

## SCHOOL RETIREES HONORED



Individuals recognized for retiring from the district include (l to r): Lynn Moore, secretary at Jolley Elementary; Cliff Moore, middle school math teacher; Anne Manning, elementary teacher and reading specialist; and Cinda Passick, second grade teacher at Jolley Elementary. Julie Stewart, second grade teacher at Jolley Elementary and Larry Meins, high school custodian, are also retiring but are not pictured.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS STAFF



The Vermillion School District held their annual awards program at the end of the last day of school, which was Tuesday, May 22. Staff members received teacher of the year awards and were recognized for longevity with the school district as well as retirement. Middle School Principal Pat Anderson was also recognized for being selected Regional Middle School Principal of the Year. Individuals awarded teacher of the year in each building are pictured (l to r): Cliff Moore, middle school; Dan Mart, Jolley Elementary; Lenni Billberg; and Lynne Bye, Austin Elementary. Cliff Moore was also selected district teacher of the year.

# Sierra Club rep voices tar sands concerns

By Travis Gulbrandson

travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Approximately 1.5 million barrels of tar sands crude oil is coming into the United States per day.

If the TransCanada Keystone I and XL pipelines are completed as proposed, that total could be increased to 2.5 million barrels by 2020 and 15 million barrels by 2030.

This poses multiple environmental concerns which need to be addressed sooner rather than later, said Dr. James Heisinger, University of South Dakota professor emeritus and chair of the state chapter of the Sierra Club.

Heisinger spoke about the issue recently during a presentation to the local Sierra Club at the WH Over Museum.

One issue concerns the composition of the tar sands themselves.

"The 'black gold' of the tar sands is bitumen, and it's like asphalt," Heisinger said. "You're going to have to liquefy it in some way. It's not just like asphalt, it's also got sand in it, so it has to be liquefied, separated from the sand. That requires steam.

"The steam means you have to use energy to heat the water. And then, when the water separates from the sand and the bitumen you have to dispose of the water in some reasonable way because it's toxic. So it's problematic," he said.

The water is stored in tailing lakes up to 25 miles across which don't evaporate very fast.

"Not to worry," Heisinger said. "There are levees surrounding these big toxic pools.

"There are two types of levees," he continued. "The ones that have been breached, and the ones that will be breached. So it's a problem."

Once the sand is removed from the bitumen, it remains similar to asphalt, and thus needs to be treated with a diluent called dilbit.

"You can imagine ... that great quantities of greenhouse gasses have to be produced in this process, and indeed they are," Heisinger said.

There are also problems with the pipelines, he said. Keystone I already has had more than 30 leaks, 14 of which occurred in the United States.

One of these leaks dumped more than 840,000 gallons – about 20,000 barrels – of tar sands into the Kalamazoo River, requiring a \$750 million clean-up, Heisinger said.

A smaller leak – 63,000 gallons – occurred in the Yellowstone River, he said.

A unique problem arose when the diluent was placed in the icy water, Heisinger said. Because the diluent was lighter than the water, the bitumen separated from it and just sunk.

Clean-up cost \$135 million, with less than 1 percent recovered, he said.

Because of its abrasive nature, bitumen has to be pumped at high pressure, which has caused some of the pipelines to explode, Heisinger said.

One such case happened in Minnesota in 2006, leaving two workers dead.

"Some of these pipelines ... really weren't designed for bitumen," Heisinger said.

"They're old pipelines that have had pump houses added. We really haven't developed safety and spill response standards beyond the conventional oil pipeline.

"So this is a real struggle, something we're going to have to do if we're pumping viscous oil at high pressure," he said.

At the time the pipelines were proposed, many people were not thinking with an eye toward environmental consequences, Heisinger said.

When Keystone I was first proposed, the United States "was deep into Afghanistan and Iraq," he said.

"It was hard to oppose anything like that," he said. "It was hard to say, 'Well, gee, you shouldn't be bringing oil down from Canada, dirty oil, and refining it.' People were thinking about military and security.

That's very different from 2008, which is when the XL was introduced to the public. At that time, though, many of us were worried about jobs."

That said, the information cited by Keystone regarding job creation is not quite what it appears, Heisinger said.

