

# PLAIN TALK

INSIDE TODAY



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## A Dream

### Come True

Hanson To Compete In National Pageant Saturday

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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For Marley Hanson of Vermillion, being named Miss South Dakota Teen USA was a dream come true.

Hanson, who graduated from Vermillion High School in May and will be attending The University of South Dakota this fall, said she has been proud to represent the state, but most particularly Vermillion.



MARLEY HANSON

"It has been a dream come true," she said. "I have wanted this for years now. It has helped me grow. I have been speaking to different people, helping out with different charities, going to different events. It has been an amazing experience."

She said her journey began at the Clay County Fair.

"I competed in pageants since 2009, the Clay County Fair Princess pageant being my first one," she said. "This is my last year to compete in the teen competition so I figured I might as well go for it and see what happens. I was hoping to win, but I was definitely surprised when they said my name. There was a moment there when they said my name and I was like, 'Oh, I won. Wait! I won!'"

Since that moment on Oct. 4, 2014 Hanson said learning to balance her daily life with the responsibilities of the title made life busy but fun.

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## BACK TO SCHOOL



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The first day of school is in the books and both students and staff alike enjoyed the experience. Here Austin Elementary students step onto the bus following a busy first day.

### LIL' BITS

## Students Head Back To School

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

The summer has officially ended as the hallways of the grade-schools are once again filled with the pitter-patter of small feet and echoing with the chatter of young voices.

There was a general air of excitement among the kids Wednesday morning as they greeted friends and teachers.

New fifth-grader Hayden is one of those enthusiastic to begin the semester.

"I really like to go to school," she said. "My mom said if I get all straight A's during the year I get my own dog."

Hayden is undecided on which kind of dog she would choose but does know what size.

"Probably a little dog because then it's not as hard to wash it," she said.

According to Hayden, the best subject in school is Math.

"It's just fun for me," she said. "I like adding and times-ing and subtracting."

There's another plus for going to school according to Hayden.

"I get to see my friends," she said.

Though Hayden said she sees her friends during the summer, it's easier to connect with them during the school year.

Hayden is also optimistic about her new teacher.

"Some kids that had her last year said that she gives out candy," she said.

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## COMING DOWN



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The 100,000 gallon Market Street water tower, constructed in 1908 is in the process of being removed from the Vermillion skyline. Demolition, which began on Tuesday, is scheduled to be completed on Thursday. Bloomingdale Street will be closed from Market Street to Court Street while the work takes place. The north-south alley between Market Street and Court Street will also be closed while the work takes place. See Page 11 for a look back to when the water tower was originally built.

## 'Practically Perfect' Production Opens

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

As the school year begins, so does the run of a truly supercalifragilisticexpialidocious community production.

The Vermillion Community Theatre's production of Mary Poppins opens tonight and runs through Monday with performances at 7:30 p.m. today, Saturday and Monday and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Adult tickets are \$15.00. Children K-12 are \$7.00. Children under five are admitted at no charge. Tickets may be purchased at Nook n' Cranny and Davis Pharmacy in Vermillion and also will be available at the door.

Callie Hisek, director of last summer's VCT production of Oliver and theatre professor at the University of South Dakota is directing.

According to Hisek the show should be a positive and surprising experience.

"If you're coming to see the film you will be surprised I think," she said. "Not upset, not disheartened but just surprised because some of the songs are there but I feel that it touches more on emotional level than the film does and I greatly appreciate that. There's more heart. There's more relationships and there's more of what it means to be human."

The Mary Poppins musical, as Hisek mentioned, is



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Both on, off and under the stage, members of the Vermillion community are set to bring the magical Mary Poppins musical to life this weekend.

not a direct film-to-stage adaptation.

Instead it draws heavily on a series of books written by P.L. Travers.

Hisek said she read the first two books in her process of researching the show.

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## New Art Graces Downtown Vermillion

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

Vermillion has become home to several new pieces of public art as four new sculptures were installed downtown as well as more on the University of South Dakota campus.

The artwork will remain for a few years, sponsored by the Vermillion City Council, before being rotated.

The works of art come to Vermillion in conjunction with the Sioux Falls SculptureWalk



SARAH WETZEL/ THE PLAIN TALK

according to Susan Heggstad, adult programming coordinator at the Vermillion Public Library and member of the Vermillion Area Arts Council.

"The Sioux Falls SculptureWalk is a program/project that has been around for awhile," Heggstad said. "They developed this parallel project where other communities can get involved and bring the sculptures to their community or solicit new works."

Heggstad and the library staff were immensely pleased to finally get to see the sculpture that was placed outside the building.

"The piece that we have, the artist's name is Dan Terry," Heggstad said. "He's out of Iowa and

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