

Cottage Avenue Closing Announced

The City of Vermillion will be closing the intersection of Cottage Avenue and W. Duke Street Monday, June 1, 2015 for the Water Main Reconstruction Project. The purpose of the project is to replace a deteriorating segment of ductile iron pipe along Cottage Avenue. The road closure is necessary to provide the contractor with a safe working environment and space to store equipment and materials.

To maintain access to Ace Hardware, Chlotique, Wells Fargo, Mr. Smith's, and the Municipal Liquor Store, the project will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, Cottage Avenue will be closed from W. Duke Street south to the third Ace Hardware driveway access. In the second phase, Cottage Avenue will be closed from W. Cherry Street north to the third driveway access. Access to Cottage Avenue from the W. Cherry Street service road will be closed at times during the second phase as well.

If you have questions please contact Jason Anderson, Assistant City Engineer, at 677-7050.

Vermillion Light And Power Honored

Vermillion Light & Power has earned the American Public Power Association's Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2014. The utility earned First in Group B award in the category for utilities with 16,800 worker-hours of annual worker exposure. Kenneth Roberts, chair of the APPA Safety Committee and line supervisor, Huntsville, Alabama, Utilities, presented the award on May 18, during the association's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference, held in Sacramento, California.

"Working day-in and day-out with the power of electricity is not something we take lightly. We can't afford to," said Roberts. "The recipients of this award understand the essential nature of safety in our line of work. It's embedded in their work culture."

More than 290 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards, which is the highest number of entrants in the history of the program. Entrants were placed in categories according to their number of worker hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records during 2014. The incidence rate, used to judge entries, is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2014, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"We are proud of the service we provide to our customers," said Mark Koller, Superintendent of Vermillion Light & Power. "Safety is a number one priority."

The Safety Awards have been held annually for the last 55 years. APPA is the national organization representing more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community- and state-owned electric utilities.

USD Faculty Awards Presented

The University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences has announced faculty awards for the 2014-2015 school year.

Becca Jordre, DPT, Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, was recognized for outstanding research. Jordre's research involved geriatric athletes and the management of urinary incontinence, and she also researched problems related to ergonomics for dental hygiene practitioners.



Rasmussen

Kay Rasmussen, M.S., M.L.S. Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, was recognized for her outstanding teaching. Rasmussen's teaching interests include Hematology and Microbiology.



Jordre

Laurie Lind, M.S. an instructor in Health Sciences, received the 2015 "Champion of Inclusive Excellence" award from the President's Council on Diversity and Inclusiveness. Lind's award noted that she demonstrated outstanding leadership promoting inclusive excellence at USD.

Planning Comm. Openings Announced

The City of Vermillion has five terms expiring on the Planning Commission Board in June. The term of appointment is for five years. If interested, please complete an Expression of Interest form available on the City's website www.vermillion.us or at City Hall.

Completed Expression of Interest forms are due in the City Manager's office by noon, Thursday, June 11, 2015. It is anticipated that City Council will make an appointment at their June 15, 2015 meeting.

Newton Hills Weekend Events Set

This weekend at Newton Hills is all about recycling to keep our Earth healthy. Come out to enjoy some recycling crafts and games on Saturday! On Friday, May 29th at 8:30 p.m. everyone is welcome to join us at the amphitheater for a movie with popcorn and freezies. Then Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. we encourage the kids and their parents to join in on a recycling craft to show fun projects with things you can find around your home. Then at 1 p.m. we will be gathering in the grassy opening by the beginning of Sargeant Creek Road for Mr. Drip's Trip! Following that event we will head over to the double shelters for our game of the day at 2:30 p.m. At 4:30 p.m. we will have an activity on pollution and safe drinking water. And to top off a full day we will be having another movie down at the amphitheater at 8:30 p.m. Sunday morning a non-denominational church service will be held at the amphitheater if anyone wishes to attend.

