

SETTING THE EXTERIOR



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

As the summer heats up, so does the speed of the construction on the new Sports Performance Enhancement Arena, Science, Health and Research Lab and Outdoor Track and Soccer Complex. The three projects carry an estimated cost of \$66 million and a projected completion date ahead of the 2016-17 academic year. Pictured is the South facing wall of the new SPEC where exterior portions of the wall are being placed. Behind the wall you can see the back side of the new seating.

MOPH Convention To Be Held This Week

SIoux FALLS — The Military Order Of The Purple Heart Chapter No. 5355 of Sioux Falls will host the Military Order Of The Purple Heart (MOPH) sixth annual Department Convention at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Headquarters, 1519 W. 51st Street, Sioux Falls, on June 20.

Purple Heart veterans from North Dakota and South Dakota will be attending this outstanding convention. Reservations for the Luncheon and Banquet Dinner can be made by contacting Gene Murphy at DAV Headquarters (605) 332-6866 or e-mail at davs@midconetwork.com.

Mark Williamson, MOPH Department Commander states, "Legislative issues on VA Health Care, VA Budget, Claims Processing, Agent Orange, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), Persian Gulf Syndrome and other important issues will be discussed during the Open Session and the 'Veterans Town Hall Meeting' on June 20 at 10 a.m."

'Crafting Democracy' Open House Set

The Vermillion Public Library will host "Crafting Democracy," an artistic and political open house, from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 20.

In preparation for the June 30 Special Election, the library staff has arranged a democracy studio that will provide community members with crafty campaign materials, sample ballots and other information regarding the election. Attendance is free and open to all members of the public.

Various crafting supplies and an artistic environment will provide a creative approach to raising political awareness. Two button machines will be available, allowing attendees to design and create political buttons, as well as materials for crafting banners, signs and posters. All materials will be provided by the library.

For additional information, contact the Library at 677-7060.

Election

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An affidavit will consist of filling out a piece of paper certifying that you are the person you say you are, even though you do not have your identification with you.

"I have found over the years that if people forget their ID they don't want to fill out the affidavit," Carlson said. "Why not? It discourages them to have to run home and get their ID. Everyone gets worried when they have to fill out the form. I think they get worried with everyone behind them or in front of them seeing them fill out the form."

Carlson said the crews for running the election have been set and superintendents for the wards are in place.

"I encourage people to come vote, either absentee or on that day," Carlson said. "It doesn't take a lot of time to come and vote."

A press release from the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company Board of Directors also is encouraging Vermillion voters to take advantage of the opportunity for their voices to be heard and vote on June 30th in the Special Election.

"The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of this election, especially the opportunity for each and every resident in Vermillion to have and voice their opinion," said Board President, Jim Brady. "We understand the two issues on the ballot could be a little confusing because of the 'yes' or 'no' options and which each of them mean. So, we want to make sure and do everything we can to have everyone educated on the issues and what a 'yes' or 'no' vote will translate to mean."

The following is a simplified explanation of those choices.

- Malt beverage 5% markup fee on the wholesale cost to help pay for a portion of city bond debt (Prentis Park Improvements Project). The bond issue was overwhelmingly voted for by Vermillion voters in Nov. 2014.

YES vote means repeal the ordinance and do not

generate funding support for the bond/Prentis Park Project.

NO vote means keep the ordinance as adopted by City Council and collect the 5% markup on malt beverages to help support the bond/Prentis Park Project

- Day-care regulations in Vermillion. (Registration, safety requirements, building & fire codes, not listed on the sex offender registry.)

YES vote means adopt the ordinance passed by City Council.

NO vote means do not adopt the ordinance.

The VCDC Legislative Affairs Committee is sponsoring an open forum at the Vermillion City Hall, Council Chambers, on Tuesday, June 23 from 6-8 p.m.

