Displaced students continue post-flood rebuild

Still putting back the pieces of their lives after the flood, several Dakota Valley students are dealing with displacement and damage issues to their homes and their lives. Dakota Dunes residents were officially allowed back into their homes on September 15, but clean-up efforts could take up to a year.

Caitlyn Miller

Late nights, sleeping in, and not worrying about anything other than what one’s plans are for the next day is what a normal teenage summer consists of. However, the summer of 2011 was anything but normal.

“My summer didn’t go as planned. Instead of laying out by the pool all day, my family, friends, and I had to sandbag our house from the river that kept rising. We had to get rid of my horses that I have had since I was thirteen because their barn was going to be eight feet under water,” said Courtney Moelk.

This past spring, the Missouri River water levels maxed out at about seven feet above flood stage, causing many families to evacuate their homes. By the first week of June, 1,631 residents of the Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, population were either voluntarily or manditorily evacuated, according to FEMA.

Before evacuation, a drive to the Dunes from the school took, on average, ten minutes. However during the height of the flood exodus, to just get into the Dunes it took visitors up to two hours.

“It looked like a war zone; there were military vehicles, semis, and cars parked all over the streets, and on the boulevards. At one point, I had to park my vehicle at the Two Rivers Plaza and walk a mile,” said Dunes resident Anna Michaelson.

Legislators were worried that the river was going to go way past flood stage and cause horrific damage. That is why they asked residents to be safe and leave their homes.

As expected, the water rose so high on the the Hamilton Exit, which runs off of I-29, that the roads near Bev’s restaurant were completely under water. Back at the Dunes, sandbags protected houses while the National Guard patrolled the local neighborhoods. Semis destroyed roads as drivers hauled in dirt for the levees. In the end, over half of community members were displaced from their homes.

Annie Long, a local resident of Riv-R-Land Estates, said that the flood was the most devastating thing she had ever been through.

“The whole basement is stripped of our memories and is full of mold,” said Long. According to Long, the hardest part of going back to her home after the devastation was revisiting her room and seeing how much everything had changed.

“My room was my haven. It was my safe place where I had gone through so many emotions and I even had designed that room personally and to come home to it and it be completely destroyed was heartbreaking,” said Long. With all the damage it could be up to another year before she and her family can get back into their original house, according to Long. As of now they are living together as a family in a house on top of the hill in Riv-R-Land.

Dakota Dunes residents started officially returning to their homes on September 15 when the security checkpoints were dismantled. However, experts warn returning residents not to be in a hurry to get their homes back to “normal”.

“Flood damaged wood must dry out to 13 percent moisture before replacing wall coverings. For many homeowners, this could take several months to a year.”

To sleep or not to sleep

Mary Dick

Future students may have to set their alarms fifteen minutes earlier. Among other options, the school board has been looking into starting the school day ahead of schedule due to congestion on Northshore Drive and student sporting events occurring close to the end of the school day. Pushing the time back was discussed for the current school year, but the decision was not made. Before this change be enacted, the school board will notify the parents for feedback on the topic.

“It seems to be human nature to fight against change. I believe that there will be some parents, students, and staff members who would not be in favor of making the change, but in reality we are only talking about a fifteen minute adjustment to the starting and ending times,” said Al Leber.

The time change would only happen to either the high school (middle school combined) or the elementary.

The fifteen minute earlier start time would not help what the average teen is said to be suffering from: sleep deprivation. Students today have more distractions such as social networks and homework that keeps them from getting to bed.

“I think I get around four hours of sleep a night. I’m taking three college level classes and I’m always up late studying,” said senior Jade Hofer.

Studies have shown that as an adolescent matures, his biological clock slowly pushes back the release of melatonin, the sleep hormone that causes tiredness, causing the student to be unable to doze off at an earlier time than his normal late night sleeping pattern.

“I’m so used to going to bed after midnight that it’s hard to go actually fall asleep early,” said student Alyssa Hunt.

