

Vermillion Youth Learn To HuntSAFE

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

Thanks to volunteers dedicated to the safety of young hunters, the South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks held a HuntSAFE course last week with both classroom and hands-on experience.

"The goal of the HuntSAFE courses is to teach young hunters safe handling of firearms, in the home as well as in the field," the department's website reads. "We also want to develop safe, responsible hunters who are aware of our hunting heritage and who understand the hunter's role and relationship with wildlife and the land, as well as certify persons under the age of 16 to make them eligible to apply for hunting licenses."

According to Tony Stokely, Wildlife Conservation Officer, participants need to complete a minimum of 10 hours with the class, a written test and the hands-on portion.

"They have to at minimum turn 12 years old by December 31 of this year," he said. "Once they do that and take the class they are eligible for their own hunting licenses."

Kayleen, 11, was one of the younger participants.

"I really like to hunt," she said. "My dad does it and I think it's fun. Sometimes I like just sitting up in the trees because I like getting up in the mornings and I like just watching. You have to be patient. You can't be talking and moving a lot. It's just kind of cool sometimes."

Though Kayleen learned most of what was covered in the course from her dad, she appreciated the knowledge shared in the course.

"My favorite part was probably when we get to watch the movies about all the hunting accidents," she said. "We also learned how to handle a gun safely and point it in a safe direc-



COURTESY PHOTO

From Left to Right Tony Stokely and volunteers Bruce Plate, Barry Banks, Mike Carlson, Jerami West, Kevin Noble, Trevor Job, Rich Job and Alan Miiller made the recent HuntSAFE course possible.

tion and all of the parts of the gun and stuff."

According to Stokely it was not only hunters that attended the course.

"Hunting is not the main focus on this," he said. "It's a safety thing. We've got girls in the class that not only hunt but they babysit. So if they're babysitting little Joe and the kid comes out with a gun from his dad's closet, we want them to know how to safely take away that weapon. We incorporate a little first aid and stuff like that or if they get lost in the woods, things like that what they should and should not do."

It wasn't only kids either.

"We've also got parents go through the course," Stokely said. "It's open to anybody who wants to take it as long as they're 12 years old. Mostly kids but we had six adults this year or something like that. If they're under 16 they have to pass this course to participate with hunting licenses. We've got kids

from 12 years old. In other states to purchase a non-resident hunting license you need a Huntsafe card. So they go to Wyoming or Colorado to go elk hunting, that's why they go through the class.

Volunteers Bruce Plate, Barry Banks, Mike Carlson, Jerami West, Kevin Noble, Trevor Job, Rich Job and Alan Miiller made the course possible.

For those who could not attend the course, Stokely gave some pointers.

"The number one rule is to keep the muzzle of the firearm in a safe direction," he said. "Keep their finger out of the trigger. Also the safety on the weapon if you push that over, when it's orange it can fire. What we try to get across to people is it's mechanical so it can break so don't rely on that. Just keep your finger out of the trigger."

The course also included going over carrying and firing positions, showing participants the most safe and accurate positions.

St. Agnes School Blessing And Open House Planned

Most Rev. Bishop Paul J. Swain, Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, Fr. John Fischer, St. Agnes School staff and students and St. Agnes parishioners wish to invite all former, current and future students of St. Agnes School and their families as well as community members to attend an Open House and Blessing of St. Agnes School, 909 Lewis Street on Wednesday, September 9 from 5 - 7 p.m.

The vision of the newly expanded and renovated space at St. Agnes School is now a reality with the start of the 2015/2016 academic year. Bishop Paul Swain will be at St. Agnes to bless all new spaces in the school, just recently completed in time for the new school year.

The new addition at St. Agnes includes four new classrooms, offices, meeting room and staff break/work room. The renovations included new exterior brick-work on the building, new windows and shelving in all the existing classrooms, updates to existing restrooms as well as new flooring in the corridors and classrooms. The project began in May 2013.

"After several years of planning and hard work it is exciting to have a newly updated and expanded school to better serve our community. It is truly amazing that a parish of nearly 500 families was able to accomplish this great work. Our Lord has truly blessed this work of building a faith-filled future for our children and grandchildren," said Fr. John Fischer, pastor at St. Agnes Church and School.

The Open House and blessing of St. Agnes School is held in conjunction with the annual Catholic Daughter's Ice Cream Social taking place in the gymnasium at the school from 5 - 7 p.m. Community members will enjoy taverns, chips and a wonderful assortment of pies for dessert!

For more information, please contact St. Agnes School at 605.624.4144.

