

Bird Programs Slated For This Weekend

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Gavins Point Project is "going to the birds" this Memorial Day Weekend. Join park rangers for a variety of programs featuring our feathered friends.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

- Morning Bird Walk — Search the area around Cottonwood Day Use for migrating and nesting birds. 9:30 a.m. at Cottonwood Day Use (walk will last 2-2 1/2 hours).
- Jr. Ranger Program Learn about birds that come to your bird feeders. Make pinecone bird feeders to take home. For kids of ALL ages. Come any time during the program. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lewis and Clark Visitor Center.
- Feathers along the Big Muddy — Learn about some of the more common bird species found along the Missouri River. 2 p.m. at the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center Theater.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

- Jr. Ranger Program: Learn about birds that come to your bird feeders. Make pinecone bird feeders to take home. For kids of ALL ages. Come any time during the program. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lewis and Clark Visitor Center.
- The Endangered Species of Gavins Point: Learn about three of the animal species that are threatened or endangered on the Missouri River and near Gavins Point Project. 2 p.m. at the Cottonwood Campground Shelter (program about 30 minutes).

MONDAY, MAY 26

- Jr. Ranger Program: Learn about birds that come to your bird feeders. Make pinecone bird feeders to take home. For kids of ALL ages. Come any time during the program. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lewis and Clark Visitor Center.
- There is no cost to participate in any of the programs. For more information call the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center at 402-667-2546.

National Park Service Begins Season

NIORRARA, Neb. — Missouri National Recreational River, the only national park in the northeast Nebraska-southeast South Dakota area will open the 2014 summer season with a program at Nebraska's scenic Niobrara State Park, at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 25.

In "Standing Bear vs. the Indian Ring," a living history reenactment portrays Thomas Henry Tibbles, former abolitionist fighter, preacher and 1879 editor of the Omaha Herald who helped Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe bring suit against the United States government. This presentation is the type of speech Tibbles may have made on speaking tours of the eastern states from 1879 to 1883 to raise awareness of what he perceived as a conspiracy against American Indians.

The program is free. Nebraska state park entrance fee is required.

Plastics Recycling Trailer Relocated

The Plastics Recycling Trailer formerly located at the Kmart parking lot has been relocated at the east end of Riverside Park, just north of the City Dog Pound.

The public is asked to follow rules posted on trailer for disposal. This, along with other recycling opportunities in Yankton, is explained on the City of Yankton website at www.cityofyankton.org, under the Utilities menu, choose Solid Waste and then Recycling on the left.

If you need more information, call 605-668-5251.

Deadline Nears For SDTA Scholarship

The South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) reminds students that the application deadline for the 2014 SDTA Memorial Scholarship is May 31.

SDTA will award three \$1,000 scholarships for the 2014 fall semester. Each scholarship winner will also receive an e-tablet.

The SDTA scholarships are available to students who have completed at least two semesters of course work at an accredited post-secondary school in South Dakota and whose family is a member/customer of a South Dakota telecommunications cooperative or other SDTA member local exchange carrier. The scholarship can be used at any post-secondary educational institution in South Dakota, including public and private universities, technical schools, and community colleges.

The SDTA Memorial Scholarship program began with a single \$300 scholarship in 1987 and since that time SDTA has awarded over \$41,000 to help 66 South Dakota students further their education.

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is May 31. Applications are available at <http://sdtaonline.com/resources/sdta-scholarship/>, or from any South Dakota post-secondary institution student financial aid office, the SDTA office (605-224-7629 or ginigrannes@sdtaonline.com), or any SDTA member company.

OBITUARIES

Gene Nelson

Gene Nelson, 85, of Yankton died Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Memorial services are at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 27, at the United Church of Christ (Congregational), Yankton, with the Rev. Molly Carlson officiating. Burial of his cremated remains will be at approximately 1:15 p.m. at the Yankton City Cemetery with Military Graveside Rites by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post 791 Honor Guard and the SDARNG Honor Guard.

Visitations are 6:30-8 p.m., Monday, May 26, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home &

Crematory, Yankton, and then one hour prior to the service at the church.

