

Missouri National Recreational River programs set for June

National Park Service staff at Missouri National Recreational River will offer a variety of ranger programs for the public at different locations throughout the corridor this summer. On Friday, June 10 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center, participants will have the opportunity to learn about and see some of the items Lewis and Clark may have taken with them on their epic journey. On Saturday, June 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. outside the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center come learn about some of the areas common native plants and their traditional uses.

You will have the opportunity to touch, smell, and even taste during this hands-on program. On Sunday, June 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center, come learn about our threatened, endangered, and invasive non-native plants and animals.

On Wednesday, June 15 at 10 a.m., rangers will present story time and a craft at the Crofton Library Summer Reading Program. On Thursday, June 16 at 1:30 p.m., rangers will present a program about Missouri National Recreational River and the National Park System at the Vermillion Library Summer Reading Program. Also on June 16 from 2-4 p.m. at Niobrara State Park, rangers will host a fishing program during which participants can learn about fishing regulations, tackle, bait, and how to identify local fish that live in the Missouri National Recreational River then try to catch some. Participants are encouraged to bring their own poles, if they have them, but we will also have some available to borrow.

On Friday, June 17 there will be three different programs offered at sites throughout the Missouri National Recreational River corridor: from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center there will be a Ranger's Choice program; at 5:30 p.m. at Niobrara State Park, a ranger will present a program about threatened, endangered, and invasive non-native plants and animals; and at 7 p.m. at the North Point State Recreation Area

Campground Amphitheater, a ranger will present a program entitled "Free Land!" about the Homestead Act of 1862 and its effects on the settlement of America.

On Saturday, June 18, there will be three different programs offered at sites throughout the Missouri National Recreational River corridor: from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center there will be a Ranger's Choice program; from 1-4 p.m., rangers will present programs and hands-on activities as part of the annual Homestead Days celebration at Pierson Ranch State Park. Later that evening at Weigand

State Recreation Area, there will be a 7 p.m. program about Missouri National Recreational River and other National Park Service units in Nebraska and South Dakota.

On Sunday, June 19 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center there will be a Ranger's Choice program featuring hands-on activities, demonstrations, or a guided walk. On Thursday, June 23 from 2-4 p.m., there will be a Junior Ranger Program and nature hike at Niobrara State Park.

On Friday, June 24 there will be three different programs offered at sites throughout the Missouri National Recreational River corridor: from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center there will be Ranger's Choice programs featuring hands-on activities, demonstrations, or a guided walk; and at 7 p.m. at Chief White Crane State Park, a ranger will offer a program about the rich history and legacy of steamboats on the Missouri River.

On Saturday, June 25 rangers will offer Junior Ranger Programs as part of the annual Missouri River Water Festival from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lewis & Clark State Recreation Area. Later that evening at North Point State Recreation Area, there will be a 7 p.m. ranger program about the famous Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition.

Throughout the year, downloadable Junior Ranger activity booklets are available on the park website at www.nps.gov/mnrr/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm. Pre-printed copies can be picked up at ranger programs and the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center at Gavins Point Dam.

Kids are encouraged to complete these activities and earn their Junior Ranger badge and certificate. During the summer months, the National Park Service will also offer ranger-led Junior Ranger programs to help kids learn about Missouri National Recreational River.

All National Park Service programs are free. However, visitors attending those occurring at Nebraska and South Dakota State Parks must pay the park entrance fee. The National Park Service wishes everyone a safe, fun-filled summer, especially with the unprecedented high flow rates. A reminder that all boat ramps and recreational river access points are closed for safety until further notice. Please check road conditions for flood closures. For questions or more information, please visit our website at www.nps.gov/mnrr or contact the National Park Service at 605-665-0209.

Dist. 18 lawmakers talk politics at Girls State

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

The attendees of the 2011 South Dakota Girls State had a firsthand view of party politics in the state Legislature - namely, the differences and similarities involved in serving with the majority or minority party.

The Girls Staters were visited Wednesday, June 1, by the two District 18 members of the state House, Republican Nick Moser and Democrat Bernie Hunhoff, both of Yankton.

Moser said that while there are benefits to being a member of the majority, the issue isn't as one-sided as it may seem.

"It means a lot of things, but at the same time, it doesn't mean that much, because there's no such thing as an ideal Republican," he said. "In South Dakota, our elected officials within the Republican Party differ substantially on a number of important issues - taxes, health care, education. So, for me, the big battle in Pierre isn't between myself and the minority party. It generally is with myself and members of my caucus of other Republicans."

Hunhoff said the difference in Pierre isn't so much between Republicans and Democrats as it is between the legislative and executive branches of government.

"When the executive branch and the legislative branch are run by the same party - and basically the same people - too often, it's just one big machine. And that's a weakness, I think, for South Dakota," he said.

While the process of governing runs smoothly, he said, "(It) would work even better if everybody truly had a say, and if



HUNHOFF



MOSER

there was really an equal balance. The problem with the process in South Dakota is that the Democratic Party, throughout our state's history, has been a minority party."

Republicans currently hold more than 80 of South Dakota's 105 legislative seats. Although Democrats have been in the majority several times, Hunhoff said the last such instance was in the 1970s.

Hunhoff said a good example of the problem with South Dakota's system relates to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's budget.

He said that when the budget was presented, Daugaard stressed, "This is just a budget, not the budget."

"That's what he said, but at the end, after 35 days, after all sorts of people weighed in, we ended up with his budget," Hunhoff said.

Moser said the Republicans do their best to ensure separation from the governor when it comes to planning.

"When we come in and put out our strategy for what we think public policy should be in South Dakota, we make it a point not to invite the governor," he said.

The Republican caucus goes through "a

lot of heated battles" before it gets to the finished piece of legislation.

