



USD And VHS Sports

WINDS FAN AREA FIRES



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

High winds and dry conditions helped spread two field fires in as many days in Clay County this week. Monday, a fire located just east of Vermillion consumed nearly 85 acres, while the fire on Tuesday south of Meckling burnt nearly 60 acres. The fire Monday, pictured above, made its way into a stand of trees but crews from Vermillion, Gayville, Wakonda, Elk Point, Centerville, Beresford and Newcastle, Nebraska, as well as a heavy machine excavator from Midwest Ready Mix and Equipment in Vermillion was used in the trees. Additionally, local farmers disked fire lines (seen in the foreground) on the eastern side of the fire stopping the fire from reaching three homes. Resources on scene totaled 31 fire apparatus, one ambulance and 93 firefighters.

Life Of The Oktoberfest: VHS German Club

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Morgan Amundson (R) and Dawson Daniels (L) display a intricate Lego set designed to look like the first Oktoberfest wedding in 1810.

The Vermillion Chamber and Development Company's first annual Oktoberfest seemed quite a success with guests enjoying a beer, bratwurst, live polka music, pretzels, pumpkin painting and impressive displays and refreshments from Vermillion High School's German Club.

The high-schoolers dressed in traditional German dress to further add to the Oktoberfest atmosphere and sold pretzels, heart-shaped gingerbread cookies, hot cocoa and cider to help fund their short-term study abroad program to take place in May.

Junior Ashley Schulz was one of the students who sewed her own German garb.

"My favorite part was I actually made a costume for this event," she said. "I'm wearing the bottom half but the top half didn't really fit so I couldn't wear it. I really like learning about the culture and fashion about what traditional people wear for Oktoberfest so it was really fun that I got to make my own costume and make my own traditional dress so it was kind of cool to connect through that."

Schulz reported being very excited to travel to Germany in May.

So far Schulz's favorite German word is 'kartoffel' meaning 'potato.'

"It's fun to say and last year in German we had a bunch of jokes with kartoffel," she said. "We would say kartoffel in about every single sentence and that's how I learned the word."

The youth also brought displays to further educate the public on Germany and the Oktoberfest tradition.

Morgan Amundson, a Junior at the high school found her own unique way to present some German history and enliven the festivities.

"It's supposed to be the first Oktoberfest wedding in 1810," she said displaying an intricate Lego set. "It was Ludwig and Teresa. They were royal people. The buildings themselves are from Iowa. I sort of mixed them together to look German. It's based on the Munich, Bavaria wedding. It was a grand event where all the people could come, not just the wealthy but the poor too. So everyone was involved and ever since then it became a yearly thing."

Brian Clift, Junior, was having a great time participating in the Oktoberfest despite the last-minute preparations.

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Fire Danger Continues To Be High In The Area

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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High winds with dry conditions and lot of fuel to burn have kept the Vermillion Fire Department on the run this week when two, large field fires ignited early this week.

On Monday Vermillion Fire/EMS was dispatched to a fire just east of Vermillion at 12:15 p.m. due to multiple calls to the Clay County 911 communications center about smoke in the northeast area of Vermillion.

When crews arrived on scene two minutes later they found 40 acres burning and being driven towards the southeast by the winds.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service out of Sioux Falls, wind speeds were recorded as high as 38 miles per hour in the area at the time.

"I was really pleased with the crews, they did a great job," said Vermillion Fire Chief Shannon Draper. "Vermillion has an excellent Fire and EMS department. We have great staff, we really do."

Due to the size and speed of the wind driven fire, mutual aid was requested from Gayville, Wakonda, Elk Point, Centerville, Beresford and Newcastle, Nebraska, Draper said.

In addition, to assist crews in a heavy wooded area a heavy machine excavator was requested and delivered to the scene from Midwest Ready Mix and Equipment in Vermillion and local farmers used their equipment to disk fire lines on the eastern side of the fire stopping the fire from reaching three homes in the path of the fire.

Draper said in total

there were 31 fire apparatus, 1 ambulance and 93 firefighters on scene. During this incident Vermillion Fire EMS also responded to two separate unrelated fires along Hwy 50 and a medical call in Vermillion.

By around 4 p.m. it appeared that most of the fires in the field had been extinguished and a shelterbelt that had caught fire was the only area still burning.

Draper said crews remained on scene fighting hot spots and small rekindle fires until 7 p.m. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

On Tuesday, Vermillion Fire/EMS was again dispatched a field fire, this one located south of Meckling.

"Tuesday when we arrived on scene there were again 40-50 acres burning," he Draper said. "I don't know the cause or point of origin at this time. There is no criminal intent expected in either fire, although both fires are still under investigation."

Draper said that with the conditions that are present the best thing anyone can do is be aware of what the conditions are around you.

"Don't light something and then leave it," he said. "If you are going to put a fire out, make sure it is fully put out. Both of these fires were unattended and for the most part the occupants did not realize there was anything still burning. The best thing people can do is one, make sure conditions are right to be doing (starting a fire) and two, be ready put it out if it is getting out of control or if putting it out make sure it is completely out."

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TANAGER OF THE WEEK

Kiley Wood Named To First Team All-State

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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For the second year in a row, Vermillion High School softball player Kiley Wood has been named a First Team All-State player.

Because of her contributions to the team on the diamond and being named a First Team All-State player, Wood has been named the Tanager of the Week.

"She hits the ball as hard as anyone I have seen and shows great plate discipline rarely striking out," said head coach Josh Wood. "In short, she can be a game changer offensively for our team."

During the team's, the junior second baseman was a major factor in the team's offense, batting cleanup and

leading the team in hits, runs, runs batted in, extra base hits, batting average, slugging percentage and on-base percentage.

"I started when I was really little and then joined a travel team when I was in eighth grade and it's just kind of built up from there," Wood said about how she started playing the sport.

Now, at the high school level, Wood plays alongside her sister, Bizzy Wood, with dad Josh Wood as the head coach.

"He started coaching when the travel team started," Kiley said. "I like having him as my coach. Sometimes he's harder on me than other people, but I also take that in stride."

Kiley's contributions on the field speak for them-



COURTESY PHOTO

Kiley Wood was named to the SD Class A Softball All State Team this week for her efforts on the field this season.

selves and take away any perceptions about a parent coaching their own child.

"I suppose no player or coach is ever free of the

'coaches kid' perception, but I applaud Kiley for working so hard to let her performance on the field minimize

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