

Veterans Day services set for Nov. 11

Vermillion will honor its military veterans with special Veterans Day services on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. in the W.H. Over Museum, 1110 Ratingen Street.

The featured speaker will be Robert Fickbohm and the title of his address is: "Warm Hearts and Cold Noses: A Tribute to Johnson."

The opening and closing ceremonies will be conducted by the USD ROTC Unit. Refreshments will be served by the American Legion Auxiliary following the ceremony.

The W.H. Over Museum is featuring an

exhibit depicting four individuals who served or are currently serving in the United States military. These individuals or their families have donated their military uniforms to be part of the museum's collection.

The four soldiers chosen to represent are Sgt. Joseph C. Hirocke, Jr. (United States Marine Corps); 2nd Lt. Gerald E. Warner (United States Army Air Force); Lt. Mildred J. Stickney (United States Navy W.A.V.E.S.); and MSG Michael R. Balis, Jr. (United States Army).

Sweeney to speak at library Nov. 13

Mark Sweeney, associate professor in the Earth Sciences Department at the University of South Dakota, will be the guest speaker for the November Live and Learn Series at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library.

His talk, "A Geological Excursion to China: History Recorded in Dust" will focus on his recent research in China, the geology and issues related to the loess covered area

where his research is centered.

This loess was once used to build the terracotta army Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China. The talk will be held Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Kozak Room of the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library. The library is located at 18 Church Street in Vermillion.

For more information call (605) 677-7060.

Applications sought for YC scholarship

Yankton College has announced the availability of its 2014-15 scholarship applications.

The Yankton College Scholarship Program awards several \$1,000 scholarships each year from endowed funds to deserving high school seniors and post-graduate students with a YC connection and attending an accredited college or university. Students are

ranked on merit and criteria from blinded applications.

The application deadline is Feb. 14, 2014. Download an application at www.yanktoncollege.org or visit the Yankton College office at 1801 Summit St., Door #9, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For further information, call 665-3661.

FIRE From Page 01

Vermillion firefighters from stations one and two, EMS and police all responded to the fire.

Draper said crews were hampered in their work in part because of the amount of things inside the trailer.

"Overhaul seemed to last a long time," he said. "We had crews on-scene ... for easily two hours or so, and it was really dealing with the amount of contents, because we had to get through all of the things to the bottom so we could get all the hot spots out."

More than 75 percent of the trailer was damaged, and it is probably a loss, Draper said.

The fire's cause appears to have been electrical, its

starting point being a power strip into which some old extension cords were plugged.

"They were being used appropriately, but they were very old extension cords," Draper said.

The fire chief added that the incident reinforces the importance of hardwired smoke detectors.

"When he woke up to the sound in his room ... there was no smoke in his bedroom," Draper said. "He didn't hear the other ones going on at that time. Not until he opened the door to the bedroom did he notice and hear the other ones."

Hardwired smoke detectors are a requirement for rental property owners, as per city codes.

"This is why we have it," Draper said.

Game, Fish & Parks personnel, equipment help after storm

By Lura Roti
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

Proficiencies that Game, Fish & Parks staff typically put to use managing wildlife and their habitats became invaluable following Winter Storm Atlas, Oct. 4-5.

A team of South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks personnel was called to action and joined the ranks of first responders.

Within 24-hours of its ending, GF&P staff were delivering oxygen to Rapid City residents, clearing livestock off highways; accessing remote, snowed in areas where citizens needed medical aide; searching for stranded hunters; clearing deer off Rapid City Regional Airport runway and helping restore emergency radio communication to a mountaintop radio tower.

"Our staff feels very proud that we were able to respond and help the public in any way that we could during this disaster," said Mike Kintigh, Regional Supervisor for SD GF&P. "Like all state employees, when there is a state emergency, we are on-

call to assist with any equipment or expertise we possess."

Like their neighbors, Kintigh and his staff left homes without electricity and, in several cases, had to walk several blocks to reach cleared roads to be transported to the GF&P headquarters. By end of day Saturday they had dug out equipment and began responding to calls from the Emergency Operations Center.

"This storm was particularly trying – our staff were immobilized like everyone else. The first team member to make it to the office began picking up those of us who were stranded at home," Kintigh said. "We left our families behind to fend for themselves without power so we could respond to other's needs – that's what first responders do."

Along with staff, the departments' equipment played an important role in recovery efforts. Kintigh explained that because all state equipment and its operators are catalogued, in emergency situations, the state knows who to call.

The department's tracked UTVs were used to

travel streets too snow packed for even four-wheel drive vehicles.

Conservation Officer, Joe Keeton was one of the first responders assigned to deliver oxygen tanks to several Rapid City residents' whose oxygen machines quit when their homes' lost electricity in the storm.

"Losing electricity can be terrifying if you depend upon it to breath," explains Keeton, who has served as a GF&P conservation officer since 2004. "I was given a list of addresses and a truck full of oxygen tanks. I drove as close as I could with the four-wheel drive and then would unload the tracked UTV and drive the rest of the way."

