

# Daugaard appoints Kristie Fiegen to Public Utilities Commission

Gov. Dennis Daugaard today announced the appointment of Kristie Fiegen to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Fiegen is the president of South Dakota Junior Achievement, a post she has held since 1994. She was a member of the South Dakota House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001.

"I have known Kristie Fiegen for 20 years, and she will be a great Public Utilities Commissioner," the Governor said. "Kristie is a person of the utmost integrity, and her success at Junior Achievement is the result of a strong work ethic and a commitment to public service. These values will serve South Dakota well."

Fiegen has been recognized for leading a dramatic expansion of the Junior Achievement (JA) organization in South Dakota. Under her leadership, JA education programs about free market principles have increased in annual participation from 2,400 students to 44,000 students.

Fiegen was the 2008 recipient of the Charles R. Hook Award, the top honor nationally for Junior Achievement

presidents who demonstrate superior results in promoting the growth and development of JA in their area.

Junior Achievement is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the education of youth on work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

From 1999 to 2001, Fiegen was a member of the Xcel Energy South Dakota Advisory Board, which advises Xcel management on the utility's strategic direction in South Dakota.

As a legislator, Fiegen was a sponsor of legislation relating to telecommunications services for the deaf, 911 services, and rural water systems. Her legislative career also focused on health, safety, and family and children's issues.

"I want to thank Gov. Daugaard for this opportunity to serve the people of South Dakota," Fiegen said. "The PUC plays an important role in promoting renewable energy, advocating for better cellular service, and ensuring that consumers are treated fairly. I work hard at everything I do, and I am ready to do this important work for South Dakota."

Fiegen, 48, grew up on her family's farm near Chancellor and is a graduate of Parker High School. She is a 1984 graduate of South Dakota State University, with degrees in commercial economics and agricultural business, and she earned a masters of business administration from University of South Dakota in 1996. Fiegen's husband, Dr. Tim Fiegen, is a professor at Dakota State University. The couple reside in Sioux Falls and have two children, Alexander (12) and Jackson (10).

Prior to joining Junior Achievement, she worked for nine years as the South Dakota area manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She has been active in Rotary, the United Way, and Toastmasters, and is an active member of Central Baptist Church.

Fiegen will take her place on the PUC in August. She replaces Steve Kolbeck, who resigned earlier this month. The appointment runs through the end of Kolbeck's six-year term, which began in January 2007 and will end after the 2012 general election.



Pictured are Tim Tracy, CEO, Kelsey Knudson, June Employee of the Month and Ashley Herry, team leader, Sanford Medical Center, Vermillion.

## Knudson is Sanford Vermillion PRIDE Employee of the Month

Kelsey Knudson, NA Hospital, was selected as the Sanford Vermillion June 2011 PRIDE Employee of the Month. She has been employed here since August 2009.

"Kelsey is always cheerful and extremely hardworking. She answers call lights quickly, goes above and beyond to meet patients needs/wants, she picks up hours, works double shifts and stays late if needed. Kelsey has had a great work ethic and attitude since day one; she isn't afraid to ask questions or ask for help," commented co-workers.

"Kelsey always has a smile. She is committed to patient care as demonstrated by her pursuit of a nursing degree. She exemplifies what a team player should be," comments Jeff Berens, chief nursing officer, Sanford Medical Center Vermillion.

Kelsey is a full-time student at the University of South Dakota. She is a native of Centerville, and resides in Vermillion.

# Local theatre group receives grants

Vermillion Community Theatre has been notified by the South Dakota Arts Council that they will receive two grants to assist with productions from July 1 to June 30, 2012. Awards were delayed this year amid uncertainty about funding sources.

A Project Grant in the amount of \$1,500 will be split between the two productions scheduled this summer. One thousand dollars will be allocated for the mainstage production of the musical, "My Fair Lady" in July and \$500 will be used for the children's show, "Charlie and

the Chocolate Factory" in August.

Project Grant funds allow VCT to provide modest internships to emerging professionals while keeping ticket prices reasonable. An Artist in Residency Grant of \$900 will be used to help retain the Children's Theatre

Company of South Dakota for a children's theatre workshop in June of 2012. The grants are provided with funds from the State of South Dakota through the Department of Tourism and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Johnson applauds decision to make resources available in Union County

U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) announced Monday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated Union County a contiguous disaster area. The designation will allow some residents in the area affected by flooding to be eligible for federal assistance.

"I am pleased that the USDA

has made this designation to help producers whose operations have been hurt by major flooding," Johnson said. "This is just one designation and I expect more to come from the Administration. I am going to continue to work to make sure folks across the state who have been impacted by flooding

have access to assistance."

Under the designation announced by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, producers are eligible to apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency Loans and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program. FSA will take into account losses,

security available and repayment ability.

More information can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. Producers should visit their local FSA office for assistance.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Cleo Erickson

From the files of the Plain Talk

### 1957

A total of 230 births were recorded in 1956. That's five more than 1955. Also recorded were 86 "delayed" births for which records were not recorded in previous years. There were 104 deaths recorded in 1956 compared to 96 the previous year. Only 79 marriages in 1956 compared to 87 in 1955. There were six divorces recorded in 1956 and five in 1955.

