

Rock wall provides unique opportunity

By Derek Bartos

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Lindsey Isaacson loves climbing. She also loves teaching. Fortunately, her job at the University of South Dakota involves both.

Isaacson is student manager of the multi-story climbing wall at the USD's new \$15 million, 61,000-square-foot Wellness Center that opened last month. As part of her job, she gets to help and instruct new climbers.

"It's a very fun job. It doesn't feel like work," she said. "It's really social, and you get to interact with a lot of people."

Isaacson, an avid climber and secondary education major, helps climbers become belay certified. Belaying is the process of securing a climbing partner during top-rope climbing, the most popular of the three types of climbing that are done on the wall.

With top-rope climbing, two people are always involved. The person climbing is attached to the rope, which reaches the top of the wall and is held below by the person belaying. A staff member is required to help unless the climbers become belay certified. Once certified, people can come in with partners and climb on their own.

Two other types of climbing are bouldering and lead climbing. Bouldering is short wall climbing and requires no rope. A partner is not needed, but spotters are often used depending on the height of the climb.

"Whereas top-rope climbing is more about endurance, bouldering is all about power and learning how to utilize gravity," Isaacson said. "It's a really good way to build technique."

Lead climbers start with the rope on the ground and clip in the rope as they climb the wall. This is for advanced climbers only, and no training is available at this time.

"Lead climbing isn't something I train someone to do," Isaacson said. "They've already garnered that experience somewhere else. Eventually I would like to do classes for that, but not yet."

Currently, if a person wishes to lead climb, Isaacson will observe them to see if they climb at a high enough level to do so. If approved, that person can lead climb during special hours on weekends. Along with certifying climbers, Isaacson also helps manage the small staff of



University of South Dakota secondary education student Lindsey Isaacson works with the new rock climbing wall in Vermillion. Isaacson manages the wall's staff, does general maintenance and also certifies climbers. The climbing wall is part of USD's new \$15 million, 61,000-square-foot Wellness Center.

(Photo by David Lias)

students that runs the climbing wall. As time has progressed, other staff members have become more involved with classes, allowing her to get into other aspects of the wall, such as management and maintenance.

"I started by teaching most of the classes, and the people I work with would help out," she said. "And then I kind of started weaning myself out of it and watching them teach it. Everyone is very competent, and most

people can certify at this point."

One of the staff's most important jobs is to complete a safety checklist to ensure there are no weak spots in the climbing equipment. The check is done twice each day by different staff members each shift. The process has worked so far, as Isaacson said the staff has not encountered any serious injuries since they opened.

"There haven't really been any injuries to speak of, except for maybe a few knocked knees," she said. "We try

and hold a pretty tight fort."

Isaacson said the wall has become quite popular, and she hopes more people come in to try out the sport.

"Climbing indoors is a great stepping stone to being able to do some really fun things outside and see some really cool places," she said.

For more information, contact the USD Wellness Center at 605-667-8836.

OBITUARIES

George Ufford

George Franklin Ufford, 75, of Vermillion passed away on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls.

Funeral service were on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Vermillion. Burial was in BluffView Cemetery following the service on Saturday. Visitation was held from 6 to 7 p.m. at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion on Friday, April 15, with a prayer service to at 7 p.m.

George was born on Dec. 8, 1935, in Vermillion, to Frank and



UFFORD

National Guard and was a member of the 178th Wing out of Sioux Falls. He went to college at SDSU

and then USD, which is where he met his wife Gladys.

George and Gladys were married on April 8, 1962, in Sioux City, IA. He and Gladys resided on their farm in rural Vermillion where George farmed up until the day he passed. George was a member of the First Baptist Church, Incense Lodge #2 of the Freemasons, Sioux City Consistory, and Experimental Aircraft Association. He was also a member of the Boys Scouts of America where he served as cubmaster of Pack 12 for six years, and Scoutmaster of Troop 66. George

also provided community leadership in Fairview Township as a member and chairman of the township board.

