

# 97<sup>th</sup> Annual American Legion Convention To Be Held In Huron

WATERTOWN – The 97th Annual American Legion Department Convention will be held at the Crossroads Hotel & Convention Center in Huron, SD, beginning on June 25th and running through Sunday June 28th. Hundreds of Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, Sons of The American Legion and Legion Riders from across the State of South Dakota will be in attendance. This year two Legionnaires have announced their candidacy for the high office of Department

Commander. These candidates are Terry Hanson of Arlington and Duane Riedlinger of Piedmont. Thursday, June 25th, will begin with the Finance Commission Meeting at 10:00 a.m., the Department Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m. and followed by a meeting of the Five Year Membership Council/Media & PR Committees. Friday commences with a meeting of the Resolutions Committee at 10:00 a.m. The afternoon is filled with meetings of the Convention

Committees, Memorial Service and Joint Banquet in the evening. Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. the American Legion Annual Convention will officially be called to order. This session will consist of hearing from special guests and will be followed by the business portion of the convention. At 6:00 p.m., American Legion Go-Getters will meet for a reception and meal at the Beadle County Sportsman Club. At 8:00 p.m., the 6th Annual Fun Auction will be held at the

Crossroads Hotel with all proceeds going to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. the final session of the convention will be held with the election of a new Department Commander, Department Vice Commanders, Sergeant At Arms, National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman at noon. A post Department Executive Committee Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the Department

Convention. The American Legion is the largest veteran's organization with a total membership nationwide of 2.4 million members in 12,500 American Legion Posts. The Department of South Dakota has 242 Posts with a membership of 21,000 members in most all communities in the State.

## WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

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

## Community Garden A Growing Success

**BY JAMES COOPER**  
For the Plain Talk

For years, farmers and their families have relied on gardens to help feed their families. While the times may have changed a bit, the joy and accomplishment of having a personal garden has not. Accompanying the change, there has also been a lack of available space in residential areas for personal gardens. Thankfully Vermillion boasts a community garden that is as beautiful as it is functional for those who cannot otherwise garden at home.

For apartment dwellers, first timers, or those who are just busier than others, gardening can seem like an activity best saved for someone else, but a community garden offers plots of varying sizes that come standard with all of the water, tools, mulch, mowing, and education on gardening one could ever need for no extra charge. With plots ranging from \$5 to \$20 for the entire summer season, this is an affordable way to learn a new skill, help fight food insecurity, and stay active.

that rotates every summer.” This rotating compost system uses a fallow plot in the garden as the dumping place for mulch, trimmings, weeding, and organic matter that packs down into new soil over time. The garden also encourages the use of organic gardening techniques in order to keep the soil healthy and the food pesticide and herbicide free. Ahmed commented on some of the techniques and said, “Well, some people do till, but I don't encourage tilling because it breaks up the soil structure, and it encourages weeds, so if you plant your seeds and

tip top shape as the growing season begins. Helps does not just come in the form of physical labor, but also in the form of monetary support from the community. Grants have provided the garden with a tool shed and spigots that will not freeze. Other major contributors are the Dakota Hospital Foundation, Vermillion Now, Hy-Vee, First Bank and Trust, Walmart, Kalins Indoor Comfort, and of course, Christine Ahmed and her husband, Michael.

With the issues being raised about Food Deserts and Sustainability, global communities are now considering options that allow them to provide, for themselves and their loved ones, foods free from poisons or non-GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) products. The want for accessible, healthy, organic produce is growing in the Vermillion community just as strongly. Local resident and USD student Emily Roberson chose to set up a plot at the Vermillion Community Garden because, “I want to build a better personal connection with two things I think are most important to creating a sustainable future: the food I eat and the community I live in a care about. Plus, it's just fun to garden!”



COURTESY PHOTO USD student Emily Roberson chose to set up a plot at the Vermillion Community Garden because, “I want to build a better personal connection with two things I think are most important to creating a sustainable future: the food I eat and the community I live in a care about. Plus, it's just fun to garden!”

**Vermillion Community Garden is an all organic space located behind the Vermillion Area Art Council building at 202 Washington Street.**

your plants right into the ground, that's one of the things that helps keep weeds lower...using a variety of different mulches, like if you use green and brown grass clippings, and leaves or bark, so it's really a combination...also, hand weeding.” Certainly, these techniques for healthy gardens can aid even the seasoned gardening veteran, as well as the newcomer.