Sandra Swatek

Sandra J. "SanDee" Swatek, 70, of Wagner, died Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at the Wagner Community Memorial Hospital.

Her funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 27, at St. John Catholic Church in Wagner, with burial in St. John Catholic Cemetery, rural Wagner.

Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Monday at Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner.

Thank You

May God Bless all of you, who gave us hugs and greetings, cards & gifts, & helped us celebrate our 50th anniversary. Our family, Tracy & his staff. Thank you, You are all special.
Larry & Connie Miller

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

NIORRARA, Neb. — After decades of fighting without success, the names of three Niobrara brothers who died in a naval accident may be headed for a place on the Vietnam Wall.

Ernest and Eunice Sage lost three sons — Gary, Greg, and Kelly Jo — on the *USS Frank E. Evans* during the Vietnam War. The brothers, who were 22, 21 and 19 at the time of their deaths, had requested they serve together on the same craft.

The 74 sailors who perished — including the Sage brothers — have been denied a place on the Vietnam Wall. Officials cite the geography and circumstances surrounding the June 3, 1969, accident in the South China Sea.

That denial of a place on "The Wall" may be changing.

The U.S. House has passed unanimously an amendment to the annual defense authorization bill. The amendment, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), urges Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to add the names of the "Lost 74" to the Vietnam Wall.

"Hopefully today's vote puts us one step closer to the reality of seeing the names of the Lost 74 of the U.S.S. *Frank E. Evans* on the Vietnam Wall," Schiff said Thursday in a statement. "They died serving our country during the Vietnam War, and there is no reason to deny these sailors their rightful place on the memorial."

Steve Kraus, vice president of the USS Frank E. Evans Association, has worked with the Sage family and others to win the brothers' place on the Vietnam memorial. He expressed optimism

that Thursday's announcement may lead to the inclusion of the 74 names.

"Yes we are certainly one step closer," he told the *Press & Dakotan*. "I think it is fair to say we have made more progress than ever before. For the families, I would think this brings a little more closure."

Eunice Sage died in September 2010, before she could see her sons receive official recognition.

"It saddens me that Eunice isn't still with us, but I know she would be happy and sad at the same time," Kraus said.

Many families felt shock when they first learned the Evans' names weren't included on the Vietnam Wall, Kraus said

"I can't think how awful it must have felt in 1985 when the Box Family traveled to visit the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. to find their son, Thomas Belue Box, was not on the Wall," he said.

"Forty-five years later, his name and the names of the other 73 lost are still not recognized for the greatest sacrifice one can give, their lives. Eunice Sage once told me all she ever wanted was 'Her Boys' to be added to the Vietnam Memorial Wall. She died never seeing that come true."

Hagel, then a U.S. senator from Nebraska, attended and spoke at the Memorial Day 1999 dedication of the Sage Brothers Memorial in Niobrara. Hagel, himself a Vietnam War veteran, had served in the same unit as his brother.

Now, Kraus and others are hoping that Hagel, as U.S. defense secretary, will put his fellow Nebraskans and the other Evans sailors on the Vietnam Wall.

MMC Ceremony Honors Nursing Graduates

The Mount Marty College nursing program held a Pinning Ceremony for May graduating nursing students on Friday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the College's Marian Auditorium.

Established in 1986, Mount Marty's Pinning Ceremony acknowledges the achievement of the graduating seniors and their transition from student role to a professional role. The nurse's pin represents the philosophy of the school and of the nursing program, and its presentation signifies a sending forth or commissioning of the students to begin their nursing careers as graduates of MMC.

Tradition defines that the nursing pin is unique to the nursing program from which the student graduates. In the past, a nurse's cap and pin represented the school from which he or she attended. Today, Mount Marty's pin remains as the lone symbol of their education.

Each element of the MMC nursing pin represents an



SUBMITTED PHOTO

aspect of the nurse's dedication. Mount Marty's pin is a black shield on gold with a white cross embedded on the shield. The modified Benedictine cross represents a crossroads of ideas and also depicts the ultimate aim of the college: to form persons in the Spirit of Christ with apostolic zeal for the world-wide work of restoring all things for Christ.

