

PLAIN TALK



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Two Sexual Assaults Reported

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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University of South Dakota (USD) and Vermillion Police are investigating two reports of sexual assault that occurred this weekend involving USD students.

One assault occurring in a University of South Dakota residence hall and one off-campus, according to university police.

In response to the reports, USD issued an alert to all students, faculty and staff last Wednesday evening, followed by an email containing photos of three persons of interest. The photos were collected by police during the investigation, which is ongoing.

According to Chad Passick, captain with the Vermillion Police Department, both assaults are

alleged to have occurred within a short time frame late Sunday night and early Monday morning. The assaults were reported to the Vermillion Police Department and University Police was notified on



Passick

Wednesday.

As of a noon press conference last Thursday no arrests have been made, and the investigation is ongoing.

As of noon on Wednesday, Oct. 7, no arrests had been made, Passick said.

"In any case like this we are going to talk to anyone with information on the case," Passick said. "That is going to include victims, friends of victims, suspects and persons of interest. We have a need to get as much information as we can so we can provide the best services for the victims we can and ultimately get justice for the victims."

Passick said he believes everyone has been cooperating with the investigation.

He added that through the course of the investigation it has not been determined if the two incidents were related, but due to the timing it is being looked into.

"I think it is an unusual situation that they both occurred in a short amount of time - we don't usually see that," Passick

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HONORING A FRIEND



Friends and neighbors came together on Tuesday to help Doug and Pam Ganschow harvest their crops. In all, more than 30 people turned up to help on Tuesday, with countless other hours going into preparing for a benefit planned for this Saturday.

SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Communities Comes Together For Ganschow

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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WAKONDA - "Kindness, just kindness - I know if you reversed the roles, Doug would do the same thing for me."

Stated by friend and neighbor Donnie Peterson, this comment summed up the feelings of more than 30 friends, neighbors and family members who turned up Tuesday to harvest more than 400 acres of corn and beans for Doug Ganschow and his wife, Pam.

Ganschow was diagnosed with incurable Stage 4 Sarcomatoid Renal Cell Carcinoma (cancer of the kidney) in July. The cancer has now spread to other parts of his body. While he is resting comfortably at home, it left the issue of how to get his crops out of the field.

The answer: call on your neighbors - it is what people in the community of Wakonda and the region do for each other.

"I don't think I can even think about what it means for all of these people to just drop everything and come and help, let alone put it into words," said friend Joan Huot. "Pam and Doug's son and my husband got together last week and talking about what they should do about the crops. They had planned on having the combining done (Wednesday), but they heard it was going to rain so they changed it to today."

It was a full day in the fields given freely to honor and help a friend, said many.

"To give up a day where it is not raining and you could be in your own fields - I feel like it is amazing, but dad would have done the same,"

said Ganschow's daughter Staci Larson. "It is very humbling. You realize how important your neighbors are. I know that even this morning, they were turning down combines because Robert (Ganschow's son) said they don't need anymore."

Peterson said, in his mind, this day was for Doug and Pam.

"It is something that small town communities have done for years," he said. "There is always another day to get in the field. Doug's days are numbered, mine are still to come, I feel. We will get him done first."

Pam said that the family knew this wasn't going to be an easy road, but the number of people who have stepped up to help have overwhelmed her.

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Oktoberfest Heating Up Fall This Weekend

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk



In addition to many of the fall festivities, the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company is starting an annual Oktoberfest in honor of the fall harvest and the German heritage within us all.

The event will be held today and tomorrow evening from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. on the grounds of the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion.

Admission is free though food and non-food vendors will

be available.

"Right here in our corner of the state none of the communities are doing Oktoberfest," said Tim Bellis, VCDC Tourism & Marketing Coordinator. "It's such a broad term; a lot of businesses may put it into their advertising. The actual festival itself is something that they have in Germany."

According to Bellis, while German Oktoberfests tend to be multiple community-centered events rather than one big fest, in America the Oktoberfest atmosphere is a

little different.

"The one big Oktoberfest celebrations in America have really been turned into much more of a party atmosphere rather than connected to harvest like it originally was," he said. "The American version is you're going to show up, there's going to be polka music with a live band. Everyone's going to go out and have fun, drink lots of beer, eat brats and sauerkraut and pretzels and just have a grand ol' time. It's a

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SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
The Pumpkin Patch Tour at Heikes Family Farm took place this week for nearly 200 area youth. Pictured, a young child picks out his pumpkin.

Pumpkin Patch Fun Is A Learning Experience

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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For children of all ages the month of October is one of excitement planning their Halloween costumes, picking out their pumpkins and enjoying the final warm days outside.

So, for the nearly 200 children who were invited to visit the Heikes Family Farm this week, their trip to the pumpkin patch was doubly exciting.

Yet for owner Sam Heikes, he hopes the message the children take home is just as exciting as the pumpkin's they will carry: locally grown produce is available right here in Vermillion, it tastes great and it is a great value.

"We thought the best place to start was with kids because when you get a lot of kids out to the farm you can talk about you are what you eat," Heikes

said. "You can talk about eating more fresh, local produce. So, the pumpkin patch tour is a way that we are teaching the children about healthy eating and living a healthy lifestyle."

Heikes said this is the third year of the pumpkin patch tour, however it is much larger this year.

"The last two years we only had the Austin School kindergarteners, five classes of them - maybe a hundred kids," he said. "This year we have the USD Daycare Center, then we have another small daycare, Kids of Character that will be coming tomorrow and then on Thursday we have Austin school and Friday we have St. Agnes. So this year it is greatly expanded to try to reach as many little guys and gals as possible."

Heikes said while he was sure the hay ride and picking their own pump-

kins would stand out in the children's minds, he hopes the information they take home will reach the parents.

"We will give them a handout that will tell the parents how to access our website and more information," he said. "This year, new for us, we are also going to be telling the kids about cutting up the pumpkins and using them for pies or bars. So they can learn that pumpkins aren't just for Halloween decorations, they are a very good source of food and they are yummy. If you have ever had homemade pumpkin, there is no comparison to what you get in a can."

Just entering their fourth full year of production, the Heikes Family farm is a community shared agriculture (CSA).

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VOLLEYBALL

SOUTH DAKOTA

VS. ORAL ROBERTS

SUNDAY - NOON - COYOTE DEN AT THE DAKOTADOME

TAKE A KID TO THE GAME DAY

FREE YOUTH TICKET FOR EVERY ADULT TICKET PURCHASED

FEARED