

# Stewart is Vermillion Teacher of the Year

Julie Ann Stewart, Vermillion native born and raised, was recently selected as Vermillion School District's Teacher of the Year. She has been an elementary teacher for the past 33 years, 26 of those years spent teaching in Vermillion.

The mother of three girls — Erica, Amanda and Lindsay and wife to Kevin Bliss, Julie has had many life lessons taught to her students that helped cross into her parenting. "Pioneer Up — no complaining!" "Work before pleasure" and "Happiness is in your own backyard" are her

three mottos that she has shared with the over 1,000 kids that have graduated from her classroom.

Ms. Stewart gives credit where due, and acknowledged that she has been fortunate in her job to have such supportive principals, colleagues and parents that have made her job that much easier.

"When you are doing a job you love, like teaching, it isn't work" she says, and "it is even more of an honor to be teaching in the town I grew up in."

Her mother, Glennis Stewart, is a resident in Vermillion.

# State distributes mosquito control chemicals to counties

South Dakota counties with flood disaster declarations will get some state help with mosquito control, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said.

The governor said state government is distributing \$200,000 in mosquito control chemicals to 122 programs in the 36 counties with flood disaster declarations in place. Funding to purchase the chemicals comes from Department of Health general funds, the result of savings in its FY 2011 budget.

Floodwater mosquitoes are typically nuisance mosquitoes and present a lower risk for WNV than the Culex tarsalis, which is the primary carrier of the virus in the state. Peak transmission of WNV in South Dakota occurs from mid-July through mid- September, but cases can also occur earlier.

The Department of Health is also enhancing its surveillance and laboratory testing for West Nile Virus, and the Department

of Game, Fish and Parks will do mosquito surveillance and control (as needed) in state parks and recreation areas across South Dakota.

Gov. Daugaard urges South Dakotans to protect themselves from WNV by following these precautions:

- Use mosquito repellent (DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535) and limit exposure by wearing appropriate clothes
- Limit time outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active
- Eliminate places where mosquitoes breed. Get rid of old tires and other containers that accumulate water; regularly change water in bird baths and outside pet dishes, and drain water from flower pots and other garden containers.

For more information about West Nile, visit the state health department's website, <http://westnile.sd.gov>.

# RIVER

From Page 1

rainfall Monday night, the Corps announced late Tuesday that flows from Gavins Point would increase to 160,000 cfs by Thursday, June 23 as a result of the continued wet weather throughout the Missouri River Basin.

The impact of an additional 10,000 cfs to the current 150,000 cfs will result in an increase in river stages from 0.7 to 1 foot at Sioux City, IA, and 0.3 to 0.4 of a foot from Omaha to Rulo, Neb. At St. Joseph, Mo., the river stage rise will be roughly 0.6 foot, and at Kansas City, the rise will be roughly 0.7 foot. Actual stages will depend on tributary inflows.

"Since the end of May, we have been slowly ramping up releases from our reservoirs to buy time for communities and local and state governments to be able to prepare for high water," Brig. Gen. John McMahon, commander of the Northwestern Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, said Tuesday. "We thought we would be able to hold at 150,000 cfs for an extended period of time. Unfortunately, recent rains have reduced our flexibility, and we must evacuate these floodwaters to manage the remaining flood control storage in the reservoir system. As we've stated all along, heavy rain storms could result in major revisions ..."

**A CALL TO ACTION**

Brady and fellow Ponderosa development homeowners gained a bit of security by

taking action when it was announced that higher flows would be headed their way.

The homeowners pooled their resources and hired the services of a barge with a backhoe. The barge operator placed more than 10,000 tons of Corps-approved B-rock along the banks, protecting them from raging current.

The Ponderosa, which was developed beginning in the early 1970s, includes 40 lots that stretch along 3,600 feet of the river. About 20 people, including Brady, live at the development full-time. The remainder have houses or cabins that serve, in normal times, as an enjoyable change-of-pace along the beautiful river during the summer or on weekends.

There are signs that people currently living at Ponderosa are carrying on day-to-day lives as normally as possible. Saturday, a woman was out weeding her flowerbed. A lawnmower could be heard at work on one lot. Some yards feature outdoor furniture, or fire pits — the rising water has not kept people from enjoying Ponderosa's unique climate.

But people are worried. They hope the money they've expended on the rocks will keep the water at bay. They also hope that the Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be reasonable.

Brady said homeowners knew they couldn't simply sit and wait to see what would happen after the Corps announced late May that flows would be increasing.

"This whole development would be gone by now. It (the river) would have taken off this

# Medical school site of week-long careers camp

**By Travis Gulbrandson**  
[travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net](mailto:travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net)

The Sanford School of Medicine is busier this week thanks to a group of 50 visiting high school students.

