

Delmont

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No businesses were destroyed, but the twister took away the town's new firehouse, which was only waiting for a table for the community room to celebrate a dedication ceremony.

The Red Cross of the Dakotas is asking people to hold off on physical donations because the needs of the residents have not been determined and there's no storage space for the items. Cash donations are encouraged, and the money would be used to feed residents and responders at the scene.

"It is going to be several weeks, or even months, before this community is back on (its) feet again," regional spokesman Brian Shawn said.

Cash donations designated to the Delmont Disaster Relief Fund can be dropped off at First State Bank locations in Delmont, Tripp, Armour and Geddes. Donations can also be mailed to First State Bank, P.O. Box 68, Delmont, SD 57330.

Equipment and vehicles from the fire department, including the community's ambulance, were trapped by the rubble. Crews were able to pull one fire truck from under the wreckage, but the rest remain pinned by a steel beam.

Among the buildings damaged was 100-year-old Zion Lutheran Church, which lost its roof, stained glass windows and pipe organ. Children who were in Sunday school took shelter in the basement when the tornado hit.

RELIEF EFFORTS

The Red Cross has set up an emergency shelter for tornado victims in the Tripp-Delmont school in Tripp.

Tripp-Delmont school business manager Sherry Hansen told the *Press & Dakotan* that classes were canceled Monday because of the emergency shelter. The shelter is located in the school commons area and gymnasium. The shelter offers cots and blankets along with bathrooms and showers.

The district is taking things

one day at a time when it comes to housing the emergency shelter and holding classes, Hansen said. However, plans call for concluding the school year this week as scheduled and holding graduation at 2 p.m. Saturday in the school gym.

The tornado has created an outpouring of support for its victims, Hansen said. Commercially prepared food was transported to Delmont for the residents and emergency workers tackling the clean-up and recovery effort.

While the public has been asked to wait with donating large items, the school has become a collection point for items needed for everyday life, Hansen said.

"People are bringing in things like blankets, wash cloths, towels and toiletries," she said. "We're making up kits that have things like toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, shaving cream and razors."

The Tripp-Delmont school board planned to conduct an abbreviated regular meeting Monday night so the board members and others could attend the 7 p.m. community meeting in the school gym, Hansen said. She anticipates any unfinished school board business will be completed at a special meeting, likely next week.

The Tripp and Delmont communities have worked together for years in building not only their school district but also personal relationships, Hansen said.

"We have staff members who have lost their homes. We have a former board member who lost her home," Hansen said. "No matter where you're from, you feel for those people."

The relief effort received a boost Monday when Feeding South Dakota delivered a truckload of food for tornado victims and first responders working with clean-up.

Matt Gassen, executive director of Feeding South Dakota, told the *Press & Dakotan* his organization responded to the Red Cross' request for food.

"We had a truckload of products delivered down there (Monday) morning. A lot of it was grab and go kind of stuff," he

said. "They haven't set up a feeding kitchen yet, so it was mostly breakfast items and things like beef jerky, Slim Jims and quite a bit of water. They had water (in Delmont), but it was almost used up last night and so we sent four pallets of water."

The shipment included 220 pounds of bread, considered enough to make 500 or 600 sandwiches, Gassen said.

"At this point in time, we are on standby and will see whatever is needed down there (at Delmont)," he said. "We will be in touch with the Red Cross and see if there are additional food items that we could provide and see what we have available."

The available options could expand if the emergency shelter continues for some time and a full-fledged cooking facility was established, Gassen said.

"We just want to be there and do our part to help those people who have suffered losses," he said. "We will continue what we can (do) to help out and provide food."

RESTORING SERVICE

Crews on Monday continued working to restore water and electricity service in Delmont. Utility trucks and crews have been on site since Sunday assessing and repairing downed lines and poles.

South Dakota Public Safety spokeswoman Kristi Turman said landline phone service has been restored to the town, but only corded phones are working because of the lack of electricity.

