

Clay County Officials: Don't Remove Barricades

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

VERMILLION — Hoping not to see tragedy repeat itself, Clay County Sheriff Andy Howe is advising motorists not to take down barricades and drive on flooded roads.

"We had an incident (this week) where we had one road closed in Clay County," he said. "The barricade just went up (Thursday), and it was knocked down overnight."

The recent incident brought back chilling memories for the sheriff. The site of the moved barrier — University Road, about 10 miles north of Vermillion at 309th Street — was also the scene of a tragic death about five years ago, he said.

"This was the exact location a few years ago where a person drove around the barri-

cade, was swept into the river, and drowned," he said.

During that incident, witnesses saw the driver go around the barricades, become washed off the road and get out of his vehicle, Howe said.

The man became swept up in the flood water and was washed into the Vermillion River, flowing out of its banks. He was then carried miles downstream to the Missouri River.

"It was a terrible tragedy that I don't want to see repeated," Howe said.

Moving a traffic barrier is a Class 1 misdemeanor, Howe said. Driving around a barricade is also a misdemeanor, he added.

Moving a barrier affects not only the person who does it but all the other motorists who unknowingly drive through the flood

waters, Howe said. Even trucks have been swept off the road, he said.

"I'm not sure if people realize how dangerous it is to drive a car through a few inches of moving water and how it can wash the car off the road," he said.

The sheriff foresees increased regional flooding in the coming days. Highway 19 near Wakonda often floods, with the Vermillion River expected to overflow its banks and cover that particular road, he said.

Howe urged motorists to obey the barricades and not take chances with running flood water. He noted the tragic results such as the man who drowned in the University Road incident about five years ago.

"We already lost one person," the sheriff said. "We don't want to lose any more."

MIDDLE ALL-STATE BAND



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Six YMS band students were selected to participate in the 11th Annual South Dakota Music Educators Association Middle School All-State Band. Students auditioned to be part of this event by submitting a recorded audition. This year, 392 students auditioned from 74 schools across the state. 180 students were selected based on their audition. Middle School All-State Band was held March 5-6th at T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre, SD. Congratulations to (pictured L to R): Sophie Drotzmann, Garrett Adam, Layne Droppers, Joseph Kelly, Matt Watt and Brianna Kelly.

Case Closed On 2008 Wakonda Toy Theft

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

WAKONDA — When it came to solving a recent theft, Clay County authorities weren't toying around.

An Illinois man is in custody, helping to close the case on an October 2008 theft from the Wakonda Legion Hall. The theft involved antique toys and memorabilia worth tens of thousands of dollars.

"At the time of the original estimate, they were valued at \$50,000 to \$60,000," said Clay County Sheriff Andy Howe.

Michael Delehanty, 32, faced multiple burglary charges in Illinois, Howe said. As part of a plea agreement, Delehanty didn't face charges in South Dakota if he provided details leading to the recovery of the items.

The location of the toys ends a 17-month case.

The collectibles were stolen overnight during a two-day auction in Wakonda. The Legion Hall showed no signs of forced entry, and the exact nature of the theft

remains unknown.

Ken Girard of Wakonda, the auctioneer at the sale, provided a major break in the case last year, Howe said.

"Ken found the items on eBay and was able to identify them," the sheriff said. "A network of people know these items, and Ken was able to ID them down to the water stain on the box. That led to our investigation (of Delehanty)."

Clay County Deputy Kevin Noble spearheaded the local investigation. During the course of his work, Noble realized he had interviewed Delehanty before he became a suspect.

The Illinois man later returned to Wakonda for a second sale but was apparently scared away, Howe said.

Once the Wakonda items were traced to Delehanty, Nobles worked with Illinois authorities and later interviewed the suspect, Howe said.

Under the plea agreement, Delehanty assisted in the recovery of the Wakonda items, Howe said. Some items were recovered

from Delehanty's premises, while other items were recovered from people who had purchased the antiques on eBay.

"The owner of the property was paid by the insurance company, and all the items were given back to the insurance company," Howe said.

Delehanty is currently awaiting sentencing on his Illinois charges, Howe said. "We would like to have prosecuted him here (in South Dakota), but it was a matter of logistics," the sheriff said.

Howe said he was pleased with the ability to close the case.

"I am very proud of my guys that worked on this case. It took a lot of work," he said. "Kevin Noble worked many hours on this case. Kevin was quite the bulldog on the case."

The Clay County sheriff's office not only got their man but also the goods, Howe said.

"Ken Girard provided a break in the case with a place to start," the sheriff said. "There was a lot of work, and I'm pleased it got all taken care of."

The Center Enters 'March For Meals' Campaign

The Center has announced that it will be participating in the national 2010 March For Meals campaign.

