

# VCT Announces 2015 Season

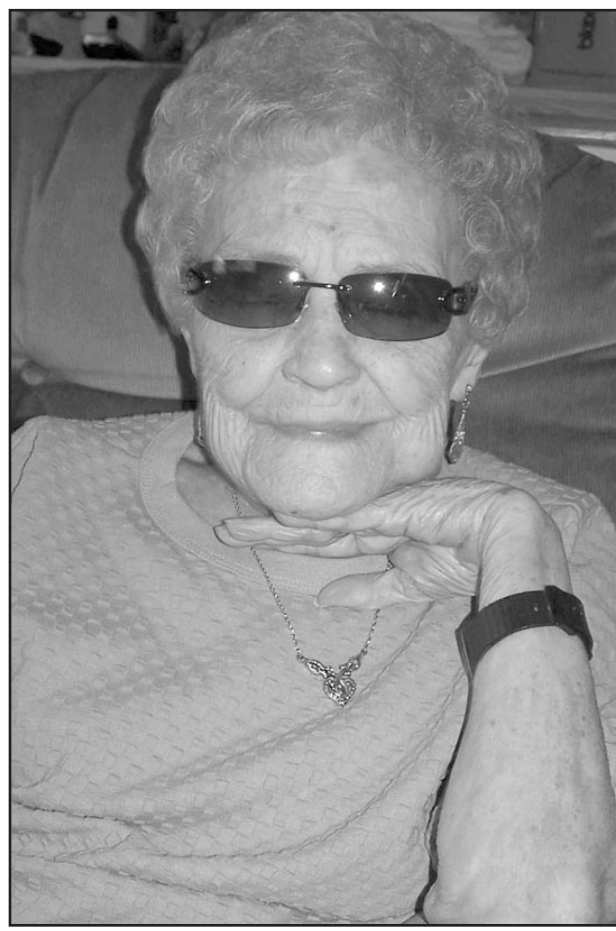
The Board of Directors of Vermillion Community Theatre is pleased to announce the 2015 Season. The summer musical will bring the magic of Disney with the production of Mary Poppins. This delightful Broadway musical has just been released for community theatres and VCT is excited to be one of the first companies to produce this show with all of the familiar tunes. Auditions will be in mid May. Performances will be July

24-27. There will be the usual children's workshop. This year the production will be You Look Marvelous written by local playwright, Steve Miller. The workshop will run Monday, June 15 through 19 with a performance the night of June 19. Registration is \$30 and will be available through Vermillion Parks and Recreation. A new endeavor for VCT is a dinner theatre the end of February. The show

is Love, Loss and What I Wore. This poignant production views life's triumphs and tragedies through the lens of a woman's wardrobe. This show will perform February 28 at 6:30 and March 1 at 2:00. The show has mature content but is for every woman that ever agonized over what to wear and every man that did not understand it. The dinner show will be held at the Vermillion Event Center, next to Howlers, and will feature a roast beef dinner.

Advance tickets are on sale at the Nook n' Cranny for \$30.00 and are available at the door for \$40.00. The Board of VCT is excited to bring new theatre experiences to the Vermillion Community. Refer to the website, vermillioncommunitytheatre.org, for more information and ways to be involved. - *Courtesy of the Vermillion Community Theatre*

# HAPPY 90TH TO YOU!



Betty (Halverson) Casteel, formerly from Burbank and Vermillion, will celebrate her 90th birthday on Friday. A celebration with family and friends will be held at a later date. Greetings may be sent to: 1213 S Tabbert Circle, Sioux Falls, SD 57103. **COURTESY PHOTO**

## LOCAL DENTISTS OFFER FREE DENTAL CARE FOR CHILDREN

Summit Dental Health, formerly Siouxland Dental Health, is hosting its annual free day of dentistry for children this month. Each year in February, the local dental group hosts Little Hearts Little Smiles, a day where free dental services are offered to children under the age of 18. Children will receive a free dental exam and teeth cleaning on Friday. Appointments are required and can be made by calling any of the three Siouxland region locations. This event has been offered to the

community for free since 2009 and over 150 children have benefitted from the program. "We feel so fortunate that we get to practice dentistry for a living and that we get to impact our patients in such a positive way every day. It is our privilege to offer these free services to children and it is a natural fit to do it during Children's Dental Health Month. We know good dental habits begin at a young age. By offering a free exam and cleaning, it opens up the door for us to teach children how to care for their smiles, the importance of oral health and to cultivate a positive relationship with our dentists., Dr.

