

Teen Missing In Nepal Quake Has Vermillion Connection

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
For the Plain Talk

A second major earthquake rocked Nepal on Tuesday registering a magnitude of 7.3. This time, it was located east of Kathmandu rather than west.

However, for former Vermillion resident Diane Jones Schumacher, her focus is still on the deadly quake that hit the country on April 25. The reason, her 19 year old daughter Sydney and a close friend Baily Meola, have not been heard from since.

Meola and Schumacher were traveling around the world after graduating from high school in 2014. The two met in Thailand in mid-April before flying to Kathmandu. Schumacher's five-month journey began in January; she wrote on her travel blog of her plans to work on a farm in Hawaii after hiking in Nepal. Meola flew to Southeast Asia in February and planned to travel through Europe after the Langtang Valley trek.

The girls' names remain on the master list of those missing from Langtang Valley and vigils have been held for them in their hometown of Seattle.

The earthquake, which left 8,000 dead, hit Kathmandu and the Langtang Valley, where Schumacher and Meola

were staying, particularly hard.

In the two weeks since the first quake, Schumacher has been focused on staying positive in the search for her daughter and friend.

Sydney and Baily traveled to Nepal to see the famous Langtang Valley and Kyanjin Gumpa monastery in Kathmandu.

The family said an anthropologist reported seeing the two on April 24, just one day before the 7.8 earthquake hit Nepal and aftershocks destroyed villages nearby.

One of the villages wiped out is Langtang, right near the girls' last known campsite, according to the family.

Schumacher received word that her daughter is not in Kyanjin Gumpa, where there are known survivors and the family had hoped the girls took cover.

Thanks in part to a fundraiser done on Indiegogo the Schumacher's were able to send their sons, Will and Paul, to Nepal to help search for the girls.

Paul is Sydney's older brother and he took the same hiking trip three years ago, so he knows what kind of conditions the girls face.

"You're basically trekking up a valley between two peaks that are 4,000 feet above you," said Paul Schumacher in a story written by the *Seattle Times*.

In an update on the Indiegogo site, the family has posted: "We would like to share that the Schumacher brothers, Will and Paul have descended safely from the Langtang Valley and are due back in the States soon. We wish to thank all of you for your support in allowing this undertaking to happen. The ability to send Will and Paul over to Nepal not only enabled us to have eyes and feet on the ground but allow those of us who couldn't be there feel we had a strong connection to the search for Bailey and Sydney. We are very thankful for their bravery and tenacity in this mission."

"I'm just trying to go there, and I want to get a helicopter and go fly the places I think she could be and look," said Paul Schumacher, prior to leaving.

Yet with the earthquake that struck Nepal Tuesday, it is likely news of the girls will remain hard to come by.

In the meantime, the girls' parents and community continue to hope and pray for their safe return.

To support the search for Sydney and Bailey go to: <https://life.indiegogo.com/fundraisers/1244905>.

The Associated Press and Janelle Carlson contributed to this article.

National Music Museum Summer Exhibit Opens Memorial Weekend

The arsenal of war is more than weapons. It is all the objects that accompany the soldier through the experience – whatever 'defends' the human, the self. This summer, the National Music Museum (Vermillion, South Dakota) is looking at the American soldier's 'arsenal' through a fascinating exhibit of historic music and musical instruments. The Museum will draw on its massive overall holdings of 15,000 instruments to select many previously un-displayed artifacts: numerous instruments issued to or used by U.S. soldiers throughout American military history and war time. "Banding Together: The American Soldiers' Musical Arsenal" will run from May 23 to September 7, 2015, at the NMM.



The rare items on exhibit will include a violin decorated and played by a Civil War soldier from Troy, New York; fragments of a harmonica found on the Vicksburg battlefield; woodwind instruments carried by Spanish-American War soldiers; a snare drum used in a field-artillery battalion during World War I; a clarinet given to an Army private recovering from injuries sustained in World War II's Battle of the Bulge; an American soldier's Vietnamese-made electric guitar, and many other historic items.

The exhibit will also feature original photographs of U.S. military bands and soldiers making music both on and off the battlefield. Stunning Liberty Bond posters from WWI, popular sheet-music covers, a complete bandsman's uniform worn by a WW I musician in the U.S. Army Band Infantry 134, and other war-time memorabilia will provide historic contexts for the ways in which music and musical instruments have been used for centuries to rally individuals to enlist, to garner local support for the war effort, to convey orders on the battlefield and organize troops, to inspire, to boost morale and bonding, to comfort, and to provide a means of human expression in arenas of hardship or celebration.

