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Ready For A Crisis

Yankton And Vermillion Police Hold First CIT Training

BY ROB NIELSEN
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The Vermillion Police Department (VPD), Yankton Police Department (YPD) and other agencies spent last week introducing the Crisis Intervention Teams training program to their officers with the help of several area organizations.

VPD Sgt. Jacy Nelsen said the program is intended to assist officers in dealing with situations involving mental health.

"Law enforcement is making a move towards this type of training to educate officers further about mental illness, developmental disability disorders and (so on) so officers are better equipped to handle crisis moments that people are involved in," Nelsen said. "It's focused largely on the communication abilities and being able to work with individuals in those crisis moments to hopefully find a positive outcome and a positive relationship between law enforcement and those individuals."

Elements of the training included sessions on mental illness, veterans affairs and mental disorders affecting veterans, medications, site visits in both communities — including trips to the Yankton Homeless Shelter, Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health, the Human Services Center (HSC) (also where training was held) and the University of South Dakota — active listening de-escalation techniques, suicide prevention, dealing with adolescents and children, trauma, drug abuse, drug court, issues with aging critical incident management and role-playing where actors helped officers apply the lessons they'd learned in the course. Culture, hearing issues and testimony from individuals and families who have dealt with mental illness were included.

VPD Lt. Michael Burgeson said a desire to boost the abilities of both departments led to last week's program.

"This came about because of the forward thinking of both Chief (Brian) Paulsen and Chief (Matt) Betzen in Vermillion," Burgeson said. "Without their insight on where we're going and where we need to be and the changes in our society, we wouldn't be doing any of this."

Nelsen said she had some experience with the training along with VPD patrol officer Randy Crum.

"Randy and I actually attended CIT training in Sioux Falls back in February," she said. "That was something



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Thomas Stange of Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health presents Yankton Police Department officer Jeremy Olson with a certificate for passing last week's Crisis Intervention Teams training (CIT). The training involved many local agencies and entities training on how to deal with crises involving mental illness.

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Teen Vows To Defeat Cancer

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the final story in a three-part series focusing on families of the Yankton area who are fighting childhood cancer. This is part of the Press and Dakotan's effort to help promote Childhood Cancer Awareness month.

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Fourteen-year-old Gavin Yasat is a typical Yankton High School freshman. He loves sports — soccer in particular. So, last winter when he started having severe pain in his back, his family assumed he had just pulled a muscle.

When it didn't get better on its own, the Yasat family took him to the doctor, and for the next six weeks Gavin underwent physical therapy.

But the pain never lessened. His mother Kim said she eventually returned with him to the doctor's office, saying "I wasn't going to leave until I knew what was wrong with my son."

Gavin and Kim were referred to a rheumatologist. Doctors suspected that Gavin had rheumatoid arthritis; however, they had also drawn blood to do additional testing. A few hours later, a phone call changed their lives.

"I was at work and got the phone call that afternoon,"



COURTESY PHOTO
Gavin Yasat says he has cancer, but cancer doesn't have him. The Yankton teen was diagnosed with A.L.L. this past February and his fight with the disease is ongoing.

WH Intruder Got Farther Than First Reported

BY ALICIA A. CALDWELL
AND JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The intruder who climbed a fence made it farther inside the White House than the Secret Service has publicly acknowledged, a Republican congressman said Monday. The disclosures came on the eve of a congressional oversight hearing with the director of the embattled agency assigned to protect the president's life.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, said Monday night that whistleblowers told his committee that the intruder ran through the White House, into the East Room and near the doors to the Green Room before being apprehended. They also told the committee that the intruder made it past a female guard stationed inside the White House, Chaffetz said.

In the hours after the Sept. 19 fence-jumper incident, Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan told The Associated Press that the suspect had been apprehended just inside the North Portico doors of the White House. The Secret Service also said that night that the suspect had been unarmed — an assertion that was revealed to be false the next day when officials acknowledged that Omar J. Gonzalez had a knife with him when he was apprehended.

"I'm worried that over the last several years, security has gotten worse — not better," Chaffetz said.

He said his committee's request for a briefing from the Secret Service on the incident was denied.

It was not clear late Monday what Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson was told about the extent of the incident.

Senate Judiciary Committee staffers who were briefed about the investigation by the administration a week after the incident were never told that Gonzalez had made it deep into the building, said a congressional official who wasn't authorized to discuss the investigation and requested anonymity. The official said the committee later was told that the suspect had, indeed, made it far beyond the front door.

Citing multiple unnamed sources, The Washington Post reported that Gonzalez, 42, ran past the guard at the front door, past a staircase leading up to the Obamas' living quarters and into the East Room, which is about halfway across the first floor of the building. Gonzalez was eventually "tackled" by a counter-assault agent, the Post said.

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'Stars' At Work



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D
The Yankton High School Choirs presented their annual "Evening with the Stars" performance Monday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Pictured are Logan Haak, Joseph Kelly, Sam Carda and Cody Geary during the Acappella Choirs performance of "Workin'." To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net/.

Nebraska

Nelson Named Lt. Governor

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — State Sen. John Nelson was sworn into office as Nebraska's 40th lieutenant governor on Monday for the final three months of Gov. Dave Heineman's term in office.

Nelson, an Omaha attorney, took his oath of office in a ceremony at the Capitol. The 78-year-old replaces Lavon Heidemann, who resigned earlier this month after a judge approved his sister's request for a protective order.

Heineman said he finalized his decision over the weekend and called



Nelson

Nelson on Sunday night to request his service.

"John is a respected public official, he's a veteran, and he's been a very successful attorney, and I have great respect for him," Heineman said.

Nelson, a Republican, has served in the Legislature since 2007 but could not seek re-election this year because of term limits. He has been a private practice attorney since 1964. He also is a retired commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves.

"I am honored to receive this appointment and look forward to serving the citizens of Nebraska as their lieutenant governor for the remaining 100 days of this term," Nelson said.

Heineman is leaving office in January due to term limits, so Nelson's stint as lieutenant governor will end then.

Nelson resigned from the state Senate before taking the oath as lieutenant governor, leaving his seat in the Legislature unfilled. Jen Rae Wang, the governor's communications director, said Heineman does not plan to

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TOMORROW: Best-Selling Author Delivers Benedictine Lecture

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