connor Shaull scored a field goal and four late free throws while the Tanager could muster only a free throw from Jensen at the 3:18 mark, and Vermillion could not score again.

Free-throw shooting is usually a Tanager strong point, but in this game it was costly as the team missed eight of 12 opportunities, and several of those were front ends of potential bonus situations.

Jensen had 11 points, Sorensen 10, Krier six, Leber five, Tanner Settles five and Jayce Huska four for VHS. Shaull had 14, Mitchell Nissen 14 and Riley Knutson nine for the Titans.

**By David Lias**

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More details have emerged, through both police and news sources, concerning the Christmas day standoff in Vermillion that ended with an apparent suicide.

In a press release it sent to local media Wednesday, the Vermillion Police Department declined to release the identity of the deceased or any other members of his household involved in the incident which began in the early morning hours of Dec. 25.

The Sioux City (IA) Journal reported Thursday that the standoff ended after Greg Girard, 42, died apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot in

**Burger King owners honored by peers**

**By Derek Bartos**

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For Dakota King, Inc., people have always come first.

The Sioux Falls-based Burger King franchise, whose locations include Yankton, Vermillion and Beresford, has strived for nearly 40 years to help its customers, employees and the communities it serves.

"It all comes down to people," said Tom Walsh Jr., who owns Dakota King, Inc., with his father, Tom Walsh Sr. "If your people know you care and you take care of your people, they'll take care of everything else."

In recognition of their commitment and success, the father and son were recently named as finalists for Burger King's North America Franchisee of the Year Award. Candidates for the award are chosen based on successful operations, sales, community involvement and overall business model.

The Walshes were recognized among fellow franchisees, top Burger King executives and employees in attendance at the 2012 BKW North America Convention held in Las Vegas.

"Our franchisees' commitment to the Burger King brand and dedication to service at every one of their restaurants is the reason that the brand continues to solidify its position as the QSR food authority," said Steve Wiborg, North America president of Burger King



**TOM WALSH JR.**

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.

**More details surface following Vermillion's sad Christmas**

the family's Vermillion home located on Crawford Road.

The standoff between the subject, who has yet to be officially identified, and local law enforcement began after a domestic altercation in early Tuesday, Dec. 25, and ended approximately 12 hours later when law enforcement entered his home and found his 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 Ambulance Service 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

**DETAILS, Page 07**



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