

A FIELD ON FIRE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Firefighters from Gayville and Volin were summoned to a pasture fire west of Volin at approximately 2:55 p.m. Monday. The blaze apparently started as a tractor was working in a nearby field and sparked a blaze in the

bone-dry conditions. A grassfire was also reported a few moment earlier in the Lesterville area. The dry conditions have made the fields prone to fire threats.

National Park Service Programs July 13-15

Missouri National Recreational River, southeast South Dakota's and northeast Nebraska's hometown national park will present the following ranger programs this weekend.

- Friday, July 13
 - 8 p.m., Burbach picnic shelter, Lewis & Clark Lake State Recreation Area, Nebraska: "Life on the Missouri" — Live re-enactment: It's 1877, and the purser of the steamboat Far West talks about life on riverboats, Captain Grant Marsh, and the 1876 Army charter to the Little Bighorn.
- Saturday, July 14
 - 12:30-4:30 p.m.: Riverside Park, Yankton — The rangers at Missouri National Recreational River invite neighbors and visitors alike to join them for a "Get Outdoors" Day. Fun, informative, and interactive activities are planned for the day, and kids can earn their Junior Ranger badge and certificate by completing selected activities. Kids and adults can learn about the Missouri River and its resources, canoeing and kayaking opportunities, and the Missouri National Recreational River, our local national park.
 - 7 p.m., Pierson Ranch amphitheater: "Where's the Park?" — Visitors can test and expand their knowledge of America's special places through a hands-on game and an engaging presentation on the nearby national parks in South Dakota and Nebraska.
 - Sunday, July 15
 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Lewis & Clark Visitor Center. "Pelts & Profits" — The Missouri River was the highway of the fur trade, connecting the Plains Tribes to the manufactured goods of the world. A trader of the 1850s shows samples of the goods available and gives kids the opportunity to make a deal in Plains Sign language.

Connections Fundraiser Set For Dairy Queen

The Connections organization will be hold a fundraising event at the Yankton Dairy Queen, 1917 Broadway, at 5-9 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18.

A percentage of sales will go toward the group, which is a local nonprofit service organization dedicated to providing social activities to people with developmental disabilities in the Yankton area.

'Late Night For Teens' Event At Memorial Pool

The Yankton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring its second "Late Night for Teens" of the summer, at 8-10 p.m. Friday, July 20, at Memorial Pool. The events theme is "Mid-Summer Celebration" Come dance the night away with this popular teen event.

For further information, call 668-5234 or stop by the Summit Activities Center at 1801 Summit Street, Yankton. Remember to follow the Yankton Parks and Recreation on Facebook.

'Spirit Of Dakota' Nominations Are Sought

The Spirit of Dakota Award Society is seeking nominations for their 26th anniversary award presentation and celebration. The recipient of this award will be announced at a banquet at the Huron Event Center on Oct. 6.

In its 26th year, the society will again be honoring and hosting outstanding women from every corner of the state.

The 2012 Spirit of Dakota Award winner will be chosen by a state-wide Selection Commission including First Lady Linda Daugaard of Pierre; Coral Bonnemenn, Brookings; Glenna Foubert, Aberdeen; Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte; Jean Hunhoff, Yankton; Bette Poppen, DeSmet; Tona Rozum, Mitchell; Suzette Kirby, Sioux Falls; Marsha Sumpter, Kodoka; Judy Trzynka, Watertown; and Bev Wright, Turton. The nomination process is open to all interested individuals or organizations who wish to recognize an outstanding woman in their community.

The Spirit of Dakota Award is presented to an outstanding South Dakota woman who has demonstrated vision, courage and strength in character and who has made a significant contribution to the quality of life in her community and state.

Past recipients have included community leaders in business, government and civic organizations and have been described in newspaper articles as "the cream of the crop in terms of South Dakota's best." The 2011 award recipient was Millie Humphrey of Whitewood a shining example of the qualities that serve as a guidepost for this generation and beyond.

Nomination forms are available by contacting the Huron Area Chamber of Commerce, 1725 Dakota Ave S, Huron, SD 57350 (1-800-487-6673) or online at www.spiritofdakota.org.

