Code

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walks. In 44 of those instances, the violation was abated by the owner upon being contacted by the city. The city had to contract for snow removal in the remaining three cases.

 183 involving noxious vegetation. Of those, 139 violations were abated by the property owner. In 44 cases, the city had to contract for mowing services.

• 219 involving tree limbs hanging too low over the street. This was a continuation of education efforts that began in 2011. In 180 cases, the property owners voluntarily trimmed the trees. A second postcard warning the violators was sent out in early 2012, which resulted in nine more properties coming into voluntary compliance. Trimming services were contracted by the city for 30 properties. A 2012 canvas of the community found 112 properties with trees that needed to be trimmed. Efforts are under way to bring them into voluntary compliance.

• 18 involving abandoned or dangerous buildings. Of those, 11 properties were brought into compliance by the owners. Two were abated by the city. Another two actions were closed with no violation noted, and three cases are still pending.

• 57 involving abandoned or inoperable vehicles. Fifty of those cases were abated or the actions were closed, and seven are pending.

• 56 involving junk and yard waste. Of those, 48 have been abated and eight are pending.

• 161 involving signage, of which all were abated.

• 62 involving other issues such as miscellaneous vegetation, trees, fences, etc. Sixty of those cases have been abated or closed, and two are pending.

Bies said he was pleased with how residents reacted to the dry summer.

"We had a bigger problem than usual with weeds," he stated. "They seemed to be the only thing that grew. I hope residents keep that up next year if we don't get rain. Even if you don't break out the lawnmower, you might have to trim some weeds.

Another thing to keep in mind is that not all items can be disposed of with the city and, therefore, during the spring clean-up, according to Bies

Vehicle tires are an example. "There are recyclers in town that will take them for a small fee," he said. "That's the only way to get rid of them. You can't save them and get rid of them during clean-up week. The Transfer Station can't take them.'

Looking to 2013, Bies said no major new initiatives are planned, although he wants to continue to improve education efforts through the city's website and local media.

"I think we're just going to try to keep moving ahead," he stated. "We want to keep the town free of scrap and garbage and abandoned vehicles. If a call is not about snow or grass, it

General From Page 1A

Schwarzkopf became "CINC-Centcom" in 1988 and when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait three years later to punish it for allegedly stealing Iraqi oil reserves, he commanded Operation Desert Storm, the coalition of some 30 countries organized by President George H.W. Bush that succeeded in driving the Iraqis out.

"Gen. Norm Schwarzkopf, to me, epitomized the 'duty, service, country' creed that has defended our freedom and seen this great nation through our most trying international crises," Bush said in a statement. "More than that, he was a good and decent man — and a dear friend."

At the peak of his postwar national celebrity, Schwarzkopf — a self-proclaimed political independent - rejected suggestions that he run for office, and remained far more private than other generals, although he did serve briefly as a military com-mentator for NBC.

While focused primarily in his later years on charitable enterprises, he campaigned for President George W. Bush in 2000 but was ambivalent about the 2003 invasion of Iraq, saying he

doubted victory would be as easy as the White House and Pentagon predicted. In early 2003 he told the Washington Post the outcome was an unknown:

"What is postwar Iraq going to look like, with the Kurds and the Sunnis and the Shiites? That's a huge question. to my mind. It really should be part of the overall campaign plan," he said.

Initially Schwarzkopf had endorsed the invasion, saying he was convinced that former Secretary of State Colin Powell had given the United Nations powerful evidence of Iragi weapons of mass destruction. After that proved false, he said decisions to go to war should depend on what U.N. weapons inspectors found.

He seldom spoke up during the conflict, but in late 2004, he sharply criticized then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Pentagon for mistakes that included inadequate training for Army reservists sent to Iraq and for erroneous judgments about Iraq.

"In the final analysis I think we are behind schedule. ... I don't think we counted on it turning into jihad (holy war)," he said in an NBC interview.

Schwarzkopf was born Aug. 24, 1934, in Trenton, N.J., where his father, Col. H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr., founder and commander of the New Jersey

State Police, was then leading the investigation of the Lindbergh kidnap case, which ended with the arrest and 1936 execution of German-born carpenter Richard Hauptmann for stealing and murdering the famed aviator's infant son.

The elder Schwarzkopf was named Herbert, but when the son was asked what his "H" stood for, he would reply, "H." Although reputed to be short-tempered with aides and subordinates, he was a friendly, talkative and even jovial figure who didn't like "Stormin' Norman" and preferred to be known as "the Bear," a sobriquet given him by troops.

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tends to be about junk and abandoned vehicles.

Bies was hired as the city's first full-time code enforcement official last year. He said it's hard to step back and see what effect increased nuisance abatement efforts have had in that time.

"From when I started, I think the community was an attractive place,' he said. "I think we're doing our best to keep it looking that way and maybe get ahead of some situations to avoid moving backward.

"And sometimes, just because people don't like the look of something, doesn't mean it's against the ordinance," Bies added. "As code enforcement officials joke, 'Ugly is not against the ordinance.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on *Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage*

Standoff

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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 Highway Patrol, the Vermillion Fire Department and Ambulance Service and the University of South Dakota Police.

People living in homes adjacent to the man's house were contacted and given an opportunity to evacuate to a safe location. The Journal reported that some residents were taken to The Bluffs Golf Course clubhouse, located nearby. Roads leading to the neighborhood also were blocked.

At 10:20 a.m. Tuesday, the subject stopped communicating with negotiators. Perimeter officers heard a gunshot and saw that a round had exited through the rear window of the home. Officers used tactical resources to approach the residence, assess his condition and reestablish communication.

At 1:30 p.m., he was found dead in the residence.

The Vermillion Police Department, Clay County Sheriff's Office and DCI continue to investigate the incident.







