

REGION DIGEST

Victims ID'ed In Tuesday Norfolk Fire

From P&D Staff Reports

The results of the autopsy and identities of the victims of the fatal fire at 302 E. Kaneb on Tuesday, April 13 have been released by the Norfolk Fire Division. The identities of the victims are Sierra M. Littrel-Ellenberger age 10 and Devyne M. Seale age 8. Both victims were the children of Jolene Ellenberger. The results of the autopsy that was performed at Omaha General Hospital on Wednesday, established both the identity of the victims and the cause of death as smoke inhalation during the course of the fire.

A fund for the family has been established at Bank 360 in Yankton by relatives of the children in the area. Donations may be sent to: Ellenberger Benefit Account, Bank 360, 1101 Broadway, Suite 102, Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton College Board Of Trustees To Meet

The Yankton College Board of Trustees will hold its annual spring board meeting at 1 p.m. Friday, April 16, at the Summit Activities Center and 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home.

The Scholarship, Nominating and Financial committees will meet Friday morning. Agenda topics are: the 2010 scholarship awards, the all-class reunion, nominations for new board members, the Licensed Ministry program and the FY 2010-2011 budget. The new Annual Bulletin will be shown as well as the Yankton FOREVER Club, the new official supportive arm of the college. The trustees will tour the historic Mead Building and the Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home that features the bedroom furniture of college founder, Joseph Ward.

The Alumni Advisory Board will also be meeting at 10 a.m. Friday, April 16, to finalize their plans for the 2010 All-Class Reunion to be held in Yankton July 16-17.

After-Prom Party Meeting April 19

The Parents for a Safe Prom Committee will hold its final planning meeting for the 2010 After-Prom Party at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 19, at the Summit Activities Center.

Committee members will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. regarding storage. Reports of Committees will be presented and plans for the event will be finalized.

This meeting is open to any parent/guardian of a YHS student who is interested in planning for this event. After-Prom tickets are now available for purchase at the Yankton High School Attendance office.

Retired Volunteer Program Holding Fundraiser

The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program will be holding a fundraiser at Yankton's Pizza Ranch on Monday, April 19, running from 5-8 p.m.

The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program offers people age 55 and over the opportunity to meet pressing needs in their communities. RSVP volunteers provide hundreds of community services, including tutoring and assisting with reading in the elementary schools, library outreach, mentoring youth, delivering Meals on Wheels and assisting with many other needs throughout the community. Through such efforts, RSVP is meeting local needs that strained budgets cannot afford.

Contact the local Yankton office at 231 Broadway, or call 260-3100 for more information or to join RSVP.

Earth Day Activities At USD April 22

VERMILLION — There will be numerous Earth Day activities at the University of South Dakota on Thursday, April 22. Events run from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. on the USD campus north of the Old Main Building.

The schedule includes games, raffle, a 5K fun run, a Recycle Scavenger Hunt, live music and locally grown food.

For more information, contact Brandon Hair at brandon.hair@usd.edu.

Student History Conference At USD April 22

VERMILLION — Graduate and undergraduate students from 10 regional universities and colleges will present papers at the 45th annual Student History Conference, Thursday, April 22, at The University of South Dakota's Muenster University Center.

Sponsored by the USD Department of History and the Zeta Mu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society in history, the conference is an all day event from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Muenster University Center. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Clayton Lehmann, department of history at USD, at (605) 677-5573 or e-mail clehmann@usd.edu.

Riverboat Days Directors Holding Meeting

The Riverboat Days Board of Directors is holding its yearly public meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22, at Yesterday's Cafe in Yankton. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

RIVER

From Page 1

such as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Cowman said. The groups conduct broad research ranging from geological and biological studies to water quality and cultural history, he said.

New research initiatives allow USD students to work on a graduate degree related to river studies, Cowman said.

"The student works for two years on a specialized area, and another student comes in later and picks up on it and keeps it going," he said. "We can piece together a long-term study for the habitat on the Missouri River."