"They've loaded the deck," he said. "In TransCanada's 2008 presidential permit application, they said there would be 3,500-4,200 construction personnel. They didn't say that most of them would be Canadian. But most of them would be Canadian."

Keystone said an additional 20,000 jobs would come from building the actual pipeline, as opposed to installing it.

"Somebody's got to build the pipeline, but what they didn't say was that the steel comes from Poland, and the pipelines are constructed, some of them, in India, and so foreign labor is utilized," Heisinger said.

He added that according to the Cornell University Global Labor Institute, only 20 permanent jobs will be created on the pipeline and be constituted by people actually manning the pump houses.

"The XL will not claim a major source of U.S. jobs, nor will it claim any role at all in putting Americans back to work," the Cornell report said.

Additionally, there is no guarantee that the pipelines will have a positive effect on the price of fuel in the U.S. According to the report, it actually could contribute to a rise in gas prices.

For these and other reasons, Heisinger said people need to get involved to find a solution to the issues soon.

"It's going to be harder and harder for our nation to do anything about this ... if we let it progress," he said.

To view the Cornell University Global Labor Institute's report on the Keystone XL pipeline, visit [http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/globalaborinstitute/research/upload/GLI\\_KeystoneXL\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/globalaborinstitute/research/upload/GLI_KeystoneXL_Report.pdf).

# Living River Group hosting film series

For the second year, the Living River Group of the Sierra Club will present a series of films about ecological issues that affect people and the land right here in South Dakota.

The public is invited to view "America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie," Tuesday, June 19. All films in the series will be shown each month at 7 p.m. in the W.H. Over Museum on the USD campus. Lively discussions are sure to follow.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 19

"America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie." This film tells the story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history. Prior to Euro-American settlement in the 1820s, one of the major landscape features of North America was 240 million acres of tallgrass prairie. But between 1830 and 1900—in the space of a single lifetime—the tallgrass prairie was steadily transformed to farmland. The film also highlights prairie preservation efforts and explores how the tallgrass prairie ecosystem may serve as a model for a sustainable agriculture of the future.

### TUESDAY, JULY 17

"Pipe Dreams." The film documents the path of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline through interviews with the people who would be

most affected by its construction. The pipeline would carry a thick, sticky form of crude oil known as oil sands from Alberta, Canada, through the Midwest to refineries in the Gulf Coast of Texas. Trans-Canada tried to force ranchers to sign easements more or less blind and threatened them with eminent domain suits. It was one of eight films shortlisted for the Academy Award for best documentary.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

"David Versus Monsanto." Imagine that a storm blows across your garden and that now, genetically manipulated seeds are in your crops. A multinational corporation demands that you surrender your crops, then sues you for \$200,000 for the illegal use of patented, GM seeds. The definitive documentary on the genetically modified food industry, this is the story of Canadian farmer Percy Schmeiser and his legal struggle with corporate biotech company Monsanto. This first-hand account reveals the increasingly familiar tale of Monsanto harassing farmers with every means possible—civil lawsuits, stalking, trespassing, slander, threats, and crop contamination.

This film series is sponsored by Vermillion's Living River Group of the Sierra Club: [southdakota.sierraclub.org/LivingRiver](http://southdakota.sierraclub.org/LivingRiver).

# Wipf receives NASA summer internship

Jacey N. Wipf, BSIS-ATM junior at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology recently received news that she has been awarded a summer internship with NASA.

Jacey, will be going to California for an internship in the NASA Student Airborne Research Program (SARP). It is organized by the NASA Airborne Science program by the National Suborbital Education and Research Center

(NSERC). NSERC is an agreement between NASA and University of North Dakota. The program will run for eight weeks starting June 17.

The first half of the internship will be spent in Palmdale, CA. During this time, the interns will learn about and fly on the NASA P-3B at the NASA Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility as well as take air quality samples. The second half of the internship

will be spent at the University of California Irvine, where the interns will be doing analytic work.

The selected students for this internship had to write several essays, submit applications, and send letters of recommendation in order to apply for the program.

Jacey Wipf is a 2009 graduate of Vermillion High School.



## BAND

From Page 01

Marcus Sand, Michael Walker and Lucas Zimmerman.