Eagle Riders Hold Area's First Salsa Contest

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

Always looking for new ways to benefit the community around them, the Eagle Riders, part of the Eagles Club, held its' first annual Salsa (that is the dish and not the dance) Contest Saturday with good results for a first time around.

The event drew contestants from Vermillion and surrounding areas.

First place with a prize of \$40 cash and a t-shirt went to Diane Nemeč of Holmberg.

Second place was given a flask set and a t-shirt. The second-place winner, Todd Brewer of Vermillion, entered the first salsa he ever made.

Third place went to Sandy Einrem of Springfield who was awarded a pizza hut gift card and t-shirt.

The Eagles collected 17 entries and welcomed 22 taste-testers who filled out ballots and voted for their top three favorite salsas.

"We went out to a Cinco de Mayo thing and they did a salsa competition," said Eagle Riders president Reda Brewer. "We just derived it from that and thought, 'Let's do that back home. No one's ever done something like that around here.' So we just decided to do a \$5 entry per salsa and first prize will be cash so usually we try to keep 50 percent back for the charity and the other 50 percent

will go back to the cash prizes." Giving to charities is nothing new for the Eagles club.

"Generally every year we give to the Vermillion Food Pantry, we give to Coats for Kids, the backpack program and Heartland Humane," Brewer said. "So those are the main ones that we do every year. We've also done the Diabetes Research and the Vermillion Public Library. We try to give anywhere from three to six hundred dollars to each one. It depends on how much we bring in."

The salsa event was relaxed and casual, as winners were not required to be present and tasters came and went as desired.

"They just dropped the salsa off because we didn't require them to be present," Brewer said. "We were just talking about what we can do next year to make it a little bit bigger."

In the meantime, focus turns to the other events the Eagles club is hosting in the near future.

"We do have our summer raffle that's going on and our poker run which is pretty big," Brewer said.

"That's the one that brings in most of our money." According to Brewer, the summer raffle this year includes a 55 inch TV, a camera and a Blu-ray player among other things.

For more information on the Eagle Riders contact eagleriders2421@gmail.com or by phone at 605-670-9454.

SDSMA

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endoscopy at the VA. But it is a nice fit with my role at the medical school, because it is so busy trying to fit everything we do."

Ridgway noted that because he oversees the USD Medical School faculty, it allows him as not only a member of the organization but also as a member of the medical school to reach out to faculty and find out from

the doctors in rural areas what is working and what it not. It allows the SDSMA to brainstorm other ways to get students to come back to South Dakota.

Because the American Medical Association called on medical schools to increase their class sizes by 30 percent, Gov. Dennis Daugaard approved increased funding for the medical school and it just accepted the first expanded class of students.

"So, now we have all these increased class sizes

and new medical schools that have crept up across the country, the problem is that after your four years of medical school, you then have to go into a residency," he said. "Residencies have not increased their slots since 1997. So, if you are going to have a residency program Medicare dollars pay for it. So, now if you are going to offer a new medical residency - Sanford Health has done this with a surgical residency program - it is paid solely by health

system."

He said these issues and more are what he will be talking to at the district meetings.

"These district meetings are about transparency, it's about reaching out to our members and asking what can we do better," Ridgway said. "I have learned this association is not about 'me' or 'I'; it is about our patients, it is about South Dakota, about the public health of South Dakota."

Dragons At The Library

It's true that dragons are too seldom, but we're happy that they will be making a special appearance at the library this fall! On Tuesday, Sept. 22nd, and Wednesday, Sept. 23rd, Markie Scholz and her Dragons Are Too Seldom Puppet Productions will drop by to share wonderful stories and fun with the children of our community. Public performances of the show "In the Center of Things," will begin both days at 10:30 am in the Kozak Community Room.

"In The Center of Things" is the story of Hedgy Hedgehog and his best friend Sally A. Wolf. Hedgy is forced into the Big Woods by the Niggie Naggles who constantly tease and pick on him. He must find his way home but not before he comes face to face with Growl the Troll who is trying to be a friend, a bullying caterpillar, a sly fox who wants Hedgy to do his work for him, and a nasty wind with an awful attitude. Throughout Hedgy's adventure, Sally and Growl try to help Hedgy learn how to handle bullies and get out of the Big Woods and back home safely. For more information about Marie and her dragon friends, go to dragonsaretooseldom.com.

Additionally, there will be a hands-on puppet-making workshop for children in 2nd - 4th grades on Tuesday from 3:30-5 pm in the Kozak Community Room. All materials will be provided - don't miss the fun!

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library is located at 18 Church Street in Vermillion. For more information call the Library at 605-677-7060.

