Wednesday, **5.29.13**

Kayaker Missing On Niobrara River Found

From P&D Staff Reports

CENTER, Neb. — A kayaker who was reported missing on the Niobrara River in Knox County was rescued Monday morning, according to the Knox County Sheriff's Office.

In a press release issued Tuesday, the office reported that Daniel Wood of Osmond, Neb., was reported missing at 8:48 p.m. Sunday night. He had become separated from other kayakers while going around an island in the river. The kayakers had started their trip at the Pischelville Bridge and were planning on ending at the Morman Canal Bridge, near the Niobrara State Park.

A search started that night but the effort was hampered by heavy rain and lightning, as thunderstorms moved through the area, causing a flash flood warning to be issued by the National Weather Service. The search continued all night into Monday morning.

Wood was located on the Niobrara River at approximately 7:15 a.m. Monday by rescuers using an air boat. He was transported to Avera Creighton Area Hospital by Niobrara's Ambulance, where he was

Those involved in the search and rescue efforts include the Knox County Sheriff's Office, Niobrara Fire and Rescue, Verdigre Fire and Rescue, Knox County Emergency Management, Nebraska Game and Parks, Niobrara State Park personnel, Nebraska State patrol, Niobrara Police Department, and several local citizens familiar with the Niobrara River and countryside along it.

Reservations Available For Butterfly House Tour

The Center of Yankton will be sponsoring a Butterfly House Tour to

Sioux Falls on Thursday, May 30.

Participants will meet at The Center, 900 Whiting Drive, at 11:15 a.m., have lunch, then board the bus and travel to Sioux Falls to the Sertoma Butterfly House and Marine Cove.

Call the Center to reserve your spot today. Call (605) 665-4685 or email director@thecenteryankton.org/.

Send Your Rain Totals To The P&D

If you get some rain, tell us about it.

The Press & Dakotan is asking readers in our surrounding coverage area to call, email or fax in your rain amounts. We need this information by 8 p.m. each night (except Saturday). In the event of a storm, other details would be appreciated.

To send us your rain totals, call us at (800) 743-2968 (press "3" for the newsroom), email us at news@yankton.net, or fax us at (605) 665-

KNOX CO. SHERIFF'S REPORT

Wednesday, May 29 — Yankton, First National Bank, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, June 11 — Yankton, Avera

 Tuesday, June 12 — Yankton, Trinity Lutheran Church, 2-4 p.m.

• Tuesday, June 18 — Yankton, Wal-

• Friday, June 21 — Yankton Community Library – 9 a.m.-1 p.m. • Tuesday, June 15 — Yankton, Avera

Sacred Heart Hospital/Benedictine Cen-

Schedule a blood donation appointment online at www.siouxlandblood-bank.org or call 800-798-4208. Eligible blood donors must be at least

16 years old, should weigh at least 120

Marty

From Page 1

staff reductions. "I did so not only for the continued employment of everyone, but for the maintenance of a high-quality educational program," he said.

However, he foresees more severe cuts if the sequester contin-

"My direction to the various department heads and principals serves only for 2013-2014," he said. "If sequestration were to continue along for more than one school year, I would no longer be able to save jobs.'

Sequester cuts began during the past school year, Elsberry said. In March, BIE-funded schools were told that Operations and Maintenance (O&M) departments of various tribal schools were subject to a 5 percent cut this fiscal year. The BIE added that the sequestration was retroactive to Oct. 1, 2012, and would run at least through Sept. 30, 2013.

The BIE wanted Marty school officials to perform a "thorough and comprehensive review" of the 2013-2014 budget, recommending 5 percent cuts to all departments, he said.

To their credit, BIE also stated that guidance on sequestration is changing daily, and communication to the field will be day to day," he said. "They indicated, also, that they wanted as little disruption to services provided to students."

Elsberry wrote a letter to South Dakota congressional delegation — Sens. Tim Johnson and John Thune and Rep. Kristi Noem seeking their help in ending the sequester. He challenged the

South Dakota delegation to put the nation's students ahead of

"I'm not asking that MIS be singled out. I'm requesting that the BIE have its funding restored to at least what it was prior to sequestration," he wrote in the let-

"Playing politics with our children's education is simply not the way to balance the federal budget. I want all staff to keep their job and to have a daily opportunity to interact with our students to better their educa-

Elsberry sent his letter and emails to the congressional delegation earlier this month, but the superintendent said he has not received any official responses. He was recently notified that Thune was sending a rebetter their education." sponse.

