

Thune Promotes Success By Excellence, Character And Service

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk.

The participants of Girls' state had the opportunity to hear from Senator John Thune at their assembly Saturday on the campus of the University of South Dakota.

"I try to get to Girls' State every year," Thune said, himself having attended Boys' State in 1978. "It's always enjoyable for me to come down and interact with them and hear what's important to them. There's a lot of people in this audience that have tremendous abilities and I think they're pretty well motivated to stay involved. Whatever they choose to do if they're out there making a difference just having an impact I think that's the important thing."

Originally from Jones County, South Dakota, Thune said he never dreamed he'd be in his current position.

"When I was growing up I didn't anticipate I'd be doing what I'd be doing," he said. "Politics was just something we talked about over the kitchen table. I had the opportunity growing up to be involved in politics and that opened some doors for me and that's how I ended up doing what I'm doing today."

Thune encouraged the girls to develop the skills they learned throughout the week.

"We need people involved in the political process in this country," he said. "Whether or not you're on the political side, take advantage of leadership opportunities. Obviously you're here today because somebody recognized those leadership abilities."



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Senator John Thune greets members of Girls' State before addressing them at the end of their week-long program Saturday.

As the girls head into their senior year of High School and thinking about their future life path, Thune recommended keeping in mind a few characteristics he has noticed in truly successful people.

"When you hear people talk about success, sometimes they'll define that by how much money you make, how much power you acquire, how much fame you have, that sort of thing," he said. "It's not about any of that."

Thune mentioned three attributes, the first being a commitment to a life of excellence.

"I'm not talking about perfection

because nobody's perfect," he said. "If you're somebody who's a perfectionist you're going to be very frustrated in life because it's awfully hard to measure up. Perfectionists worry about the outcome or the result. People who are committed to excellence worry about things like process. What can I do to take those God-given abilities and put them to best use to make a difference in those around me?"

Thune remembered a state basketball tournament where he missed a shot with five seconds to go that

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Community Building Up To Summer Shows

BY JAMES COOPER
For The Plain Talk

As summer rolls on, the actors, dancers, singers, and all around theatrically talented people of Vermillion are preparing to showcase their hard work in the various activities offered throughout the season; namely, the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival's *Macbeth*, and the Vermillion Community Theatre production of *Mary Poppins*.

Jill Clark, a student at The University of South Dakota, is charged with creating the set for *Macbeth*, set to open Thursday, June 11 in Prentis Park.

In creating the set, there are certain issues to be faced as the designer is confronted by the wall that will serve as the amphitheater for the show. Like the outer wall of a fort, the stone structure has presented, "a fun challenge" to Clark.

"It's been a fun challenge letting the wall inspire the design versus changing the wall because we can't alter it," she said.

Having no ability to change the wall, Clark has had to be creative at, "being able to find ways to enhance it..."

The South Dakota Shakespeare Festival (SDSF) has been granted access to building materials and space to build by The University of South Dakota theatre department. A simple trade system allows both entities equal benefit, as used sets by SDFS are gifted to USD's theatre department, and scraps from USD productions are then up for use by SDFS.

"It's been nice working in tandem with the school because they'll let us use their stuff, then at the end of the year they get all of the stuff



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Summer means theatre season and in Vermillion it is no different. Pictured is the set of the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival's Macbeth, set for Prentis Park this weekend. Jill Clark a USD student was in charge of creating the set.

that we build," Clark said. With much overlap within the company and the university, this arrangement makes for more diverse and affordable sets which enhance the show in all aspects.

Brian Adams, Vermillion resident and long-time participant in the Vermillion Community Theatre, has recently begun the set for *Mary Poppins*.

Working out of the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center Adams has the arduous task of bringing London to life in South Dakota.

"It's difficult trying to fit so many locations on a stage with such limited wing space, so I've had to be very efficient in my design in that respect," said Adams.

For shows that come

from iconic stories, like *Mary Poppins*, crowds may be expecting some resemblance in terms of costume and set, but as theatre has always been, designers have the freedom to stretch their creative legs and make something purely imaginative.

In the case of Adams' work on *Mary Poppins*, he said, "I purposely try not to be influenced by other designs. For some shows, they're so iconic that you can't get away from it, but this is a relatively new show, as far as stage musical goes, so I didn't base my design off of any previous designs."

Of course, for both the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival and for Vermillion Community Theatre, sets require people, in addition to designers, to make them

happen.

The stress of assembling, painting, and transporting cannot possibly be done by one person.

"It's been really hectic because we don't have a lot of people working on it, but it's coming along really well," Clark said.

Thankfully, actors and other crew on the production always step in to help.

Adams has an assistant, JoeBob Geis, and a few others from the production, but when asked how much help he has, Adams replied, "never enough!"

Luckily, the VCT has some time left before their show opens in late August.

USD Requests Review Of Response To Moldy Buildings

(AP) — The University of South Dakota has asked the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to review its response to complaints about mold in a campus building.