The National Music Museum will also participate again in the Blue Star Museums Program, honoring the nation's military, active-duty personnel, and their families with free museum admission throughout the summer. Veterans also will be able to visit the museum at a special reduced admission.

For more information about the National Music Museum, visit www.nmmusd.org.

Memorial Day Celebration Planned

On May 25 the Union County Historical Society will host a Memorial Day celebration at the Union County Museum located at 707 W. Main St. in Elk Point.

The main feature will be the South Dakota's Fallen Hero's traveling display.

A patriotic program will begin at noon with Joy Hemmingson as vocalist followed by a Civil War presentation by Phillip Peterson.

The museum will be open during this event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A free will offering meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. consisting of taverns, beans, chips, rhubarb crisp, cookies and a drink.

Please be sure to attend this event as there are now many items have been added to the museums displays inside the main house and in the north display barn.

Due to limited parking, please park at the Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot, just east of the museum, and you will be transported to the museum grounds. Those with disabilities will be allowed to park near the museum.

Be sure to attend this event as we will be honoring those that have served years ago up until present.

Science, Technology Used To Grow Healthier Food

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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According to Stacey Sorlien of the South Dakota Pork Producers Council (SDPPC), science and technology is being used to grow healthier food to feed the world.

Speaking during the Vermillion Rotary Club meeting Tuesday, Sorlien highlighted how ongoing advancements in agricultural science are helping farmers raise better food while using fewer natural resources than ever before.

"There are currently more than seven billion people that live on earth," she said. "By 2050, that number is going to increase to more than nine billion. We have to do more with less in order to produce enough food to feed a growing population."

She said one aspect of agriculture that is making strides to increase food production is the pork industry.

"Farmers who raise pigs have been able to make great progress in animal health, food safety and protecting the environment," Sorlien said. "Farmers know they

must always keep learning and working to get better at what they do. Farmers now use 41 percent less water and 78 percent less land to raise pigs than they did 50 years ago."

She noted that pork products make up 37 percent of the meat products eaten in the world – a number that is growing. All while producers are taking better care of the animals.

"Modern barns, a focus on nutrition and animal care, mean pigs live healthier lives than ever before," she said. "Healthy pigs mean healthy food. For example, pork tenderloin today is as lean as a skinless chicken breast and is certified by the American Heart Association as a heart-healthy food."

Sorlien said that pork is full of nutrients.

"A 3-ounce portion of pork tenderloin, for example, is an excellent source of protein, thiamin, vitamin B6, phosphorus and niacin and a good source of potassium, riboflavin and zinc, yet it contributes only 6 percent of calories to a 2,000 calorie diet," she said. "Fresh pork is

naturally low in sodium."

She also noted that new guidelines for cooking pork products and the naming of pork products have been recently released.

"We all remember eating pork that has been over cooked to the point that it is as tasteless and tough as shoe leather," she said. "Now with the new standards, the saying is cook it like a steak. You want to bring the temperature up to about 145 degrees to get a good medium rare cook on the meat. It will be bursting with flavor and so tasty. If you are not getting a good end product you will not want to buy our product."

Regarding the new naming of cuts of pork, the changes were made to lessen confusion for consumers.

"They wanted consumers to be able to identify a cut of pork similar to those of beef," she said. "You will now see New York chops, porterhouse chops, ribeye chops and sirloin chops when you look at the label. There will also be cooking suggestions on the label as well as the heart healthy sticker."

As for what affect the pork industry has in South Dakota, Sorlien said it is huge.

"South Dakota pork production provides more than 7,900 jobs in the state, ranked No. 11 in pork production in the country," she said. "More than 170,000 sows raise more than 3.8 million hogs per year. The industry contributes \$520 million annually to the state's economy and \$17.4 million in business taxes annually."

Sorlien said it is important to get the message of the pork industry out to consumers.

"I feel it is important to give these talks because the pork industry has changed so dramatically and educating the consumers on where it has come and where it is going is huge," she said. "People are surprised on how we have changed production. I want them to understand all the changes and hopefully look at pork products a new way."

For recipes and more information about SDPPC go to SDPork.org or porkbeinspired.com.

Safety

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upcoming storm season, Stewart said he is not sure what to expect at this point, but that his job at its most basic sense is about protecting citizens against disasters.

"We are not necessarily a response type of agency," he said. "You are never going to see me running lights somewhere. I am more of a planning, training after affects kind of things; the mitigation of things that deal with FEMA if the disaster fits the criteria for a disaster declaration."

He said in the last six years, Clay County has had five presidential declarations.

