

VHS to present 'Bye Bye Birdie' May 4-6

The musical "Bye Bye Birdie" by Michael Stewart, Charles Strouse, and Lee Adams will be performed by Vermillion High School students on Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday May 6, at 2:30 p.m. in the high school performing arts center.

This high energy show tells the story of Conrad Birdie, a 1960's Elvis type rock-n-roll star, who must do one more big publicity stunt before joining the army. He has to kiss a randomly selected teen on a national TV show. Albert, Conrad's agent, has a difficult time making it all happen when his rock star disappears, his meddling mother comes to town, his secretary quits, and an overprotective father and jealous boyfriend threaten Conrad. Recognizable songs like "Put On A Happy Face" and "Kids" are in the show along with many other toe-tapping tunes.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and senior citizens, and free to those with Vermillion School District activity cards. Tickets can be purchased at the door or the high school office.



Vermillion High School students are busy rehearsing in preparation for the staging of "Bye Bye Birdie" May4, 5 and 6. Pictured are (bottom row) Callan Martin, Sam Pearson, Meghan Cameron, Paul Granaas, Paige Severson, Bailey Mathews, Audrey Miiller, Hope Knedler, Allison Howe, Randy LaMie, Janelle Solberg, (second row) Dustin Fischer, Leah Geis, Caitlin Britten, Sabrina Schnack, Derek Iverson, Teagan McNary, Taylor Davis, and (third row) Rachel Axtell, Savannah Kirsch, Mateo Piper, and Daniel Bellis.

(Photo by David Lias)

CAMP

From Page 1

Capital) to come over and be a part of it and give them a little bit of practice, so they got something out of the camp as well."

The goal of the program is to introduce students at the high school level to the concepts of entrepreneurship and financing through the use of case studies of actual South Dakota businesses.

The 25 high school students who participated were randomly chosen to be either entrepreneurs, who met in business groups, or financiers, who also met in groups to develop lending criteria.

The process for the business groups was filled with making a case study of their businesses to determine the type of financing that would be most appropriate. They also had to create elevator pitches and present their business ideas to the finance groups in hopes of getting funding.

The finance teams, in turn, had to decide what type of

businesses they wanted to invest in and at what terms.

Speakers at the beginning of the camp included Nick Cerny, assistant director of admissions at USD, Jeff Eckhoff, Small Business Development director at USD, and Kelsey Schmidt, a USD business student currently involved in the university's Entrepreneurship Program.

She gave the students an example of an "elevator pitch" used, for example, to convince financiers to invest in a company.

Mentors included Ben Hanten, who is involved with Two Bridges Capital, LLC, of Yankton, Eckhoff, Mel Ustad of the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development, and John Brown of the Small Business Administration office in Sioux Falls.

"Everyone who served as a mentor had real-world experience related to the groups that they were mentoring," Howe said.

The students in the entrepreneur groups had to fulfill nearly every goal that a real-life businessperson would have to fulfill - from making

appointments and determining what types of financing would best work, to developing elevator pitches.

"Often times, in traditional business classes, you're taught how to put together a business plan," Howe said. "It's pretty basic stuff - what type of business are you dealing with, what's your product, what market are you going to sell to - and that's what students get often at both the high school and college levels.

"What doesn't get talked about is once you have your business plan, what do you do next? How do you get financed? What we want to do is expose students to the concept that there are other ways of getting financing than just your traditional banking system, and that, depending on your business, you might be better suited to different types of financing," he said. "We just wanted to give students a quick overview of what it is really like to get financing."

Howe is certain that there will be at minimum, a fifth entrepreneurship camp hosted in Vermillion next year. It is an exercise, however, that has the

potential to spread.

"The goal is to get it into all of the schools in the region and not just be a Vermillion thing," he said. "There's no reason that it can't run in Yankton. We've done it for four years, and we're ready to say to other schools, 'Here's how we do it ... maybe you can run with it.' And each teacher that we've had attend this has really liked it a lot."

Yankton students participated in the camp last year, but weren't able to attend last week's event. Yankton High's economics teacher, Brady Muth,

however, traveled to Vermillion to participate as a mentor.

Other mentors included Gerald Gramm of the state Department of Education; Ben Hanten of Two Bridges Capital, LLC, Yankton; Jeff Eckhoff, Small Business Development Center, USD; Jeff VanDenHul, DVHS marketing teacher; Dan Specht, Vision Real Estate, Yankton; Mel Ustad, Governor's Office of Economic Development; Joanne Ustad, VHS business teacher; Sue Stoll, Small Business Development Center, Yankton; and John

Brown, Small Business Administration, Sioux Falls.

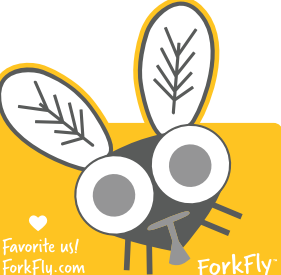
"We got great feedback from the instructors from Dakota Valley, who said that this was of great value to their students," Howe said. "This camp also brings together the education community and the economic development community, and that's a good partnership. We'd like to see this in school districts across the state.

"It's a valuable experience for both the kids and the mentors," he said.

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Caribou COFFEE
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Buy one 16 oz. of your choice, get one of equal or lesser value FREE!

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