About 25 soldiers from the South Dakota National Guard were taking debris from public streets and rights of way, Turman said. Inmates from a minimum-security unit of a state correctional facility may be sent to the area over the next few days to help clean up.

NorthWestern Energy crews made a great deal of progress Monday in their efforts to restore power, said spokesman Tom Glanzer. The substation on the southwest side of town and two main feed lines going into town were mostly restored, he said.

However, much work remains, he told the *Press & Dakotan*.

"The one thing we're dealing with is a lot of things lying on the ground, trying to work around that, and getting new poles in and the old poles sent out," he said.

The restoration work has become a team effort, Glanzer said. "We have about 30 to 35 guys that we brought from Redfield, Huron, Yankton, Mitchell and Chamberlain as well as our other regional offices," he said.

NorthWestern corporate officials also visited Delmont, Glanzer said. They included President/CEO Bob Rowe, Vice President of Operations Kurt Pohl and Vice President of Transmission Mike Cashell.

Glanzer contrasted the Delmont situation to two other South Dakota tornados in recent years.

"I made the comment earlier today that this is nothing like Spencer where you lost an entire town," he said. "It's a lot like Wessington Springs, where one side of town is virtually unscathed and the other side of the town is destroyed. You have the haves and have-nots, and they may be split by one street."

Glanzer anticipates the NorthWestern crews would re-group Monday night and know more today as the clean-up effort continues.

Power could be restored first to the east side of Delmont, but NorthWestern crews want to ensure safe conditions before doing so, Glanzer said.

"The people's well-being and safety is our first priority," he said.

To put the situation in perspective, Glanzer pointed out the west side of town has been destroyed, with little left standing to receive power if it was available.

"Those folks aren't worried about electricity," he said. "They're just worried where they're going to stay and where they can have a roof over their heads."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Democrats Claim Recruiting Success In Bid To Retake Senate In 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats are claiming early success in recruiting strong candidates in Republican-held states as they fight to retake the majority after last year's midterm bloodletting. But in several states the party is still searching, with the Democrat who looks like the strongest candidate holding out for now.

In New Hampshire, Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan, seen as by far the most formidable opponent to Republican incumbent Sen. Kelly Ayotte, is waiting until the end of the legislative session in June to make her decision. In Indiana and North Carolina, Democrats are eyeing ex-senators for possible reruns, but it's not clear either former legislator — Evan Bayh in Indiana and Kay Hagan in North Carolina — will step forward. Bayh is sitting on nearly \$10 million he could use for his next campaign.

Even in Pennsylvania, where former Democratic Rep. Joe Sestak is already running hard against incumbent Republican Sen. Pat Toomey in a top swing state, Democrats are still searching for an alternative because of concerns that Sestak will not be their strongest contender.

Republicans point to the turmoil in Pennsylvania and Democrats' failure to field a candidate so far in several other states won by President Barack Obama as signs that the early advantage in the campaign for the Senate goes to the GOP. "I think things are shaping up in a quite positive direction for a Republican majority," said Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, who chairs the Republicans' Senate campaign committee.

But Democrats note that Republicans have problems of their own, including failing, so far, to coalesce around a candidate in the two Democratic-held seats that are the likeliest GOP pickup opportunities: Nevada, where Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid is retiring; and Colorado, where Democratic incumbent Michael Bennet is running for a second full term.

School

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a handful. About the time I was leaving, they were doing the BDI assessment but the requirements for recording was just increasing at that time."

During the 2014-2015 school year, early childhood special education teacher Cody Lukkes will have administered the BDI more than 90 times.

Wagner said each evaluation requires an educational assessment of the child, a report and a follow up meeting with the family.

"This person in this (new) position would do the evaluations of the BDI and coordinate meetings and evaluations with parents," she said. "That way Cody Lukkes can focus his attention to his students on his caseload and be there for those kids and do a little less testing... It's difficult to feel like you're doing justice to everything that you should be doing when you have that many responsibilities."

Wagner told the board that the position will provide better service to students and their families.

