#### **THURSDAY** DECEMBER 27, 2012

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS DAKOTAN





Kocer, Steffen Named P&D Athletes Of The Year • 8



NUMBER 206

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 12 PAGES | www.yankton.net

# The Thirty-Eight



Horseback riders participate in Wednesday's trail ride, commemorating the 150th anniversary of

the hanging of 38 Santee Sioux at Mankato, Minn. The five-mile ride along the highway segment led to Santee, Neb., and a special meal and program.

## Horseback Riders Pay Tribute To Santee Sioux Killed 150 Years Ago



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Horses during Wednesday's march display special regalia, signifying special honor and tribute.

## More Details **Emerge On** Vermillion Incident

From P&D Staff Reports

VERMILLION — More details were released Wednesday on a shooting that took place Christmas Day in Vermillion that resulted in the death of one person.

The standoff between a 42-year-old Vermillion man, who has yet to be officially identified, and local law enforcement began after a domestic altercation in the early morning hours of Tuesday and ended approximately 12 hours later when the man was found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

According to a statement released Wednesday by the Vermillion Police Department, the man's wife fled to the nearby residence of an offduty police officer at 1 a.m. Tuesday. She told the officer that her husband had held her against her will for several hours, assaulted her, threatened to kill her and destroyed her cell

phone to prevent her from calling for help.

A call was placed to on-duty officers to respond. Before police arrived, the woman's husband was seen entering his garage, where he was known to keep several firearms.

Responding police officers made contact via phone with the husband, who said he was armed and intended to kill himself or force offi-cers to kill him. He also said the couple's two minor children were in the home and he would not let them leave.

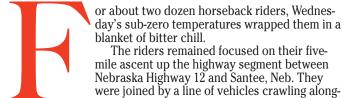
Following further negotiations, the husband agreed to release the children at approximately 4:30 a.m. The children were reunited with their mother, who had been taken to the hospital for her injuries.

In an attempt to bring the situation to a peaceful conclusion, the Vermillion Police Department continued negotiations with assistance from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), the Yankton Police Department, the South Dakota

**VERMILLION** | PAGE 2

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

randy.dockendorf@yankton.net



side them on the narrow road. Despite the freezing weather, the riders knew their journey was a small sacrifice to make for a higher purpose. They were paying tribute to the 38 Santee Sioux hanged Dec. 26, 1862 — 150 years ago to the day — in the largest mass execution in United States history. The hangings ended the war between the U.S. and the

Dakota people. "It's was uncomfortable and cold out today," Santee Sioux tribal chairman Roger Trudell said during Wednesday's dinner and program at the community center. "But compared to what our

ancestors went through 150 years ago, it's really insignificant." Nearly all of the Santee Sioux are direct descendants of the 38 executed in Mankato, Minn., Trudell said. In addition, many of the tribe's ancestors were transported from Minnesota to Crow Creek in central South Dakota, then walked to the modern-day reservation in northern Knox County, Neb.

Misty Thomas, director of the Santee Sioux's social services department, works with the tribal horse program and helped organize Wednesday's trail ride.

The tribe has commemorated the Dec. 26 hangings in the past, but the addition of the ride offers a special tribute to the 38, Thomas said. The horse in full regalia is recognized as a special honor, tribal members said Wednesday.

"We have had a program and meal at the community center (on the execution date) for about 10 years, but we wanted to do something special for the 150th anniversary," she said. "It started out that we wanted to dress a horse in traditional regalia, but then it just grew from there."

As the trail ride entered the Santee village, the participants pulled into a cemetery for ceremonial prayer and music, including the Mato Pejuta drum and song group.

The group proceeded to the community center for the meal, program and educational exhibits about the mass hanging. Trudell considers the Dec. 26 observance as a tribal holiday,

combining Memorial Day and Veterans Day tributes. 'We are here today to memorialize our 38," he said, adding their trials lasted as little as one minute.

'They had trials, but there wasn't any real defense or anything else like that," he said.

RIDERS | PAGE 3

Fireworks Vendor Taking Cautious **Approach To New Year Holiday Sales** 

nathan.johnson@yankton.net

With persistent dry conditions, a local fireworks vendor is hoping snow will arrive today (Thursday) to alleviate the fire dan-

If snow doesn't materialize, Josh Blom of Dam Fireworks said he might not open in advance of the New Year holiday. Wind conditions will also be a consideration.

"We're trying to check the weather as we get closer to see what things are going to be like before we fully determine if we will

open," he stated. "By law, we can open no matter what, and if we were located anywhere else in Yankton County, I wouldn't be worried. But the lake area is still pretty dry. It didn't get the snow that Gayville and

other areas have received."

The National Weather Service was predicting a 100 percent chance of snow for Yankton as of Wednesday evening. Approximately five inches of snow is expected through Thursday night.

Dam Fireworks is located west of Yankton along Highway 52 near Gavins Point Dam and is the only local business with a

permit to sell fireworks during the holiday period.

It is the second year of a state law that allows for the sale and discharge of fireworks from Dec. 28 through Jan. 1.

Blom said he wants to be a responsible business owner.

"I don't want a house to catch on fire because somebody wasn't paying attention,"

"Last year, (sales) went really well," he

**Cliff Looms: Kicking The** 

**Can, Washington-Style** 

SALES | PAGE 12

### HOLIDAY SMASH-UP



Emergency responders were called to a two-vehicle accident at East Highway 50 and Ferdig Avenue in Yankton Wednesday afternoon. One

#### AP Special Correspondent WASHINGTON — When it comes to the nation's budget challenges, congressional leaders

are fond of saying dismissively they don't want to kick the can

**BY DAVID ESPO** 

down the road.

But now, a deadline hard ahead, even derided half-measures are uncertain as President Barack Obama and lawmakers struggle to avert across-theboard tax increases and spending cuts that comprise an economythreatening fiscal cliff.

Congressional officials said Wednesday they knew of no significant strides toward a compromise over a long Christmas weekend, and no negotiations have been set.

The Senate is due in session Thursday, although the immediate agenda includes legislation setting the rules for government surveillance of suspected spies and terrorists abroad, including Americans, as well as a measure providing \$60 billion for victims of Super Storm Sandy.

Obama decided to cut short his Hawaii vacation for an overnight flight expected to get him back to the White House in the pre-dawn

**CLIFF** | PAGE 2





YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:

driver was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.