



'My Fair Lady' set for this weekend
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PLAIN TALK

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A Firecracker Fourth! Gering installed as new judge



By Randy Dockendorf
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As she took her oath Friday, Circuit Judge Cheryle (Wiedmeier) Gering was presented with her judicial robe and gavel.

But the new First Circuit Court judge said she considered the audience attending Friday's installation as the real symbols of her new position, serving 14 counties in southeast South Dakota. She replaces Presiding Circuit Judge Arthur Rusch of Vermillion, who retired last month.

Family, friends and colleagues filled the courtroom for Friday's installation ceremony at the Yankton County Courthouse and Safety Center. Gering said those people have laid the foundation for her legal career.

"They say, if a house is to last, it has to be built with a firm foundation," she said. "I am very fortunate to have (that solid foundation) that my career was built upon."

Gering noted the people she will meet in the future will provide more valuable bricks forming her career foundation. She also used the analogy of bricks in describing the sometimes difficult decisions she will face in the courtroom.

"I will have a few bricks thrown at me," she said. "I am prepared for the adversarial system."



Cheryle Gering addresses the crowd after being sworn in as the new circuit judge for the First Judicial Circuit Court last Friday in Yankton.

(Kelly Hertz/P&D)

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Art camp provides outlet for local youth

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Things are winding down today (Friday) at the fourth annual Messy Hands Art Camp, which is being held at the Washington Street Art Center.

Running from June 27-July 1 and July 4-8, the camp offers local youths aged 3-14 instruction in painting, sculpture, drawing, collage and basic printmaking.

"It's essentially an opportunity for school-age children ... to be introduced to some basic art techniques and art vocabulary," said camp director Susan Heggstad. "It's in a sense to help supplement what they are and are not getting in the public schools, because the elementary-level teacher was

eliminated some time ago. This is something of an answer to that."

The 3- and 4-year-olds come for an hour in either the morning or the afternoon, while the older students attend a series of 90-minute sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sessions are given by local artists and students.

"As a director, I give my staff a general framework that we like to use," Heggstad said. "Essentially, the framework is to look at the elements of art and the principles of design, and within the art field, those are sort of the only thing that everyone would agree on are universal."

"We start with a basic idea of what we can do, and modify it for each level

■ CAMP, Page 9



TOP: Payton Griese, 5, was appropriately dressed in red, white and blue as she played on an inflatable slide in Barstow Park during Vermillion's Fourth of July festivities Monday evening. She is the daughter of Melissa and Shane Griese, Vermillion.

ABOVE LEFT: Two-and-a-half-year-old Ella Messersmith sits very still as she gets her face painted at the PTA booth at Barstow Park Monday evening during Vermillion's Fourth of July celebration. The artist applying the paint is Marina Sereda. Ella is the daughter of Tyler and Jessi Messersmith of Vermillion.

ABOVE RIGHT: Brock Gullett gives his all during Hy-Vee's 5th Annual Hot Dog Championship, held in Barstow Park Monday evening as part of Vermillion's Fourth of July festivities. First and second place winners among women competitors were Kimberly Andreas and Kelly Sandland, and among the men, Glen Schmidt won first prize and Richard Zepher took home second place honors. The first and second place winners received \$100 and \$50, respectively.

Photos by David Lias

Lubbers sentenced for disorderly conduct

By Travis Gulbrandson
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A University of South Dakota professor has been sentenced in relation to an incident that took place in October.

Charles Lubbers will pay a \$100 fine and \$66 in court costs as a result of the incident, for which he was charged with disorderly conduct. He pleaded no contest to the charge.

Lubbers also received a suspended sentence of 14 days and must have no similar offenses for the next 360 days. He was ordered by Judge Tami Bern not to participate in children's athletics during that time, as well.

Prior to the hearing Lubbers completed an anger management course.

The incident in question occurred on a Vermillion football field and involved a fifth-grade boy.

According to the Associated Press,

Lubbers – a media professor and former youth football coach – said the boy was trying to tackle another player after the whistle blew during a game.

Lubbers then put his arm in the way of the boy, knocking him to the ground.

In November, Lubbers told USD's campus newspaper, The Volante, that the incident was a simple misunderstanding between him and the boy's mother.

Lubbers was chair of the department of Contemporary Media and Journalism at the time of the incident. He vacated the position Jan. 1, but still is a professor at the university.

The case originally was set to go to a jury trial scheduled for May 23-24.

Previous court appearances in the case were delayed in November, January and April.

– The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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