Hunhoff said that while this may be true, the meetings of the caucus are closed, and by the time that legislation comes to the floor of the House or the Senate, the majority of the party has agreed on it.

"You have no chance to even hear what the discussions are," he said. "A one-party system is hurting us, and it's hurting us because too many decisions are being made in private discussions."

Some of those disagreements and discussions do make their way to the floor, Moser said. He cited as an example the fact that during the 2011 session, some members of the Republican caucus wanted to make a rule that anyone who receives money under the Department of Social Services should be subjected to a drug test.

"There was a big group of members from my caucus who were pushing for this," Moser said. "The Democrats pretty much unanimously opposed it. Most of the Republicans supported it. ..."

"Sometimes you just have to break away, and I ended up getting up and giving a speech on the floor of the House that killed this bill," he said. "Members of my party wouldn't talk to me for a week afterwards, but at the end of the day, it's my vote and I represent the people of Yankton and not the South Dakota Republican Party."

Both candidates encouraged the Girls State attendees to get involved, no matter which party.

"We've got a lot of work to do in South Dakota ... but I think young people are up to the task," Hunhoff said.

Moser agreed, adding, "Be involved. We need you. Not just in the future, but today."

Weekend camping workshop at Ponca State Park is June 24-26

The Becoming an Outdoors Family program by the Nebraska Game and Park Commission will hold a weekend camping workshop June 24-26, with many hands-on topics, ranging from wildlife photography to wild edibles. The family program, open to all types of families and guardians, focuses on learning outdoor skills to encourage outdoor sports and recreation and to provide a safe, relaxed setting for families to connect.

The workshop will be held at scenic Ponca State Park, a panoramic setting in the hills of the Missouri River in northeast Nebraska. "Each class will be taught by experts in the field and each class will start with the basics and then give everyone a chance to try each activity hands-on and ask questions," said Ponca State Park Assistant Superintendent Jennifer



Archery is one of many activities planned at the Becoming an Outdoors Family program planned at Ponca State Park.

Wolff. The cost of the workshop is \$55 for adults and \$45 for children under 12 and includes all instruction, program materials, use of demonstration equipment and

all meals. Topics and activities include: Archery; Firearm safety; Outdoor cooking; Wilderness survival; Shotgun, pellet, muzzleloading; Fishing; 3D advanced archery; Wildlife photography; Outdoor survival hike; Wild edibles;

Swimming. For more information, call Jennifer Wolff at Ponca State Park (402) 755-2284 or register at <http://www.NebraskaBOW.com>. Ponca State Park consists of over 2400 acres of heavily-forested bluffs, bottom wetland and prairie. Lodging includes mini-lodges, rustic cabins, electric paved campsites and tent camping. Naturalists lead daily activities in the summer and the park also features a swimming pool and guided horseback rides.

Ponca State Park was awarded the "The Camping Club's America's Top 100 Campgrounds" in 2010. Over 750,000 people visited the park in 2010 that is located two miles north of Ponca, NE.

For additional information, contact: Andrea Johansen, Ponca State Park 402-755-2487 Andrea.johansen@nebraska.gov

Joseph Hirocke Jr.

Joseph C. Hirocke Jr., 49, formerly of Vermillion passed away on Sept. 7, 2010 in Orlando, FL.



HIROCKE

After graduation, Joe joined the Marine Corps where he was stationed at Camp Pendleton in California. He was privileged

to serve at our American embassies in several countries as a guard.

After serving his country, Joe returned to Vermillion and stayed until the passing of his mother in

1998. He then traveled to Florida, where he lived until his untimely passing.

Joseph is survived by his sisters, Nadine Burow of Yankton, JoAnn Mentzer of Ponca, NE, Rose Hirocke of Vermillion, and Ella Hirocke of Gayville; brothers, Raymond and Michael Hirocke, both of Massachusetts; and three generations of nieces and

nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents Joseph C. Hirocke Sr. and Helen (Oakie) Hirocke; brothers Clifford and Les Hirocke, Gordon Horn Eagle; sisters Debi Buschelman, Delores "Tiny" Drappeau; and nephew Mark. Condolences may be posted online at www.koberfuneralhome.com.

Lloyd Malone

Lloyd Dale Malone, age 85, passed away on Sunday, May, 29, 2011 at the



MALONE

Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Grand Island, NE. A graveside service was Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 2 p.m. in the BluffView Cemetery in Vermillion with military rites. Lloyd was born to Regina (Lockwood) and Lindsey Malone on Nov. 26, 1925 in Vermillion. He graduated from Vermillion High School on May 2, 1944. In 1944, he joined the United States Army and served until 1946. While serving in Europe during World War II, Lloyd received: Combat Infantry Badge, Good Medal Conduct, Army of Occupation Ribbon (Germany), European-African-Middle

Eastern Theater Service Medal, Citation for Heroic Achievement, and Bronze Star during Combat in Germany. Lloyd was married to Ione Peterson from 1948-1955. He worked for the Selective Service for 26 years.

Lloyd enjoyed politics, football, bowling, fishing, playing cards and watching CNN.

Those who are left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Linda Hand of Anaheim, CA; two granddaughters, Laurie McPearce of Iowa City, IA and Ronelle Ryman of Anaheim, CA; eight great grandchildren: Alora Hand, Elizabeth Ryman, Liam Ryman, Logan Ryman, Nick Pearce, Allie Pearce, Emma McPearce and, Charles McPearce; brother, Lyle (Jane) Malone of Yankton; two sisters-in-law, Mary Malone of Vermillion, and Marge Malone.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Regina and Lindsey Malone; former wife, Ione Malone; two brothers, Dean Malone and Gene Malone; two sisters, Bertha Wenger and Molly Dyer; and sister-in-law, Ginny Malone.

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