This public forum is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

The purpose of this forum is to provide the public an opportunity to ask questions to advocates

representing both sides of opinion regarding these two ballot topics, and to clarify any mistaken facts involved with each issue.

The forum will also be televised on local Channel 3.

You can also go to Vermillion's web page www.vermilion.us to find a link that will provide factual information about both issues; OR, anyone interested in the text of these issues can go to the City Finance Office for a sample ballot.

Farmers Union Accepting Nominations For '15 Rural Dakota Pride Awards

HURON — Helping women in her community has been Cindy Wilk's calling for more than 30 years. It began when her mother, Jan Manolis, was among a group of women to open a domestic violence shelter in Huron.

"Domestic violence is something that is very dear to my heart. Years ago there was no place for women to go for help. If they didn't have help from family or friends, there was nothing — no shelters or no counseling," explains Wilk, who serves as a volunteer advocate.

Today, thanks to the Jan Manolis Family Safe Center and numerous volunteer advocates, not only do victims and their children (the shelter also helps men who are abused) have a safe place to stay if they are in an abusive situation, but they also have an advocate to help them move forward. "We make sure they are not alone," Wilk says.

As an advocate, she carries a shelter cell phone for two weeks at a time, answering calls from victims and helping them with anything they need. "We are there to let them know we are on their side."

In 2014, Farmers Union recognized Wilk with the Dakota Rural Pride Award.

"Rural communities depend on these unsung heroes. They are the people who do what needs to be done," says Karla Hofhenke, Executive Director of South Dakota Farmers Union.

Each year, the Rural Dakota Pride Award recognizes five individuals who give back to their rural communities.

As an organization which supports South Dakota farmers and ranchers, Hofhenke explains that Farmers Union understands the integral connection between those who work in South Dakota's number one industry and their rural communities.

"One survives with the other," she says. "Without thriving communities, it's difficult to encourage young people to return to their family's farm or ranch. Rural communities are key to the future of South Dakota's agriculture industry; which is why we like to recognize those individuals who help them thrive."

The 2015 Rural Pride nominations are due July 1.

South Dakota Farmers Union is currently accepting nominations for the 2015 Rural Dakota Pride Awards. Nominations can be submitted via the Farmers Union website, www.sdfu.org, or by contacting Hofhenke at 605-352-6761 ext. 114. The five awards will be presented during Farmers Union Day at the 2015 South Dakota State Fair.

Special Education Reports Available Online

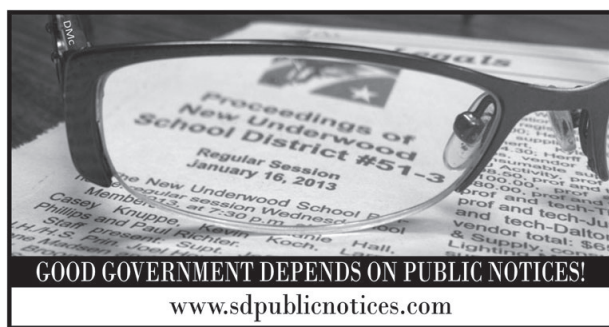
PIERRE — Information regarding school districts' performance on improving the educational outcomes of students with disabilities is now available online. Results of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays are also available.

The Special Education and Birth to Three State Performance Plan Reports are released annually. The special education report addresses the federal special education program known as Part B. This report identifies school districts' ability to meet federal requirements on several indicators along with performance targets. It is based mainly on data from the 2013-14 school year.

To view the special education report, visit <http://www.doe.sd.gov/oess/sped-spp.aspx>. Statewide data are available by clicking on the "State Total" link under the "Indicator 17" heading near the bottom of the page.

The Birth to Three State Performance Report addresses the federal special education program known as Part C. This report identifies the ability of the early intervention program to meet the 11 federal requirements during the 2013-14 reporting year.

To view the Birth to Three report ("FFY 2013 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report"), visit <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/Birthto3.aspx> and click on the "Public Reporting" link.



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