The high-schoolers are incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors who are here to take part in the 2011 Health Care Careers Summer Camp, which takes place over five days each June. The camp concludes today (Friday).

"It's a camp that explores all different areas of health care that will introduce students to what kind of education they would need for the different things they might be doing on a typical day, and just what they could expect from a career in that specific profession," explained camp coordinator Kathy Van Kley.

In their time in Vermillion, the students will listen to speakers, perform many hands-on activities and take tours of Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, Sanford Research Labs, Southeast Area Tech and one of USD's gross anatomy labs, among

other locations.

Perhaps most importantly, they will have an opportunity to ask questions of working medical professionals.

"If it's something they weren't sure they were interested in, they get the opportunity to talk to somebody that works in the field, whereas they may not have that opportunity (elsewhere)," Van Kley said. "Many, many of our kids are from rural communities, so to have professionals ... that they can actually ask the questions, they might not have that in their home communities."

This is the camp's fifth year in existence, and Van Kley said the camp follows roughly the same schedule each year.

The one major change is in the number of potential participants, she said.

"We had probably almost 90 applications this year, and were able to take 50 of them. It's gotten very competitive this year," she said. "We have never had as many applicants as we have this year. This is the first year that we've had to cap it, so it's continued to increase every year, and based on that, whether it does continue to do that, we may need to make some changes in the

future such as adding a second week or reevaluating how many we can take."

Although the majority of the students come from South Dakota, some are from other states, as well — one is from Minnesota, one if from Iowa and two more are from Nebraska.

"They are very, very intelligent students," Van Kley said. "They're invited based on their academic records, the amount of volunteer hours they've had, if they've already pursued some shadowing opportunities prior to coming to the camp. They'll write a personal statement about why they are interested in going into health care, why they're interested in going to the camp."

Lodging is provided to the students in the USD residence halls, while meals take place in the campus dining hall.

The 2011 Health Care Careers Summer Camp is supported by grants and funding provided by agencies including the South Dakota Department of Health, the Sanford Vermillion Medical Center, the Sanford School of Medicine and the Dakota Hospital Foundation.

# HOBY

From Page 1

some other people from around the state that also have the same interests as I do," Schwasinger said.

"It really made you want to help," Hansen added. "Right after I left I really wanted to do things for my community."

Throughout the week the students listen to a variety of speakers and work in groups on a number of projects.

One project the students liked in particular was Alex's Lemonade Stand, which raises money for pediatric cancer research.

"We went out into the community and gave out lemonade and took donations," Schwasinger said. "That was one of my favorite parts (of the event)."

Hansen added that the "stand" raised more than \$1,000 in two hours.

Alex's Lemonade Stand may be one of the projects the Vermillion students undertake to complete their 100 hours of community service.

"We were thinking that we could do an Alex's Lemonade Stand during D-Days and maybe have a couple stands along Main Street, and maybe have a float (to tell) people what Alex's Lemonade Stand is for, that it's not-for-profit

and it's free-will donations.

That would help us get some hours for that," Hansen said.

Another project is the Vermillion City-Wide Clean-Up, which Szymonski directed last year.

"I'm going to help (the students) out a little bit this year, but I'm kind of passing that project off to them, because I know they'll do a good job with it," she said.

"They want to pick that up, and they're really excited about that."

Schwasinger and Hansen each said they intend to stay involved with HOBY in the future, and hope to go back next year as facilitators.

"They say it's a life-changing experience, and I think it really is," Hansen said.

Szymonski agreed, saying, "It definitely changed my life. They just learn how to be leaders and stand out from the crowd. They don't get taught what to think, they get taught how to think. They really emphasize that throughout the seminar, to take their own ideas and make them work in their own communities. ...

"It's a huge difference from the beginning of the week to the end. They really change a lot, and that's so cool to see," she said.

For more information, visit [www.hobysd.org](http://www.hobysd.org).

point," he said, pointing to a portion of ground that juts further toward the river channel, "and it would have taken off another point near the beginning of the development, toward the west.

"The river would have just worked itself right down the line," Brady said. "There would be no way it could have been stopped."

Ponderosa's homeowners association had first heard that river flows might increase in early May. "We got lucky then. We just happened to catch the barge guy. He was on his way down river; he had been working for the Corps down in Yankton, and we caught him on the way down," he said.

At that time, some homeowners decided to stabilize their property. Others didn't. While the barge operator was in the midst of his work, however, the Corps announced that releases from Gavins Point would eventually reach 110,000 cfs, and possibly go higher.

"Then we all got together as a group, and we concluded that there was no way we could individually do this because if one (lot) fails, they're all going to fail," Brady said. "We decided to put in a certain amount of

money and get the work done."

The bank stabilization work was complete by June 14. "It really came together really quickly. Everybody was on board with it. Everyone will be assessed. You've got to protect yourself and you've got to protect your neighbor."

**DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

The work by the Ponderosa property owners simply adds to stabilization efforts done earlier by the Corps in what Brady said was termed a demonstration project.

"There are different structures built into the banks down here as a test, to try to see what works better," he said. "At the far end, they have what they call hard points which is rock piled out into the water. A little farther down, they have revetments, which is actually rock piled back into the bank. And the other end, what they mostly did was rip rap."

In fact, according to a 1978 mandate, Brady said, the Corps is required to stabilize the banks. That provision is included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act approved by Congress that year. Bank stabilization was deemed a necessary requirement after the

59-mile stretch of the Missouri River from Gavins Point to Ponca, NE was deemed a "national recreational river."

Since 2001, that portion of the river where the Ponderosa is located has been controlled by the National Parks Service, he said. That means the rock added to the shoreline this month may be in violation of park service rules.

Brady hopes officials will be reasonable when it comes time to review the steps taken by homeowners. The Ponderosa homeowners acquired no permits before the stabilization work was begun a couple weeks ago.

"Gov. Daugaard said 'Do what you have to do to protect your property,'" said Larry's brother, Terry Brady, who also owns a home at Ponderosa. "I think the Corps and the National Parks Service has been at odds for years. And, who knows? They may make us take it (the rock) out."

Brady admits to worrying about his property before the

bank was stabilized. He had good reason too — unstable banks on the east end of the development, filled with a thick growth of trees, were simply eaten up by the river in the course of 30 minutes.

He feels better about the prospects for his property, and for his neighbors' homes now that further stabilization of the bank is complete.

"There are two things to look at this. If we get through this, then our confidence level is going to be sky high. It will mean we got through this while places like Dakota Dunes didn't. And we'd certainly feel a lot safer living down there knowing we had gotten through this," Brady said. "But if it happens a second time, say next year, then the confidence level may take a dive.

"If we get through this, the Ponderosa will be one of the most wonderful places in all of South Dakota to live, because it will be safe," he said.

**Specialty**  
AUTO AUCTIONS



**Classic Car Auction**

**June 25th, 2011 - Sioux Falls, SD**  
**Sioux Falls Convention Center**

To Consign/Buy:  
Specialty Auto Auctions  
800-901-0022  
[www.saaasinc.com](http://www.saaasinc.com)

**Automania**  
*Sioux Falls*

**HyVee** • FLORAL •  
EMPLOYEE OWNED

*The Best At Fresh!*

*The only shoppe open 7 days a week, open late too! The freshest quality & friendliest, knowledgeable staff.*

*When it matters most, trust HyVee Floral*

**"Lots of Little Differences!"** 525 W. Cherry, Vermillion, 624-7399



**HyVee** • PHARMACY •  
EMPLOYEE OWNED

*Trusted Professionals*

Over 80 years of staff experience, caring, concerned and there for your needs.

*When it matters most, trust HyVee Pharmacy.*

**"Lots of Little Differences!"** 525 W. Cherry, Vermillion, 624-9591



**Cool Choices**

Install a new Heating & Cooling System this Spring and **SAVE up to \$2800**

**Hurry! Offer Ends Soon**

with Tax Credits, Manufacturer Rebates & Utility Rebates



**Carrier**  
Turn to the Experts™

**Larry's**   
**HEATING & COOLING**

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

# WHO'S WHO IN BUSINESS

<div><b>PROEFROCK Electric</b></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commercial</li><li>• Residential</li><li>• Industrial</li></ul></div> <div><i>Professional Grade Service</i></div> <div>915 Cornell St. Vermillion, SD <b>(605) 624-7000</b></div>	<div><b>LOWELL COOK CONSTRUCTION, INC.</b></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Light Commercial Construction</li><li>• Commercial Renovation</li><li>• New Residential</li><li>• Concrete Flat Work</li></ul></div> <div>25+ Years in Commercial &amp; Residential Construction</div> <div><b>LOWELL COOK, OWNER</b> <b>624-9998</b></div>
<div><b>JOHNSON ELECTRIC INC.</b></div> <div></div> <div>1016 W. Cherry St. Vermillion, SD <b>624-2994</b></div> <div><i>Electric Contracting Commercial &amp; Residential</i></div>	<div><b>HARTINGTON TREE LLC</b></div> <div></div> <div><b>TREE SERVICE NURSERY</b></div> <div><i>Evergreen, Shade &amp; Ornamental Trees for Sale</i></div> <div>Insect &amp; Disease Control, Tree Fertilization &amp; Iron Injections, Tree Trimming &amp; Removal, Tree Moving, Stump Cutting &amp; Cleanup Licensed Arborist, Fully Insured - Free Estimates</div> <div>Kyle &amp; Kent Hochstein <b>402-254-6710</b> Kyle Mobile: 402-841-7141 56303 882 Rd. • Hartington, NE</div>