

cessful men of talent. Genius will not. Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not. The world is full of educated derelicts.

"Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

Daugaard said he was "not knocking" genius, talent or education in and of themselves.

"All those things are very important ... but they're worth nothing if you don't have persistence and determination to achieve your goals," he said.

Jones' Food Center closing Vermillion store

In what Operations Manager Bob Starr terms as an effort to "refocus," Gregg and Nikki Peters have decided to close Jones' Food Center in Vermillion.

In its place will be a much larger Jones' Ace Hardware.

"It is a refocusing," Starr said June 19, 2012. "The first three years competing against a Wal-Mart, we did very well. In a town the size of Vermillion, to be able to sustain and grow the first three years against a formidable player such as Wal-Mart, and having another big store with Hy-Vee in town is certainly admirable, but the last three years, once the economy turned (downward), it became increasingly difficult."

Organizers 'astounded' by Shakespeare festival's success

With an estimated 1,300 visitors, smooth-running performances and good weather, the first annual South Dakota Shakespeare Festival held June 8-10 was a triumph, organizers said.

"From a production standpoint, I was astounded with our success," said artistic director Chaya Gordon-Bland. "In every way, shape and form for our first year out of the gate, it exceeded my expectations."

It was a success in terms of numbers, as

well.

Festival executive director Gregory Huckabee said first-night attendance of "As You Like It" was 325 people, followed by 435 and 323 on the next consecutive nights.

The numbers were tallied by volunteers at the entrance gates, and a second survey was taken about an hour into the production, Huckabee said.

An additional 100 people were attracted by the various workshops held throughout the weekend, bringing the total up to about 1,300, he said.

Summer meals program successfully serving youth

Vermillion School District officials had a hunch earlier this year that a summer meals program administered by the Child and Adult Nutrition Services of the South Dakota Department of Education had potential to be successful here.

Turns out that hunch, and the decision by school officials to apply to have Jolley Elementary be a site for the summer program, appears to be spot on.

"The first week, we averaged 160 (participants per day), and the second week, we averaged 170," said Sheila Beerman, business manager for the Vermillion School District. The summer meal program just completed its fourth week of serving at Jolley School June 29.

July 2012

Derek Miles qualifies for Olympics for third time

South Dakota track and field assistant coach Derek Miles earned his third trip to the Summer Olympic Games in Eugene, Ore. Miles will represent the United States in the pole vault at the Summer Olympics which will be held July 27-Aug. 12 in London, England.



A farmer's attempt to bale straw Tuesday afternoon in a field approximately 12 miles north of Vermillion was interrupted when the straw and surrounding stubble caught on fire. No significant precipitation has fallen in the Vermillion area for four weeks. Fortunately, the Vermillion Fire Department was able to quickly contain and extinguish the flames in this very dry field. (Photo by David Lias)

Miles, a resident of Tea, finished fourth in Thursday's pole vault finals with a height of 18-4 1/2 (5.60 meters), but qualified for the Olympics thanks to attaining the Olympic A standard of 18-9 1/2 (5.72 meters) in July 2011 in Germany. Scott Roth, who finished third in the pole vault finals Thursday, had not previously attained the A qualifying standard therefore did not qualify.

'Messy Hands' create murals for library expansion

When the construction work that is currently underway at the Vermillion City Library is eventually complete, the newly expanded building will have a roomier, modern children's section.

It's fitting that the art that will hang on the new walls inside that children's area is designed and created by local kids.

Participants in the Messy Hands Art Camp, held last week at the Washington Streets Arts Center, created two large mosaic murals that are destined to be installed in the children's section of the library once the building project is complete.

The mosaic project,

directed by Nancy Losacker with assistance from Michelle Mechling, involved the drawing of designs by the young artists and the cutting of pieces of colored glass tiles. The tiles were then glued to large pieces of plywood to transform them into works of art.

Gottsleben chooses to beat the odds

If there's one thing Vermillion native Kendra Gottsleben has, it's a positive attitude.

"My philosophy is, no matter who we are or what we look like, we all have hurdles to overcome," she said. "It's just how we get through those with the attitude that we have, the outlook, the determination."

"You just have to make the best lemonade possible," she said. Now, with the publication of her memoir, "Live, Laugh, Lemonade: A Journey of Choosing to Beat the Odds," Gottsleben is sharing her story and her sunny philosophy.

Gottsleben was born with Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) Type VI, a genetic lysosomal storage disorder caused by her body's inability to produce a specific enzyme.

"That enzyme that I'm not making cleans my cells, so the difference

from you to me is, you have cells and you have that enzyme that goes in there and cleans them. Mine don't," she said. "So they build up in my connective tissues, my vital organs, my eyes."

As a result, Gottsleben is less than three feet tall and has to undergo a treatment once a week at the Sanford Children's Specialty Clinic in Sioux Falls.

Alleivant preparing to open Vermillion location soon

Vermillion's newest employer, Alleivant, LLC, is getting its furnishings and office equipment settled into its new home at 907 N. Norbeck Street.

No firm date has yet been set for the company's first day of business in the community. That day is approaching, soon, however, and it brings with it the prospect of employing up to 60 people by the end of the year, and double that number by the end of 2013.

Alleivant is a subsidiary of Navigant Consulting, Inc., of Chicago, and likely will open the doors of its Vermillion facility sometime in the third quarter of 2012, according to John Boland, managing director with Navigant Healthcare and head of Alleivant.

"July, August, September - it will be within that timeframe," he said.

Vermillion residents took advantage of an opportunity to meet

Wednesday evening with Boland and other members of the Alleivant staff that currently are on board during an open house held at its local office building.

Navigant works in a number of industries - including healthcare, energy, and financial services, and its Alleivant office in Vermillion will be part of its national medical billing and coding offerings. It currently operates similar offices in Mitchell and Plankinton.

City pledges \$35,000 toward housing study

The Vermillion City Council pledged \$35,000 toward the completion of a housing study at its regular meeting last week.

The Workforce Housing Analysis will be completed by Community Housing Laboratory (CHLab) of New Mexico at the cost of \$30,000, plus an estimated \$5,000 in reimbursable expenses.

The amount will be taken from the city's "Bed, Booze and Board" fund.

VDCDC Executive Director Steve Howe told council members that while community members have been very responsive to rental properties such as apartments, there continues to be a need for single-family housing.

Clay County issues burn ban

During a special meeting July 19 the Clay County Commission issued a ban on outdoor burning throughout the county due to extremely dry conditions.

The commission voted to keep the burn ban in place until dry conditions improve.

SDCL 7-8-20(18) provides a county commission with the authority to ban open burning in such conditions.

Crops suffer, farmers' optimism withers as drought continues

Several consecutive weeks of temperatures nearing triple digits plus no rain equals trouble for farmers in the Vermillion area.

Kevin Myron, owner of Ag Opportunities in Vermillion, hasn't personally been inspecting

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After listening to Annie on a radio program, her orphan friends filled the stage with great choreography and music as they perform "Fully Dressed." (Photo by David Lias)