George is survived by his wife, Gladys; sons, Alex (Stephanie) Ufford and Don (Rebecca) Ufford; and grandchildren Taylor and Kathryn.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Glenna Ufford; brothers, William and Sanford; and sister, Margaret Weinstein.

Condolences may be posted online at www.koberfuneralhome.com.

Martin P. Busch

Martin P. Busch, known fondly as "the father of South Dakota Public Broadcasting", passed away quietly April 15, 2011 at his Grand Villas home in Atchison, KS.

Busch was born on March 29, 1922 to Paul and Marie (Roemer) Busch in Wolsey. After graduating from Wolsey High School in 1940 he attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell. He began his career in Wolsey as a music teacher and as principal after returning as a Naval Lt. Commander during World War II, attending the University of South Dakota, and earning his BFA Degree in 1948.

After moving to and teaching in Brookings, he became program director for KUSD-AM Radio in 1954 at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. At that time he also began his MFA degree and also was a professor of the fledgling "communications" department.

His love for, and deep knowledge of, the classics evolved into a popular show "The Classics". As his broadcasting career expanded he was appointed executive director of the South Dakota Public Broadcasting system in 1960 and served the people of South Dakota in the development of the statewide multimedia network.

KUSD-TV, channel 2, the flagship station went on the air in 1961, the first educational television in the state and part of his vision that everyone in the state, especially children in schools, should have access to educational programming.

As the TV stations were constructed, each was designed to add the "new" FM band radio transmissions statewide. His vision culminated with SDPB TV operating nine transmitters and six translators and public radio operating 10 translators. And during his tenure, he participated in the early development of similar state systems in the three-state area as well as nationally in the development of National Public Radio (NPR) and PBS (Public Broadcasting System).

Busch was honored in October 2010 having the SDPB headquarters studios, in the Al Neuharth Media Center at the University of South Dakota dedicated to his vision and service.

In addition to meeting and developing many professional and personal friendships throughout South Dakota and the nation,

Busch was well-known for his radio show "The Bookshop", which spanned over six decades from 1956 to 2001.

Busch's community leadership involved countless years of involvement in local, regional and national civic, fraternal and business organizations in Vermillion and later, after his retirement, in Rapid City. He was also a member of the South Dakota Hall of Fame.

He enjoyed reading, music and choirs, classic cars, flying his airplane and most of all his Harley friends and bike trips he took into

his early 80's. In his last 15 years he was an avid participant in Cardiac Rehabilitation in Rapid City and at Atchison Hospital.

Busch is survived by three sons, David and Stephan (Rae Ellen) of Atchison, KS and Harlan (Frances) Busch, La Cieba, Honduras; one daughter, Annalisa of Hastings, MN; and four grandchildren, Angela Moeckly of Tucson, AZ, Patrick Busch of La Cieba, Honduras, and Stephanie and Christina Busch of Atchison, KS.

Services were held Wednesday, April 20 at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion.

Visitation was one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at the church. Burial was in BluffView Cemetery with military honors conducted by V.E.W. Clay County Post #3061.

Memorials can be made to SDPB Friends, P.O. Box 5000, Brookings, SD 57006-5000.

Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.koberfuneralhome.com

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Vermillion Community Theatre announces summer season

The Vermillion Community Theatre will sponsor three events in the summer of 2011.

The mainstage production will be Lerner and Loewe's Broadway musical "My Fair Lady." Performances will be July 8-11. A children's production of "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory" will be performed Aug. 12-14. Both shows will be cast in May.

In addition, VCT has teamed with the Children's Theatre Company of South Dakota to provide a theatre workshop for children finishing K-5th grade. The workshop will be June 6-11 with performances of "On the Road to Bremen Town" on June 10 and 11. Registration for the workshop is limited to 50 participants and will be held at the Vermillion Parks and Recreation summer sign up event on May 4 at the armory.

All activities will be held at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center. Information about auditions and performances is available at vermillioncommunitytheatre.org.

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