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Media ID Man In Vermillion Standoff

BY DAVID LIAS
david.lias@plaintalk.net

VERMILLION — Area media have reported the identity of the man who was involved in a standoff in Vermillion Tuesday that ended in an apparent suicide.

In a press release it sent to local media Wednesday, the Vermillion Police Department declined to release the identity of the deceased or any other members of his household involved in the incident which began in the early morning hours of Dec. 25.

However, the *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal* reported Thursday that the standoff ended after Greg Girard, 42, died apparently of a self-inflicted gunshot in the family's Vermillion home located on Crawford Road.

The standoff between Girard, who has yet to be officially identified, and local law enforcement began after a domestic altercation in early Tuesday and ended approximately 12 hours later when law enforcement entered his home and found his body.

According to the police statement, the subject's wife fled to the nearby residence of an off-duty 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 suspect was seen entering his garage, where he was known to keep several firearms.

Responding police officers contacted the man by phone, and he told them he was armed and intended to kill himself or force officers 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 man 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.

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RIVER CITY



New Year Brings Laughter To Yankton

RIVER CITY

INSIDE TODAY



USA Weekend

LADY IN WHITE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

It was slightly late to make it a white Christmas, but snow fell on Yankton Thursday, laying a gentle blanket across the local landscape. However, the statue "Our Canteen Lady" in downtown Yankton looked ready for a snowball fight as the snow collected on top of the sculpture. Yankton unofficially received 5.5 inches of snow, which prompted the city to declare a snow emergency starting at 1 a.m. today (Friday). For more weather details, see page 2A.

City Recorded Almost 600 Code Enforcement Actions During 2012

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

With almost 600 actions during 2012, Yankton's code enforcement staff were kept plenty busy.

But that doesn't tell the whole story, according to Code Enforcement Official Brad Bies. "Though the numbers are big, it represents a lot of people doing the right thing," he said. "The overwhelming response is very positive once we share the code information. We like to help people find solutions, too, and we recognize there are some unique situations."

In particular, Bies is proud of the number of

properties that brought trees into compliance with the code.

"We hope the education we've done has helped improve compliance," he stated. "We've really tried to make people aware of the free drop-off at the Transfer Station. I've been really pleased that people took advantage of that. It was nice to give people information so they could take care of the situation before there was a problem."

The first substantial snowfall of the winter that has occurred this week is another example of an area where people may come into contact with Bies.

Residents with snow-covered sidewalks ad-

jacent to their properties need to make arrangements for snow removal within 24 hours after the end of a snowfall.

"It doesn't mean people wouldn't be advised to start shoveling sooner, but that's when you have to have it shoveled," Bies said. "We also remind people that they cannot place snow in the street."

A total of 588 new code enforcement actions were taken in 2012 within Yankton. There were:

- 47 involving removal of snow from side-

CODE | PAGE 12A

On The Job

Conservation Officer Honored For Going Above And Beyond

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
news@yankton.net

When Brian Humphrey was in eighth grade, he knew he wanted to be involved with wildlife.

Having been with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks since 1997, Humphrey has now been named the South Dakota Wildlife Officer of the Year.

"I always had an interest in it and when I got out of the Army, I went to school and got a degree in fishery and wildlife management and then got hired with the department," Humphrey said.

"I've always kind of worked towards (Wildlife Officer of the Year). It's always been a personal goal of mine to work at that level,

but I was surprised when they announced it — I wasn't expecting it and I didn't even know my name had been submitted this year."

As the conservation officer for Turner and Hutchinson counties, Humphrey enforces wildlife law, makes land management decisions, teaches hunter-safety classes, enforces boating laws and works with land owners to determine tag recommendations for the year.

Besides the everyday duties, Humphrey makes it a priority to go above and beyond to ensure everything is taken care of when he's on the job.

"It's the little things: making sure all of

HONOR | PAGE 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

Brian Humphrey, conservation officer for Turner and Hutchinson counties, has been named South Dakota Wildlife Officer of the Year. Humphrey has been with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks since 1997.

Congress Bickers On 'Fiscal Cliff'

Obama Returns From Hawaii With No Compromise In Sight

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama returned to the White House on Thursday from a vacation shortened by government gridlock while congressional Democrats and Republicans snarled across a partisan divide without evidence of compromise on a year-end "fiscal cliff" that threatened across-the-board tax increases and cuts to government programs.

Adding to the woes confronting the middle class was a pending spike of \$2-per-gallon or more in milk prices if lawmakers failed to pass farm legislation by year's end.

White House aides disputed reports that Obama was sending lawmakers a scaled-down plan to avoid the "fiscal cliff," and gave no indication whether he would invite congressional leaders to a White House meeting either later Thursday or possibly on Friday.

A little more than four days from the deadline, there was no legislation pending in either the House or the Senate to stave off tax increases and spending cuts that economists say could send the economy into a re-



Reid

cession. Far from conciliatory, the rhetoric was confrontational and at times unusually personal.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., accused House Speaker John Boehner of running a

dictatorship, citing his refusal to call a vote on legislation to keep taxes steady for most while letting them rise at upper incomes. The bill "would pass overwhelmingly," Reid predicted, and said the Ohio Republican won't change his mind because he fears it might cost him re-election as speaker when the new Congress convenes next week.

Boehner seems "to care more about keeping his speakership than keeping the nation on a firm financial footing," he said in remarks on the Senate floor.

Brendan Buck, a spokesman for Boehner, responded in a similar vein. "Harry Reid should talk less and legislate more if he wants to avert the fiscal cliff. The House has already

CLIFF | PAGE 2A

Retired Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf Dies At 78

BY RICHARD PYLE
AND LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who topped an illustrious military career by commanding the U.S.-led international coalition that drove Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait in 1991 but kept a low public profile in controversies over the second Gulf War against Iraq, died Thursday. He was 78.

Schwarzkopf died in Tampa, Fla., where he had lived in retirement, according to a U.S. official, who was not authorized to release the information publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A much-decorated combat soldier in Vietnam, Schwarzkopf was known popularly as "Stormin' Norman" for a notoriously explosive temper.

He served in his last military assignment in Tampa as commander-in-chief of U.S. Central Command, the headquarters responsible for U.S. military and security concerns in nearly 20 countries from the eastern Mediterranean and Africa to Pakistan.

GENERAL | PAGE 12A



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