

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

The Oldest Newspaper of the Dakotas

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REGION DIGEST

Mission Hill Man Killed In Accident

From P&D Staff Reports

A Mission Hill man died early Friday morning in a one-vehicle crash, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Michael Francis Girard, 26, was killed on 308th Street about three miles north of Gayville when the 1986 Ford Escort he was driving left the road and rolled. The incident was reported at 6:15 a.m., but authorities are not sure of the exact time it occurred.

Girard wasn't wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the vehicle during the crash.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol investigated the accident, along with the Yankton County Sheriff's Office.

Candidates Enter State, County Races

From P&D Staff Reports

Several local candidates have entered races for state and county seats.

Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, the House Minority Leader, has joined Republican Rep. Nick Moser in seeking re-election to one of Yankton County's two open House seats.

Former state legislator Garry Moore has filed as an independent to run for one of Yankton County's three open commission seats. Republicans Tom Fiedler, Bruce Jensen and James Van Osdal are also in the running, as is Democrat Allen Sinclair.

Incumbent Yankton County Auditor Paula Jones, a Democrat, has also filed her petition to seek another four-year term.

Golf Advisory Board To Meet March 29

The City of Yankton Golf Advisory Board will meet at noon on Monday, March 29, at the Fox Run Golf Course. This meeting is open to the public.

'To Raise Or Not To Raise' On March 30

The program "Heirloom Vegetables: To Raise or Not to Raise?" will be presented by Dan Flyger, a 40-year gardener, at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, at the Avera Sacred Heart Pavilion in Yankton.

Missouri Valley Master Gardeners will host this third annual spring presentation for gardeners. Door prizes will be provided from area gardening businesses. Free will donation will help master gardeners defray event costs. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Cindy Nelsen at 605-661-7418.

Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

OBITUARIES

Ervin Vellek

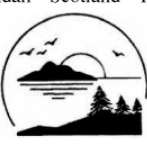
sent at www.goglinfh.com.

A memorial service for Ervin Vellek, 82, of Tyndall will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 30 at St. John Lutheran Church in Tyndall with Rev. Dean Schroeder officiating. Inurnment will follow in the Czech National Cemetery, Tyndall.

Ervin passed away on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Online condolences may be

Goglin Funeral Home
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

Emil Hlavac

tur service at 7:30 PM.

Emil Hlavac, age 80, of Scotland, SD, died Friday, March 26, 2010 at Scotland Good Samaritan Center, Scotland. Funeral services will be 10:00 AM, Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, SD with Rev. Mark Lichter and Rev. Matthew Vazhappilly concelebrating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery, Yankton, with military honors by Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post 791, Yankton and Joseph Verm American Legion Post 155, Scotland. Visitation will be 5 to 8 PM, Monday, March 29, 2010 at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a scrip-

Donald Van De Rostyne
Donald J. "Donnie" Van De Rostyne, age 51, of Yankton, died Friday, March 26, 2010 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton. Arrangements are pending under the direction and care of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

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Car Blaze Leaves Firefighters Confused

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Firefighters were baffled Thursday night when they were called to a car fire but found no such thing — at least not at first.

According to Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles, a woman had entered the Upper Deck near the intersection of Third Street and Broadway Avenue around 9 p.m. and claimed her car was on fire. Subsequently, the fire department was called.

However, when firefighters arrived, the woman was nowhere to be found and there was no evidence of a fire.

"We couldn't find anything," Nickles said. "We checked the parking lots and found nothing."

Firefighters assumed they had received a false report and prepared to leave. However, they got a last-minute surprise.

"One of the firefighters had parked next to a car (on the south side of Third Street near Broadway Avenue)," Nickles said. "He looked over from his pickup

and said, 'There it is!' All of a sudden, the front seat just burst into flames."

Windows were blown out of the vehicle, and it was quickly engulfed in flames.

"The look on our faces had to be priceless," Nickles said. "We had checked the whole area and didn't see anything. The instant it went, we saw it. We think that whatever was smoldering reached its ignition temperature and away it went."

Shari Adair, 47, Yankton, was later arrested in connection with

the incident for fleeing the scene.

Nickles said the vehicle was a total loss because of the interior damage. It has not been determined what caused the fire.

"The whole incident left firefighters scratching their heads, according to Nickles. Fortunately, no one was hurt during the blaze, and firefighters have been able to find some humor in it."

"We're giving (the firefighter who spotted the fire) a lot of guff right now, because he parked next to it and didn't see it," Nickles said.

YHS Student Council Helps Homeless Shelter

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE

On Wednesday, March 31, the Yankton High School Student Council will be sleeping outside to raise awareness for the Homeless Shelter. The event runs from 6 p.m. Wednesday to 8 a.m. Thursday.