Noteboom Hall is a 70-year-old dormitory that has been converted to a speech therapy center. Former USD employee Nancy Andresen recently told the *Argus Leader* newspaper that working there gave her breathing problems, migraines and other health issues.

An analysis in 2013 concluded the Communications Sciences and Disorders Department should move out of Noteboom Hall. The college has unsuccessfully asked the Legislature for money to replace the building, USD spokeswoman Tena Haraldson said.

"We can't move the entire department," she said.

The school has installed humidifiers and air filters, moved offices and gotten rid of old fabric furniture in Noteboom. The school says air quality tests show improvements, but officials asked the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to evaluate the mitigation efforts in the wake of Andresen's complaint.

"When someone raises a concern or makes a complaint, we address it," Haraldson said. "We've been working on this for years."

Institute officials will review the situation and determine if an onsite evaluation is needed, spokeswoman Stephanie Stevens said.

Andresen said she's glad the school has reached out to federal officials but hopes they don't rely too much on air-quality tests offered by the school.

Students have complained about mold in other campus buildings in recent years.

"We have a lot of old buildings. The university started in 1862," Haraldson said. "Things have changed a lot. What we need to do now is figure out what stays, what goes and what gets moved."

Library Program Receives Grant

Beth Knedler and Susan Heggstad of the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library recently received a \$4,851 robotics supply grant to develop a new VEX robotics program at the library for elementary and middle school students in collaboration with the Vermillion Area Robotics Club, SD Code Club, Clay County 4H, and Vermillion Public Schools. These kits will be used for programming during the 2015 Summer Reading Program, and subsequently for Library, 4-H and Jolley School programs.

The NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium offers the Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Award in the amount of \$5,000 - \$10,000 in memory of the unprecedented enthusiasm and vision that Dr. Dan Swets of Augustana College brought to the state of South Dakota in the field of robotics. Dr. Swets, founder of the South Dakota Robotics Association, saw the value of robotics in recruiting students into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at an early age. He strove to provide those opportunities for students throughout their educational career. Not only does this help young people in science and engineering in general, but it also produces high quality students that NASA is looking toward to help fulfill its mission. Dr. Swets served on the Management Team of the SD Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) for 15 years. SDSGC provides this annual award to a South Dakota teacher or educator of robotics who will carry on these traditions in memory of Dr. Swets and the three other gentlemen who tragically lost their lives in an airplane crash on December 9, 2011; Mr. Kevin Anderson, Mr. Joshua Lambrecht, and pilot Mr. Brian Blake, while on their way from Sioux Falls to Rapid City, SD to assist with a robotics program.

Local Student Graduate From WITCC

SIOUX CITY, Iowa – Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) held its spring commencement ceremonies on May 14, 2015 at the Tyson Event Center in Sioux City. During the ceremony, two individuals were honored for their special contributions to the college.

The main event of the ceremonies was the recognition of Western Iowa Tech Community College graduates who received a total of 1310 degrees, diplomas and certificates.

An asterisk (*) denotes students graduating with honors. A double asterisk (**) denotes the highest HSED score.

- Area Graduates Included:
 Dakota Dunes: *Caleb K. Berry, Carter J. Matousek
 Elk Point: Robert J. Albertsen Jr., Amber L. Baker, Michael Lee Johnson, *Jason Kyle Schwartz
 Jefferson: Stephanie A. Barnes, Colton C. Gamet, *Dustin Ray Wagner
 Vermillion: Samantha M. Benson, Caitlin Britten, *Natalia Busso, Erin E. Decker, Shelby K. Evenson, *Marissa Guerdet, Morgan Brianna Hower, *Cody R. Martin, *Carlee M. Miller, Jessica J. Puckett
 Wakonda: Robert L. Spangler

Retiring soon? Let's talk.



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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

Death

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seen in the area. So, we want to talk to ... whoever was in that vehicle.

"There could be other vehicles that people have dismissed because they are not a dark sedan. We want to make sure that people are keeping their minds open to anything they might have seen."

Howe stressed that officials do not want the public to focus too heavily on the dark sedan.

"It is just one vehicle we are looking for," he said. "Honestly, we are looking for information that anybody would have if they had gone to the Highlines that day, at any time. We would like to talk to them, because they may have seen something that they didn't realize was important."

He said they remain fairly certain that Hummel's death occurred at the boat dock area.

"That is where her car was," he said. "If her car had been parked one place and her body found another downstream, we would be more concerned. But we know she was fishing in that area where it happened."

Anyone who was in the area that day should call his office, Howe stressed.



HUMMEL

He noted that toxicology and microscopic results and the full autopsy may not be released for several weeks.

"Forensic examination of evidence is not going to happen within a half an hour like on television," he said. "Forensic examination of evidence can take weeks, so it could be weeks before we hear back from the lab. It is time consuming."

Saying until the results are received, a death certificate will not be released.

Individuals with any information are asked to contact the Clay County Sheriff's Office at 605-677-7100.

GOT NEWS?

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