"I thought we were going to get away without one last year and then the June rainstorm hit," Stewart said. "That was rare. We don't typically get a flash flood situation in Vermillion. Street flooding is completely different than a river flash flood. Vermillion itself sits high enough up the bluff that it would take a lot for the river to actually flash flood proportions we would be concerned. It would be a very rare situation to have a situation similar to the Rapid City flooding of 1972, because of the topography of the area."

He noted that fresh on everyone's minds are tornados, due to the Delmont tornado of this past weekend.

"If a situation similar to what happened in Delmont this weekend were to happen here, we would definitely sound the sirens in Vermillion and Wakonda," Stewart said. "The only time we sound those off is to tell you to seek shelter, with the exception of Monday's at noon for testing. Every once in a while older generations will say, 'That is not the weather siren that is a fire siren.' Well, it has been 10 years since we have sounded the outside sirens for fire calls. If you hear the sirens, there is a reason for it."



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/
FOR THE PLAIN TALK

If you hear the sound of sirens this spring, other than at noon on Mondays, it means you and your family need to take shelter. Layne Stewart, EMS director for Clay County also warns that sirens are not designed to penetrate buildings, so to be safe you should own a weather radio.

Warning that if the sirens sound the worst thing you can do is go out and try to take photos, Stewart said if you hear the siren find your shelter.

"Get to the lowest level, most interior room of your house, avoiding windows,"

he said. "Being able to have a radio or a TV available in your area of shelter, just to keep an eye or an ear out on any changing conditions is important."

"Have a plan," Stewart added. "Know where you are going to meet your family. You always get the disaster kits that have all of your papers together and all of that. Well, realistically your papers don't matter if you can't get everybody in the basement. Have an idea where everyone is going to meet in the basement and make sure everyone is there. Have accountability for each other."

Stewart noted that CCEM does not sound an all clear once the situation has passed.

"We do not sound an all clear, which is why having a transistor radio is important," he said. "Assuming KVHT is still up and working, that will be the first indication of an all clear and then we will send out a general press release. KVHT will be the first call once we decide it is clear."

He added if families have a storm plan it will make what to do in severe weather less stressful.

"Let's be safe out there," Stewart said. "If people really plan ahead and know what to do when that weather radio or siren goes off it helps. Don't think it is a suggestion; take it as word that you need to get to shelter. We will try to

give as much warning as possible. Best case scenario it will be multiple minutes. As soon as it comes across, it is activated. If we know there is a tornado 20 miles away, I am not going to wait until it is a mile outside of town to activate the siren. That doesn't mean wait 10 minutes to go to safety, it means get there now."

He added that the sirens are outdoor warning system – they are not made to penetrate buildings. They are to give people who are outdoors warning to get outside.

He noted that the shelters in the area include: Vermillion's National Guard Armory, 603 Princeton and the Bill Rattigan Fire and EMS Station by McDonalds, 20 N. Dakota. In Irene, it is the community Center. In Wakonda, it is the school.

During a storm, CCEM will have a modified emergency operations center set up at their offices. Deciding when to turn on the sirens can be a decision made by

anyone on the team.

"The fire departments will be out spotting, if so needed, and will report what they are seeing: heavy winds, hail, wind shear," Stewart said. "Any fire department spotter has the ability to activate the sirens anytime they feel it is necessary. They call the dispatch and say hit the sirens. I would much rather error on the side of caution, than to say we need a second opinion. We will just hit them. Also, there is automatic siren activation when the National Weather Service puts us in a tornado warning. If we are in a warning we will sound a siren."

Stewart said that if a storm calls for spotters, typically Wakonda will have 4-6 spotters depending on the time of day, while Vermillion would probably have 6-8.

"If a spotter is getting sent out, they know what is coming," Stewart said. "In today's time everyone has radar in their pocket.

Because of that, anymore, I don't usually tell them where to go. They need to be able to make their own decisions to get out of the way of a storm instead of me saying be at X, Y, Z when they should be at R, S, T."

He noted that Norfolk, Nebraska is kind of on the line that tracks toward Vermillion, in the most general sense of storms.

"The Wayne, Nebraska tornado a couple years ago was D-Days weekend," Stewart said. "I was in Nebraska trying to get as far south as I dared to give me time if I thought it was coming our way, that I would have radio contact to get back and make the call to hit the siren to give as much notice as possible."

Stewart added that with the Delmont situation, luckily they didn't have any serious injuries.

"They just have stuff to rebuild," he said. "We can live with stuff. If you hear the sirens take shelter and protect your family."

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