When Mr. Cecil Harrington of Burbank was loading some hogs for market, he dropped his watch. The hog must have been hungry as it took the watch and promptly swallowed it. Wonder who bought the hog at market?

The City Council discussed the possibility of finding a use for the old Austin School building on West Main Street and the Council is wondering if they should purchase the building.

The 1956 personal property tax list is published this week. It lists the names of all residents in Clay County with the valuation and tax each household shall pay.

The dial telephones are expected to be in use in Vermillion in about two months. It is a tremendous job to convert the 2,350 phones on the Vermillion exchange for dial use. When the work is done the Vermillion exchange will be known as Market and all local numbers will be known by the prefix MA.

Residents were saddened to hear of the death of 90 year old Wm. H. Lawton, a prominent Vermillion businessman for many years. He began his career as a young man at one of the early newspapers in Vermillion and then trained in photography under Wm. Butler, one of Vermillion's early photographers. He recorded a great amount of early history on film. He lived for a time in Elk Point but returned to Vermillion in 1896 and his studio was located on Market Street.

One of his photos received nearly nationwide circulation when he took the dramatic shot of the old wooden water tower as it was being felled. In 1916 he opened a soda fountain, candy store and cafeteria on Main Street. In 1918 he took over management of the Waldorf Hotel until 1946 when he retired and sold his interest to Howard Macy. For several years he clerked at the hotel after his retirement.

The Vermillion police report there were 94 arrests in the City in 1956. In 1955 there were 128 arrests.

The Thrift Shop, sponsored by the Civic Council will be open in the basement of the Public Library on Tuesday at 7:00 pm. The shop is sponsoring a sale to raise funds for the Dakota Nursing Home. The committee is asking for better things for the sale and would appreciate better items for this sale.

Stewart's Standard Service Station and Charlie's Standard Station were robbed last Saturday night. A total of \$168 in cash and checks, several credit cards and nine cases of .22 caliber long rifle shells were taken from the stations. A glass cutter was found outside a window at Charlie's Station. At Stewart's, the thieves took \$18 in half dollars and quarters along with the Federal brand rifle shells. The thieves didn't bother with the dimes and nickels at Stewart's.

Loss is estimated at \$41,000 to equipment of the State Chemical Laboratory and the USD Chemistry Department when fire broke out Friday night. Vermillion's biggest fire in several years brought out interesting sidelights. Let it be known that chemistry students were not trying to hook up fire hoses to gasoline pumps instead of water mains. The firemen were hampered in fighting the fire because of the heavy screens. It was a very cold night and the screens became coated with ice. Efforts to blast holes in the ice with shotguns and pistols proved rather ineffective. The temperature that night was 10 to 15 degrees below zero.

Another robbery occurred this

Saturday night. This time the thieves entered the Austin Dairy store on the corner of Main and Elm Streets by gaining entrance through a side door. Nothing in the store was disturbed except the cash register that contained \$150 that was taken.

The City airport was a mighty busy place on Sunday at least until the wind and dust arrived late in the afternoon. Fourteen planes were taking off and landing. The activity attracted sight-seers and there were as many as 29 cars parked at the airport at one time during the afternoon. Work has begun by the city on the administration building to provide rest room facilities. Several other projects, including runway improvement, are also well along in the planning stages.

This weekend the phones in Vermillion have been turned over to the dial system.

A total appropriation of \$1,872,714 was granted the University of South Dakota by the 1957 legislature. This is an increase of 40 per cent above the amount approved in 1955.

There is little, if any, room for controversy in the question which will

be submitted on a special ballot for the approval of the voters in the election next Tuesday. It is a request that the council be given the authority to prepare, in ordinance form, a schedule of possible rental rates on sanitary sewer facilities to be ready in case the city should ever install a sewage disposal system. The action is being taken as a matter of foresight by the council and has the unanimous approval of all members of the governing board of the city.

Everyone is invited to visit the beautiful new Dakota Nursing Home on Sunday, April 14, 1957. The new facility was constructed at a cost of \$320,000. Four acres of ground on South Plum Street just south of Dakota Hospital were secured from Thomas R. Walker by the directors of the Dakota Hospital Association. The home will accommodate 40 guests. There are 12 double rooms and 16 single rooms plus the dining and reception rooms, a sun room, offices, workrooms and service facilities.

The Hub City Store will have their Grand Opening on Saturday. Stop by and enjoy free coffee and cookies.

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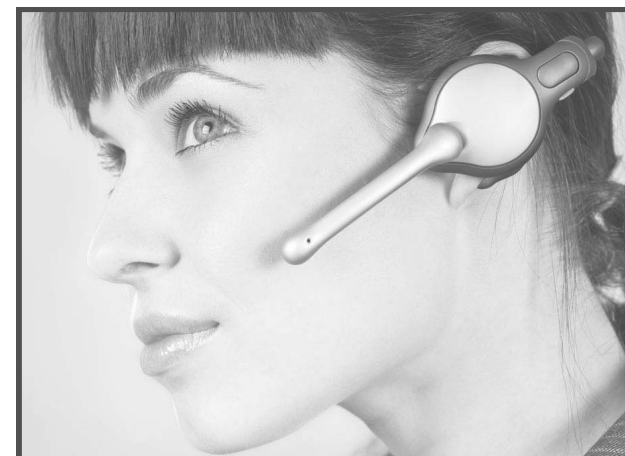
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