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# PLAIN TALK

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## Governor hosts golf classic in Vermillion

By David Lias  
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According to an age-old saying, no one should mix business with pleasure.

There's an exception to that rule. Another popular adage notes that some of the best business deals are struck between people competing and socializing during a round of golf.

That's the main premise that supports the Governor's Golf Classic, which kicked off with meetings and an evening meal at the Dakota Dunes Country Club in Dakota Dunes Wednesday.

The event continued throughout Thursday, with breakfast, morning meetings, and an afternoon round of golf on the beautiful Dakota Dunes Golf Course.

Participants beside Gov. Dennis Daugaard include state and local economic development officials and business executives from South Dakota and several midwestern states. Daugaard noted that even officials from a couple European countries were in attendance.

"We have just under 30 companies that we've been meeting with that are looking to either expand in this area because they are already here," the governor said, "or move to this area and do some business here in South Dakota."

Much of the activity of the golf classic occurred around conference tables rather than on the golf course.

"I've been very pleasantly surprised. Within the past couple days, we've had seven or eight orchestrated, formal meetings," Daugaard said.

During one of those meetings, it appeared a company was perhaps considering doing business in South Dakota.

"It was very clear by the end of the meeting they have made a decision," the governor said. "They will be here; they are already meeting with a realtor, they are already looking at locations."

Just as a golfer may ask a caddy to hand him a special club to land the ball close to the cup, the governor and other state officials are wielding an array of tools to hopefully attract business prospects to the state.

"We offer them relationships because it's surprising how key that is," Daugaard said. "Existing, successful businesses are represented here, because they are looking to those newcomers as potential new business for themselves as well."

An array of financial incentives are also spelled out to interested industries, ranging from low interest REDI loans, and 2 percent loans for equipment or buildings, to SBA loans.

"We also put a package together this morning that includes Dakota Seeds, which is a program which helps businesses pay for interns that come and work in their plants. We also provide training funds. If a business needs to bring an employee in, and his or her job requires specialized training beyond what you typically find in a more classic training environment... then we will help with some of those training expenses."

Daugaard said that during the last year, approximately \$2 million has been spent in South Dakota by state and local economic development efforts designed to boost employment opportunities in the state.

"Between those efforts and others, we're trying to encourage business to find a home here in Siouxland and do well



Gov. Dennis Daugaard speaks at the Governor's Golf Classic at the Dakota Dunes Country Club in Dakota Dunes Wednesday. State and local economic development officials met with business executives at the gathering for a mixture of business and golf, hoping to bring more jobs to South Dakota.

(Photo by David Lias)

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## Woman rides horse cross country to raise funds for cancer

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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For more than a year now, Tracy Delp has been reminding people that the first three letters in "cancer" are "can."

To do this, Delp, her horse Sierra and dog Ursa have been making a tour called Coast 2 Coast for Cancer, during which they have met with people and raised money for the cause.

"(We're) focusing on what we can do," Delp said. "I figure if this old lady can ride a horse across the country, you can do anything. You may not like what you're told, or what you're diagnosed with... but you can do it. You can face it."

Delp brought this message to the Vermillion area Friday, July 27, when she stopped for an overnight rest at the rodeo grounds in Clay County Park.

She plans to make it to Delaware by October.

Delp embarked on this journey in honor of her mother Millie - who survived colon cancer only to be struck down with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer years later - and two of her dogs.

"Watching (my mother's) courage and composure made



Tracy Delp, her horse Sierra and her dog Ursa made a stopover at rodeo grounds in Clay County Park last week as they continue their trek across the country raising money and awareness of cancer.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

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## USD campus undergoing summer renovations

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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Since the conclusion of the spring semester, the southern portion of the University of South Dakota campus has been the site of an extensive project.

Throughout the summer, work crews have been replacing and adding utility lines, at the estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

"The work includes new water mains, storm sewer inlets and mains, sanitary sewer mains and irrigation lines," Catherine Wagner, director of Planning & Construction at USD said in an e-mail to the Plain Talk.

In addition, some sidewalks that are within the construction zones are being replaced or rerouted to improve pedestrian traffic, she added.

The project began in mid-May and is scheduled to conclude this month.

"Overall the project has gone as expected," Wagner said. "We have found some old lines that were not on any documentations that we had, and the contractor has accidentally hit some buried lined, but nothing too surprising for a project involving underground utilities."



This summer, portions of the University of South Dakota campus have been off-limits to the public as workers replace utility lines. The work is scheduled to be completed this month.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

## South Dakota Honor Choir concert set for tonight

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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A South Dakota tradition of nearly two decades will continue tonight (Friday) at Aalfs Auditorium in Slagle Hall.

The University of South Dakota and the South Dakota American Choral Director's Association (SD-ACDA) will present the 39th annual South Dakota Honor Choir at 7:30 p.m.

The event has drawn approximately 150 of the state's best choral musicians, who have been rehearsing on campus since Sunday, for five to seven hours each day.

"We know that they're probably never going to have another experience like this - in their high school career, for sure," said Al Stanga, executive director of the choir. "The things that they learn musically and vocally, we hope that when they go back to their home schools, they provide leadership in

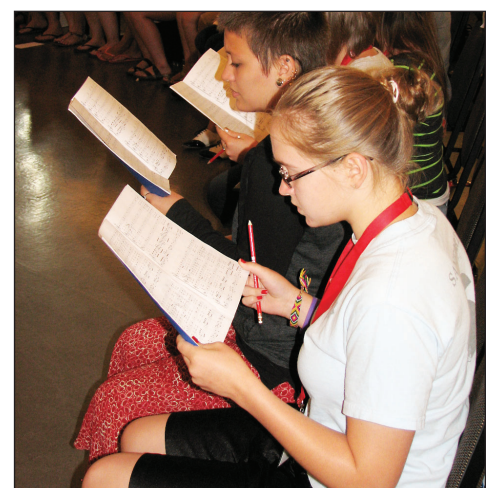
their programs so that it spills over."

Guest conductor Dr. Lynne Gackle, assistant choral director at Baylor University in Waco, TX, said attendees of tonight's concert can expect a variety of music, from a selection by Mozart, to pieces in Latin, French and German, to some written in the 20th century.

Choir participants were culled from more than 400 incoming high school juniors and seniors from around the state, Stanga said.

"The students sing a prepared solo, sight-singing, tonal memory and they also do a written test over musical terms and symbols," he said. "When it's all done we tabulate them, and the students with the highest scores are the ones that come here."

Stanga said approximately 30 to 40 percent of the choir members participate



The approximately 150 members of the 2012 South Dakota Honor Choir have been in rehearsals since Sunday for tonight's performance.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

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