



Sunny And Warm

9 a.m. **72** 3 p.m. **84** | DETAILS: Page 2

MONDAY ■ July 20, 2015



VERMILLION AND
TABOR WIN WAY TO
STATE 'B' LEGION
TOURNAMENT

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75¢



COURTESY PHOTO
Jack Williams.

Prisoner Missing From Min. Unit

From P&D Staff Reports

A Yankton minimum unit state prison inmate has been placed on escape status after he didn't return from a work shift Sunday morning.

Inmate Jack Williams failed to return to the unit this morning following his work release shift at a local business.

Williams is a 35-year-old white male, 5-feet-11-inches tall and weighs approximately 240 pounds. He has blonde hair and blue eyes. He is currently serving a 10-year sentence (with seven years suspended) for forgery, a five-year sentence (with two years suspended) for possession of a forged instrument and a concurrent 10-year sentence (with seven years suspended) for unauthorized ingestion of a controlled substance. All of the sentences are from Union County. Williams began serving the sentences in January 2014.

Anyone who sees Williams or knows of his whereabouts should contact law enforcement immediately.

* * *

Neb. Woman Dies After Falling Into Missouri River

From P&D And AP Reports

RUNNING WATER — A Nebraska woman died Saturday after falling into the Missouri River near Running Water.

Authorities say 23-year-old Veronica Jo Keeble of Niobrara, Nebraska, fell into the water while she and four others were down near the river by Standing Bear Memorial Bridge.

KELO-TV reported at least two people jumped into the river to try and save her.

Keeble died at the scene. Two others were flown to a Sioux Falls hospital, one of them with serious injuries.

Authorities believe alcohol was a factor, but have ruled the situation an accident.

Departments assisting in the rescue included the Bon Homme County Sheriff's Office; the Knox County Sheriff's Office; the Santee Sioux Tribe Police; Yankton Search and Rescue; South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; and Springfield police and emergency crews.

Staying The Course?

Corrections Official: No Need To Change Screening Tactics

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A South Dakota inmate walked away from a minimum-security unit in Sioux Falls last week and allegedly went on to commit a string of crimes across Minnesota, but state corrections officials say they still believe their system of classifying inmates is working.

Clint Eldeen, a 46-year-old inmate serving 20

years for writing bad checks, left the campus of the State Penitentiary on July 10 and allegedly committed a string of crimes in both states before being arrested in a Minneapolis suburb on Wednesday.

Denny Kaemingk, the secretary for the Department of Corrections, said that officials will have to review Eldeen's case but said the vast majority of inmates in minimum-security units stay put and don't leave and commit crimes.

In the fiscal year that ended in June, 11 of

the more than 740 minimum-security inmates left the prison grounds and didn't return.

"We really believe that our assessments and classification policy are very sound," he said.

The number of inmates who have left minimum-security units in South Dakota over the past decade has increased slightly but steadily, according to data provided by the Department

INMATE | PAGE 11

A Pure Success



REILLY BIEL/P&D

Attendants wait to greet attendees arriving for the Yankton Area Arts' second annual Meridian En Blanc, held Saturday evening at the Meridian Bridge.

YAA's Second Annual Meridian En Blanc Held



REILLY BIEL/P&D

Vermillion artist Sharon Gray paints a watercolor picture of the Missouri River during the second annual Meridian En Blanc.

BY REILLY BIEL
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The jazzy music of the band, accompanied by the buzzing of voices, offered a different look at the Meridian Bridge Saturday evening as guests mingled on the bridge admiring the beauty of the lake and the creativity of the artists on hand.

This was the second year of Meridian En Blanc, a formal dinner sponsored by Yankton Area Arts (YAA) where people dressed in white and attended to socialize view the art being created by local artists. A formal dinner was served at 7 p.m. with dancing to music by Bridge City Big Band from 8-10 p.m.

Tickets for the event were sold as part of a fundraiser for the YAA.

"Events like this were first started in Paris," said S. Cynthia Binder of Yankton, who was on hand Saturday night. "There you had to bring

your own stuff, and thousands participated."

"I think ours is the most elegant because everything is set up for us," Judi O'Connell of Yankton added.

The artists who attended spent a majority of the evening working on their various art pieces.

"All I have to do is stand here and be entertaining," said Jessi Koch of Yankton, who teaches art classes for YAA.

Koch was working on a painting of a Native American man set against a blue backdrop.

"We (the artists) don't get specifications on what to paint or draw. It's up to us," Koch said. "This gives me a chance to practice my painting skills."

Another artist, Sharon Gray of Vermillion, was painting a watercolor portrait of the river.

"I usually don't paint outdoors. This is a fun

MERIDIAN | PAGE 2

Up To The Task

MMC's Kocer Named To National Task Force

BY REILLY BIEL
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Helping students with financial aid has been a long time love of Ken Kocer's, and now he can take it to a national level.

Kocer, Mount Marty College's (MMC) director of financial assistance for the last 23 years, has been selected to join a national task force with the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) for the 2015-2016 year. The task force will put together a conference for financial aid administrators across the country, held every July in Washington, D.C.

"The task force is in charge of providing quality training programming at the conference," Kocer explained. "This is a premier conference for financial aid administrators from all over the nation."

At MMC, Kocer is in charge of making sure aid is given to the right individuals and helping students through the financial aid process. He will continue with his duties while also participating in setting up next year's NAFSAA conference.

With approximately 3,000 people attending every year, making sure the conference is done

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REILLY BIEL/P&D

Ken Kocer, director of financial assistance for Mount Marty College, has been selected to serve on NASFAA's task force.

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TOMORROW: Yankton, Are You Ready To 'Rumble'?

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

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OF 15TH STREET