

# Thune: Excellence, commitment, service define personal success

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

Too often, people define success by the amount of money they make, or the amount of possessions they have, or even by fame.

"I don't think success is about that at all," Sen. John Thune told delegates to Girls State Tuesday night in Slagle Auditorium on the USD campus. "My observations, in the years since I was your age, of the people who really define success all share three key ingredients."

Successful people, according to Thune, are committed to excellence.

"When you talk about excellence, a lot of people confuse it with perfectionism, and if you're someone who is a perfectionist, you're probably going to be somewhat frustrated in life because things don't always turn out perfectly," he said. "Excellence is not about the end product or the result. It has a lot to do with the process; it's making the most out of what you've been given."

He encouraged the delegates to use their unique set of characteristics, of "gifts," to help make the world a better place. "Excellence is making the most out of those, and putting them to their highest and best use, to really have an impact."

A commitment to a life of character is also common, Thune said, among people who are truly successful.

"Character is all about the kind of person you are," he said. "It's the qualities that you possess. I think it comes down to issues like honesty. Do you play by the rules? Do you respect other people, even those with whom you disagree? Do you take responsibility for your actions and the choices that you make? Accepting responsibility

for the choices and the decisions that we make are a sign of personal character."

Being a person of character, the senator told the young women, may cost some people a certain level of popularity among their peers.

"You are going to be faced with temptations throughout your lifetime to do it the easy way, to bend the rules, to do things that you know you shouldn't do," Thune said. "Being a person of character means having the courage to stand up and do the right thing no matter what the consequences."

For one to be successful, one must also be committed to a life of service.

"Service can be a lot of different things. You can serve people in a lot of different ways," he said. "Sometimes, it may be helping an elderly person in your neighborhood with yard work or shoveling their sidewalk. Or you may help a younger sibling or a classmate or a friend who is having a bad day. There are so many ways you can serve."

To truly be committed to service means "being willing to serve causes that are greater than yourself," Thune said. "So oftentimes in life, we get preoccupied with 'us.' ... That's not what it's all about. It's about what we are doing to impact the world around us, how are we serving God, how are we serving our community, how are we serving the people around us every single day?"

Thune also took time to answer questions from the delegates. He was asked why Congress feels it needs to fix the federal budget.

"We are spending so much money, we are literally bankrupting the next generation, and you're the ones who are going to pay for this," he said. "We as a nation are borrowing \$4 billion every single day, and at some point we have to pay

it back."

Failure to bring federal spending under control, Thune said, would mean upcoming generations of Americans would experience a lower standard of living and a lower quality of life than previous generations.

The federal budget deficit also ultimately means fewer job opportunities for younger Americans, he said.

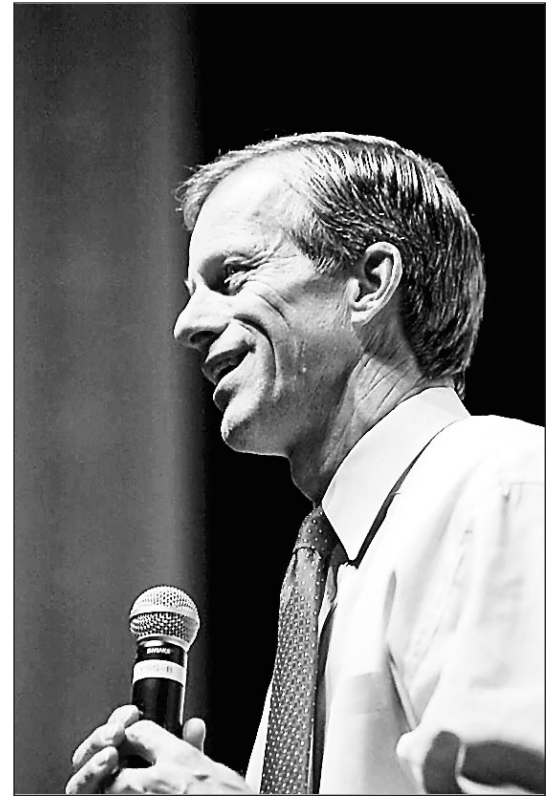
"When governments continue to spend at the level that we're spending today, and when we have the amount of debt that we have today," Thune said, "it deprives the opportunity for a lot of people to get a job out there in a struggling economy. We want to get Americans back to work, and we want to get our federal spending under control."

A delegate asked the senator if the sometimes-rocky relationship between Republicans and Democrats hurts the governing process in the U.S. Senate.

"I think right now there are deep disagreements on how best to solve problems," Thune said. "Most political debates are an expression of somebody's values and differences in philosophy."

