

ST AGNES RAFFLE



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lucky winner of the St. Agnes Youth Group Car Raffle was Nathan Gilbertson of Sioux Falls (Grandson of Milo and Sally Gilbertson.) The St. Agnes Youth Group also want to thank our anonymous donor for the vehicle and a thank you to all who brought tickets for the car raffle.

A NEW COMMANDER



COURTESY PHOTO

SD National Guard Medical Company Changes Command

Capt. Whitney Bruinsma, of Parkston, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 730th Area Support Medical Company during a ceremony, Oct. 4, at the Vermillion armory.

Bruinsma assumed command from Capt. Joshua Paull, Rapid City, who commanded the unit since July 2013.

"You're one of the top ASMC units in the nation," Bruinsma said to the Soldiers during the ceremony. "I want to continue our journey leading you."

As commander, Bruinsma will lead the medical company comprised of 94 Soldiers with a mission to provide basic emergency medical services. The unit is composed of combat medics, medical doctors, physician assistants, nurses, lab technicians, radiologists, dental technicians, mental health technicians, and maintenance and support staff.

Bruinsma enlisted into the 730th ASMC in 2003, while a junior in high school. In 2010, she commissioned as a Medical Service Corps officer and held leadership positions in both the 730th ASMC and 881st Troop Command in Sturgis.

Paull first enlisted in the 730th in 1998, serving as a combat medic for nine years. He then attended the Army's Individual Physician's Assistant Program and became a physician's assistant. He's served on two deployments with multiple units during his 17 years in the SDARNG. He will continue his military career as a physician's assistant with the SDARNG's Medical Command in Rapid City.

"You made my job easy," Paull told the Soldiers. "I can't thank you enough. It's kind of like leaving a family. The Soldiers in this unit are what makes this unit great."

National Park Service Seeks Input On Property Management

Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR) has developed a draft Property Management Plan (PMP) for the following MNRR properties: Green Island (60 acres), Bow Creek Recreation Area (205 acres), and Mulberry Bend (31 acres), located within Cedar and Dixon Counties, Nebraska. "The purpose of this plan is to decide how the National Park Service (NPS) can best fulfill MNRR's purpose and protect its resources unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations at the three properties," said MNRR Superintendent Rick Clark. The management plan identifies actions for recreational site development, resource management, interpretation/ education and establish management actions on certain issues, such as access, hunting, and camping.

The objectives of the Property Management Plan are to:

- Involve the public in determining management opportunities for MNRR properties.
- Provide a wide range of public recreational opportunities and experiences for various users.
- Preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources at MNRR properties.
- Encourage a connection between people and the properties' natural and cultural resources.

Open for Public Comment

The National Park Service announces a 30-day public review period for the Property Management Plan (PMP). During this period, the public is invited to identify issues or concerns they might have with the proposed project so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and planning process. Public comments will be accepted through November 18, 2015. You may provide comments in any of the following ways:

- Attend any of the public meetings and fill out a comment sheet.
- Comment online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/mnrrpropertyplan>.
- Mail comments to: Superintendent, Missouri National Recreational River, 508 East 2nd Street, Yankton, South Dakota 57078.

The meeting for Vermillion is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 29, from 5-7 p.m. with the formal presentation at 5:30 p.m. at W.H. Over Museum, 1110 University Street, Vermillion.

Breast Cancer Awareness Event Set

On Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 5-7 p.m., Women In Law is holding a one mile walk around the USD campus called, Women In Law Color For A Cure. This event is open campus-wide, as well as open to the Vermillion community, with registration at the Law School Students Commons Area starting at 5pm. This is going to be a pink color walk, with pears and pink lemonade, prizes for best individual and group costumes. We are also having signs available for participants to write who they are walking for to be displayed along Cherry Street and some paper signs for them to display on their shirts.

The cost to participate in this walk will be free, but participants can purchase a bundle of breast cancer items (a t-shirt, water bottles and bracelets) for \$15. Proceeds will be donated to Sanford and Avera for local breast cancer patients. Please come walk for a great cause!

Hundreds Enjoy Campground Halloween

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

As the camping season draws to a close the Clay County Campground goes out with a bang by holding a Halloween festival which has been an annual celebration for several years now.

The festival took place last Saturday with bouncy houses, barrel train rides and hayrides during the afternoon along with face painting and crafts.