Review

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represents hunters and anglers, said he supports the study.

"I think any review of any department is a good thing," Hesla said.

Glodt said wildlife agencies in other states routinely go through such reviews, but no review has been done in South Dakota for about two decades.

Barry Jensen, a commission member from White River, said businesses routinely analyze their strengths and weaknesses as well as the opportunities and threats they face, but he was unsure what the review of the Wildlife Division would include.

"It seems a little cloudy to me where we're going," Jensen said.

Johnson said the review's scope is purposely vague at this point because its focus will be set by issues the public identifies as important.

Glodt said the results of the review will be made public.

River

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clean boat event from mid-May through June.

The organizers acknowledged the events' growth presents a good problem to face.

"For the school festival, you usually have fewer students show up than you expect because of things like the kids are sick. But we had a 10 percent over-run. We have never had this in our four years of the event," said Paul Lepisto with the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA).

Immediately after this year's event, organizers spoke of switching from the current morning program into a day-long event with repeated morning and afternoon sessions. Under the current format, students are divided into groups and rotate to different stations about every 15 minutes.

However, organizers said Monday they were taking a different approach. They decided to stay with the three-hour morning program and create more presenters and topics.

"Do we want to go to a full day? No, because then we are doubling the work for everyone," Lepisto asked. "We don't want to ask that of our presenters, our volunteers and ourselves. But we need some kind of change. Right now, we have an average group size of 27 or 28 people."

Robb agreed, noting this year's students were stacked five and six deep at the sessions.

"Even if it's not 500 kids next year, things are too big right now. We need to break up into more groups," she said. "If we go with 20 presenters, we need seven more than we now are using."

However, the organizers quickly saw new possibilities. They are planning two fish tanks and two boat safety stations, along with a wider variety of presenters. They talked about everything from letting students handle small animals to offering more talks on climate change and law enforcement.

The school festival would likely need 50 volunteers, drawing on churches and community organizations, Lepisto said. The students' "passports" would also receive updates with the new stations.

Organizers are also looking to raise about \$2,000 to cover the expanded program and number of students.

The school festival should stay at Riverside Park and on the same weekend as the river clean-up, said Gene Bormann with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"It works nicely on the river. And it's a nice complement to the clean-up," he said.

The presenters were happy with their park locations, Lepisto said. "And as things started to wind down, the reaction from the teachers and students was more positive than ever before," he said.

Now, the added presentations will create a much stronger festival, Lepisto said. The larger event will expose students to more topics, while the smaller groups will allow more individual questions

and group dynamics, he said.

The event has quadrupled from its original 125 students in just four years, Lepisto said.

"When we were in Year One, we were hoping the festival would get up and running. Then we expected some sort of moderate or controlled growth," he said. "We're not saying it's out of control, but it has grown faster than what we had anticipated. I think it shows the schools in the area realize the educational opportunity, and that's what we hoped it would become."

The river clean-up also has become a larger success, said Ranger Dugan Smith with the National Park Service (NPS).

"We had good volunteer sign-up and a good number of boats," he said. "Patrolling ahead of time worked well (in finding heavy trash sites). At the end of the clean-up, we still didn't get some spots that we had flagged."

Lepisto acknowledged as much trash remained as was collected.

"We could roll out the same number of people tomorrow, and they would come in with another 3 tons. They couldn't finish it all this year because the didn't have the time and number of volunteers," he said. "There's a lot of stuff pushed up so hard by the high releases (from last year's record flooding) that a lot of items are going to be there next spring. Since the National Park Service has marked these locations, we can go right back in there and clean it up."

The Missouri River's dynamics have been permanently changed because of last year's high releases, Lepisto said. "You will feel the effects of the 2011 flood for years, if not decades," he said.

The third Missouri River event, the Clean Boat Event, will remain with multiple weekends, Lepisto said.

"We spread the message that much further," he said. "People know the need to 'clean, drain and dry' to keep invasive species from spreading."

