



Andrew and Amanda Ofstehage

Exchange vows

Amanda Johnson and Andrew Ofstehage were married Aug. 1, 2009 at Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church in Vermillion. Parents of the couple are Michelle and Duane Johnson of Vermillion and Glenda and Bernard Ofstehage of Elk Point.

Maid of honor was Kimberly Rowbotham of Sioux Falls. Bridesmaids were Michelle Rydell and Ali Christensen, both of Vermillion. Flower girls were Kaitlee and Charlee Huska, cousins of the bride and Payton and Emma Ofstehage, nieces of the groom.

Best man was James Ofstehage, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were brothers of the groom,

Steven and Peter. Ring bearer was Sam Huska, cousin of the bride. Ushers were Tyler Johnson, brother of the bride and Doug Olson, cousin of the groom. The ceremony was officiated by Pastor Anna Peck and Intern Pastor Daniel Ofstehage.

Amanda is currently a graduate student studying history and archive management at Simmons College in Boston, MA. Andrew is researching quinoa in Bolivia and will graduate from Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands this coming fall. Both are graduates of Vermillion High School and South Dakota State University.



Amanda Aga and Chris Lynch

Announce engagement

Lars and Becky Aga wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda, to Chris Lynch, son of Mike and Kathy Lynch.

Chris graduated from Vermillion High School in 2001 and from Lake Area Technical Institute in 2003. Currently, Chris is employed as a diesel mechanic for Machinery Link in N Sioux City and also farms with his dad.

Amanda graduated from Vermillion High School in 2003 and from Augustana College in 2007. She obtained her teaching degree from Augustana in 2008. Amanda is currently employed as a sales associate for Farm Bureau Financial Services in Vermillion.

The couple will be married on Feb. 12, 2010 in Vermillion.

THE ELDER LAW FORUM

By Michael Myers

USD School of Law Professor

Bush, Obama Parachuting into Afghanistan?

Commander-in-chiefs of the United States aren't what they used to be. And neither are members of Congress. If they were, the likes of Johnson, Nixon, the Bushes and Obama would emulate George Washington, our first, brave commander-in-chief who stood upright in a modest warship, flag waving in the pre-dawn, wind-blown darkness, leading his troops into battle against the British. Presumably he killed one or more members of the British military; and presumably the British combatants tried, unsuccessfully, to kill him.

"Imagine for a moment," said a senior legal helpline caller – a Vietnam war veteran calling for legal assistance in having his Parkinson's disease recognized as having been caused by his

exposure to "agent orange" defoliation in the jungles of Vietnam – "George Bush and Barack Obama parachuting onto an Iraqi or Afghanistan battleground, along with a select group of U.S. senators and representatives. "Imagine further," he said, "that those congresspersons who vote in favor of further troop deployment to Afghanistan would themselves be deployed to active war zones, either as rifle-bearing or laptop-carrying members of the U.S. Marine Corps, right-smack dab in the middle of it all." On the other hand, he continued, "Those who voted against further escalation would be exempted from conscription."

Speculating on the outcome of a congressional vote under those conditions, he mused that, "It would be a thoughtful vote," adding that, "if a condition of becoming president, vice-president, or a member of Congress, was compulsory military service, there would likely be less enthusiasm for political office and less enthusiasm for repeating Korea and Vietnam." He apologized for such fanciful thinking; however, he seriously argued in support of reinstat-

ing the draft. "We are a nation of collective cowards," he asserted, expressing his disdain for politicians who tap the hawkish instincts of the U.S. electorate. He reminded me that the draft, anti-war protests and the student killings at Kent State reversed U.S. policy in Asia. "A congressional vote in favor of sending more troops to Afghanistan should subject Nancy Pelosi's granddaughter and John Boehner's grandson to the draft," he said.

Vietnam veterans are now seniors, most of them in their early to mid-60s. Those who have called my helpline are suffering from an array of neurological and blood diseases. As a fellow-veteran – but one who never encountered battle conditions – I listen.

I wonder what George Washington would say?

(Pro bono legal information and advice is available to persons 55 and older through the USD Senior Legal Helpline, 1-800-747-1895; mmyers@usd.edu. Opinions are solely those of the author and not the University of South Dakota.)

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Meckling 4-H'ers plan for holidays

The Meckling Livestock 4-H club met on Oct. 24 at the 4-H building. Your favorite Halloween candy was our roll call topic. We went over old business: we talked about our float in the Dakota Days Parade, when enrollment forms need to be in (Dec. 1), participation requirements for premium money, and the Recognition Event.

Our first new business was congratulations, Gerrit, for being elected VHS Homecoming king 2009. We signed thank yous for the fair. Beginner dog starts Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. at the 4-H center; don't bring your dog to the first meeting.