The effects of the lack of rest visibly show in both a teen’s academic and athletic performance. The attractiveness of late-night social networks only adds to the problem.

For optimum focus and energy, it is suggested that students head to bed with enough time to get in a full nine hours, and to attempt to fall asleep at the same time every night.

“Making full use of study hall will free up time at night also,” said teacher Staci Haag.

Panther Pride Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Mary Dick  Copy Editor: Monica Peacock
Reporter: Caitlyn Miller  Adviser: Anna Michaelson

Jade Hofer said to be suffering from: sleep deprivation. Lauren Hauger (11) dozes off.
Homecoming greatest show on Earth

Going for the gold, Wade Treloar (11) and his competitor participate in the slow bike race during the Homecoming olympics. Sophomores won the category for the day.  

Kara Christopher-Holt and Brock Bergmann were crowned king and queen of the week during coronation Thursday night in the auditorium. The sophomores won the class skit that night, as the dance team, the choir, and the drum line added their flare to the event. Afterward the pop band revved up the crowd at a rally in the gym.

On Friday, the whole district showed its Panther pride by dressing in purple, black, sophomores-blue, and freshmen-khaki), with seniors nabbing first place.

Thursday was circus day, which brought out strong men, animals, ring-masters, and acrobats; freshmen won this day, and the volleyball team won its match against Bon Homme as well.

Enjoying their reign, Brock Bergmann (12), and Kara Christopher-Holt (12) smile for the audience at coronation.

Photo by: Anna Michaelson

Dress code stumps students

Caitlyn Miller

Students who come to school dressed for summer are making waves at the high school. Short skirts, cut-offs, low-cut shirts, and shorts are common sights around town in the summer. However, when mid-August rolled around and school started, the Dakota Valley High School dress code made this look unacceptable, which upset some students.

“The dress code is broken when school is first starting up due to the weather being warm still, and when spring comes because people are antsy for summer again,” said junior Kylie Dunn.

“These two seasons in the year are when the dress code is abused the most. If you go into the weight-room, you might see boys with cut-offs and you can see their chests and stomachs. You walk the halls the first day of school, and you might see shorts that are too short and skirts that are too low,” said Dunn.

“I don’t like the dress code, because I feel as if it’s pointless, because it’s not really enforced and people disobey it anyways. I don’t think it distracts from learning at all. I could care less what someone is wearing, unless it’s really cute and I may want it for myself,” said senior Jade Hofer.

According to the student handbook, school clothing should be appropriate as to time, place, and weather. Specifically, shorts are allowed if appropriate.

However, bare midriffs, shirts with “spaghetti straps,” tattered clothing, hats or caps, t-shirts with slogans referring to alcohol, drugs, tobacco and obscenities, and bare feet are not.

“Everyone has different perspectives on when something is ‘too’ revealing and then becomes a dress code violation. I think that they can become a distraction. Also, some things can promote negative activities or be seen as offensive to some students and staff, like a Hooter’s or Marlboro T-Shirt,” said principal Jerry Rasmussen.

Staff members at Dakota Valley try to enforce dress code as much as they can, but the task is difficult.

“I found it works better to pull a student aside then to ask them in front of others and say that they need to change, because the straps are too thin or there is too much showing,” said Staci Haag.

The difficulty of the task has some wondering if requiring uniforms would make solving the problem easier.

Schools that have uniforms report that students often also like them because one doesn’t have to try to decide ‘what to wear’ each day. Uniforms also take away the issue of judgment calls as to what the dress code violations are. Some schools don’t require uniforms, but require, for example, that all shirts have a collar. The downside of uniforms is that students lose some of their individualism because everyone wears similar clothes,” said Rasmussen.

Teachers are to give students a warning to change clothes if they are in violation, and if nothing is done the student is to be sent home.

There is no official punishment laid out for students who refuse to change inappropriate clothing.