Because of last year's flooding, invasive species from the Missouri River found their way into the James River, Lepisto said. However, invasive species such as the zebra mussel and Asian Carp have been kept from spreading above Gavins Point Dam, he said.

Some Missouri River reservoirs do contain invasive plant species, like purple loosestrife, Curly-Leaf Pondweed and the Eurasian Milfoil, he added.

As part of the expanded Missouri River school festival, more attention will focus on the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR), Lepisto said. It's a lesson that needs to be learned by adults as well as students, he said.

"The fact is that a national park is in our back yard. Most of the people who live next to (the MNRR) have no idea they are living within, some cases, throwing distance of a national park," he said.

"We are bringing that message to the students to raise their awareness. This is truly a national treasure in their back yard."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf



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OBITUARIES

Lois Sage

Funeral services for Lois Sage, age 88 of Bloomfield, Nebraska, will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield. Reverend Tim Koester will officiate, with burial in the Bloomfield City Cemetery.

Visitation will be Tuesday, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Brockhaus Funeral Home of Bloomfield is in charge of arrangements.

Lois died Saturday, July 7, 2012, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota.

To sign the guestbook, or extend online condolences, please visit www.brockhausfuneralhome.com.

Lois M. (Hansen) Sage, daughter of Christian & Caroline (Soll) Hansen, was born June 16, 1924, at Bloomfield, Nebraska. Lois attended Bloomfield High School.

After graduation, she taught at a rural school north of Bloomfield. On July 3, 1943, Lois was united in marriage to Duane Sage at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield. The couple was blessed with three children: Kathleen, James and Marcia. Lois and Duane raised their children on the family farm north of Bloomfield, before moving into Bloomfield in 1999. Lois was a homemaker while the children were growing up and helped Duane on the farm. Later she worked at J.C. Penney in Yankton, and then worked at Region IV in Bloomfield before retiring.

Lois was a life-long member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield. She was also a member of the St. Mark's WELCA. Lois and Duane enjoyed many winters in Texas where they made many friends.

Lois resided at Majestic Bluffs Assisted Living in Yankton, South Dakota the last six months of her life. She enjoyed her apartment and visiting with friends before her health declined. Lois died at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota on July 7, 2012, at the age of 88.

Lois is survived by her children, Kathleen (Larry) Ryken of Yankton, South Dakota; James (Marilyn) Sage of Crofton, Nebraska; and Marcia (Detlef) Gartzke of Lincoln, Nebraska; grandchildren, Michelle (Lucky) Boyd of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Dean (Jamie) Ryken of Yankton, South Dakota, Edward (Tina) Sage of Crofton, Nebraska, Dustin (financed Amberlee Chambers) Sage of Wisner, Nebraska, Lanna Acuff of Crofton, Nebraska, Amanda (Karl) Barfuss of Norfolk, Nebraska, Rachel (James) Krier of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Steve Sage of Crofton, Nebraska, Zachary (Laura) Gartzke of San Jose, California, and Ian (fiancé Ashley Hackney) Gartzke of Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 great-grandchildren; sister, Leila (Bill) Lamprecht of Bloomfield, Nebraska; and many nieces and nephews.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Duane Sage; sisters, Lucille Hansen and Luella Wood; and brothers, Eugene Hansen and Wayne Hansen.

Per family request, memorials may be directed to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 208, Bloomfield, Nebraska, or Christian Worship Hour, Box 002, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57402.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 10, 2012

Ervin Ptak

MENNO — Ervin Ptak, 73, of Menno died Sunday, July 8, 2012, at Avera Daugherty Hospice Cottage in Sioux Falls.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, with Msgr. Carlton Hermann and Fr. Dan Morris officiating. A rosary will be prayed at 10 a.m. on Thursday morning prior to the service. Burial will be in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, Tabor.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Alzheimer's Support Group Meets Tonight

The Yankton Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 10, at Pizza Ranch for general discussion and support.

In August, the group will meet at 5 p.m. Aug. 14 at The Center,

900 Whiting Drive. Attorney Sheila Woodward will be the featured speaker.

For more information, contact Char Herman at 402-880-9081 or Chris Callaghan at 605-668-8961.

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