

## “Safe Boating Week” In Yankton May 22-28

Recently, Mayor Dan Specht proclaimed May 22-28 as “Safe Boating Week” in Yankton. The week before Memorial Day was first proclaimed by President Eisenhower more than 50 years ago to draw attention to boating safety at the start of the summer boating season.

Bill Chase and Larry Hintgen of the Yankton Coast Guard Auxiliary, say the premise of wearing your life jacket is so simple, but it can save your life. When boaters set out, especially alone, they seldom expect to find themselves in the water. Boating accidents can happen in a split second, and the

only way a life jacket works is if you have it on. With the new more comfortable, more attractive, more wearable, and even the compact inflatable life jackets, there is no excuse for not wearing yours.

As the Safe Boating motto says: “Boat Smart, Boat Safe, Wear It.”

## CLEAN

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220-1219 or by e-mail at: plepist@iwla.org.

“If somebody can’t sign up for a full 8-hour shift, but they can help out for one or two hours, that would be wonderful,” he said.

The Clean Boat Event is voluntary and strictly informational, Lepisto said. The program does not involve inspections or law enforcement, he said. Presentations last only a few minutes, and boaters are welcome to bypass the site, he said.

Invasive species, including Asian carp and zebra mussels, exist in the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam but have not been found above the dam, Lepisto said.

“The Clean Boat Event’s goal is to educate boaters on ways they can clean, drain and dry their equipment to prevent the spread of invasive species,” he said. “It will provide an excellent way to learn about these species and the threats they present to other water bodies.”

The National Park Service (NPS) will cover two of the seven ramps, according to Park Ranger Dugan Smith.

“So far, we have eight of our staff people working that day,” he said. “We are covering both sides of the river. The Nebraska members of the Park Service will be working the Weigand Marina and Nebraska tailwaters.”

The Clean Boat Event seeks to prevent problems before they occur, Smith said.

“It’s extremely difficult once (invasive species) get into the water. It’s a bad deal,” he said. “They also affect our water supply. The (Yankton) city workers don’t want invasive species affecting their water intakes.”

Precautions are not limited to

small personal boats, Smith said. “When the Discovery Bridge was built, and they used barges, we had to inspect those boats for invasive species,” he said.

The zebra mussel can be microscopic and difficult to detect, Smith said.

“We need to educate people about (coming from) somewhere else and bringing invasive species into our river,” he said. “They have to watch out when they are transferring their boats from one body of water to another.”

Once they enter the water, invasive species can never be fully eradicated, Lepisto said. The zebra mussel has been documented at Sioux City, while silver carp have flown into boats at Gavins Point Dam.

“We find, each year, a lot of people have no idea about invasive species. They are shocked to know the Asian carp are really in the shadow of the dam,” he said.

“Two years ago, awareness was the goal of the Clean Boat Event. I think that level of awareness has already been raised. But the scary thing, everybody else can do the right thing, and it can only take one person inadvertently to do the wrong thing to spread these species around.”

The Clean Boat Event comes on the heels of two other successful May events — the second annual Missouri River Watershed School Festival and the seventh annual Missouri River Clean-Up.

“This year, we had about 250 students for the school festival. Compared to the previous year, that’s about 100 more kids,” Smith said. “Schools are more aware of the education festival. And Mary Robb (with the City of Yankton) did an awesome job of contacting the different schools.”

Schools are already scheduling the festival as part of their spring calendar, Lepisto said. This year’s participants included Sacred Heart School of Yankton, Vermillion Middle School, Vermillion High School; Crofton, Neb., and Lynch, Neb.

“I would be very surprised if we don’t have more schools respond or more students register next year,” he said. “We grew from 10 presentations last year to 15 this year, and we are talking in the future of going to 20 presentations and moving more stations around the (Riverside) park.”

The Missouri River Clean-Up collected nearly three tons of debris, Smith said. He figured the clean-up has collected 20 to 30 tons of trash during its seven-year history.

“We had 100 people show up to work this year,” he said. “We had a lot of people wearing T-shirts and caps from previous years. We have about 20 or 30 people who are part of the clean-up every year.”

The clean-up, which runs below Gavins Point Dam, now includes private property just below Sacred Heart Monastery, Smith said. The National Park Service has been contacted about holding clean-up efforts at other private property, he said.

Other areas have shown such strong interest in the event that future clean-ups could be held on different days at other sites, Lepisto said.

“We are looking at Niobrara State Park, Ponca State Park and Vermillion, who have all expressed interest,” he said. “Vermillion has such a great turnout at the Yankton clean-up. We have tremendous response from Vermillion, we would like to get a clean-up organized there.”