Researchers map a dynamic river, ranging from deep to very shallow areas with shifting sand dunes and sand bars, Cowman said.

"The river meanders over time," he said. "It's tough to get a handle on the main channel and what it does to the banks."

The research has paid off and gained national recognition, Cowman said. The MRI won an award for best poster at the Geological Society of America meeting in Oregon.

The MRI seeks to provide new educational opportunities, Cowman said. Classes use USD faculty and guest expert lecturers from the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the National Park Service and state agencies.

The issues are as varied as the river itself, Cowman said.

"At Gavins Point Dam, you have the hydropower. You have the sediment issues at Springfield," he said. "You have the river travel with boats, and you have the natural sandbars and the (Endangered Species Habitat) with the Corps."

Student learn by doing, conducting work and studies on the river, Cowman said. "You see firsthand what the process is like on the river rather than learning just by lecture," he said.

The "Missouri River Science and Ecosystem Management" course brings in 13 guest speakers on various issues. The interdisciplinary approach looks at Native American issues, economic development, recreation and tourism, private landowners and biodiversity.

"It's certainly a unique class

with a unique approach and a variety of students," Cowman said.

The "Science, Culture and History of the Missouri River" program at Ponca State Park in northeast Nebraska targets K-12 teachers. The program has even drawn a teacher from the Des Moines, Iowa, area and studies river ecology, water quality and cultural history.

Ponca State Park offers not only an ideal location for research and teaching but also a unique stretch of the Missouri River, Cowman said.

"It's the place where you have the last few miles of unchanneled river of the MNRR, then it changes," he said. "It shows both sides of the river and its transition from unchanneled to channeled."

As part of its mission, the MRI also conducts the Missouri River Oral History Project, Cowman said.

"We are using South Dakota Public Broadcasting and the Contemporary Media students (at USD) to interview people who lived along the river in the pre-dam era," he said. "We are capturing their stories and their view of the river then versus now."

The final product will be available by DVD documentary, video podcasts and Web site, Cowman said.

The MRI, in conjunction with other agencies and groups, has launched the MNRR Water Trail, Cowman said. The 78-mile segment of the Missouri River runs from Gavins Point Dam near Yankton to Sioux City.

The water trail is an effort by a sponsor group comprised of several academic, federal, state, local and non-profit organizations.

The segment of the river from Ft. Randall Dam to Gavins Point Dam will be added to this water trail in the future. The sponsor group's activities include improving public access to the river, establishing trailheads and routes, and building an interactive Web site to plan float trips and disseminate information.

"We held a float event last August as a kick-off. We had 87 people on a three- to four-hour paddle down the river," Cowman said. "On May 22, we're having another float event to promote the water trail."

Wednesday's research symposium was part of the MRI education and outreach. The presentations were digitally recorded and

will be available within a week on the MRI Web site at www.usd.edu/mri. The 2008 and 2009 presentations are also available on the Web site.

This year's presentation topics included management strategies for the river, interim management plans for recent land acquisitions along the river, the effect of owl trapping and removal on piping plover hatchling survival, impact of sediment in runoff from tributaries on Missouri River water quality and Missouri River education initiatives.

Wednesday's symposium provided tremendous learning opportunities, said Theresa Smydra, director of Missouri River Futures based in Hartington, Neb.

"It allows me to get up to date on what is going on with the Missouri River Institute," she said. "We have different events and a couple projects on the river, and this (symposium) is a great way to learn about other events."

Smydra said she enjoyed learning about a wide range of topics. She noted in particular the presentation on the pallid sturgeon research and recovery efforts. She also learned more about the plans for recent land acquisitions along the river.

Wednesday's event also contained an important announcement about the Missouri River Authorization Purposes Study (MRAPS), Smydra said.

"They are holding meetings from May through August, with two of them in Yankton and Sioux City," she said. "At the meetings, they will have stations with an open house format."