A team of 10 GF&P staff were asked to help the Animal Industry Board with cattle carcass removal. The crew used four of the department's trucks that are equipped with front bumper, heavy duty winches and spent two days pulling cattle carcasses out of highway ditches to the road's shoulder so rendering trucks could haul them away.

"Storm clean up is dirty work, but our team was

eager to help in any way we could," Kintigh said.

The tracked UTVs came in handy again when an emergency communication radio tower went out. Keeton and Conservation Officer, Josh Brainard, were asked to transport Adam Scott, a senior radio technician for Pennington County, up the switchback trails to the top of Seth Bullock Tower site. It took the three men four hours to make it up the 2-mile trail because of fallen trees.

"I know we cleared at least 24 downed trees. I've never seen anything like it," Scott said. "We would climb out of the UTV into snow that was 4-feet deep and then use the chainsaw to clear debris. By the end of the trip we'd become quite an effective tree clearing team."

Once Scott arrived at the tower, it took him about an hour to discover the maintenance issue and repair the backup generator.

"We were all relieved when he got the communication tower operating," Brainard recalls. "The work we did during the storm was very rewarding."

MSAC asks public to name priorities

The public is invited to weigh in on sedimentation management priorities in the Missouri River reservoirs through an online survey.

The Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, requests the public's comments. MSAC is dedicated to educating the public about sedimentation problems in the Missouri River reservoirs and to supporting efforts to alleviate these problems.

The survey information will be shared with the Missouri River

(South Dakota) Task Force, which is to provide advice and recommendations to the Corps of Engineers relating to the use of Title IX – Missouri River Restoration Act of 2000 – funds.

These federal funds are made available for conservation, sediment control and the protection from erosion of historical and cultural sites along the Missouri River.

Task Force funds available to conduct comprehensive sediment management on the Missouri River

reservoirs are limited at this time.

However, information gathered from this survey will be considered when or if additional funds become available.

Visit www.msaconline.com to complete the short survey. Questions can be directed to MSAC at msaconline@gmail.com. Paper survey copies can be requested by calling (605) 661-1594.

Respond with completed surveys by Nov. 15.

OBITUARIES

Charles Schafer

Funeral services for Charles Paul Schafer, 50, of Wentzville, MO, were held Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013, at Wentzville Christian Church, Wentzville, MO. Charles, the son of Henry "Jerry" Schafer and Donna Schafer of Vermillion, was born Dec. 14, 1962, in Vermillion, and passed away Nov. 5, 2013 in Wentzville.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Nov. 16, 2013, at Faith Fellowship Church in Vermillion.

Myrtle Sieck

Myrtle Dorothea Rasmussen Sieck, born Dec. 1, 1908, in Spink, to Magnus and Gunhild Hanson Rasmussen, passed away Oct. 22, 2013.

A graveside service was held 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013, at the Green Acres Garden of Peace, Scottsdale, AZ.

She was baptized on Oct. 4, 1909. She married Lou Sieck on June 7, 1930.

She finished her schooling in Vermillion.

They farmed in the Vermillion area and raised seven children, Marilyn Hall and children Linda, Warren, Julie, Gordan (deceased) and Rick, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; Dale (Mercy) children Lynne and Cheryl and four grandchildren; Gene (Mert) children Debra, Greg, Diane (deceased) and Lisa, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; Donna Twitchell and children Dirk, Brian and Craig (deceased), three grandchildren; Jo Ann (Ron) Schneider and children Tammie, Mike, and Brenda, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; Janice Sieck, Don (deceased).

She was preceded in death by husband, Louie; son, Don; granddaughter, Diane; grandsons, Gordan and Craig; great-grandchildren, Stacey and James.

During her years in Vermillion, Mert worked in food service. At her time of retirement she was working

at the University of South Dakota. She had many friends and enjoyed card parties and having friends and relatives over for meals or coffee and dessert. In her retirement years in the Phoenix area, she and Lou managed a motel in Tempe. They then fully retired and spent time enjoying the Phoenix area and making their travel back to Nebraska and Vermillion to visit relatives. They enjoyed the visits from the families and always had a new fun place for them to visit.

Mert's caring for others and great sense of humor made her friends with all she met. Her hobbies were flower gardening and reading. In choosing her books she made sure there were no "bad words." Her liking of Lawrence Welk and

Liberace was known by many. One of the things she would say in her last years was "life is short." Feeding the birds was also important to Mert; she would daily get her cup of birdseed and as soon as the birds saw her come out of the door they swarmed down for their treats. Mert really didn't like to have her picture taken and can be seen in many making her exit.

Mert was living in Scottsdale, AZ, in the Osborn Health and Rehab at the time of her death. Previous to that she had lived independently and in assisted living enjoying her hobbies of gardening and reading.

Green Acres Mortuary & Cemetery was in charge of funeral arrangements. www.greenacresmortuary.net

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