Not only is the Student Council sleeping outside for the night, but they are opening up the offer to the whole student body. Any student that can come up with \$25 can join in on the fun. Every student council member will be sleeping at Memorial Park the entire night. We are calling this the Box Project. Every student has to come up with a shelter and a \$25 pledge from a local business or adult. All of the pro-

ceeds that are collected will be donated to the Homeless Shelter.

While the students are sleeping outside they hope that community members will stop by and donate non-perishable items. Some of these items would include hamburger helper, cereal, macaroni, granola bars, pop tarts and soup. The Student Council will also be collecting canned fruit and vegetables such as peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, pineapple, fruit cocktail, peas, corn, green beans, and pork and beans.

Since there is no school on Thursday, April 1 the Student Council decided that this day would be perfect. There will be at least two parents present to chaperone at all times. While every Student Council member is involved with this project, the Student Council Vice-President,

Jordan Koch, is the chairperson for the Box Project. "I came up with the idea for this project because I knew that the Homeless Shelter is in need of some extra help. I wanted to do a new project that the Student Council has never tried before and that would involve the student body and the community. I really hope that the community will become involved and is willing to help out and drop off non-perishable items. No matter how successful this project will be every penny or can of food will do great wonders for the Homeless Shelter. I hope to see you there!"

If you would like to help by sponsoring a student or make a donation please by calling the Yankton High School at 665-2071 by Wednesday, March 31. Every little bit is appreciated.

Search For Missing Vermillion Woman Still Continues

BY DAVID LIAS

Vermillion Plain Talk

VERMILLION — The search continues for Barbara Zerk, a Vermillion woman who has been missing for three weeks.

On Friday, officials from the South Dakota Games, Fish & Parks Department joined by personnel from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, took sonar readings in the Missouri River near the Newcastle-Vermillion Bridge in case Zerk may have drowned in the river.

So far, all efforts to locate her have been unsuccessful.

"Game, Fish & Parks has what is called a side-scan sonar, which basically gives an image of objects that are on the bottom of the river," Clay County Sheriff Andy Howe Friday afternoon.

Two boats began the search shortly before 10 a.m. They wrapped up the day's activities at 2 p.m., with the equipment failing to find any signs of a body in the river.

The day's efforts were hampered by strong winds and choppy water.

Howe said there are no immediate plans to resume searching the river using the sonar equipment.

"But we have been out there regularly. Ever since the river opened up, we've had boats out," he said. "We will continue to put boats out there, but we don't have anything scheduled right now."

A report was received Saturday morning, March 6, of an abandoned vehicle on Highway 19 south of Vermillion at the Missouri River. The vehicle is registered to Zerk, 52, of Vermillion. She was formerly a resident of Newcastle, Neb.

As of Monday morning, March 8, Zerk had not reported for work at Masterworks in Vermillion or at The University of South Dakota where she is employed as a custodian.

Local law enforcement began an immediate search for her, and



Zerk

the capabilities to conduct cold water diving and searches using bloodhounds.

Three dogs were used to search the area along the highway and the Missouri River in the area where the car was found as well as out on the ice covering the Missouri River. Conditions were too treacherous to permit a diver to go under water in the strong current and freezing temperatures at that time.

The ground search efforts at the scene at that time again produced no indication that Zerk is in that area.

Howe is hoping for better conditions on the river for the next scheduled search.

Information about the missing woman has been entered into the NCIC computer system nationwide and an Endangered Person Advisory was issued for her by the state of South Dakota. A copy of the missing person poster is available at the state of South Dakota homepage at www.sd.gov and at the Clay County Sheriff's home page at www.claysheriff.org.

Anyone with information regarding Zerk's whereabouts or her vehicle parked near the Vermillion/Newcastle Bridge on Highway 19 is encouraged to contact the Clay County Sheriff at (605) 677-7100.

ST. JUDE NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us; St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us; St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day, your prayers will be answered by the 8th day. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Jesus & St. Jude. L.A.M.B.

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Yankton County Parents As Teachers Offers Parenting Class

Yankton County Parents as Teachers is offering the Bright Start Parenting Class for parents or guardians of children from birth to 3 years of age.

The class will be held in a six-week series on Monday evenings beginning April 5 and running from 6-8 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 403 Broadway, Yankton.

The class will seek to explain how to match a parent's expectations with the child's developmental stage and temperament. The class

will also examine early child development, age appropriate activities, discipline, stress management and the appropriate parental response to the children.

Pre-registration is required for the class, as space is limited.

Any questions regarding this class should be directed to Lisa Koerselman, the director/parent educator of Yankton County Parents as Teachers. She can be reached at (605) 661-4833, or yanktonpat@gmail.com.

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