

PLAIN TALK

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Tanager Wrestling Kicks
Of Season PAGE 8

Daugaard Presents Annual Budget Speech

Recommends Medicaid Expansion If It's Free, To Present Education Funding Plans In January

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – No proposals for tax increases came from Gov. Dennis Daugaard during his budget speech Tuesday afternoon to members of the Legislature.

Instead, those could come in January on the opening day of the 2016 legislative session when he delivers the State of the State address.

In his 70-minute speech, the Republican governor said he is working on proposals to present next month.

He pledged to work with state lawmakers on finding sources of funding to pay for recommendations from the Blue Ribbon task force on education he appointed this year.

The primary goal from the task force is raising annual salaries for public school teachers by an average of \$8,500. That would require an additional \$85 million.

South Dakota ranks last in the nation in teacher pay.

"The public expects us to be bold and make real progress this year," Daugaard said.

He also called on lawmakers to consider giving him authority to expand Medicaid coverage for an additional 45,000 to 55,000 adults who earn too much to qualify now.

Daugaard said he never said "never" but rather "not now" about expanding Medicaid in recent years because of the higher costs that would gradually face state government.

He said the only way he would agree to expansion is reaching an agreement with the federal Medicaid agency that wouldn't cost South Dakota more.

His proposal that is under consideration calls for South Dakota receiving relief from paying large portions of the Medicaid

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Local Legislators React To Budget Address

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A SUPERIOR SEASON



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA SWANSON

Six Vermillion High School students qualified for the state Oral Interpretation contest held in Sturgis last weekend and the results speak for themselves. Each of the qualifiers received superior rankings on their presentations. Team members who qualified for state included: (L to R): Brennan Stone, Ethan Simmons, Sophi Dudley, Mary Begley (coach), Erika Moen, Natalie Swanson and Libby Sykes.

Oral Interp Team Speaks Their Way To State

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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Standing up in front of a small group of people and presenting a piece from humorous to poetry, alone or with a small group and presenting in a way that connects and draws your audience in is the goal of oral interpretation.

This past weekend six students from Vermillion High School earned the right to represent their school at the state tournament in Sturgis. Each of them earned a superior ranking.

This according to oral interp coach Mary Begley is not surprising.

"These are very good kids," she said. "I

wish everyone could work with students that are this good because it gives you hope for the future. It is hard to get depressed when you are working with people who are optimistic and moving, have goals, and all those kinds of things."

Begley said that there were 15 students on the team this year.

"They had to compete at a local contest, which is just Vermillion High School Students and one person in each event qualifies to move on to the regional tournament, from there they take three from event to state," she said. "I believe there were seven schools at the region. So these six students from Vermillion qualified to go to state."

The qualifiers were: Brennan Stone and

Ethan Simmons in the Duet Interpretation event. Their performance is from a play titled, "13 Ways to Screw Up Your College Interview." The following students are part of a Readers Theatre group and they will be presenting a cutting from the musical "Heathers": Erica Moen, Sophi Dudley, Libby Sykes, and Natalie Swanson. Erica Moen also qualified in the Non-original Oratory category. She will recite a speech titled "Here I Stand."

The progression from choosing their pieces, to practicing, to performing at competitions is one the students said was a lot of hard work but very worth it.

"We chose '13 Ways To Screw Up Your

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Remembering The Legacy Of Wayne S. Knutson

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

The Vermillion community is mourning the passing of Wayne S. Knutson, a man who made his mark on the city and university as well as the state.

It is fitting to pay tribute as today bears his name in South Dakota.

"...Whereas Wayne has inspired, mentored, and stood as an example to South Dakotans for half a century through his sterling gifts as teacher, artist, consultant, wise counselor and friend: Now, therefore, I, William J.

Janklow, Governor of the State of South Dakota do hereby proclaim December 11, 1999, as Wayne S. Knutson Day in South Dakota and I join his many friends across the state in celebrating the naming of the main stage theater in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts at the University of South Dakota as the Wayne S. Knutson Theater," reads the executive proclamation from the office of the governor.

According to a press release Distinguished Professor Emeritus Wayne S. Knutson entered hospice care in early November due to



PHOTO COURTESY USD

Wayne Knutson outside USD's Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts, early 1970s

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Talent of all sorts showed itself at the annual W.H. Over Christmas Festival through dance, decorations and arts and crafts for sale.

SARAH WETZEL/
FOR THE
PLAIN TALK



W.H. Over Holds Annual Christmas Festival

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

Community members flocked to the W.H. Over Museum Sunday to participate in and visit the annual Christmas festival.

"This is our 49th year so we're looking forward to a 50th year next year and I have shared the event for 20 years," said Maxine Johnson of the museum's board of directors.

"We feature vendors, a bake sale, a hospitality table and then we usually

have some talent."

The talent featured this year included various dance groups from the Vermillion Area Dance Organization and baton twirlers.

"The little kids are so cute, all they need to do is stand there," Johnson said. "They don't have to do anything but smile. They always bring mom and dad and grandma and grandpa and anybody else that's around."

It could be said that the vendors' tables were a talent show of sorts offering many handmade goods from

woodworking to decorative jar lids to Native American gifts.

Ladies from the First Lutheran Church in Wakonda had an ongoing Lefse cooking demonstration.

The tasty Norwegian potato pancakes were sold out in less than an hour leaving the group to only offer hot-off-the-pan Lefse.

"I think I counted 25 vendors this year and that's about our top because we're getting so many exhibits

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