Smydra said she was glad to learn more about the MRI research, including opportunities for graduate students. She also wants to see continued communication and understanding among river stakeholders, including landowners.

The MRI symposium provides a major step in the right direction, she said.

"Partnerships are huge, and any outreach is good," she said. "In recent years, I have seen more cooperation and better awareness. There is more sharing of information — what they are trying to do and where they are coming from."

"There are still 'territories' (among agencies and organizations), but the communication has gotten a lot better."

Children's Choir To Perform Concert

The Yankton Children's Choir will perform its spring concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at the First United Methodist Church, Yankton.

Young singers from grades 3-8 will be celebrating the joy of the season. A special feature of this concert will be the "graduation solo" for Brianna Kelly, who will finish the eighth grade this year. She has had state-wide success not only as a singer but also as an instrumentalist.

The choir will also be awarding the raffle prizes for which they've been selling tickets for several months. Prizes include framed and matted art work by Jolene Steffen and Terry Redlin as well as a JC Penney gift certificate. If you have not been approached by a choir member to buy tickets, there will be a display of the prizes at the Hy-Vee Market on Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m.-noon.

Performers in the Spring Concert include Shinayne Whipple, Leah Waid, Alexis Ulmer, Ashlynn Schwarz, Anthony Snoozy, Melissa Schram, Katryna Rukas, Sarah Odom, Kyra Liebig, Amanda Koch, Brianna Kelly, Tori Henning, Cami Friedenbach, Laurel Friedenbach, Tori Cass, Brenna Becker, Brooke Barnes, Dharian Ahrens, Austin Ahlers and Halie Adam. The choir is directed by Deb Wiebelhaus and accompanied by Dixie Church.

Also, auditions for the next singing season will be held at 5:30-8 p.m. May 10 at the United Church of Christ. Singers or aspiring singers who will be entering grades 3-8 are urged to come, accompanied by a parent or other adult.

For further information, contact Executive Director Teresa Szakats at tszakats@southeastjoblink.org.

HEALTH

From Page 1

join the suit.

The states claim the federal government cannot force citizens to buy health coverage. They also argue the federal government is violating the Constitution by forcing a mandate on the states without providing money to pay for it.

Ian Heath Gershengorn, an attorney for the Department of Justice, said the federal government will file a motion to dismiss the lawsuit saying the court does not have the jurisdictional authority to overturn the law.

"We feel there is a strong basis for a motion to dismiss," he said.

Vinson set a Sept. 14 hearing to listen to arguments from both sides on that motion and set a tentative schedule that would move the case into late fall.

Vinson told the four attorneys in court for the states, the four attorneys in court for the Justice Department and other attorneys listening in via teleconference on

Wednesday that his priority is ensuring the processes is both speedy and inexpensive for the millions of taxpayers represented by both sides.

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Open House 2010

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April 17th, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. & April 18th, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Please join us for the community open house for our new Tyndall location. Come enjoy refreshments and visit with our staff. We'll also offer tours of the memorial chapel and resource center. Funeral home staff and prearrangement counselors will be available to answer questions.

Tami Keller **Kevin Opsahl**

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Thank You

The family of Harold Jensen would like to thank our family and friends for the many acts of kindness during our recent loss. Your overwhelming love and concern has brought comfort to our family during this difficult time.

Special thanks to Dr. Hiltunen, Dr. Kampshoff, Dr. Farver and Dr. Mikkelsen, nurses and staff at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital for their compassionate care and concern. To Pastors Daryl and Will Dachtler, Mike Klemmer for their spiritual support.

Thank you to Rhoda Fredericks, Director of Viborg Funeral Home, for the beautiful service. Our dad will be greatly missed by all of us.

Darleen Jensen
 Charles & Jeraine Larsen and family
 Jerome & Monica Saylor and family
 Russ & Janelle Ekeren and family
 Lee & JoAnn Ebbesen and family
 David Jensen & Lori and family