

Gala

From Page 1

ongoing agricultural changes to survive for the next 125 years.

"We've all had trying times," he said. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose ... But we persevere. In agriculture, that's what you do - you survive and reset."

After the conclusion of Lentsch's speech, Brian Bye, chairman of the Chamber's Agri-Business Committee, announced the recipients of two of its awards.

Jeff and Jolene Steffen of rural Crofton were recognized as this year's Farm Family of the Year.

Since originating in 2008, the Agri-Business Committee awards annual Promoting Agricultural Youth (P.A.Y.) Scholarships to area high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education in an agricultural related field.

Eight students were recognized for receiving a \$3,000 P.A.Y. Scholarship at Tuesday's Ag Gala. They were: Paul Fanta, Yankton; Heather Hauger, Irene-Wakonda; Stephanie Hauger, Irene-Wakonda; Dillon Klug, Hartington Cedar Catholic; Caleb Preszler, Menno; Robert J. Reifenrath, Hartington Cedar Catholic; Cole Steffen, Crofton; Brandon VanOsdel, Gayville-Volin.

Other highlights from the evening included an introduction and welcome by Master of Ceremonies, Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and Ag Gala attendees visiting with fellow farmers and ranchers within the area community while eating a prime rib dinner catered by Rollin' Smoke BBQ.

Follow @alyssasobotka on Twitter.

Accident

From Page 1

Alcohol does not appear to be a contributing factor in the accident, according to the news release.

Those responding to the accident included the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nebraska State Patrol, Cedar County Sheriff's Office, Cedar County Emergency Management, Yankton County Emergency Management, Yankton County Search and Rescue, Yankton County EMS and Yankton Fire Department.

Follow the Press & Dakotan online, in social media and in the print edition for news on more developments.

Follow @RDockendorf on Twitter.

Crayfish

From Page 1

done to fully control it."

This is what makes the dam so essential for the river, Jonas Grundman of the USACE explained.

"It's critical for protection of the upstream water, because it prevents the progression of AIS from moving up river," he said.

Rusty crayfish live in a few lakes in Nebraska, but have never been previously confirmed in South Dakota.

"This situation was a direct result of somebody not knowing the river regulations," said Smith. "People need to educate themselves on those regulations and know what they're looking for. We can go a long way in preventing AIS in South Dakota and Nebraska waters."

"The most important thing is for the public to educate themselves on bait restrictions and make sure they're not violating any policies they're not aware of," Williamson said. "If somebody has found something that they're questioning, they're better off asking a park ranger or a natural resource specialist."

The USACE uses various forms of social media to get their message across, and hopes the public is paying attention.

"The message that we reinforce is that we are in cooperation with the public," said Grundman. "Everybody's got to be on board for it to work."

The investigation on the angler is currently pending.

For more information on AIS and the rules and regulations of the South Dakota GFP, visit www.sdleastwanted.com.

Follow @ReillyBiel on Twitter.

Official: Prison Chief, 11 Others Put On Leave After Escape

BY MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — The superintendent at the prison where two killers broke out has been placed on leave along with his security chief and 10 other staff members amid an internal investigation into how the inmates pulled it off, a state official said Tuesday.

The 12-member group is in addition to the guard and the prison tailor shop instructor who have been arrested on charges they helped the escapees.

Officials would not say what connection, if any, the 12 had to the June 6 escape from the maximum-security prison or the failure to prevent it.

Meanwhile, the surviving convict, David Sweat, claimed from his hospital bed that he used no power tools to cut his way out, contrary to what authorities have said.

Sweat was wounded and captured Sunday near the Canadian border after three weeks on the run. His accomplice, Richard Matt, was shot to death last week.

Steven Racette, the \$132,000-a-year superintendent of the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, was removed along with Stephen Brown, deputy superintendent in charge of security, according to a state official who was briefed on the matter but wasn't authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The 12 also include guards.