Students, however, have some ideas.

“I think that OSS, ISS, and detention would be a bit much, but if that student that is being addressed doesn’t want to cooperate with the teacher, they should be sent to the principal’s office and have to call their parents,” said Dunn.

Dress codes are supposed to reduce violence and bullying by taking style differences out of the equation, according to the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

In larger schools, researchers found that gang-related headwear was the number one target of dress code violations, cited in 89 percent of dress code policies they reviewed in 2006. Jackets were second, cited in 64 percent of policies.
Fired up for football

Monica Peacock

In Major League Baseball, October is the most important month of the year. It’s the start of the playoffs, and the dream of a World Series Championship is not far from reach. This year, however, the atmosphere of the postseason began in September.

At the start of September, the Boston Red Sox held a nine game lead over the Tampa Bay Rays in the American League Wild Card race. If the Red Sox won at least eight games, they would have guaranteed themselves a spot in the playoffs. Instead of marching straight into the playoffs, Boston completely collapsed in the last few weeks of the regular season. They were 7-19 going into their last regular season game against the Baltimore Orioles.

While Boston’s season spiraled downward, Tampa accelerated in a whole new direction. They started winning what seemed like every game in September. By the end of the month, the Rays had caught up to the Red Sox in the wild card race.

I followed the AL Wild Card race throughout September, shaking my head every time the Red Sox let another game slide. When the Rays tied the Red Sox, I knew it wasn’t going to be good for my boys in Boston.

The tie presented a unique situation for both teams. If the Red Sox beat the Orioles and the Rays lost to the Yankees, the Red Sox would take the last playoff spot, and vice versa. If both teams lost or won, they would have to play each other for the next day.

Ironically, the same situation was happening in the National League Wild Card race. The Atlanta Braves were 8 ½ games ahead of the St. Louis Cardinals at the beginning of the month. Their season took a turn for the worst as well.

The Cardinals caught up to them, and once the last day of the regular season would determine who made it to the postseason. The Braves were playing the division-leading Philadelphia Phillies. If they lost, the Cardinals could clinch the last wild card spot with a victory over the Houston Astros.

ESPN had been following both stories for weeks, predicting the outcomes and evaluating the regular season. Sports blogs were buzzing. When the final day of the regular season finally arrived, sports fans of every kind were drawn to their television screens. Thousands witnessed one of the greatest nights in baseball history.

The Red Sox were up 2-0 in the seventh inning when rain forced a delay of game. While they waited for a break in the stormy weather, the Rays fought to overcome a 7-0 deficit against the Yankees. Miraculously, they rallied back and forced the game into extra innings. Meanwhile, the game resumed in Boston.

Unfortunately, the rain damped the Red Sox momentum, and the Orioles came back to win the game 4-3.

Less than an hour later, Evan Longoria, the Ray’s third baseman, hit a homerun in the 12th inning to give his team an 8-7 lead over the Yankees. The Rays were going to the playoffs, and the Red Sox were going home.

In the National League, the Cardinals beat the Astros 8-0. The Braves lost to the Phillies 4-3 in 13 innings. The Cardinals were in, and the Braves were out.

Unfortunately for Boston and Atlanta, their losses would go down as the two worst collapses in Major League Baseball history. Boston released its manager of eight years, Terry Francona.

The players continue to work hard every day, and hope this is the year they make it to state.

“Our number one goal is to make it to state,” said Bergmann. “And win every game at home.”

The team’s current record gives the team and its coaches the potential to do just that.

Monica Peacock

Hard work and strong leadership have led the girl’s varsity volleyball team to a 7-3 record during the regular season. The volleyball team, much like the football team, worked hard over the summer to prepare for the season. They had practice two times a week and participated in several tournaments throughout the offseason.

“We worked in the summer in the weight room,” said Kylie Martin, one of the team’s three co-captains. “But it was hard to get extra time in cause of the flood.”