People in Yankton and the surrounding region feel more connected to the Missouri River than many places, Smith said.

“Downstream, where it’s channeled more, people have lost control over use of the river. Here, we are able to own property right along the river and to use boat docks and to go fishing,” he said.

“We have parks that are not by barges. You can go down there all the time. It’s a different culture here than at other places. I hope we can keep our connection with the river.”

the ball and keep going.” However, Hill said the “sundae relay” was his favorite event.

“You put one of your teammates on the ground with a dish on their forehead,” he said.

“Then you have to get a scoop of ice-cream in the dish. Once you do that you have to put on chocolate sauce and toppings. The thing is, we are standing on a bench above them. They ended up covered in stuff. It was a lot of fun.”

Other events that will be held include the blindfolded wheelbarrow race, the princess knight rider, the waiter relay, box races, a Saran Wrap relay and the mental triathlon.

The age range for students to participate is grades 6-12, Nelson said. To participate, kids must register with their youth groups, and their youth pastor should contact Annette Roux at First Assembly by Friday, May 21.

they enjoyed the trip immensely, particularly the World War II Memorial.

“It’s something to see. I’ll never forget it,” Voracek said.

The Honor Flight participants had a lot of stories to share with each other, according to Pravecek.

“It was like a buddy system,” he said. “Everybody was friendly toward one another, just like in the service.”

Additionally, Pravecek said that in both Sioux Falls and Washington, D.C., the veterans received a great amount of gratitude and respect for their service. “They treated us like royalty,” he said. “Everywhere we went, they lined up and shook hands with us.”

For more information about the South Dakota Honor Flight program, visit [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org), or call 1-888-344-1945.

## GAMES

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“The hamster ball was a lot of fun. They put you in this big blow-up ball, and you have to run an obstacle course,” he said. “Of course, you get tripped up and fall, but it doesn’t hurt. You just bounce and roll around in

## FLIGHT

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one mountain to another.” It was the rainy season, so soldiers were in wet conditions 24 hours a day.

“Just about half of our outfit got jungle rot,” Voracek recalled — he among them. “I ended up in the hospital for two months. I lost all the skin off my feet and hands.”

By the time he returned to his outfit from a medical facility in New Guinea, the war was almost over. The First Cavalry was transferred to Japan and Voracek was on the USS Missouri Sept. 2, 1945, when American and Japanese officials met to agree upon Japan’s surrender.

“After that, we were based in the heart of Tokyo,” Voracek said. “My regiment stood guard

at (Emperor Hirohito’s) entrance. We had to salute him.” He got out of the military in 1946 and would go on to marry his wife, Phyllis, have five children and work for many years at the Cimpr Packing Co.

“It’s been quite a life,” Voracek said.

Pravecek was also drafted into the Army at a young age. “Nobody wanted to go, but somebody had to go to take care of it,” he said.

Pravecek was stationed in Tokyo, Kobe and Yokohama during the occupation of Japan. “We used to go to the caves where the Japanese had supplied military stuff,” he stated. “We had to go clean them out.”

Upon returning to this area, Pravecek embarked on a 50-year career in farming. He was married to his wife, Alice, for almost 60 years before she passed away several years ago. They had three sons together.

Pravecek and Voracek said

## Landos Memorial Bicycle Rodeo May 22

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Emergency Department at Faith Regional Health Services, Norfolk, Neb., will be hosting its third annual Landos Bos Memorial Bicycle Rodeo on Saturday, May 22. This event is open to families with kids in Kindergarten through sixth grade and will be held from 9 a.m.-noon at West Campus in the

employee parking lot located at 110 N. 29th Street in Norfolk. This year’s event will feature bike safety inspections, instructions about the rules of the road and a “chalk street course.” Other activities include helmet fitting, free bike licensing for Norfolk residents, child DNA kits, child car seat safety checks and various booths.

Special attractions on display will be the LifeNet helicopter, Norfolk fire truck, State Patrol “rollover” vehicle and several race cars. Safety inspections and road course activities are free. A parent must accompany each child to sign a release form before they can ride the Bicycle Rodeo course.

## OBITUARIES

### Maynard Larson

Maynard LeRoy Larson, age 92, died on Monday, May 17, 2010 at his Walnut Village residence in Yankton.

Memorial service will be 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 24, 2010 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. David Wildermuth officiating.

Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the church.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, is in charge of the arrangements.