After a chili feed the Vermillion Area Dance Organization dance team gave a performance which was followed by Trick-or-treating at the campsites.

Later, visitors lined up to explore the Haunted Trail with haunting provided by the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and Clay County Campground.

Cans were donated as an entrance fee to the haunted trail with the fraternity and sorority competing for a larger share of the donations.

Everything was very well attended according to the campground Assistant Manager Kip Bingen.

"We had 6 to 700 hundred people through the park and around 400 people go through the trail," he said. "Kappa Alpha Theta won the charity drive. They will be donating 197 cans and Beta Theta Pi 163 cans."

Visitors voted on which part of the trail was their favorite to determine the winner.

The festival, running for at least five years now, was an idea long in the making but has grown exponentially since its initiation.

"It was something we talked about for a long time," Bingen said. "Finally I got a group of friends together and we started out as a haunted trail ride and we used trailers and then that got kind of dangerous so we made it a walking trail. I want to say at that time we had less than 20 camping spots and maybe we had 100 people through there. Last year we had over 900 people to the park, we had over 200 people through the trail. We've got 22 electric spots now, we had 62 campers."

Al Irwin, Campground Manager remembers as well how far the campground has come especially for the festival.

"We just started it and it got carried away," he said. "We started about the



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Jerry Croxen of Kingsley Iowa was one of the campers participating. New to his decor this year was a skeleton family in lawn chairs over an open bone-fire.

second year here, somebody had the idea that let's do a Halloween party and it just went on after that. We did the scare trail for a friend of ours who died of cancer. She always wanted to have one but she passed away before we had a chance to have one so we put it on in honor of her."

Lucky for the rest of the community, the Halloween festival was open to everybody.

"Anybody can come," Bingen said prior to the event. "It's not just a camper thing. The costume contest is just for the campers but people come out for the trail ride, the hayride. We have a chili feed, we have face painting and tattoos, we have bouncy houses, trick or treating. This year we did change things and finally got the University involved. We have a fraternity and a sorority coming out this year and helping out with the trail and making it a charity drive. It's a canned food donation."

Also, just for campers, was a decoration contest for which some campsites went all-out.

Jerry Croxen of Kingsley Iowa was one of the campers participating.

New to his decor this year was a skeleton family in lawn chairs over an open bone-fire.

"We have a red light in there so it looks like fire," he said. "I've been

doing this for ten years over in Correctionville, Onawa. We usually have a cemetery and ghosts."

Croxen enjoyed the festivities with his wife and two children who also got in on the fun.

"My son's out doing scaring for the little kids in the train cars," he said. "They don't really scare them, they just run around in gorilla suits while the train is going. He skipped his football game to stay here and dress up so it's pretty important to him. We'll get dressed up and go out on the trail later on."

Croxen like many adults agrees that kids make a good excuse for having fun especially on Halloween.

"I guess just watching the kids have fun is a good one," he said of his favorite aspect of the festival. "That's why I started and my son and daughter had so much fun. I've always liked Halloween. Now I've got a reason to get dressed up."

Other decorations ranged from camper-created haunted trails, a haunted tunnel and a cemetery with corpses that got up and danced to 'Thriller.'

Creepy lights and animatronic figures thrilled trick-or-treaters of all ages as well.

The Haunted Trail, though scary,

CAMP | PAGE 6



Halloween Safety Tips



• When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long trailing fabric. If you are making your own costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes into contact with heat or flame. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.

• Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.

• Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are

highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.

• It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit

pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.

• Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.

• Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over

and over to put the flames out.)

• Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.

• If your children are going to Halloween parties at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.



Medicare Part D Plan Enrollment Assistance

SHIINE volunteers will assist Medicare beneficiaries, FREE of charge, with information needed to make informed decisions and/or enroll in a new plan for the 2016 Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug) plan year.

SHIINE also assists with:

- Medicare Parts A & B
- Medicare Part D Plans
- Medicare Savings Plans
- Choosing a Medigap Policy
- Medicare Advantage Plans
- Protecting your Medicare benefits
- Medicare fraud, waste & abuse
- Extra Help, Low income subsidy for Part D

Open Enrollment Period:

October 15 - December 7, 2015

Volunteers Available:

Tues from 9 a.m. - noon and
Thurs from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at
the Vermillion Senior Center,
320 W Main, Vermillion SD

To schedule an appointment,
please call 605-624-4883

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