Martin believes chemistry has greatly influenced the team’s performance this season.

“We are more comfortable this year and we trust each other more,” said Martin.

The team’s current record gives the team and its coaches the potential to do just that.
Deck the halls
Art students display works

Ceramic Cupcake
Sculptor: Tyler Schrunk

Pencil Sketch
Artisst: Amanda Roeber

Angry Jurors take stage

Monica Peacock

The stage is set for Dakota Valley’s fall play, “Twelve Angry Jurors.” The three-act drama is based on the popular television series “12 Angry Men” by Reginald Rose. Set in a modern-day courtroom, twelve frustrated jurors try to decide if a young man is guilty of murdering his father.

The entire cast consists of only 14 actors, several of whom have never been on stage before. Meghan Schenk, a freshman at Dakota Valley, is acting for the first time.

“If’s a smaller cast and half of them are new actors,” said Vogts. “The play itself is shorter, but it’s not as physical. It’s more wordy.”

Director Anna Michaelson chose the play because of its modern setting and dynamic character roles. Michaelson believes perfecting the character’s personalities will be a challenge, especially for the new actors, but hopes it will be a great learning experience.

“This play is definitely more character-driven,” said Michaelson. “It’s more of an ensemble piece. Everyone will have to come together as a team.”

The cast has practice every morning from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the high school auditorium. Both Schenk and Vogts admit the practices are early, but know their hard work will pay off in the end.

This year’s play is a drama, because the theatre department works on a three-year rotation of genres (drama, comedy, musical) to give high school actors a taste of several kinds of shows.

The cast is smaller this year, but the emotion is more intense than in previous years, forcing the actors to develop their characters to a higher degree than before.

“We really have to know who we are, because we can’t rely on action to carry our characters this year,” said actor Laura Michaelson.

“Twelve Angry Jurors” opens at November 11 and 12 at Dakota Valley High School. The doors open at 6:30 pm, and the show goes up at 7pm.

Tickets are available at the door (no advanced sales are allowed). Prices are as follows: Senior Citizens (62+) are free, students are $2, and adults are $4.

Debating over the guilt of a murder suspect, Zach Strickholm (10), Cole Bruening (10), and Jacob Vogts (12) rehearse a scene from this year’s fall play, “Twelve Angry Jurors.” Actors started rehearsals in early September for an opening show date of November 11.

Photo by: Matt Brewster
Obesity and exercise

Guest Writer

Results from a massive survey of Change4Life families show that almost three quarters (72 per cent) of their children are not getting 60 minutes of daily activity outside of school. The campaign’s new TV ad urges families to get up and about more in an effort to cut levels of obesity.

The ‘How Are The Kids Survey’, launched in January, is the biggest national survey of children’s diet and activity levels, and received more than 260,000 responses from families across England. The survey of Change4Life families also found that 45 per cent of their kids watched TV or played non-active video games before school, and only 22 per cent did something active after their evening meal.

Since the survey began, families have been sent tailor-made support packs to help them make small but important changes to their daily routines. A new Change4Life advert focusing on getting families more active will add encouragement to that support.

The new advert responds to the need for families to get more physical activity into their daily routines - to make sure that the energy in, is matched by the energy out.

The ad features the Change4Life family as they realise that ‘sitting around doing nothing’ can lead to a build up of fat in their bodies that can cause diseases such as type two diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

The family finds lots of fun ways to get their kids active for 60 minutes - playing in the park, walking to school and playing with active computer games where kids need to jump and dance around.

Dawn Primarolo, minister for public health, said: “Our survey shows that kids just aren’t getting up and about as much as they should. If we’re going to cut obesity levels our children need to be active for at least 60 minutes a day.

“Families up and down the country are getting tailor-made action plans from Change4Life, and our new ad will give additional encouragement to help families feel the difference.