Maynard was born July 16, 1917, in Pipestone, Minnesota, to Charles and Madeline (Ames) Larson. The family moved to Yankton in 1929 and established the Larson Brothers Co. Maynard was baptized and confirmed in Trinity Lutheran Church in 1931. He graduated from Yankton High School in 1935 and continued to work in the family business involving heating, cooling and sheet-metal.

He entered the US Army in January 1942. He served in the United States and in Europe until his discharge in 1945. Maynard returned to Yankton and married Edna Laurene Freng on December 20, 1945, in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1946, he left Larson Brothers Co. to start the first ready-mixed concrete plant in Yankton. Over the years the company provided concrete for much of the construction in the area including projects at Gavins Point Dam, the Meridian Bridge, Chan Gurney Airport and countless others. In 1978, Larson Redi-Mix was sold and operates to this day in a new location as Concrete Materials.

Maynard was a member of a number of local organizations including the Elks Club, Masonic Lodge, Shriners and Jesters. He enjoyed playing pinocle with friends at the Elks Club and Hillcrest Country Club. He also enjoyed traveling to Arizona for golf (and pinocle) and Canada for fishing (and pinocle) with friends Bud Welf, John Cimpr, Reed Goss, Bill Maxon, Don Peterson and others. Until his health prevented it, he regularly joined area businessmen for coffee and conversation. Maynard was an avid reader. In recent

years he enjoyed hundreds of audio books, and his keen mind and sense of humor stayed with him until his death.

Maynard was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Edna, and a son, Steven. He is survived by two children: daughter Susan (Todd) Landes of Mt. Eliza, Australia, and son, Guy (Liza) Larson of Yankton; four grandchildren: Larson Landes of Melbourne, Australia, Drew Landes of Dubai, Lee Landes of Melbourne, Australia, and Andrew Larson of Yankton; two brothers: Max (Dorothy) Larson and Charles Larson Jr. of Yankton; a sister: Phyllis McKee of Knoxville, Tennessee and a number of nieces and nephews.

The family requests that memorials be directed to S.D. Public Broadcasting on their website at [www.sdpb.org](http://www.sdpb.org) or Yankton Friends of the Library, 515 Walnut St, Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
May 20, 2010

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[www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com](http://www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com)

### Vincent Varilek

VOLIN — Vincent Fredrick Varilek, age 19, of Volin, South Dakota died Monday, May 17, 2010 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota from injuries he sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Mass of Christian Burial is 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 21, 2010 at St. Vincent Catholic Church in Springfield, South Dakota with Reverend Gerald Thury officiating. Burial will be in the St. Vincent Catholic Cemetery in Springfield.

Visitation is from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton, South Dakota with a video tribute and time of sharing at 7:00 p.m. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

Pallbearers are Keith Allen, Matt Allen, Taylor Boeckmen, Jesse Gullikson, Arron Ness and Nick Wuebben. Honorary pallbearers are Corey Allen, Kayci Allen, Karl Fiedler, Danae, Darci, Devin and Drew Hansen. Vincent was born August 20,

1990 in Yankton, South Dakota to Kathleen Fiedler and Rick Hansen. He grew up in the Yankton and Volin area and attended schools in Yankton, Wakonda, and Gayville before graduating from Yankton High School in 2009. As a teenager, his first job was for E Circle E Hunting Lodge located east of Gayville and then he worked at Tractor Supply Company in Yankton. Vincent was always interested in cooking so he took a job as a cook at CJ’s at the Lake and then Tony’s Steakhouse near Norfolk, NE. He was planning to attend the Culinary Art Institute in Los Angeles, California. Besides cooking, Vincent also enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting pheasant, deer, and mushrooms, playing video games with his friends and fixing up old cars.

Vincent will be missed by his mother and stepfather, Kathleen

and James Haines of Volin; step sisters: Hope, Brandy, Robin and Ruth; maternal grandparents, Fred and Doris Fiedler of Springfield; paternal grandmother, Sylvia Hansen of Dawson, MN; adoptive grandmother, Wilma Haugen of Brandon, SD; step grandparents, Jim and Rosalie Haines of Sioux City, IA; a niece and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Vincent was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Harold Hansen, adoptive father, Frank J. Varilek and an uncle, Marc Carl Fiedler.

To post an online sympathy message or to view Vincent’s video tribute, please visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
May 20, 2010

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Vincent Varilek** 2:00 PM, Friday  
St. Vincent Catholic Church  
Springfield

**Charles E. Broz** Graveside Service  
10:30 AM, Saturday  
Garden of Memories Cemetery  
Yankton

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