Mount Marty College Nursing Program is proud to acknowledge this year's May

nursing graduates: Andrea Adema, Elk Point, SD; Nicole Boyle, Creighton, NE; Emily Jo Bronemann, Harold, SD; Chelsey Burbach, Wynot, NE; Allison De Kam, Castelwood, SD; Kaylee Fly, Omaha, NE; Lisa Foley, Wagner, SD; Andrea Franks, Yankton, SD; Sara Hills, Crooks, SD; Alison Hoffman, Crofton, NE; Jill James, Yankton, SD; Jamie Jungemann, Yankton, SD; Amanda Klein, Hartford, SD; Kimberly Kokesh, Wagner, SD; Patricia Lafrentz,

Crofton, NE; Kelsey Lammers, Hartington, NE; Samuel Lopez, Brawley, CA; Shelby Mushitz Geddes, SD; Elizabeth Oestreich, Yankton, SD; Kari Peterson, Omaha, NE; Deanna Poppe, Crofton, NE; Chelsey Reiner, Yankton, SD; Erica Reiners, Crofton, SD; Caitlyn Roth, Delmont, SD; Emily Schreur, Alcester, SD; Ryan Selchert, Brandon, SD; Heidi Sutura, Yankton, SD; Piper Wegener, Humphrey, NE; and Megan Wortmann, Norfolk, NE.

Sewage

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systems, and surfacing sewage from these systems is not allowed under those rules.

"If they go out and start pumping out the septic tanks, that should prevent any kind of surfacing," he continued. "Then we want to make sure that the system is designed properly so it operates correctly and doesn't have surfacing. Our first priority is to get this corrected."

The DENR only becomes involved with cases like this when a complaint is filed. In this instance, Yankton County Planning and Zoning Administrator Patrick Garrity contacted the agency about the situation because it was not being resolved.

"We do not have a lot of septic systems that end up having to be turned over to the state for corrective ac-

tion," said Scott Hipple, an environmental scientist with the DENR. "Generally, when the homeowner or corporation has a septic system that begins to have problems, they will contact a local septic repair company and get it corrected."

Clark Christensen, an environmental scientist for the DENR that works out of Vermillion, visited the Yankton mobile home park and documented the septic system overflow for the agency.

"I informed (a district representative for RV Horizons) that the trailer park was experiencing septic system overflow on the northeast corner of the trailer park," Hipple said. "It was flowing into the yard and possibly into the road ditch. I told him he needed to get a contractor there to have the septic system pumped out as needed and have someone go there to repair or replace the system."

A letter was sent to a mail-

ing address provided by the company but was returned by the U.S. Postal Service. It was intended to notify them that a remediation plan was to be submitted by May 16.

In a phone conversation Thursday morning, the district manager told Hipple that a contractor from Nebraska would be arriving to investigate the situation later in the day.

"He told me that he had tried contacting several contractors in the Yankton area, but was unable to get anyone to look at the system," Hipple said.

Park manager Pat Ernster told the *Press & Dakotan* this week that he believes there is a broken "T" in one of the lines and that a new drainage field has not been connected

to the septic system.

Sewage surfacing near people creates a potentially dangerous environment, according to Hipple.

"Wastewater that isn't completely treated is going to possibly have bacteria and viruses from people who may have been sick," he said.

If an animal or child, for example, comes into contact with those microbes, they could become sick and then spread the bacteria or viruses to other humans.

"It's an unhealthy situation to have surfacing sewage near people," Hipple said.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

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The family of **Tasha Nichole (Goeden) Anderson** would like to thank all for the kindness, calls, cards and prayers that we received. Thank you to those who made the benefit for Tasha such a huge success. She fought a hard battle. Tasha's smile touched so many. The heartache will soften with time but her memory will live on.

*Jeremy & Harper Anderson
Kerry & Elizabeth Goeden
George & Connie (Hacecky) Wathier
Ron J. Goeden*

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