



# PLAIN TALK

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### INSIDE:

- Bremer retiring as county auditor, **Page 07**
- Post 1 wins 5 straight, **Page 05**

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## Championship 'surreal'

## USD's Buell earns NCAA title

By **Jeremy Hoek**

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Bethany Buell's status among the all-time greats at the University of South Dakota had already been established.

The junior pole-vaulter only cemented that legacy last week with arguably one of the greatest performances in school history.

Competing with a torn ligament in her left shoulder, Buell won a national title last Friday at the Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Eugene, OR.

"It's still sort of surreal. It hasn't completely worn off yet," she said during a phone interview Saturday from Eugene.

Buell cleared 14-feet-7.25 on her third and final attempt to win the event — she then missed on three attempts at 14-9.

Video replays show that on Buell's winning jump, she landed on the padding and immediately popped up with her arms in the air, realizing she had won.

"I was just honestly praising God for getting me through this season, it has been a rough one," Buell said, referring to her injured shoulder which kept her out of action for about six weeks.

"Just the fact that he was able to turn around a season and finish with a national title, it's been beyond amazing."

With a wrap secured tightly on her left shoulder, Buell jumped off the mat and ran directly to vaulting coach Derek Miles — sitting across the track in the bleachers.

The University of South Dakota's Bethany Buell clears the bar during the women's pole vault at the Summit League Indoor Track and Field Championship. Buell won the NCAA Outdoor championship in the event on Friday, helping the Coyotes to an 18th place finish in the meet.

(Photo by James D. Cimburek/P&D)

■ **BUELL**, Page 11

## Arraignment held for Burbank man Tuesday

By **Travis Gulbrandson**

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The Burbank man charged with raping two children made his first court appearance Tuesday morning.

Joseph T. Night, 62, pleaded not guilty to all 13 counts against him during an arraignment, several of which could find him spending the rest of his life in the state penitentiary if he is convicted.

Night is charged with the following:

- Four counts of rape in the first degree, a Class C felony punishable with life imprisonment and a fine of \$50,000;

- two counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, a Class 6 felony that carries two years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$4,000;

- two counts of sexual contact with a child under the age of 16, a Class 3 felony with 15 years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$30,000;

- two counts of aggravated incest, another Class 3 felony;

- one count of simple assault, a Class 1 misdemeanor, which carries one year imprisonment in the

county jail and a fine of \$2,000;

- one count of interfering with an emergency communication, another Class 1 misdemeanor; and

- one count of intent to damage property in the third degree, a Class 2 misdemeanor punishable by 30 days in a county jail and a fine of \$500.

Night has been released on a \$50,000 cash-only bond and is participating in a 24-7 program as a condition of his release.

At Tuesday's hearing, Judge Glen Eng said Night must also stay in contact with his attorney, public defender Jason Rumpsa.

A motion hearing has been set for Night at 11 a.m., July 9. If a plea agreement is reached,

a hearing will take place on or before Sept. 3.

If there is no plea agreement and Night continues to plead not guilty, his jury trial will take place at 9 a.m. Sept. 23.

In an interview with the *Vermillion Plain Talk* last week, States Attorney Teddi Gertsma said Night's charges stem from a call that was placed Sunday, May 3.

"Law enforcement received a 911 call that an assault was occurring, and when they followed up, (their) investigation led to more charges," Gertsma said.

Night was questioned in the hallway of the courthouse following his arraignment Tuesday, but told the *Plain Talk* he had no comment.

**Related story: Vermillion man pleads not guilty after child porn arrest; Page 02**



Engineers scrambled Tuesday to find the best way solution to getting KVTK-AM's radio signal broadcasting again after the station's tower collapsed Monday.

(Photo by David Lias)

## Grounded tower knocks station off air

By **David Lias**

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Listeners to ESPN Radio 1570 KVTK-AM of Yankton will need to be a bit patient.

A Monday afternoon accident has temporarily knocked the station off the air. Engineers and other staffers of Five Star Communications, which also owns KVHT-FM Classic Hits 106.3, were scrambling Tuesday to find the best way to begin broadcasting again after their radio tower collapsed Monday afternoon.

The tower, which was 309 feet tall, is situated in the middle of what appears to be a small,

grassy field located about five miles west of Vermillion. A man cutting the grass Monday afternoon clipped one of the tower's guy-wires, causing it to collapse shortly after 4 p.m.

"The tower is on the ground," said Jeff Fuller, owner of the two radio stations, Tuesday morning. "Engineers are working now to do whatever we need to do to get us back on the air."

No one was injured. A small building located a short distance from the tower's base was not damaged, as the collapsing metal snaked its way around the structure without striking it.

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