The Corrections Department said only that three executives and nine other staff members were placed on paid leave as part of a departmental review of the escape. It did not identify them. The department said it is bringing in new leadership.

Cherie Racette, the superintendent's wife, told the Adirondack

Daily Enterprise he was given the option of taking a demotion or retiring and chose retirement. She said he and two deputies are being made scapegoats by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Brown did not immediately return a call for comment.

Sweat's condition was upgraded from serious to fair at the Albany hospital where he was taken after being shot twice by a state trooper.

Matt and Sweat cut holes in their cells and a steam pipe and made their way to a manhole outside in a breakout that embarrassed the Corrections Department, exposed a host of possible security lapses and set off a manhunt involving more than 1,000 law enforcement officers.

District Attorney Andrew Wylie said Sweat told investigators that he started cutting through steel cellblock walls in January with only a hacksaw blade and used no power tools. Authorities had previously

said the two men used power tools borrowed from contractors' toolboxes at night.

Prosecutors have said tailor shop instructor Joyce Mitchell got close to the men, supplied them with hacksaw blades and other tools, and agreed to be their getaway driver but backed out at the last moment. She has pleaded not guilty.

Guard Gene Palmer was also arrested, telling investigators he gave the convicts such things as tools, art supplies and access to a catwalk electrical box in exchange for paintings by Matt. But he said he never knew of their escape plans.

Sweat, 35, had been serving life without parole in the killing of a sheriff's deputy. Matt, 49, was doing 25 years to life for the kidnapping and hacksaw dismemberment of his former boss.

First Lady Hosts Girl Scout Campout On White House Lawn

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some lucky Girl Scouts got the ultimate camping experience Tuesday: an overnight in tents pitched on the White House South Lawn.

It was the first time that one of the country's most well-known expanses of manicured grass was turned into a campground, an excited Michelle Obama said as she greeted the 50 Girl Scouts who snagged coveted invitations to the outdoor sleepover.

"This is something you can tell your kids and your grandkids," said Mrs. Obama, who appeared giddy with excitement as she pointed to the celebrated white building looming above rows of carefully arranged blue and white tents. "Do you understand the impact, the importance of this moment today? It's exciting."

As honorary national president of the Girl Scouts, the first lady welcomed the fourth-graders for the evening, which was arranged as part of her Let's Move initiative against childhood obesity. One component of the program encourages

kids and their families to take advantage of the outdoors.

The girls, who represent Girl Scout councils in Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, the District of Columbia and Oklahoma, spent the afternoon climbing a rock wall, tying knots, pitching tents and participating in orienteering exercises to earn a new outdoor badge.

After dark, the girls sang songs and gazed up at the stars under instruction from NASA staff and scientists, including astronaut Cady Coleman, before calling it a night and settling into sleeping bags inside their two-person tents. About 20 chaperones were also spending the night outside.

The White House declined to say whether the first lady would trade her second-floor bedroom for a tent, too.

At one point, the scouts squealed upon realizing that President Barack Obama was approaching their singing circle, accompanied by the first lady.

"What are you guys doing in my yard?" he said, before taking a seat on a hay bale. "When did you guys show up here?"

Obama said his tents weren't as nice and his chairs weren't as cool when he went camping as

a boy. He clapped and swayed to music from a guitar player as the girls sang, seated in a circle around lanterns that took the place of what ordinarily would be a roaring campfire.

The girls swarmed him when, asked for a hug, he suggested a group hug instead.

"You guys aren't going to be making a racket, are you?" he said, before leaving and returning for a quick look at Saturn through a NASA telescope.

Mrs. Obama, who was not a Girl Scout, said earlier that she didn't know if she could "officially earn a badge but I want to try."

"I don't know anything. I don't know how to tie a knot. I don't know how to pitch a tent," she said, before drawing a proverbial line against one of their activities. "I'm definitely not climbing that wall."

She did, however, master the art of tying the overhand knot and the square knot.

The campout was co-sponsored by the Interior Department and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

The White House is a national park.



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