Preparing the Community Garden for planting every year requires more than just the gardeners. Volunteer groups from Vermillion High School, SESDAC, and USD help to keep the garden in

## What's Happening At Newton Hills & Good Earth State Parks

**BY: GIANNA HARTY AND CORTNEY REEDY**  
We've had some great weekends of programming so far at the parks this year, and we are not slowing down yet! Stop out to Newton Hills and Good Earth to see some of the different fun and educational activities we have to offer. We look forward to seeing you all out at the parks!

This weekend at Newton Hills we are covering anything and everything about butterflies!

Come find us in the amphitheater on Friday, June 19, at 8:30 p.m. for our movie at the amphitheater.

On Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. look for us at the amphitheater again for Just Inching Along program where we will be making caterpillar crafts to show how a butterfly first starts out in life. At 1 p.m. we will be in the double shelters for Transformation Time where we will be playing a game to show how the change takes place! You may as well stay close to there because Things of Beauty will also be held at the double shelters where we will be designing our own butterfly at 3 p.m. And at 5 p.m. we will have another game to wrap up your afternoon in the grass area on Sargeant Creek Road. And to finish off a busy day come down to the amphitheater again for another movie at 8:30 p.m. with popcorn and freezies!

On Sunday, June 21st at 9am there will be a non-denominational worship service held at the amphitheater for all who wish to join.

Weekend of summer fun at Good Earth State Park at Blood Run!  
Join us for a weekend fun in the sun!

Do you know the secret ancestry of birds? Come explore the world of fuzzy dinosaurs to fabulous fliers at Birds Are In A Class All Their Own, on Friday, June 19, at 7 p.m.

Earth, wind, fire, and water are the forces that have sculpted Good Earth State Park. In celebration of these forces Good Earth State Park is hosting a monthly event. Mark your calendar for June 20, July 18, August 15 and September 19 and come enjoy the various events throughout the day including a riddle hike, scavenger hunt, and crafts from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Murder, mystery, and mayhem await you in this natural tale of who killed whom and where. (No animals or people are harmed in this interactive experience.) Come live through the Murder Mystery experience June 20 at 4 p.m.

To draw or to write, that is the question that you will have to answer when you join us for a journey into the world of journaling. Journals are provided for this Journal Journey, June 21 at 3 p.m.

If you have any questions about the park or the programs for this coming weekend, do not hesitate to give us a call at (605) 987-2263 or email newtonhills@state.sd.us. More info including an event schedule may also be found online at www.gfp.sd.gov. If you would like to receive weekly email updates on programming at the park, like us on Facebook, or send an email to newtonhills@state.sd.us.

The staff at Newton Hills and Good Earth look forward to seeing you at the park this summer!

## Daleburg To Hold Midsommar

Music, fun for the family, homemade pie, smorgasbord! Midsommar at Dalesburg, a celebration of family, faith and friendship, is Friday, June 19, at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, a country church in rural Clay County that draws members from the Vermillion, Centerville, Beresford and Alcester areas. The festival includes two free programs, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and free activities for kids. The fun closes after the 7 p.m. program as everyone is invited to dance around the Midsommar pole.

The afternoon program, at 2pm in the air-conditioned church, features the Sergeant Creek Band, group singing and more.

During the afternoon, kids will be able to play, free, in an inflatable obstacle course and ride a miniature train.

The 7 p.m. evening program includes the Dalesburg Cornet Band, Saxophone & Piano by Coggins, and the Allnighters Barbershop Quartet. After the show, everyone gathers around the Midsommar Pole for traditional Scandinavian dancing.

The 146th annual Scandinavian festival tempts the tastebuds with a Smorgasbord from 4:30-6:30 p.m. It features homemade ethnic specialties like meatballs, potatis korv, fruit soup and more. Informal dining is available from 1-10 p.m. at the Dalesburg Lutheran & Komstad Youth Food Stand.

Dalesburg Lutheran Church is 12 miles north of Vermillion on the University Road; or 5.5 miles west of I-29 exit 38 (Volin); or 9 miles south of Hwy 46 on University Road or 3 miles east of Hwy 19 on 306th St. (Volin Road).

The festival is the 146rd celebration at the church and is a joint effort of three traditionally Swedish rural churches in the area – Dalesburg Lutheran, Dalesburg Baptist and Komstad Covenant.

The festival dates back into the late 1860s, when settlers from Dalarna County of Sweden came to Dakota Territory, to the area that is now Southeastern South Dakota.

## 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.”

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