

Community supports Backpack Program in memory of Chapman

When community leader and businessman Jere Chapman passed away after a long battle with cancer last month, many in Vermillion mourned his loss.

And many found a way to honor his memory with donations to the Weekend Backpack Program totaling nearly \$1,800.

The donations will go toward making sure that children living with food insecurity have reliable nourishment, even when school isn't in session.

"Jere left quite a legacy in this community," said Backpack Program Director John Lushbough. "And that

legacy is continuing forward with these gifts. He obviously loved to feed people, and that is continuing, thanks to the people that knew and loved him."

Twenty-four donations were received in Chapman's memory.

The Welcome Table, Inc. provides food to families and children through the Welcome Table, a weekly community meal open to all free of charge, and the Weekend Backpack Program, which provides bags of easy-to-prepare foods every weekend for school-age children in need (also free of charge).

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people out," Draper said. "It's not just about raising funds for the fire department, so we're going to have free bounce houses for the kids, there's a small train ride for the kids, a dunk tank. There's also fire activities where kids are going to have an opportunity to spray water from the hoses and knock over barrels ... and really have fun."

There also will be live music and a pulled pork meal. The meal is the only part of the event that costs anything, charging \$8 for adults, and \$5 for children 12 and under.

"This is going to be an established thing," Draper said. "We understand it may take a few years for people to really plan on it, and for

the attendance numbers to gain, but we want to do something with the community, and it seems to be a wonderful day to do it. We have a great opportunity with the park."

Draper added that the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce & Development Company, the City of Vermillion and Wal-Mart will continue to provide the fireworks, "so we're kind of partnering with them to where it's a full evening of fun."

While he said he knows some residents will have already made conflicting plans, Draper has heard from others who will be attending.

"There's going to be a lot of good food, and a lot of fun for the kids, a lot of free things for the kids to do. So, I expect there to be a pretty good-sized crowd at the park that day," he said.

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 6/13-19/2014

Kyle Thomas Hartwick, 608 W. Main Street, Beresford; Fishing without license-resident, \$54.00 plus costs

Thomas Lee Walsh, 5201 W. Royal St., Sioux Falls; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Andrew Joseph Aberle, 225 Prospect, Vermillion; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs; Renewal registration during assigned month, \$54.00 plus costs

Danur Justin Kvilhaug, 214 Center St., Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Daniel John Howd, 2608 S. Norton Ave., Sioux Falls; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Tyler Steven Martens, 4403 W. Valhalla Blvd. #6, Sioux Falls; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Nicholas Lee Tieszen, 2704 E. 12th St., Sioux Falls; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Lucas Glenn Iverson, 1119 Hawthorn Street, Vermillion; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed

Carrie Ann Ostrem, 20608 458th Ave., Wakonda; County speeding, \$65.00 plus costs

Nevada Lake Merritt, 420 Garfield, Centerville; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Laverne E. Story, 2400 Douglas #19, Yankton; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$19.00 plus costs

Keith A. Fox, 45804 290th St., Viborg; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Michael Ray Lawrence, 321 N. 9th Ave. #46, Brandon; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Emily Jane Kabeiseman, 30664 434th Ave., Yankton; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Ezekiel Gregory Robinson, 205 Elm St., Vermillion; Following too closely, \$54.00 plus costs

April Barrett, 123 W. Clark St., Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Chad Lee Grunewaldt, 100 N. Yale St., Vermillion; Municipal speeding, \$39.00 plus costs

Lawrence Edward Hettinger, 1421 Indian Village Road, Mitchell; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Tessa R. Joseph, 335 Lake St., Lake Andes; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$134.00 plus costs

Surveyed citizens like 'small-town feel'

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Vermillion's "small-town feel" is one of its more important features according to the results of a recent survey.

The city's planning commission currently is performing an update plan, and gave a community survey as part of that.

"We sent out about 320 surveys, and we ended up getting back about 102, 103," said Andrew Colvin, assistant city manager. "About a third of them came back, which is pretty good for a survey."

"It's not scientific, there's no science in this," he said. "This is just more ... learning about people's thoughts."

Colvin said one of the questions asked about what were the important features of Vermillion.

"Some of them wrote 'small-town feel,' museums and libraries, school system and of course the

university," he said.

Many participants also said they were unsure, Colvin said.

"I think the unsure category you'll see on a lot of these is a pretty good percentage," he said. "It kind of goes to show it's hard to get information out to people and let them know what's going on in the city sometimes."

Among the other results of the survey were:

- Important concerns in neighborhoods include streets, buildings and grounds, and traffic and safety.

- Seventy-four percent of participants feel property maintenance standards should be enforced, while 17 percent were unsure.

- Cleanliness was named the number-one priority of the downtown area, followed by renovation and rehabilitation, as well as business.

- Sixty-six percent of the participants said gateways of the

community need to be improved.

Colvin said the survey was last given in 2010.