Senior Meals Rummage Sale Set

Dakota Senior meals has set their fall rummage sale for Sept. 19 at 30 Crawford Road.

Donations are currently being accepted in the kitchen at 320 W. Main Street. If you have donations you would like to give to the sale but are unable to deliver them call 624-7868 to arrange a pick up.

Call 624-7868 with any questions.

Vermillion Sculpture Walk Dedication

The new Vermillion Sculpture Walk project will be officially dedicated on Thursday Sept. 3, from the staging area of the Platz in downtown Vermillion (corner of Market Street and Main Street) at 6 p.m.

This is an addition to the existing sculpture walk on the USD campus.

Four artists display their pieces in four central Vermillion locations; each within visibility of one another. "Moon Dance" is prominently on display at the Platz today.

Officials that have been instrumentally involved with the addition of the Sculpture Walk to Vermillion will be present for the official dedication ceremony.

The public is invited and welcome for the dedication which will then be followed by the Thursdays on the Platz program, hosted by USD (Music by Austin Hahn and food by Aramark).

What's Happening At Newton Hills

This weekend at Newton Hills is all about wilderness survival and safety!

On Friday, Sept. 4 at 8:30 p.m. we will be showing a movie at the amphitheater.

Saturday, Sept. 5 at 10 a.m. we are starting off the day with Animal Tracks, where we will learn to identify animals by their tracks and make a craft. At 1 p.m. we are to get All Tied Up to learn about different knots and their uses. Then at 3 p.m., we are going to get wet and talk about safe drinking water while learning to make water filters. Then at 4:30 p.m., we will continue talking about water safety in regards to swimming and boating. We will also address hypothermia through a fun (Really, it's super fun!) activity. At 7 p.m. John will be waiting at the swinging bridge to talk about hiking safety while taking a little trip into the woods. In the evening we will show a movie at 8:30 p.m. at the amphitheater. Finally we will end the day with Newton Hills Night Hike at 9:30 p.m. Meet us behind the Welcome Center for a walk on hard surface roads. Please wear good shoes. Flashlights are permitted but we will encourage you to keep them off to help with adjusting to night vision.

On Sunday, Sept. 6 you are welcome join in a non-denominational worship service at 9 a.m. at the amphitheater. Come as you are, all are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. At 11 a.m. we will start Orienteering 101 where we will learn to find our way without GPS through a fun game. Then at 1 p.m. we are going to talk Shelter Building and test out what we have learned by trying it our right here at Newton Hills. We will be looking for the truly adventurous at 3 p.m. when we talk about Incredible Edibles to learn what are some safe dining options in this environment. Then at 4:30 p.m. we will be talking fire safety and some tips for getting a good fire roaring. Finally, we will end the day with another movie in the amphitheater at 8:30 p.m.

Sept. fun at Good Earth State Park at Blood Run! Crisp leaves and cool breezes! Fall has begun, come feel the difference! Run, jump, bound, and search Saturday, Sept. 5 at 11 am! Come partake in the Wildlife Olympics and see how you compare to the animals at Good Earth State Park, it's fun the whole family can enjoy!

If you have any questions about the park or the programs for this coming weekend, do not hesitate to give us a call at (605) 987-2263 or email newtonhills@state.sd.us.

More info including an event schedule may also be found online at www.gfp.sd.gov.

NOW ACCEPTING BIDS FOR SNOW REMOVAL

(2015 - 2016 season)

for the St. Agnes School, Church, & Parish house!

Please send bids to:

St. Agnes Church • 416 Walker • Vermillion, SD 57069

or call Mary at 624-4478

Please submit bids by Sept. 30th at 3:00 pm



DAVIES AND ENGEL



Dan Davies and Shaydel Engel announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be currently resides in Yankton, SD. She is a 2010 graduate of Todd County High School in Mis-

sion, SD and a 2014 graduate of the University of South Dakota. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Basic Biomedical Sciences at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. Shaydel is the daughter of Haelee Engel of Monument, CO and Will Engel of Winner, SD.

The future groom also resides in Yankton, SD. He is a 2009 graduate of Vermillion High School in Vermillion, SD and a 2013 graduate of the University of South Dakota. He is currently a third year medical student at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. Dan is the son of Tom and Karen Davies of Vermillion, SD.

A September 2016 wedding in Las Vegas is planned.

Have 403(b) questions? Let's talk.



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Patrick M Higgins
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Edward Jones
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THANK YOU

The greatest comfort during our time of sorrow was the expressions of sympathy conveyed to us in so many ways.

Family of Roxan Emerson Brown
Kim, Krys & Karen

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