The Press & Dakotan contacted the three congressional offices this week and received statements.

Thune, a Republican, said he favored more flexibility in the federal budget cuts.

"I've continued to say that sequestration was not the best answer to cutting federal spending. These were not smart, targeted reforms, and instead of reducing spending in areas that can and should be downsized, the sequester cuts fell on many programs that have the least room to give," he said.

That is why I voted to provide the (Obama) administration

with some flexibility in implementing the sequester to ensure that higher-priority programs could remain relatively unharmed, and why the House twice voted to replace these cuts with more targeted reforms. More must be done to reduce wasteful government spending, but we should do so in a smart, targeted way.'

Johnson, a Democrat, called for a more balanced solution to

"Reaching an agreement to replace the damaging sequester is long overdue," he said. "Instead

of eliminating

for kids, Con-

gress needs to

move beyond

rhetoric and

work on a bal-

anced approach

to deficit reduc-

Noem, a Re-

publican, called

for a different

approach than

the current se-

"There's no

school funding

"Playing politics with our children's education is simply not the way to balance the federal budget. I want all staff to keep their job and to have a daily opportunity to interact with our students to

MIKE ELSBERRY

merits."

doubt that our country needs to cut spending, but sequestration was not the best answer. This is why the House voted twice to replace the sequester

quester.

with targeted and balanced spending reductions," she said. "Across-the-board cuts disproportionately affect agencies and programs, which is why I favor taking a fine-toothed comb to our nation's budget and examining each program on its own

Elsberry told the Press & Dakotan that he sought the congressional delegation's attention for two reasons. He said they

should know, as South Dakotans, the implications of the cuts for a rural state and the Yankton Sioux Tribe. In addition, the superintendent is concerned the sequestration will result in a lowering of educational quality.

My hope is that Senators Johnson and Thune and Representative Noem will push harder to assure that the moneys lost through this ridiculous sequestration process will be returned to the Bureau of Indian Education and, indeed, the Department of Education," Elsberry said.

The Marty superintendent said he also remained troubled at government waste and the federal lawmakers' inability to balance a budget.

"Various government officials say jobs are their number one priority, but I don't see that they actually care at all," he said. "We provide foreign governments and rightly so, in some instances — with trillions of dollars, but we can't find enough money to continue quality education for our school children."

Elsberry also remains disturbed by the national media's focus on what he considers less important areas when it comes to sequestration coverage.

"I pay much more attention to those (school) staff who talk daily about cutting back their working hours so everyone can retain their job. These are the employees in MIS who make between \$9.30 and \$13.26 per hour,"

"At this level, that's much more important. At (the staff's) level, they are fighting not only for their jobs but, in some instances, for their way of life."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

BLOOD DRIVES

the Siouxland Community Blood Bank, will have a mobile unit at the following dates, locations and times:

Sacred Heart Hospital/Benedictine Center, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Mart, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

• On May 14, 2013, a report of stolen

radiators from vehicles was reported by

Paul Rosberg of rural Wausa. Rosberg

had vehicles parked in two different locations on his land adjacent to 542nd Ave.,

Rosberg reporting the theft, he thought that there were only 3 radiators stolen.

Upon further investigation, it was discov-

ered that there was a total of 12 radiators stolen from his vehicles from after 2012

fall harvest to now. A dollar amount of the

theft is undetermined at this time.
 On May 18, 2013, Knox County

Deputies were dispatched to a one vehi-

cle accident involving injury on Highway 14, near 870th Rd. Information received

was that the only occupant in the vehicle

was the driver and was being transported to Avera Creighton Area Hospital by a

spouse. The driver, Andrew N. Yeargan,

Creighton advised that he swerved to miss a deer on his way to work. Knox County Sheriff's Office investigated.

On May 18, 2013, the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded to a fire at

Hideaway Acres. No burn permits were

called into the Sheriff's Office for this area.

Deputies arrived on scene and talked with

Crofton Fire Department. It appeared the

ust north of Highway 59. At the time of

pounds and should be in general good health and have not donated whole blood in the past 56 days. For more information about blood donation or to schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 800-287-4903 or visit www.lifeservebloodcenter.org. A photo I.D. is required at the time of registration.

bly gasoline. Deputies spoke to a few individuals, however, have not located any

suspects at this time. The matter will be

turned over to the State Fire Marshall's

Sheriff's Office received report of a Crown Victoria with teenage boys in it shooting

fireworks from their vehicle towards other

vehicles. The complainant state this hap-pened north of Crofton and stated the ve-

hicle turned east towards Cedar County.