Zach Dannenbring said. Summit Dental Health is the new name of Siouxland Dental Health. Siouxland Dental Health has been serving the Siouxland region since 1929. They offer a wide variety of dental services from general dentistry to sedation dentistry, cosmetic dentistry and child friendly dental care. To participate in Little Hearts Little Smiles, call: Sioux City (712-252-3440), South Sioux (402-494-2692) or Vermillion (605-624-0070). - *Courtesy of Summit Dental Health*

## 4-H Fruit Sales in Full Swing

The weather outside might cold and snowy but the boxes of fruit coming in via the annual 4-H fundraiser are enough to brighten any day. Annually each year, 4-H members sell fruit to raise funds

for camp fees, National Conference costs, and helps the 4-H program general fund. "This money raised is used for programs of learning and helps pay for part of the fees for Youth camp in June, Teen camp, Performing Arts camp, and helps pay for the delegate to Washington Focus," Sharron Jensen, 4-H leader, said. "Another area we help is if a 4-

H'er is awarded a state trip from the State Fair for highest judging school score some funding is provided." Fruit boxes of different sizes and varieties can be ordered and are famous for their quality. Fruit sales are a great way for 4-H to promote healthy eating while raising much needed funds for their program. Selling fruit have been part of the 4-H tradition

since the 1970s. "The fruit comes professionally packaged and we do not have to re handle the fruit to package it so quality is kept intact," Jensen said. "The fruit is guaranteed to be fresh on delivery." 4-H is open to Clay County youth of all ages. Kids involved in 4-H develop leadership skills, learn about multiple facets of

citizenship, and explore academic areas such as science, agriculture, robotics, and are encouraged at specialized talents. Fruit can be ordered through Feb. 25 by contacting the 4-H office at 605-677-7111 or stopping by to pick up an order form. Fruit delivery will be around March 19. - *Katie Clausen / For the Plain Talk*

## GAME

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idgeted in their seats under the spotlights during the rounds as parents, friends and relatives held their breath.

Quiet was insisted upon so as to not distract the participants so for the most part one could hear a pin drop in AalFs Auditorium.

Occasionally murmurs of impressed audience members echoed through the hall and directions such as, "Focus and spell it right," came from spectators.

Needless to say, everyone seemed to be on the edge of their seats. It isn't any wonder that ESPN has covered the National Spelling Bee for decades.

"I'll admit that I'm a little bit relieved this is his last year because it is a lot of studying," said Judy Zwolak, mother of the bee winning Owen before the event. "We want to make sure he's not too stressed out. He's really excited about it. He really wants to move on."

"We stress that we just want him to work hard and do his best and be a gracious winner or loser whatever happens and be happy with his achievements."

Darla Hamm, mother of fifth-grade contestant Austin Hamm from St. Agnes School agrees with Zwolak's attitude.

"The accomplishment is getting here," she said. "It's have fun and do your best."

Before the oral bee took place, all contestants were taken to a room for a 25-word vocabulary test.

Afterwards the students sat in numerical order on the stage in AalFs Auditorium and the oral bee began.

**Round 1**

Almost half of the contestants misspelled their words on the first round including fifth-grader Teo Kim from Jolley, third-grader Debbie Campbell from St. Agnes School and second-grader Ryleigh Sherlock also from St. Agnes School. "It was scary and amazing being up there," Sherlock said afterwards.

Kim, Campbell and Sherlock were given the words bona fide, devotee and ancillary, respectively.