We talked about when to put up the Over Museum Christmas trees and about working at kids' crafts at the Over Christmas festival, Dec. 6 in the afternoon. We decided to each bring \$3 in gifts for Operation Christmas Child

to our next meeting. We decided to do the Giving Tree and the age children to buy for. We voted to bring our used books for the Giving Tree party to the November meeting. We decided to participate in bell ringing for the Salvation Army and that we would buy an alternative Christmas gift again.

We will bring canned goods to the November meeting for the St. Agnes Thanksgiving baskets and will donate a lawn raking for the St. Agnes Classic. Our winter Meals on Wheels week is over Christmas break, Dec. 28-31; we will set a schedule closer to that day.

We elected officers; Allison is president, Kelsy is vice president, Andrew is treasurer, Erika is secretary, and Ashley is reporter. The meeting was adjourned.

Then we went and raked the back and side lawns at the Senior Citizens Center. Next month's meeting is Nov. 16.

More South Dakotans eligible for energy assistance this winter

More South Dakotans are now eligible for financial help to heat their homes this winter.

Due to increased federal allocations for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program over the last two years, the state Department of Social Services has expanded eligibility guidelines to allow households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level to get heating assistance.

"Now we can help more families that otherwise may not be able to heat their homes," said Deb Bowman, Secretary of the Department of Social Services. "This will be a huge relief for South Dakotans who are struggling with finances."

The program assists low-income families with their heating bills by paying grant money directly to energy providers or utility companies. South Dakota currently disburses LIEAP funds based on applicants' incomes, fuel types and regions. Last year the program served more than 18,800 South Dakota households.

While Congress has not yet announced the total allocation for the federal Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program this year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an initial \$2.6 billion earlier this month to keep the federal program running. Of that, \$17.2 million has been appropriated to South Dakota LIEAP. An additional \$3.3 million has been appropriated to South Dakota tribal programs.

For more information on LIEAP, including eligibility requirements, visit www.dss.sd.gov/energyassistance.



Casey's donation

For experiencing one of the highest increase in sales of Gatorade products during a special promotion last summer, Casey's in Vermillion won a Gatorade Sideline Package to donate to the school of its choice. The Vermillion High School Tanager were chosen by the local business to receive the package. Pictured are Casey's Manager Lois Halverson, (right) and Amy Richardson and Jason Huska.

Primary Support Instructor Opening at SESDAC

Are you looking to enhance your life? Do you thrive on helping others succeed?

We are looking for a Primary Community Support Instructor to support the people we serve in their homes.

This individual must have proven verbal and written communication skills, great attitude, computer use capabilities, and flexibility.

Primary duties include providing supports to the individuals including: personal finances, direct support, current and long range support plans, medication administration, leadership, etc.

We offer a great benefits package including paid health and dental insurance, matching 401k plan, generous personal and sick leave and a great family oriented program.

Pay is based off of experience and education. Pay scale may range from \$9.10 to over \$10.00 per hour.

If interested, please complete an application at SESDAC, Inc. at 1314 E. Cherry, Vermillion, SD 57069, and turn in to the front office.

Family Support 360 Coordinator

This is a professional full-time position in the Human Services field specializing in coordinating the provision of services and supports to children and adults with developmental disabilities living in their family homes or independently in the community.

Qualifications include: a degree in human services, social work, sociology, psychology, or related field; experience with developmental disabilities and knowledge of existing services is required. In addition, the candidate must have the ability to make decisions and work independently with limited supervision and have excellent verbal and written skills.

A personal vehicle is required for travel to individuals' homes within a 5 county area in the southeastern part of South Dakota.

SESDAC, Inc. offers a great environment for employees as well as a great benefits package including life, medical and dental insurance, paid personal and sick leave, 401k plan, etc.

Closing date is November 25, 2009.

Applications will be provided upon request. You may send a completed application and/or resume to:

SESDAC, Inc.
Attn: Bernie LeCates
1314 E. Cherry St.
Vermillion, SD 57069



SESDAC, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer and fully subscribes to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity. SESDAC, Inc. has adopted an Affirmative Action Program to ensure that all applicants and employees are considered for hire, promotion and job status, without regard to race, color, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, or membership in an organization.

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Early Deadlines

Plain Talk deadline for the November 27th issue will be **Monday, November 23 @ 4pm** for all display, classifieds ads & news articles

Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 26th to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.

Vermillion PLAIN TALK

Coyoteopoly

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We would like to thank our business sponsors and the local community for helping us meet our goal for the Vermillion Food Pantry.

Special thanks to our top business sponsors:
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