

Several events scheduled for Veterans Day

Aberdeen's main program will be 24 hours early

By Russ Keen
American News Writer

Aberdeen's main Veterans Day program will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, the day before the holiday.

That's because classes will not be in session on Veterans Day at Central High School, 2200 S. Roosevelt St. That's where the program will be held, as is the case most years.

CHS students typically attend and provide special music at the event. That's the main reason the program will be a day early, said Al Sebert of the Aberdeen post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Classes will be held Friday in all other Aberdeen public schools. Central differs



Herseth



Johnson



Levsen



Victor

because variations in its schedule for parent-teacher conferences allows staff to have Friday off.

Those who prefer to honor veterans at the traditional time — the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month — may still do so. According to tradition, that's when World War I ended in 1918.

A program is scheduled for 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at the VFW, 821 Circle Drive. The observance will include the unveiling of the fourth of four oak display cabinets filled with

items related to four different wars. The last cabinet recognizes the Vietnam War. The others are for World War II, the Korean War and Desert Storm.

Also at the Friday event, the new van acquired by the local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans will be dedicated, Sebert said. The van arrived about two weeks ago.

Ceremony at airport: Also on Friday, the third and final soldier statue outside Aberdeen Regional Airport will be unveiled and dedicated. The

ceremony is at 3 p.m. The first and second were unveiled on Veterans Day in 2003 and 2004.

Ben Victor of Aberdeen created all three. The third, called the Aftermath Soldier, features a female warrior placing a rose at the grave of a fallen soldier.

The first and second sculptures are called the Victory and Combat soldiers.

Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., Rep. Stephanie Herseth, D-

S.D., and Aberdeen Mayor Mike Levsen are scheduled to speak at the statue dedication. The Aberdeen Regional Men's Chorus will sing.

Several area communities also have Veteran's Day programs planned. See the Daily Calendar on Page 5A