Deputies responded to the area but were unable to locate the vehicle involved.

Cedar County Sheriff's Office was also

notified. The complainant was able to get a license plate number and the investiga-

tion remains ongoing.

On May 19, 2013, Knox County Deputies were dispatched to Michael

Hanvey's land on 881st Rd., west of Cen-

ter. Hanvey reported a hunter trespassing

on his land. Deputies arrived on scene

and spoke to both parties. The hunter was

identified as Roy Sauser of Randolph, Neb. An investigation was made at the

scene and a report has been filed with the

Knox County Attorney's Office, asking for charges of Hunting Without Permission,

On May 19, 2013, the Knox County

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• If \$16 million were paid for using a surcharge, it would add \$12.94 to the monthly bill of the average residential customer. Also, the consumption rate would need to go from \$3.52 per 1,000 gallons above 2,000 gallons to \$4.25 to cover the remaining \$10 million in debt. That's a 20.79 increase in rates. The average residential user would pay \$39.31 monthly;

• The next option presented by Viereck eliminates a minimum charge of \$13.62 for water service and instead converts it to a \$13.62 surcharge. To pay the remaining debt service, the city would charge \$5.33 for every 1,000 gallons, which is a 51 percent increase in the consumption rate. The average residential user would pay \$40.27 monthly; and

• If the city wanted to try to lessen the burden on its lowest users, Viereck said that it could

have the surcharge of \$13.62, and then allow a maximum of 1,000 gallons before adding a consumption rate. The city would then have to charge \$5.85 for every 1,000 gallons above 1,000 gallons. The average residential user would pay \$37.02 monthly.

Of the nearly \$29 million needed for the water upgrades, the city has approximately \$3 million in cash reserves. That means \$26 million will be need to be borrowed through the State Revolving Fund (SRF).

Under state law, the total amount of debt the city can take on is 5 percent of the previous year's assessed value. That puts the current cap for Yankton at approximately \$38-\$39 million. Of that total, the city has approximately \$19.7 million in legal debt capacity available.

Because the city wants to have ome of that debt capacity left for things such as economic development projects or disasters, Viereck is recommending that no more than \$10 million be backed by rate revenues. The remaining \$16 million, he is recommending,

should be funded by a surcharge

or bond election so that it does not count toward the legal debt capacity.

City Manager Amy Nelson said that, after much thought on the matter, she would recommend pursuing one of the final two options, or some variation of them. "This is a project that we have

a funding source for other than property taxes," she stated. "If we were to ever do a project like a soccer complex, baseball field or other amenities, it either has to be a sales tax (expenditure) or a property tax opt-out. There are only so many projects the public will support paying for on their property taxes.

À couple commissioners said they didn't like using the property tax option because some of the largest water users are exempt from property taxes.

Property taxes would not bring ne water rates of customers who use 5,000 gallons per month to the \$35 minimum required to make the city eligible for 10 percent loan forgiveness, Viereck pointed out.

'To be fiscally responsible for the people of Yankton that are going to fund this, we need to get the 10 percent discount if we can," Commissioner Craig Somsen said.

No official action was taken, but the commission was in agreement that Viereck go into more detail on the final two options or some variation of them.

Commissioner Jake Hoffner was absent Tuesday.

In related business, the commission directed city staff to move ahead with trying to secure funding for a collector well at Paddle Wheel Point by applying for a SRF loan by the July 1 application

Preliminary tests show the well will be able to produce at least 5 million gallons per day.

Construction could get under way next spring or summer. The estimated cost of the well

and the pipe to transport it to the water treatment plant is \$9.3 mil-

Also Tuesday, the commission agreed to acquire the Stern Oil property on the west side of the Meridian Bridge for \$130,000.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnIn*landVoyage*

fire was started with an accelerant, possi-**OBITUARIES**

Veronica (Dwyer) Fredrickson

Veronica (Dwyer) Fredrickson died May 25, 2013 at Sanford Medical Center in Vermillion, SD at the age of 95

years 6 months. Funeral mass will be 10:30 am, Monday, June 3, 2013 at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion with Fr. John Fischer officiating. Burial will follow in Riverview Ceme-

Fredrickson

tery at Centerville, SD. Visitation will be from 5 to 7pm Sunday, June 2, 2013 with a prayer service beginning at 7pm at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion

Veronica was born in Wakonda, SD on November 24, 1917 to Tom and Hanna Dwyer. She moved with her parents, sister Naoma and her brother Elwood to Sully County near Onida, SD in 1918 where the family farmed. Jim, Lovella and Donald were added to the family. They returned to Wakonda in

Veronica graduated from Wakonda High School in 1934. In 1940 she and Floyd Fredrickson were married in Worthington, MN. Their son Dick was born October 1, 1941. They farmed near Centerville, SD where they bought land and farmed for nearly 50 years until Floyds' death on November 1, 1993. Veronica moved to Vermillion in 1997 when she and her sister Lovella Matson had their nephew build twin homes for them to live next to each other.