The Center's March For Meals event will include a 5K Run/Walk on March 20. Pizza Ranch Fundraiser at 5-8 p.m. March 22. Mayor Dan Specht to help with delivery of meals on March 24 and certain restaurants will donate 10 percent of their proceeds between 5-7 p.m. March 25.

March For Meals is a national campaign, initiated and sponsored by Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA), to raise awareness of senior hunger and to encourage action on the part of the local community.

owners that may be disturbing paint in pre-1978 homes and child-occupied facilities about what is expected of them; and enforcement of the rules. Violators could be fined up to \$37,500 per event per day. "On April 23, I would not say we're planning to step out and start issuing citations," Reichmuth said. "As with any new program, the EPA is going to focus on education and compliance assistance. The enforcement actions come further down

Humane Society Announces 2010 Event Schedule

Heartland Humane Society announces their major events schedule for 2010. There are three major fundraising events for the organization this year:

- Mutt March, Cotton Park in Vermillion, March 27;
- Animal Fair, Riverside Park in Yankton, May 15;
- Fur Ball, Vermillion, Oct. 9.

For more information as it becomes available, Heartland Humane Society will post updates on their Web site at www.heartlandhumane.org. Just click on the "Important Events" link.

"Our three major events will

constitute the largest fundraisers that we do this year," said Tasha Anderson, executive director at Heartland Humane Society. "We may also have smaller events throughout the year, but since these are our largest, we want to give the community ample time to mark their calendars and plan to attend. There will be fun for all!"

If you have questions about or would like additional information on any of Heartland Humane Society's events, contact Anderson at 605-664-4244 or e-mail hhs@midconet.com for complete details.

PAINT

From Page 1A

Contractors will assume new costs because of the new rule, and they say those expenses will have to be passed on to consumers.

Renovation firms — whether they are general contractors, plumbers, electricians, painters, etc., that disturb paint in the targeted structures — will have to pay \$300 to the EPA to become certified. Additionally, they will have to pay approximately \$200 for an employee to undergo an eight-hour course to become a certified renovator. Contractors also expect that they will have to purchase new equipment to meet the requirements.

The Lewis and Clark Home Builders Association will sponsor Yankton's first lead paint certification training course Monday, with more to follow March 29-30. Monday's course has only three openings left, according to Home Builders Association Executive Officer Norene Gibson.

"We're trying to help out the contractors," she said, noting many of them are not happy about the uncertainty surrounding the new regulations. "I know the contractors want to comply with safety issues. They take it seriously and look out for the people that they work for."

Some states have forged ahead with the new rules faster than others, said Michelle Reichmuth, the Region 8 lead coordinator for the EPA. In those places, there was an initial shock amongst contractors, but they came to accept it and eventually appreciated the fact they could offer that new assurance of quality workmanship to their customers.

"We've heard from contractors saying, 'Why now? The economic times on our industry are so difficult. Why this perfect storm?'" Reichmuth said. "I guess we just have to say, 'Is it ever a good time for lead poisoning?'"

"If you look in the small bubble of a renovation, the EPA acknowledges there will be increased costs to a firm when they become certified and get a certified renovator on board," she continued. "There are also going to be increased costs purchasing materials, and it may take more time to do a job. But if you look at the big picture, the cost of working lead-safe pales in comparison to the costs of lead poisoning. It's an insidious neuro-toxin that can affect the brain, the central nervous system and the kidneys. It can create behavioral problems and criminality."

Any firm that disturbs paint in homes, child care facilities and schools built before 1978 will have to be certified.

However, a firm does not have to employ a certified renovator to get certified. And, on a project with several certified contractors, only one certified renovator needs to be on site at crucial points or be available by phone at other times.

The regulation will prevent new hazards from being created, Reichmuth said.

"A home may have lead-based paint on the wall, and it may be a non-hazardous situation because the paint is in good shape," she stated. "But when a homeowner goes to upgrade their home or repair it and, in the process, disturbs the paint, then lead-containing dust or paint chips can be spread throughout the home."

Employees not working in a lead-safe environment can also take those lead-containing dust particles home and expose their loved ones to the hazard.

Local contractors said they are looking forward to the training as a way to clear up the many questions they have about the rules. They are also worried about the costs associated with them.

"We're not going to have a lot of the answers until we get into the training," said Tim Frohreich of Frohreich Construction and also a board member of the Lewis and Clark Home Builders Association. "Quite frankly, the word about these new regula-

tions hasn't gotten out to the smaller communities. A lot of people are not aware of it. Had I not been a member of the Home Builders Association, I probably still would not have heard about it."

Curt Wieman, owner of Only Homes and the past president of the South Dakota Home Builders Association, added, "There is a substantial amount of confusion. I can't blame the EPA totally. This has been in the millwork for quite some time. It's just here in the last couple months they got pretty serious about it and got everyone's attention."