"Right now, there are very sharp differences on how to best direct and lead the country," he said. "At the end of the day, the country has got to function, and we have to be able to work together in a democracy to get things done. Right now, the political differences, the polarization in Washington between Republicans and Democrats is making it difficult to get things done."

"I still believe that if the American people want to see people work together and get things done, and they express it loudly and vocally enough, that it will happen," Thune said.



U.S. Sen. John Thune addresses delegates to Girls State Tuesday evening in Slagle Auditorium on the USD campus in Vermillion.

(Photo by David Lias)

Girls State will continue on the USD campus all of this week, and is scheduled to conclude late Saturday morning.

## Rehearsals under way for 'My Fair Lady'

By Parker Knox

"Just you wait!" "Wouldn't it be love(r)ly" if, "With a little bit of luck," a legendary Lerner and Loewe musical came to a stage "On the street where you live"?

That's a musically corny way of reporting that, thanks to Vermillion Community Theatre, all of those songs and the rest of "My Fair Lady" as well will be here soon, just as sure as "the rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain."

The cast has been selected through auditions, and rehearsals began May 30 for the musical, which will be performed at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center on July 8-11.

Playgoers this summer won't see him onstage this time, but they will remember Kevin Earlywine, who starred in last summer's "Oklahoma!" as Curly. The recent USD theater graduate is directing "My Fair Lady," assisted by Anthony Burbach as musical director, Rosy Soltero as stage manager and Kathryn Reimler as choreographer. Brian Adams is technical director, Ben Kramer is set designer, Anthony Pellecchio is lighting director and Susan Heggestad is costumer.

Stephanie Maddox will star in the female lead role of Eliza

Doolittle, the English lass spied selling flowers on the street by Professor Henry Higgins, played by David Hulac, who had the much different role of Jud Fry in "Oklahoma!"

Randy LaMie has been cast as Colonel Pickering, Joshua Kolb as Freddy Eynsford-Hill and David Burrow as Alfred P. Doolittle.

The cast also includes Cindy Aden as Mrs. Eynsford-Hill and Erin Conlon as Mrs. Higgins as well as Don Pryce, Abraham Painter, Clint Johnson, Kelsey Johannsen, Lynn Lawrensen, Randy Gingiss, Derek Iverson, Hannah Ford, Gretchen Burbach, Sue Kappenman, Nancy McCahren and Danielle Dornbusch.

Jasmine Martin, Alex Card, Derek Iverson and Megan Dawley will appear as street performers. The queen's escorts are Ellen Hanson, Rosie Ahmed, Julie Renner and Holly Irwin. The cockney quartet includes Bryce Mayrose, Kurt Hackemer, Caleb Olson and Joshua Kolb.

In addition to actors already mentioned, others appearing in the various choruses are George Schlenker, Evelyn Schlenker, Carrie Prentice, Jack Fuller and Grace Kjelden.

directing "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" to be presented in August.

The University of South Dakota theatre department received credit as the "Best Local Production" for its presentation of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." The citation read: "With a set designed by Tim Case that resembled a pop-up story book, Director Chaya Gordon-Bland brought together all the elements necessary for a top-notch production. Students articulated the prose of Shakespeare so even Midwesterners could follow the complicated plot that follows the follies of human beings."

## Conlon recognized as 'Best Supporting Actress'

The Sioux City Journal recently released their list of the Best Shows of 2010-11. On a list that included Elton John for the "Best Large Scale Concert" and Bill Cosby as "Best Touring Comedian" two awards went to Vermillion talent.

Vermillion singer/actress, Erin Conlon was recognized as "Best Supporting Actress" for her work in "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" presented by Sioux City Community Theatre. Her citation read: "With a resume that includes numerous theater productions, Conlon presented trailer trash character "Betty" better than any woman on Jerry Springer. With a beautiful singing voice that resonated throughout the theater, we hope this Vermillion resident shares her talents with other Siouxland audiences."

Conlon is the tour manager for the Children's Theatre Company of South Dakota and a long time employee at the Nook 'n Cranny. She has been seen on Vermillion stages since childhood, most recently as Aunt Eller in the 2010 Vermillion Community Theatre production of "Oklahoma!" She can be seen next on stage as Mrs. Higgins in the VCT July production of "My Fair Lady" and is also co-

By Anne Marshall

### One World, Many Stories Summer Reading Program

In keeping with the world theme, children are invited to check out a little stuffed animal for one week. During that week the child should read about a foreign country, take an imaginary vacation to that country, write a note on a postcard (provided by the library) about their adventure with their stuffed friend, and draw a picture depicting a famous landmark or area representing the country. Returned postcards will be displayed on a world map in the Community Room throughout the summer.

