

Governor seeks disaster declaration

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration to help South Dakota recover from an April 8-10 ice and snow storm.

The request is for public assistance in seven counties, including the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Preliminary assessments show the storm caused extensive public health and safety hazards. Damages to public and private nonprofit property are estimated at more than \$11.4 million as part of efforts to clear roads, restore electricity and remove debris caused by freezing rain that left heavy accumulations of ice on trees and power lines.

The damages occurred in Douglas, Hutchinson, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Turner and Shannon counties.

In a letter to President Barack Obama, Daugaard said significant personnel and equipment on the state, tribal, county and local levels has been dedicated to recovering from the severe storm. Shannon County and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation had a record 26.5 inches of snow, and 115,000 South Dakotans were without power in the six southeastern counties that were hard hit by ice, the Governor wrote.

"The tree debris covered public roads and sidewalks,

which caused public health and safety issues because emergency traffic was unable to drive down the roadways and citizens were unable to evacuate their homes until the tree debris was cleared from roads," Daugaard wrote.

South Dakota is still recovering from devastating 2011 Missouri River flooding, as well as a record seven Presidential disaster declarations in 2010, the governor noted.

"The costs associated with this disaster, combined with the last eight declarations, increases the state's financial stress if federal assistance is not provided," Daugaard wrote.

The request by the governor for a major disaster declaration is a necessary step for federal disaster funds to be made available to South Dakota. If the president grants the declaration, up to 75 percent of eligible costs could be reimbursed by the federal government. The governor's request does not guarantee federal funding will be made available to South Dakota.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency participated last week in the preliminary damage assessments.

Wagner loves to assist USD students with math problems

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Clare Wagner, instructor for the Department of Mathematical Sciences as USD, is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Instructor Award, which is presented by the College of Arts & Sciences.

"It feels wonderful," Wagner said of receiving the award. "It's a hard job sometimes to teach math to students who struggle and don't like the subject, so receiving the award was a really wonderful recognition."

Now in her 22nd year as an instructor at USD, Wagner did not initially intend to become a teacher.

"I actually started out in the medical profession," she said. "I worked for six years in Sioux Falls for a group of surgeons. I was a medical assistant for Surgical Associates, and I didn't know that math was going to be in the cards for me."

It became apparent to Wagner that math was "in the cards" when she began volunteering for her church's youth group.

"Sometimes students would be working on homework

before youth group meetings would get underway," she said. "A couple students would work on math, and I would take a look at it and say, 'I really like that stuff. Can I help you?' Before I knew it, I was tutoring some students on trigonometry, geometry and algebra."

"I decided, 'This is fun.' It was fun helping students understand the math ideas," she said.

She earned a B.A. in mathematics education from USD, after which point she taught eighth grade math in Vermillion for three years.

"Then I went on to finish my master's degree at the university. A job opened up in the math department, and I've been here ever since," she said.

Wagner has since taught such courses as College Algebra, Calculus I and Quantitative Literacy – a



WAGNER

course she also developed, making it the first one in the state.

She also has developed an online version of Calculus I that has been taught during the summer – this summer will feature an online Quantitative Literacy course – and has been instrumental in implementing and coordinating the Math Emporium approach for teaching College Algebra at USD.

Wagner said she enjoyed math very much when she was a student herself.

"I had some wonderful teachers in public school growing up," she said. "My dad was a stubborn German patriarch kind of guy, but we both loved math. He actually was showing me as a little girl a way to do subtraction that they would do in Germany that his dad taught him. I now know that it's known as Austrian subtraction, and I was hooked from that moment."

Growing up near Groton, SD, Wagner said, "We were poor. We didn't have much money growing up. I lived on a farm where we didn't even have

running water. We had an outhouse.

"There was one stable thing in my life, and that was school," she said. "I knew that going to school, I had teachers who cared about me and helped me, and I liked the stability of math."

Wagner said her favorite part of being an instructor is when students visit with her during her office hours.

"That's when I actually get to work with them face to face, and help them and guide them as they do math," she said. "When I'm teaching in a classroom, I am dealing with a whole group of students. The best part is when I sit next to a student and guide them as they do a problem. It's that personal aspect that's a lot of fun for me."

The Outstanding Instructor Award is given annually to a faculty member in the College of Arts & Sciences who demonstrates outstanding classroom teaching and mentoring of students. The winner receives a cash prize, which is made possible through an annual give of the Johnson family.

CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF PRESS BRIEFING

04/28/13 10:35 – A deputy responded to a grass fire on 306th St. and assisted fire units with traffic control.

04/28/13 19:24 – A deputy stopped to check on a disabled vehicle on Highway 19. The driver had already summoned assistance so no further assistance was necessary.

04/28/13 21:12 – A deputy responded to assist a Highway Patrol Trooper with the investigation of an accident involving a deer and a motorcycle on Highway 50 East of Vermillion. The motorcycle driver and passenger were transported from the scene by ambulance.

04/29/13 16:04 – A report was received of a suicidal juvenile. Deputies responded and found that the juvenile was OK. He stated he was not suicidal and that friends had misinterpreted his comments. No hold was placed but he was left in the care of his mother.

04/29/13 17:52 – A juvenile was found in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. He was left in the custody of parents and the report will be forwarded to the States Attorney for prosecution.