"Over the past year of being on the board, I think this is the largest learning curve of any program that we offer," YSD board member Frani Kieffer said. "I had no idea the extent of this. I met with Kathy to better understand it myself. I want to commend her and Mr. Lukkes for finding a solution because, ultimately, I think it will be better for the children that we are serving."

In other business during Monday's meeting:

- Silverstone Group did a presentation of its recently completed market analysis of worksite (voluntary) employee benefits. Silverstone representative Suzie Hurley recommended new carriers for accident and critical illness insurance.

- The school board discussed Title IX non-discrimination policies and procedures. Title IX prohibits all forms of sex discrimination, including sexual violence and other sexual harassment giving rise to hostile educational or work environment.

- Superintendent and business manager Jason Beitz did a brief overview of the preliminary 2015-2016 budget. The board voted to set-up a budget hearing for on July 13 at 5:40 p.m. at the Administration Building.

- The board approved the amendments in the high school, middle school and elementary school handbooks.

- The board approved amendments to the South Dakota High School Activities Association Constitution and By-laws.

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PRESENTING

THE YANKTON AREA CONCERT ASSOCIATION 2015-16 SEASON

All Concerts Are Presented At The Yankton High School Summit Center Theatre



Karsnoyarsk National Dance Company of Siberia

This fabulous 50 member dance company is sheer intoxication! The technical ability of the dancers, the exquisitely embroidered elegant costumes, the choreography, stunning highlights of acrobatics and gymnastic techniques, traditional folk dances and modern sophistication, this troupe does it all! This is the concert you'll be talking about for weeks afterwards (Tuesday, October 6, 2015)



Inspirational Broadway

We open our 2015-16 concert series with the quartet stylings of Ernie Haase and Signature Sound. This group is both Grammy nominated and GMA Dove Award winning. They have been around the world and been nicknamed The Gospel Globetrotters. Although their reputation is that of a gospel band, this program will concentrate on big Broadway show tunes. An instrumental trio will accompany the quartet and together they will set the stage ablaze. (Saturday, September 19, 2015)



A Tribute To Neil Diamond

Who doesn't love the music of Neil Diamond? This is a tribute band known for their fun, family show. Not only featuring the music of Neil Diamond, but Johnny Cash, Ricky Nelson and Glen Campbell to name a few. This concert features the beautiful baritone singing voice of Denny Diamond and his two sons. You'll leave with a song in your heart, a smile on your face and a spring in your step. (Sunday, November 1, 2015)



Maniacal 4

This is an internationally acclaimed group of four great musicians... a hip quartet of trombones. They are well versed in classical, jazz, Latin and rock music. They perform exclusively by memory and have performed on three continents with their wide range of musical styles and songs from various time periods. They are the finest trombone quartet performing today. (Saturday, February 27, 2016)



Norfolk Men's Chorus

For the past 25 years, the Norfolk Men's Choir have entertained audiences performing songs from various genres including religious, spirituals, Christmas, show tunes, patriotic and many more. The Chorus's music styles include chorals, barbershop, two, three and four-part music. (Saturday, March 12th, 2016)



The Piano Men

This concert features Jim Witter at the grand piano and his sizzling musicians on keyboards, guitar, bass, flute, sax and drums. Witter unleashes his golden tenor voice on hit after hit as the group takes you on a musical journey through the 70's featuring the songs of Elton John and Billy Joel. They will utilize rear-screen projection and feature newspaper headlines, automobiles, people, events, toys and even TV shows that shaped the decade of the 70's (Thursday, April 28, 2016)

JOIN NOW & ENJOY A BONUS CONCERT FRIDAY, MAY 15TH!

"Close To You: The Music of the Carpenters" Friday, May 15, 7:30 At The YHS Summit Center Theatre

Adult Tickets @ \$60 Please make checks payable to: Yankton Concert Association and mail to: YACA, P.O. Box 673, Yankton, SD 57078

Patron @ \$135 (2 memberships)

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Or visit our website at www.concertassociation.net/yanktonsd

For Additional Information, Contact Betts Pulkrabek At (605) 463-2206 or Vi Ranney at (605) 665-3596