Summer has begun at Good Earth State Park at Blood Run! Celebrate the last week of May with summer fun! May 29th at 7 pm come discover how our river was used from pre-historic times to today, wildlife and waterfowl that rely on it, and how we can keep it clean. Monarchs are flying beauties that travel thousands of miles every year! Come discover how you can be apart of their epic journey on Saturday, May 30th at 9 am. Do you and your family enjoy scavenger hunts, hikes, and bingo? Come to Good Earth State Park for this family fun game that everyone will enjoy, May 30th at 11 am.

If you have any questions about the park or the programs for this coming weekend, do not hesitate to give us a call at (605) 987-2263 or email newtonhills@state.sd.us. More info including an event schedule may also be found online at www.gfp.sd.gov. If you would like to receive weekly email updates on programming at the park, like us on Facebook, or send an email to newtonhills@state.sd.us. The staff at Newton Hills and Good Earth look forward to seeing you at the park this summer!

Hartington-Newcastle Graduates Reflect On First Year Of Merger

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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HARTINGTON, Neb. – At last Saturday's graduation ceremony, Hartington-Newcastle senior Hannah Flaugh spoke about talk about change.

It's a subject she and her classmates have lived on a daily basis since the two northeast Nebraska schools merged last summer. The Newcastle district had seen its enrollment dwindle, and the two districts pursued consolidation.

"This year brought changes for our school," she said. "I'll be talking about change and being able to handle change. I will also talk about what happened through the year and the memories from high school."

H-N senior Tanner Fischer, who like Flaugh comes from Hartington, said the past year brought a number of new experiences. He will recall great memories of being part of the new district's first graduating class.

"During the last half of the (school) year, we all melded together," he said. "We didn't talk about who was from Hartington and who was from Newcastle. We were one school, one team."

An attendance center is maintained at Newcastle for that community's lower grades. However, the older Newcastle students attend the Hartington school facility.

Fischer and Flaugh noted the Hartington students wanted to make their Newcastle schoolmates feel at home in their new environment.

Jacob Tanderup was among the Newcastle High School students who saw their district end before they graduated from it. The students knew they would be attending school elsewhere in 2014-15. Still, the advance knowledge didn't make the change less difficult for them.

"Last year, at Newcastle, it seemed like the end of the world," Tanderup said. "Nothing against Hartington, but we didn't want to combine (with anyone). You hoped your whole life that you would graduate from Newcastle."

Tanderup saw the consolidation as particularly difficult for the seniors, who needed to make a quick transition as they were spending only one year in their new situation. In addition, he lives in the Maskell area rather than Newcastle itself.

However, Tanderup said the past year went far beyond his expectations.

"(Newcastle) did a great choice for a school (when they partnered with Hartington)," he said. "Everybody worked together to make our senior year the best."

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

Hartington-Newcastle secondary principal A.J. Johnson said the Hartington school board and staff made a conscious effort to welcome the incoming Newcastle students.

"It's a difficult thing to lose your school, and their town is 30 miles away, so it's a long way (to travel)," he said. "We don't want a Newcastle student to feel like a visitor. This is now their school. We want them to feel that we're one community and one school."

As part of the transition, Newcastle students were hosted last spring at an open house where they spent the school day in Hartington classes.

Fischer thought it was a good idea to host the Newcastle students last spring rather than wait until classes started in the fall.

"The whole (Newcastle) school came to get a feel for it, so it wasn't such a big shock," he said. "I think it was helpful so they got to know the building and teachers before they started in the school setting."

In addition, Hartington officials encouraged their students to do their part to create a unified student body, Johnson said.

"We talked to our students about ways we could make the Newcastle kids feel like they were part of this, that this was their new school," he said.

Actually, the Hartington seniors had already taken the initiative by organizing a social outing with their incoming Newcastle classmates.

During the summer, Fischer hosted all of the H-N seniors at his family's cabin on Lewis and Clark Lake. "We tried to make them feel welcome, and it really helped a lot," he said.