“By eating better and moving more, we can all live longer and healthier lives. With continued support from Change4Life this can be a reality for every family in England.”

This article was downloaded from http://www.freefeatures.

Solution needed for parking lot chaos

Have you ever gotten hit by a car because it was going too fast in the parking lot? Have you ever gotten so nervous to pull out of the parking lot because there’s so many people that you just pulled out without thinking and got into an accident? Well, if you haven’t, it’s just a matter of time.

With each passing year our high school population increases, which means more cars in the parking lot, and more chaos as frantic drivers race to leave school behind. If something isn’t done, this could result in more accidents and severe injuries.

Being a teenager, most of us are not experienced and are reckless drivers. We text and drive, we do our makeup, change clothes, and some just like to watch the scenery as we drive, but with all these distractions the chance of accidents increases. Being a junior and being in high school for three years, I’ve gotten used to the craziness of getting out of school, but newcomers such as freshmen are not “trained” yet.

“The first day of school was crazy; it was nerve wracking because I didn’t know where to park and I hadn’t experienced that much chaos before,” said freshman Tiara Selby.

Everyone is always rushing to get to their jobs, or just to leave, but sometimes things get a little too out of hand. In our parking lot there is no speed sign posted so students feel obligated to drive whatever speed they want. Coming into the school parking lot, there are only stop signs so people have to watch both ways before crossing the line to get on the opposite side of the road. This can be very dangerous in the winter because kids want to leave so bad that they don’t stop all the way and just keep going, and with all of that traffic and ice, kids slide right into another car or into someone’s mailbox.

“Our parking lot is hectic, so to keep it safer and prevent less accidents a speed sign should be posted within the lot so kids know that there is a speed limit to follow and stop lights could help things go smoother and kids won’t have to wait forever to get out after school,” said Abby Jasman.

Now that we have established that there is a problem, I have a few ways that could solve it. I think stop lights should be put in so kids don’t rush as much to get out. I think a speed limit should be set and posted in the parking lot so that the chance of another car or of a person getting hit is lowered, or a teacher should be responsible for patrolling traffic everyday after school.

One of these solutions is bound to make the risk of students getting hurt lower. Now all we have to do as a school is choose a solution and go with it!

Smoking has its benefits?

The reason Congress permits so many toxic and cancer-causing additives to be in typical cigarettes is that the benefits outweigh the risks?

What possible benefits are there?
Siblings separate over summer

Monica Peacock

Siblings Jacob and Sarah Vogts spent their summer vacations hundreds of miles apart. Jacob was in the Missouri wilderness while Sarah was at a music camp in Massachusetts.

Jacob, a senior at Dakota Valley High School, spent his summer vacation helping young Boy Scouts earn their Environmental Science Merit Badges in Iconium, Missouri. He learned about the program from his cousin, who is also involved in Boy Scouts.

“I basically taught eleven and twelve year olds about nature,” said Jacob, an Eagle Scout in Troop 149. Jacob left for Iconium at the end of May. As a counselor, he had the privilege of staying in a cabin every night.

“I slept in a cabin, basically four walls and an attic fan, and I ate what would basically be school food for every meal,” said Jacob.

There were a variety of people at the camp, including a marathon runner and a nationally ranked competition archer. Over 80 people made up the entire staff.

“That’s just the tip of the iceberg,” said Jacob. “Every single one of the staff members is tied for most interesting because everyone was different.”

Jacob returned from the camp just two weeks before the start of his senior year.

Sarah spent her summer vacation doing what she loves best: playing her bassoon. She spent six weeks at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, a distinguished music camp in Lenox, Massachusetts.

High school music students ages 14-18 auditioned from all over the world for a spot at the Tanglewood Institute. After auditioning in Chicago in January, Sarah was accepted and invited to the camp along with seven other bassoonists.

During her first two weeks at the camp, she worked with professional musicians and instructors who helped her master the bassoon. She spent the next four weeks with the Young Artists Wind Ensemble, a group of talented young musicians who play wind instruments.