In March, Paradise Fears shot a video in Vermillion for a re-worked version of the song "Sanctuary." It was released as a single May 1 as a way to create excitement for the tour.

Miller said the decision to re-record the song with different instrumentation and a spoken-word section was made because of its growing importance among fans.

"We had been playing the song live for a long time, and there was a super long instrumental in the middle of it," he stated. "I got bored on stage, so one day I decided to try a spoken-word section. I took all these lyrics that hadn't made it into the song but I had written for the song. I also added lyrics from songs from my biggest influences. There is a Bob Marley line and a line from The New Radicals.

"Kids started learning it, and it was really exciting," Miller continued. "It became one of the most popular parts of the song and the most quoted we'd ever been."

The band felt it was

important to film a video for the song in Vermillion. Locations include the Vermillion High School and the United Church of Christ where Miller first wrote the song at the piano. His father is the pastor at the church, so Miller spent a lot of time there.

"The song is kind of about the piano featured in the video," he said. "Every time I felt frustrated in high school, I used to go and play that piano and write music. Because of my time spent there, I was playing my frustration into this piano. It became a symbol of feeling safe and feeling good about myself. It only felt right to do the video in that sanctuary with that piano."

In order to get the product they wanted, the band recruited director Jay Ness. Among the actors in the video are Paradise Fears drummer Lucas Zimmerman's sister, Katie (who plays the main character), along with his mom and stepdad.

"(Ness) assembled a team, and it was a very collaborative effort," Merrigan said. "We got different cuts of the video and gave feedback on what we wanted. Seeing how well-accepted it's been and how much it means to people, it's been cool seeing it come full circle from a few years ago when 'Sanctuary' was just another song to becoming a very important song

not just to us but a lot of people who have found strength in its message. It's a song of acceptance and recognizes that a lot of people feel left out. Every time I see the video, I'm proud."

The video has had more than 74,000 views on YouTube. It can be seen at [www.youtube.com/user/paradisefears](http://www.youtube.com/user/paradisefears).

The band has also been covering songs by other bands on YouTube as a way to challenge itself, stay active between albums and gain new fans. Bands covered include Maroon 5 and Gym Class Heroes.

"I hate it when bands go dormant for 12 months and don't release anything," Miller said. "We figured it was a cool way to not only keep releasing music but also create traffic and keep ourselves relevant."

**Elk Point City-Wide Rummage Sale THIS WEEKEND!**  
Maps to Elk Pt. businesses at 5PM Wed., May 30

**HOME FOR SALE**  
**325 S. University, Vermillion, SD**  
This spacious home has a prime location being close to the elementary school, University campus, City pool, parks and bike path. A wonderful place for children to grow up! Bedrooms: 3 (master bedroom w/ walk-in shower and deck/Jacuzzi entrance); Baths: 2 full; main level laundry; Floors: 1.5; front covered open porch; Square footage: 1947; Lot size: 1.5. Amenities: Handicap accessible; beautiful gas fireplace w/remote; central heating (95% efficient); central air (13 Ser); energy efficient on demand water heater; carpeted, wood & tile floors; ceiling fans in most rooms; Rainbird sprinkler system; utility shed; attached garage (ac/& heated; floor drain; automatic door opener & running water). Upgrades: remodeled living room & dining room; kitchen floor; refinished wood floors; new wiring throughout. Fully furnished optional: Less than 2 year old appliances and furnishings; Jacuzzi.  
**Asking price: \$150,000 OBO /Furnished \$160,000 OBO**  
**For inquiries contact Tim Hannahs at (605) 670-2030**

**United Way**  
Nonprofit Executive Director  
United Way and Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton

**Description:** the Executive Director is the chief professional resource to the Board of Directors and represents the United Way to the community. Primary responsibilities include resource development, fund raising, agency relations, community partnerships and general management.

**Education Requirements:** Associate or Bachelor's degree in nonprofit management, social sciences, human service, education or related field is required.

**Experience:** Three years of supervisory or managerial experience in a nonprofit organization is preferred. Budget/financial experience. Volunteer management, community involvement, public speaking, and good communication and computer skills are also required.

*For information and application go to: [www.yanktonunitedway.org](http://www.yanktonunitedway.org)*