Veronica and Floyd enjoyed travelling in the winter to visit their son Dick, his wife Barbara

and children Brett and Lisa. They had interesting trips to where Dick worked in Bogota, Columbia, the Dominican Republic, New York City, Atlanta and the San Francisco, CA area over the

Veronica was preceded in death by her parents, siblings Naoma Shrader, Elwood Dwyer, Donald Dwyer and her son Dick Fredrickson.

She is survived by her daughter-in-law Barbara Fredrickson, grandchildren; Brett (Linda) Fredrickson and Lisa (Dwayne) Wright, great-grandchildren; Tyler and Delaney Fredrickson and Emma, Jacob and Grace Wright, and one brother Jim (Ardiss) Dwyer and her sister Lovella Matson, also a sister-inlaw Babe (Dewey) Rasmussen and Amy Fredrickson, also many

nieces and nephews. For obituary and online condolences visit hansenfuneralhome.com.

> Yankton Press & Dakotan May 29, 2013

Marvin Becker

Marvin H. Merkel, 75, Grand Junction, Co. died May 19,2013,

at his home. Services will be at 11 a.m. June 7 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Patsy J.; three sons, James of Rangely, Co., Richard of Littleton, Co., and Matthew of Grand Junction, Co.; four brothers, Allan of Denver, Co., Charles of Omaha, Neb., Donovan of Castle Rock, Co., and Rick of Crofton, Neb.; one sister, Marlene Becker of Yankton, S.D.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife,

He was preceded in death by his parents Emery and Lucy (Borgheiinck) Merkel.

Yankton Press & Dakotan May 29, 2013

Christy Orth

Christy Orth, 52, of Sioux Falls and formerly of Menno, died Tuesday, May 28, 2013, at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 31, at Salem Reformed Church, Menno, with the Rev. Michael Hecht officiating.

Visitations are 4-7 p.m. Thursday, May 30, at the church with a 7 p.m. prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to service at the church.

There will be a private family burial of Christy's cremated re-

Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, is in care of the arrangements.

Thank you to everyone who made our 25th anniversary special with their cards, wellwishes, gifts and flowers. We are blessed to have such wonderful friends & family.

A special thank you to Dad. David & Diane Hovden

Marjorie Smith

Marjorie Jean Smith, born in Yankton on April 2, 1959 and passed away in Denver on May 10, 2013 from complications of pneumonia and vascular distress. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Doris Smith of Yankton.

Although her life was sadly shortened due to illness, Marjorie led a fulfilling and purposeful life. After graduating Yankton High School in 1977, she attended Black Hills State, graduating with a degree in education. She married Greg Knell in January 1983 and gave birth to son Jacob on December 29, 1984. She taught students with special needs, showing compassion and caring to all. After a move to Denver in 1987, she continued teaching at the Margaret Walters

School. Her second son, David Knell was born on May 3, 1990. Marjorie was dedicated to education, pursuing a masters degree in special education from Colorado State University, and later earning a second masters degree in human resource placement, allowing her to help transition special needs students into career and trade opportunities. She was the director of the preparatory academy at North High School, working tirelessly to assist hundreds of students find future suc-

Marjorie is survived by her sons Jacob and David Knell. Jacob graduated from Colorado State University, currently serves as a Captain in the US Army, armored division. He and his wife Jasmine welcomed baby Isabelle on July 2, 2011. David is a gradu-





www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

ate of Colorado State University and works in the Denver area. Brothers Mike (Teri) Smith, Denver, CO, Pat (Diana) Within, Wise Va, Jim (Christy) Smith, Ventura CA, John (Jacki) Smith, Yankton, sisters Susan Miller, Ventura CA, and Kathleen (John) Sinclair, Sioux Falls, SD.

To all that knew her, Marjorie was a person with high energy, vibrant personality and great

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