“I was from South Dakota, the oboe player was from San Francisco, the horn was from Boston, the flute was from Florida, and the clarinet was from Cyprus… the country,” said Sarah. “That just shows the great diversity at the camp.”

Sarah had rehearsals every morning, followed by workshops and lessons in the afternoon. During this time, she had the opportunity to work with a bassoonist from the Boston Symphony.

The students at the camp went to the Boston Symphony, in addition to several concerts at the Tanglewood Institute. Despite the distance between them, Jacob and Sarah managed to keep in touch. They called and texted one another frequently.

“The first time I called him,” said Sarah, “We seriously talked for 45 minutes.”

Both siblings look forward to similar vacations next summer. Jacob cannot wait to return to the wilderness, and Sarah hopes to return to the Tanglewood Institute next summer and become a member of the orchestra.

Don’t forget!

Parent-Teacher Conferences are:

Oct. 18 and Oct. 19 from 4-7:30
Delve into... '12

**Nichole Waugh**
- Parent's Names: Tim and Leslie Waugh
- Favorite High School Memory: None
- Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years? I see myself graduated from college and starting up my career in writing and acting.
- What was your most embarrassing high school moment: None

**Evan Michael Thomas Steemken**
- Parent's Names: Mike and Tammy Steemken
- Favorite High School Memory: Varsity football and basketball games
- Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years? With a good job and a nice family
- What was your most embarrassing high school moment: After prom…being hypnotized

**Jordan Rae Towler**
- Parent's Names: Lori Towler, Lee Roy Skoglund
- Favorite High School Memory: Homecoming week
- Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years? IDK
- What was your most embarrassing high school moment: My “walk of shame” after the Nelly Concert

**Elizabeth Ann Wagner**
- Parent's Names: Rick Wagner and Sue Rodawig
- Favorite High School Memory: Sophomore year homecoming…great times! Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years? Hopefully married with a family and a good job.

**Justin Paul Peterson**
- Parent's Names: Barb and Jeff Peterson
- Favorite High School Memory: Special Metals
- Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years? Having a nice job and a family.
- What was your most embarrassing high school moment: Senior Summer
- What is your favorite possession? My car

**Sean Michael Clausen**
- Parent's Names: Kelly and Roxanne Clausen
- Favorite High School Memory: Hanging out with friends
- What was your most embarrassing high school moment: When I slipped and fell on ice in the parking lot.
- What is your favorite possession? My guitar

**Anthony James Michels**
- Parent's Names: T.J. Michels
- Favorite High School Memory: Jimmy singing in the play
- What was your most embarrassing high school moment: Semesters when I jumped in the snow before I took the test and got wet and had to sit in wet clothes.

**Krista Marie Anderson**
- Parent's Names: Linda and Don Bayer
- Favorite High School Memory: My trip to New Orleans
- Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years? In Texas
- What was your worst moment: None

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**High school students of the month**

- **Freshman- TJ Wente**
- **Sophomore- Danielle Calamanco**
- **Junior- Taylor Lambert**
- **Senior- Shawn Kerr**
Coloring Contest

October Horoscopes

Coloring Contest

Scary

Sudoku

ACROSS
1 Watch
3 Speak
4 Lively
5 Member of parliament
9 Secrets
11 The Town of the
13 O.K.
19 The man of country music
23 Scary of the Spice Girls, also
24 "One Million"
27 Fever
28 Erykah and three others
29 "Don't Speak"
32 Children of Thunder, poet
34 New York Hotel (3 words)

DOWN
1 Coot a bullfrog
3 P.I.
5 Crying table
6 Backward
8 Fear
9 The film festival
10 Cape__
12 Live
13 Snowstorm
15 Snowman
16 New Year
18 The
19 Messrs.
20 Stick
31 Member
32 Max
33 Desk

Fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

* Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
* Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
* Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9