

A FAIR-LY GREAT TIME!



ABOVE: Jessica Kennedy, Vermillion, carefully negotiates a mud-filled trench during the ATV Mud Races held in the arena Saturday at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Vermillion. The races closed out three action-packed days at the fair that included everything from 4-H Achievement Days livestock shows and the crowning of a 2011 Miss Clay County Fair princess and junior princess, to the ever-popular demolition derby. Log on to spotted.yankton.net to view more scenes from the fair.



RIGHT: Nick Jones dances with his 2-year-old daughter, Maddie, as live music was played during the free barbecue meal served to people attending the Clay County Fair Saturday afternoon. Maddie's mother, Lisa Jones, is not pictured as she was busy taking photos of this special moment. The Jones are from Vermillion. For more scenes from the Clay County Fair, log on to spotted.plaintalk.net.

Photos by David Lias

Kids get cardio workout at skipping rope event

By Huma Sheikh

When kids were jumping ropes to Kriss Kross's "Jump" song at a jump rope event Friday afternoon at the Clay County Fair, they weren't just doing it for fun. They were getting a good cardio workout.

The "Join in Jump Rope" event was sponsored by Sanford Health and was part of the Clay County Fair that began Wednesday and ended Saturday. "The kids who took part in the event had a great time. They learned that jumping rope does get your heart pumping," said Mary C. Merrigan, director of public relations, Sanford Vermillion.

"The jump song was also longer than most kids are probably used to jumping rope, giving them a good cardio workout," she said.

Sixty-six jumpers ages 3-14 participated in the event, setting a new Clay County record for kids jumping rope at the same time. Last year, which was also the first year for "Join in Jump Rope," the event had set a record with 38 jumpers ages 7-17. The participants each received a free jump rope from Sanford. "We had 66 kids who jumped rope on

Friday afternoon from different age groups. They all wanted to have some fun exercise and break last year's record jumping at once," said Carol Lavin, the organizer of the event.

"Exercise is important for kids and doing it together in a large group can be even more fun! My son and daughter participated and they brought friends to join in. Kids who participated also got to keep their jump ropes, hoping they would continue the healthy exercise at home as well," said Carol, who is also a Sanford Wellness Nurse.

In the past, Sanford provided health screenings or set up an information booth at the fair. In 2010, they organized the first "Join in Jump Rope" event at the fair to involve youth in skipping sport whose health benefits include improved cardio fitness, muscle strength and flexibility.

Carol's daughter, Maddie Lavin, 11, who participated in the event, said she had fun jumping rope. "I really didn't realize how much time I spent skipping rope because I was really enjoying it," she said. "Jumping rope gets you up and going and it's good for your health."



Sixty-six jumpers ranging in age from 3 to 14 took part in "Join in Jump Rope" held at the Clay County Fair Friday. The event was sponsored by Sanford Vermillion.

(Photo by David Lias)

Creative Writing Camp for high school students set for Sept. 24

Talented high school students are welcome to register for "The Sorcerer's Apprentice: A Creative Writing Camp," to be held Saturday, Sept. 24, at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. The Dakota Writing Project (DWP), a local teachers' organization affiliated with the National Writing Project, and the Vermillion Literary Project (VLP), an award-winning student organization, are hosting the one-day camp, with assistance from Prairie Winds.

The camp, which will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., includes workshops on short fiction, poetry, art-inspired creative writing, theatrical writing, revision, performance, and poetry slam, to be followed by a public reading in Farber Hall. No experience with creative writing is necessary.

The registration fee includes a day of workshops, a camp t-shirt, lunch, refreshments during breaks, and a copy of the VLP magazine. The regular registration fee is \$60, but if students register by Sept. 12, the fee is only \$50. A limited number of reduced-fee scholarships based on financial need are available; email dwp@usd.edu for information. The registration form, descriptions of the workshops, and additional details are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/dwpcamp>. Please note that registration for the camp requires a nomination by a teacher or school administrator.

This is the sixth year of the Sorcerer's Apprentice Camp. Last year, student writers from South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska participated in the camp.

Dist 17 Rep. Tom Jones attends DOT meeting

District 17 State Rep. Tom Jones attended a regional DOT meeting in Sioux Falls July 26. DOT Director Joel Jundt conducted the meeting which gave the 50+ attendees a tentative 2012-2016 transportation improvement program.

Each year federal funding plays an important role in maintenance of our state's state highways. Because money is so tight, the DOT plans are to fix and repair our existing roads rather than construct new four lane roads in and out of some cities. They reported that if we fix roads annually rather than let them get too bad, it saves approximately six times that amount to completely re-do the road.

Rather than report on all five years tentative schedule, Rep. Jones decided to report on 2012 only.

For Clay County in 2012, the following roads will be worked on:

From Yankton/Clay County line to Vermillion; SD 50 E from east of Mekling to the Junction with SD 50 L, and SD 50 L, SD 50 EL and SD 50 WL from the junction with SD 50 to the beginning of the concrete in Vermillion. This project will entail grading and PCCP Surfacing; Mill and AC Overlay at an approximate cost of \$11,959,000.

The intersection of Cherry Street and Rose Street in Vermillion. This project is a traffic signal and ADA at a

cost of \$188,000.

SD 50 - 2.0NW, 1.0NW and the east edge of Vermillion over SD 50L/railroad, the Vermillion River, and SD 50L; SD19, Str #14-107-194 1.2 N of SD 5-over the Vermillion River. This project entails deck overlay, epoxy chip seal, replace bridge rail, approach guard rail and approach pavement, adding berm repair, abutment repair, joint replacement at a cost of \$1,734,000.

Stanford Street from Main Street to Cherry Street in Vermillion. This repair consists of PE, grading, storm sewer, C and G, PCCP paving,

lighting, bike path at a cost of \$748,000.

Various county city and township roads in Clay County. This concerns signage and delineation at a cost of \$600,000.

At the location of 7 S and 14.1 E of Irene over Baptist Creek. Structure and approach grading at an expense of \$277,000.

South of Centerville on SD 19A for 1.5 miles upgrades for curb ramps at a cost of \$355,000.

Several people spoke and pleaded their cases. Each had a particular community they were speaking for. Madison, Harrisburg, and Lennox all

asked for a 4 lane road to be constructed for many reasons. Yankton also spoke on the existing 4 lane highway through their community.

2013-2016 years have tentative scheduled work also. The tentative 2012 funding by facility for the DOT is \$306,490,000, with \$249,380,000 for highways, \$24,820,000 for bridges, \$20,820,000 for safety and \$12,020,000 classified as "other".

You may look at the entire five year tentative work schedule by going to the DOT website, which is: www.sdddot.com

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