04/29/13 23:25 – A deputy encountered a vehicle in the ditch on Highway 19. There was no damage and the vehicle was off the road so it was left in its place to allow the owner to have it moved.

04/30/13 07:02 – A vehicle was stopped for speeding on the Highway 50 Bypass. The vehicle was stopped and the driver cited for no insurance and arrested for outstanding Charles Mix County bench warrants.

04/30/13 09:45 – A deputy investigated a report of a theft of money from a resident in the nursing home in Irene. The matter is under investigation.

04/30/13 11:09 – A juvenile female was transported by a deputy from a Sioux Falls group home to Vermillion for court.

04/30/13 14:43 – A deputy transported a juvenile female to a group home in Sioux Falls and an adult male to the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls to begin his sentence.

04/30/13 17:19 – A deputy investigated a complaint of one inmate in the jail stealing from another.

04/30/13 17:51 – A complaint was received of an open fire in Meckling causing burning debris to blow around. A deputy responded and the property owner was asked to contain the fire.

04/30/13 19:30 – A deputy served a protection order to a man in Vermillion.

05/01/13 12:35 – A patient was transported by a deputy from Irene to the Human Services Center in Yankton for a mental illness hold.

05/01/13 13:40 – The School Resource Officer took a report of a stolen iPod from a vehicle in the high school parking lot.

05/01/13 18:08 – A report was received of a group of vehicles stuck on a minimum maintenance road. Deputies responded and found one vehicle stuck and others trying to pull it out. The juvenile drivers were advised to attempt again when the road dried.

05/01/13 23:22 – A deputy responded to investigate a 911 call with the line remaining open in Burbank. It was determined that the phone line was disconnected and experiencing a malfunction.

05/02/13 01:29 – A caller reported a traffic cone moved from a construction area into the traffic lane. A deputy responded and moved the cone to its proper place.

05/02/13 10:31 – A deputy on patrol observed calves walking under an electric fence wire and into the road. The landowner was notified of the issue.

05/02/13 16:12 – A deputy responded to a report of a caller reporting his neighbor's dog was killing his chickens, ducks and a turkey. He had caught the dog that had its owner's phone number on a tag. The deputy contacted the owner who picked up the dog and offered restitution.

05/02/13 22:22 – A deputy responded to Irene to assist a Yankton County deputy with locating a Clay County resident who was not home.

05/03/13 09:28 – A deputy responded to a report of a two-car accident on Highway 19 near 302nd St. Information was taken for an accident report.

05/03/13 19:08 – A man was transported by a deputy from the jail to the Human Services Center in Yankton for an involuntary mental health committal.

05/04/13 09:31 – A report was received of traffic cones in the lane in a construction area. A deputy responded and made sure there was no current hazard and reported the matter to the construction company so the cones and signs could be properly replaced.

05/04/13 09:57 – A deputy investigated a report of a nursing home resident who suspected some money may be missing.

Total Records: 25

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 4/26-5/2/2013

William Harvey Larson, 32197 Ponderosa Drive, Vermillion; Fail to report accident to police officer, \$204.00 plus costs

Daniel Keith Goeden, 45776 Jetty Pk., Meckling; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs

Richard W. Michaelson, 212 Spruce St., Vermillion; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$19.00 plus costs

Brandt Andrew Garner, 406 E. 14th Ave., Tyndall; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Joshua Alexander Opel, 1101 E. SD Highway 50, Vermillion; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$204.00 plus costs

Joshua Alexander Opel, 1101 E. SD Highway 50, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Mark C. Daniels, 409 S. Pine St., Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs; Renewal registration during assigned month, \$54.00 plus costs

Danielle P. Loftus, 31323 University Road, Vermillion; Right-turning vehicle required

to keep right, \$54.00 plus costs

Matthew Baley Presutti, 103 N. Harvard #2, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Kayli Raye Kuhl, 702 E. Cherry Street #408, Vermillion; Unsafe/illegal backing, \$54.00 plus costs

Shujah Sikander Khan, 110 Sodrac Drive, N. Sioux City, SD; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$59.00 plus costs

Yiping Li Wang, 2820 Archer Ct., Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Courtney Evelynne Plath, 10 Alumni Drive #102, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Anthony Jensen, 2400 Douglas #32, Yankton; Municipal speeding in school zone, \$59.00 plus costs

Ashley Ann Gisi, 118 N. Plum, Vermillion; Failure to yield to traffic at yield sign, \$54.00 plus costs

Austin Dowling, 88851 577th Ave., Newcastle, NE; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$59.00 plus costs

Bernie A. Lecates, 948 Sunset, Vermillion; Speeding

on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Cole E. Hollinger, 202 E. Clark Street, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Christopher M. Amundson, 1007 Cottage, Vermillion; Overdriving road conditions, \$54.00 plus costs

Daniel Keith Goeden, 45776 Jetty Pk., Meckling; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Joshua E. Smock, 31376 Meckling Rd., Meckling; Fail to report accident to police officer, \$204.00 plus costs

Richard J. Noecker, 88891 566 Ave., Hartington, NE; Reduced weight maximums specific roads, \$104.00 plus costs

Sahara Rae Barrett, 603 Maple Street, Yankton; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Eric Michael Teune, 1136 State Highway 270, Steen, MN; Speeding on other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs

Brett Claire Chase, 703 Smith St., Newcastle, NE; Renewal registration during assigned month, \$54.00 plus costs

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