The outing provided a great opportunity to form friendships outside the school setting, Flaugh said.

"We knew OF each other through things like sports, but we didn't KNOW each other," she said. "Things got a lot better when we got to know each other."

The welcoming atmosphere and personal interaction with the Hartington



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Hartington-Newcastle seniors (from left) Tanner Fischer, Hannah Flaugh and Jacob Tanderup are among the 27 seniors forming the first graduating class from the newly consolidated district.

students and staff made a big difference for the incoming Newcastle students, Tanderup said.

"You got to meet new people. Once you got to know them, they became your friends," he said. "After the first month of school, it seemed normal."

JOINING THE TEAM

The Newcastle students' participation in extracurricular activities loomed as an important part of meshing the student body, Johnson said.

At first, the six Newcastle boys didn't plan to go out for football. However, Fischer and others encouraged their new schoolmates to join the team.

"We told them they needed to come out (for football)," Fischer said. "It would be a fun experience, and they would get to know other players."

The Newcastle boys waited at first but eventually joined the team, Tanderup said. "It was a good idea (to play football)," he said.

The Newcastle students brought a variety of talents that enriched the new school district, Flaugh said.

"Our football team made the playoffs," she said. "Volleyball had a great year. Basketball had one of the best years in a long time."

In addition, the school won the state one-act play contest for the fourth year in a row, she said.

"It was pretty cool to have Newcastle students in the cast," Fischer added.

The Hartington-Newcastle senior trio noted some schools fear consolidation because they believe their own students will be deprived of playing time or participation. However, the three H-N students said the more, the merrier.

"Don't fear competition, because it's healthy. It helps you do well," Flaugh said. "This is a very competitive class, a very high achieving class."

Tanderup noted a larger pool of competitors may actually create more opportunities.

"If there are more players, you may have a JV team or you can sub in more (varsity) players." If it's more competitive, you have to strive for your spot (on the roster)."

LINKING THE PAST, FUTURE

While building a bond as Hartington-Newcastle, the new district also respected the traditions of the former districts, Johnson said.

"We talked about changing up the homecoming ceremony," he said. "We wanted to do something different than in the past."

Homecoming Week featured a Newcastle Day in which students wore the red and white colors and uniforms of the former Newcastle Raiders. In addition, last year's Newcastle homecoming king and queen were invited to return for this year's activities. Also, both the Hartington and Newcastle alumni were recognized at the homecoming banquet and football game.

Johnson looks for the new activities

ATTENTION

VERMILLION WASTEWATER USERS SUMP PUMP DISCHARGE NOTICE

Sump pumps have been installed in many Vermillion homes to remove groundwater collected by foundation drains and thereby prevent water damage to basement walls and floors. This water is not polluted and does not require any treatment before being discharged to a waterway.



Sanitary sewers, however, collect wastes from homes, other buildings and businesses; these wastes must be treated prior to discharge to a waterway. The discharge of sump pumps to floor drains and to indoor plumbing can result in hydraulic overloads of the sanitary sewer. When sewer lines become overloaded, sewage can back up into homes and businesses. Therefore, it is against Vermillion City Ordinance to discharge a sump pump to the sanitary sewer system.

We want to protect all homeowners from sewer backups. To do this we need everyone's cooperation to ensure sump pumps are not discharged to the sanitary system. If you have any questions concerning the proper discharge of sump pumps, feel free to call the Wastewater Facility at 677-7077.

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OUTREACH CLINICS

Yankton Orthopedic Institute 605-665-0077	Dr. Mitch Johnson Dr. Suga Dr. Dan Johnson	June 9, 23 June 5 Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
Dakota Dunes Orthopedic Institute 888-331-5890	Dr. Adler Dr. Jones Dr. Watson	June 9, 23 June 8, 22 July 2, 30

Call to schedule an appointment.

OrthopedicInstituteSF.com



No physician referral is needed unless required by insurance.