The library's summer reading adventures includes an adult program, Cultural Clips Film Festival, young reader and young adult reader programs, and preschool and toddler storytime sessions. For more information, pick up a Check It Out Newsletter and Calendar of Events pamphlet at the circulation desk. This summer is going to be your greatest adventure yet!

Monday, June 13: Books and Brunch starts at 10:00 a.m.

North American Craft activity at 1:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14: Children's show of the film, "An American Tail" starts at 1:30 p.m. (80 min., rated G)

Wednesday, June 15: "The Zooman" starts at 1:30 p.m. Global Creations scheduled for 4 p.m.

Thursday, June 16: World Travelers' Club at 1:30 p.m.

Cultural Mapping starts at 3 p.m.

### Activities at the Library

The Cultural Clips Adult Film Festival on Wednesday, June 15 show of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." This comedy shows the struggles of a Greek woman who falls in love with a non-Greek in Chicago. The showing starts at 6:30 p.m. in

## CHECK IT OUT

the Community Room of the library.

Jewelry making classes are scheduled for Wednesday June 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the South Dakota Room of the library. These classes, with instructor Candi Martin, are geared for teenagers to adults. There is a charge of \$20 for the beading kits and classes. Pre-registration is needed as class sizes are limited. Payment is due at registration. Call the library at 677-7060 for more information.

During the summer the Vermillion Public Library is closed on Sundays. Materials may be returned to the book or A/V drop boxes located on the south side of the building.

### Weekly Online Book Club

The DearReader.com Book Club offers many selections to Internet patrons. Each book runs for five days, Monday through Friday. Some genres offer selections every other week. Check out this service by registering at the library's Web site, <http://vpl.sdlm.net> and clicking on the book club icon. The Online Book Club is asking it's readers to write and tell what they enjoy about this special library service. The features for the week of June 13 are:

AUDIO BOOK: Check online for this selection.

BUSINESS: The Unforced Error, by Jeffrey A. Kames.

FICTION: Up From the Blue, by Susan Henderson.

GOOD NEWS: In a Heartbeat: Sharing the Power of Cheerful Giving, by Leigh Anne & Sean Tuohy.

MYSTERY: Bad Bird, by Chris Knopf.

NON-FICTION: The Tin Ticket, by Deborah J. Swiss.

PRE-PUB: Check on-line for this selection.

ROMANCE: Lady of Scandal, by Tina Gabrielle.

SCIENCE FICTION: Ragnarok, by Patrick A. Vanner.

TEEN: Always a Witch, by Carolyn MacCullough.

THRILLER: Wyatt's Revenge, by H. Terrell Griffin.

### New Adult Fiction Collection

The truth only fiction can tell. 'O' is a novel about aspiration and delusion, set during the presidential election of 2012 and written by an anonymous author. The author has spent years observing politics and the fraught relationship between public image and self-regard. 'O' is a work of speculative fiction about the ways in which the battle for the presidency will be fought in 2012.

In 1950's Sudan, the powerful and sprawling Abuzeid dynasty has amassed a fortune through their trading firm. With Mahmoud Bey at its helm, they can do no wrong. But when Mahmoud's son suffers a debilitating accident, the family is suddenly divided in the face of an uncertain future. "Lyrics Alley" is a new novel from the award winning author, Leila Aboulela. It is rich in detail and generous in spirit

with complex characters.

Three inseparable friends during their Naval Academy years are sent on three different paths after graduation, only to find changed lives by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. "Pacific Glory," by P. T. Deutermann, is filled with wide-screen action, romance, and heroism tinged with the brutal reality of war. Pacific Glory is an old-fashioned military adventure of the first order.

When Cooper Coghlan arrives in Ireland with the cremated remains of his grandfather, Finn Coghlan, there is one final instruction. "Let my ashes blow in the wind. You'll know the place when you come to it. I'll be there, telling you." In "Bogmeadow's Wish," by Terry Kay, Cooper begins his search with a down-on-his-luck actor who cons his way into Cooper's life as a guide.

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**Saturday, June 18, 2011**  
**Starting at 2pm**  
 Holiday Inn Express  
 1200 North Dakota St., Vermillion

**Seeks Donations For Book Sale**

The Vermillion Plain Talk is seeking donations for a book sale to be held during the Vermillion's City Wide Rummage Sale. The book sale will be June 23rd and 24th. All kinds of gently used books, VHS/DVD movies will be accepted (No Encyclopedias or Text Books please!) Books can be brought to the Plain Talk Office, 201 W. Cherry, Vermillion.

**Donations will be accepted M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. until June 17th, 2011.** Proceeds from the sale will go to the Newspapers in Education program, which provides free newspapers to classrooms in Vermillion and the surrounding areas.