There was no shame in these stalwart students missing their first word. Students of all grades missed words on the first

round including two eighth graders.

The youngest contestants including one first grader, two second graders, and two third graders were also eliminated with words like indulgent (given to first-grader Anica Reimer from Dakota Valley Elementary).

**Round 2**

Six more contestants were eliminated after the second round including Austin Hamm from St. Agnes School who misspelled dromedary after correctly spelling fragile in the first round.

**Round 3**

Pressure mounted as four more contestants were eliminated including fifth-grader Anna Armbrust who missed grandeur after correctly spelling squirrely and present.

The bee happened to fall on her brother's birthday so the whole family was there to celebrate including her grandparents.

"We were so excited," said Margaret Cook, Arbrust's grandmother. "We live in Wisconsin and don't come out very often."

Cook and her husband were passing through for their grandson's birthday and were delighted when the spelling bee happened to be on that date. "I'm just impressed kids at this age know how to spell these words," she said.

Dudley, seventh-grader Logan Gregg from Vermillion Middle School, fifth-grader Hari Kadarkaraisamy from Jolley Elementary, and seventh-grader Brady Martinez from Vermillion school remained along with four students from other schools in the region.

**Round 4**

Only one student was eliminated as the numbers dwindled. The remaining four Vermillion students stayed in the running.

**Round 9**

After four rounds with no eliminations, Martinez misspelled the word rhetoric, having correctly spelled guffaw, epoch, panacea, epee, adumbrate, machiavellian, rough-hewn and troika.

**Round 10**

Competition remained stiff as the competition ended for Gregg with the word contrapuntal. Gregg correctly spelled foible, ballyhoo, noxious, steppe, zeitgeist, cordillera, langosta, magnanimous, and maestrolm. By the end of round 10,



Owen Dudley, left, an eighth-grader from Vermillion Middle School received first place with fifth-grader Hari Kadarkaraisamy, center, from Jolley coming in second after many tense rounds back and forth. Nana Addo from Dakota Valley Middle school placed third. The bee participants ranged from first to eighth grade. Ryleigh Sherlock, a second-grader from St. Agnes School, was one of the youngest participants.

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the top-three contestants who would be moving on to the state competition were determined, (Kadarkaraisamy, Dudley and fifth-grader Nana Addo from Dakota Valley Middle School).

All that was left to determine was the first, second and third-place winners.

**Round 13**

After a few rounds back and forth, Addo was eliminated in round 13 leaving Dudley and Kadarkaraisamy to vie for first and second place.

**Rounds 14-on**

Things got intense as the two went back and forth for 10 more rounds until Dudley misspelled incessant but was saved from being eliminated by Kadarkaraisamy missing disquietude.

"It got to be a real nail-biter towards the end," Havermann said.

After a few more rounds, Dudley missed again with the word remittance. Kadarkaraisamy correctly spelled his word, winning the round but missed the champion word, appositive which put Dudley back in the running.

"Think of the

championship word as another round," Havermann said. "You have to win your round and spell your championship word correctly otherwise we keep going back and forth which we did."

"They went off the list of words that those kids had memorized," Zwolak said. "That's when you'd notice they started getting things wrong. There's more to just memorizing the list.

Kadarkaraisamy did not go down without a fight, correctly spelling brethren, ukulele, latke, chintzy, pusillanimous, hyacinth, topography, geranium, bellucose, mikado, detente, archipelago, asthmogenic, philately, fusillade, misogynist, comandante, romaji, weimaraner, coati, precautionary and venerate.

The top three winners all received a certificate and a trophy. Winners of the written vocabulary test, including Addo and Kadarkaraisamy, also received trophies.

Zwolak said that the rigorous studying routine will now continue in preparation for the state competition.

As far as specific studying techniques, Dudley said he would rather not share.

Approximately two-dozen youngsters competed in the regional spelling bee held last weekend on the USD campus. These are the faces of competitors who are still just little kids trying to have a good time.



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