"I can't say there's no value," he said. "There was good intent, I'm sure. Lead poisoning in young kids, especially, is something the medical profession has recognized. Sometimes when you get a government entity involved in it, you can go a little overboard in what you're trying to accomplish. We're not saying that's what's going on, because I think we need to get into it and find out what exactly they're expecting. There may be some good in it. We're not putting them down for that."

Reichmuth said the EPA is taking a three-prong approach to implementing the rules: educating the consumer about the dangers of lead paint and the need to hire a certified renovator to work on their property; educating the renovators or property

owners that may be disturbing paint in pre-1978 homes and child-occupied facilities about what is expected of them; and enforcement of the rules. Violators could be fined up to \$37,500 per event per day.

"On April 23, I would not say we're planning to step out and start issuing citations," Reichmuth said. "As with any new program, the EPA is going to focus on education and compliance assistance. The enforcement actions come further down

the road. The EPA looks at the whole picture. If a firm has made a good-faith effort to send in their application ... and act in compliance, that will be taken into account."

Wieman said contractors want to protect the public's health, but they also don't want to price consumers out of renovating their homes.

"We're concerned about putting out a good product. We take a lot of pride in what we do," he said. "When these things come

up, we find a way to deal with them. We also try to find the most economical way to accomplish the task at hand."

Questions about the new regulations, or about lead paint in general, may be answered at 1(800) 424-LEAD [5323]. Answers are also available at www.epa.gov/lead.

Questions about the Lewis and Clark Home Builders Association lead paint certification classes can be directed to (605) 661-7215.

New Patients Welcome!
Family Healthcare for Newborn thru Adult
Call (605) 260-2100
LEWIS & CLARK
FAMILY
MEDICINE, P.C.
1101 Broadway,
Morgen Square
Yankton, SD

Get a new kitchen, Get **Cash Back.**
Top-quality Showplace Cabinetry, with manufacturer direct cash rebates. You better get started - your new kitchen will last for years, but this offer won't!
the Kitchen Place
Yankton Showroom
309 W. 11th St., Yankton, SD 57078
605-668-2138 • 1-800-249-3837
www.thekitchenplace.com

Catch the Madness
CONTEST
March Madness is a moniker for the phenomenon that grips the national sports psyche from the second week of March through the first week of April! This tournament determines the national champions of college basketball!

ENTER THE CONTEST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
1st prize: \$100
2nd prize: \$60
3rd prize: \$40

How to play: No purchase necessary to participate. Pick up a bracket form from one of our participating businesses or download from online at www.yankton.net and mail it to us! Fill it completely out with who you think will win all the way through the tournament. You'll receive points per game depending on the round per win picked correctly. Each first round win will receive 1 point. 2nd round wins will receive 2 points. 3rd round wins will receive 4 points. 4th round wins will receive 8 points. 5th round wins will receive 16 points. 6th round wins will receive 32 points. There will also be a tie breaker question - person to closest pick the final score would win the tie breaker. Employees and family members of Yankton Media, Inc. are not eligible to participate. Must be 18 years of age to enter.

Pick up and drop off an entry form from March 15th - 17th at one of the following businesses: (NO entries will be accepted after March 17th, 2010)

Blue Devil Bar & Grill, 417 St. James Ave., Wynot, NE
Bonanza, 2409 Broadway Ave., Yankton
Cox Auto Supply, 1007 Broadway, Yankton
Fleegs Riverside Road House, East Old Hwy 50, Yankton
Fryn' Pan, 502 W. 21st St., Yankton
King Buffet and Mongolian Grill, 3013 N. Broadway Ste. 5, Yankton
Knology, 2810 Fox Run Parkway, Yankton
The Main Hideout, 530 Main St., Scotland
Morgen Square, 1101 Broadway, Yankton

JB Auto Body, 1904 E. Hwy. 50, Yankton
Joe's Substation, 148 Substation Dr., Lesterville
Mac's Pub, 300 Lincoln Ave., Volin
Patriot Express, 2217 Broadway Ave., Yankton
Pump N Pak, 629 Stanford St., Vermillion
Roadrunner, 303 W. 23rd, Yankton
The Varsity Pub, 113 E. Main, Vermillion
Waterfront Gourmet Grill, 201 Capitol St., Yankton
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut Street, Yankton
Yankton Motor Company, 3400 E. Hwy 50, Yankton

or download it from www.yankton.net and mail it to:
Catch the Madness Contest,
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, PO Box 56, Yankton, SD 57078

PICK UP A BRACKET from March 15th - 17th, 2010
DEADLINE TO ENTER: March 17th, 2010
No entries will be accepted after March 17th, 2010

YANKTON DAILY
Press & Dakotan
CATCH ALL THE MADNESS
No purchase necessary. Employees and their family members of Yankton Media, Inc. are not eligible to participate.