The ages of participants was "evenly split," with fewer of them in their late teens or early 20s, but still a good cross-section of the community, he said.

The gender of participants also was evenly split, with a few more females than males responding, Colvin said.

Sixty-seven percent of the participants own their own property, and most of them work in Vermillion in addition to living there, he said.

In terms of the questions themselves, not a lot of explanation was given, Colvin said.

"One of the things we wanted to do was to keep it as simple as we could," he said. "We tried keeping the questions very direct so we (weren't) adding a lot of elements to (them)."

PUC allows Dakota Rural Action to take role in rate-hike case

By Bob Mercer
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – Dakota Rural Action won a foothold Tuesday in a major utility company's request to charge higher prices for electricity to its western South Dakota customers.

Black Hills Power however was able to convince the state Public Utilities Commission that Dakota Rural Action should be limited to participating as a commenter, rather than receive full status as an intervenor.

Black Hills Power applied for a 9.27 percent increase that would generate an estimated \$14.6 million more annually in electricity revenue for the Rapid City-based utility.

The company said the average residential customer would pay \$10.91 more per month or about 36 cents more

per day as a result.

The PUC members voted 3-0 to grant limited status to Dakota Rural Action, provided that the organization files an affidavit listing its members who are customers of Black Hills Power.

Catlin Collier, a lawyer representing Dakota Rural Action, said the organization is the only party representing the general public.

PUC chairman Gary Hanson took issue with that description. He said the PUC employs a staff of analysts who act on behalf of the public.

"The commissioners are representing the citizens as well," Hanson said.

Lee Magnuson of Black Hills Power said the company has "no objection" to the application of Black Hills Industrial Interveners.

The group of six businesses has been

intervening in Black Hills Power rate cases since the 1990s, according to one of its lawyers, Andrew Moratzka.

The six are GCC Dakotah Inc.; Pete Lien and Sons, Inc.; Rushmore Forest Products, Inc.; Spearfish Forest Products, Inc.; Rapid City Regional Hospital, Inc.; and Wharf Resources (USA), Inc.

Magnuson set forth various arguments against Dakota Rural Action, including that language in Dakota Rural Action's application to intervene was excessive.

"It represents an attitude they want to take this case well beyond a rate case," Magnuson said. "It appears to use they are trying to broaden the issues."

Collier said a Dakota Rural Action staff member who wasn't a lawyer made the original application to intervene. Collier said that has been corrected.

Commissioner Chris Nelson said state rules require "a peculiar interest" by an intervenor that is separate from the company's consumers and the general public.

Collier said Dakota Rural Action members are concerned about sources of electricity, transmission and the uses of revenue from rate increases.

She described them as "a unique group of people" who are committed to knowledge about the electricity industry and Black Hills Power.

"I have no further questions," Nelson said, sounding exasperated.

Nelson and Hanson agreed Dakota Rural Action "probably" could show someone among its members is a Black Hills Power customer. Dakota Rural Action would need to file an affidavit attesting to that.

OBITUARIES

Glennye Peterson

Glennye Peterson, 80, of Lincoln, NE entered into eternal rest Sunday, June 22, 2014, at Bryan East Hospital surrounded by her loving family. She was born Sept. 8, 1933, at Centerville, to Harry and Ella (Johnson) Austin. She graduated from Vermillion High School in 1951 and was employed by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. She married Arnie Peterson on Sept. 8, 1957, and when he graduated from USD they moved to Chicago where she was employed by Ford Motor Company.



Peterson

She was an active member of Lutheran churches in Park Forest, IL, Irving, TX, Vermillion, Sioux Falls, and Lincoln, NE, where she served as the Wedding Coordinator for Southwood Lutheran for several years. She was a lifelong member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha business women's sorority and served as SD State President in 1981. She attended the International Convention in Australia in 1982. She studied Floral Design at Southeast Community College, and was active in the floral business in Lincoln for many years.

She is survived by her husband, Arnie; son, Barten (Nola); daughter, Kari; grandchildren, Brock, Erik, and Dalton Peterson; great-granddaughter, Shelby; sisters, Ellen Unzicker and JoAnn Larson. Preceded in death by parents.

Visitation was from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 26, followed by a prayer service at 7 p.m. at Roper and Sons, 4300 'O' Street, Lincoln, NE. The funeral service will be held at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, 30595 University Rd., Vermillion, on Saturday, June 28, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Steve Unzicker officiating. Visitation with the family will begin at 10 a.m. at the church. Memorials to Southwood Lutheran Church, 4301 Wilderness Hills Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68516. Condolences online at Roperandsons.com.

Maurice Severson

Maurice C. Severson, 87, of Vermillion, passed away Monday, June 23, 2014, at Sanford Vermillion Hospital. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, June 27, at First United Methodist Church in Vermillion with visitation one hour prior to the services on Friday.

Burial will be in BluffView Cemetery in Vermillion with military honors. Kober Funeral Home, of Vermillion, is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be posted online to www.koberfuneralhome.com.

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