

ESA Tour of Tables April 6 Custer student winner at USD Scripps Spelling Bee



Pictured is the table setting of the official USD china, displayed by Collette Abbott for the Tour of Tables in April 2012.
(Submitted photo)

Members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA) will join with the Vermillion community on April 6 in the fight for a cure against children's cancer through a fundraising event for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Members of Theta Omega Chapter of Vermillion will host a national ESA event in our community at their ninth annual Tour of Tables in St. Agnes School's Father Wolf Auditorium to benefit the hospital's young patients on Saturday, April 6. Members of all three of Vermillion's ESA chapters, Alpha Lambda, Lambda Lambda and Theta Omega will participate in this event.

Our community will show their appreciation for cancer research in children through this ESA fundraising event. There will be around 25 tables decorated beautifully and/or cleverly by ESA members and volunteers from the community. The doors will open at 10:45 a.m. to give guests an opportunity to "tour" the tables and read the descriptions of the settings in the program provided by the chapter. A salad luncheon will be served by the St. Agnes women. If you would like to attend this event, contact Barb Campbell at bcampbel41@msn.com or call (605) 624-4624. Tickets are \$15.

Alpha Phiesta on April 11

The Psi Chapter of Alpha Phi at the University of South Dakota is holding its annual "Alpha Phiesta" philanthropy event on April 11 at the Vermillion Armory. "Alpha Phiesta" is an "all you can eat" taco feed. There is also a jalapeño challenge (\$3 per person to enter), and Alpha Phi's salsa/zumba

dancing during the event. Tickets for the event are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Proceeds from this event will go directly to the Vermillion Backpack program. The Vermillion Backpack program helps meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available.

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 3/15-21/2013

Ryan O'Connor, 2902 Peterson Road, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Zachary Baltz, 205 Dakota St. #9, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$79.00 plus costs
Jason Lee Osteen, 411 Stanford Street #51, Vermillion; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$204.00 plus costs
Fernando Orozco, 821 E. 37th Street, South Sioux City, NE; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Laurentiu Chistinel Olarasu, 112 E. Cherry Street, #211, Vermillion; Municipal failure to report accident to law enforcement, \$60.00 plus costs
Nicole Larson, 906 James Street, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Jared Michael Holcomb, 833 E. Duke #116, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs
Amber R. Ishmael, 303 Lincoln, Volin; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Kyle James Huether, 303 Lincoln Ave., Volin; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Rex A. Kinnear, 411 Stanford St. Lot 27, Vermillion; Failure to stop, \$54.00 plus costs
Julie Ann Greenfield, 500 E. 8th Street, Yankton; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Brooke Elizabeth Stockland, 800 Colman St., Centerville; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Casey James Barnett, 901 Rose Street #440, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
Mary Alina Hulac, 1212 Crestview, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs
Lori Ann Dreesen, 2913 Chambers Street, Sioux City, IA; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs
Kelly Ann Wait, 1006 Tom St., Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs
David Herbster, 105 Anderson Street, Vermillion; Speeding in school zone, \$19.00 plus costs
Todd A. Brevik, 421 Lee Street, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
Ann Waterbury, 1547 Brandon Drive, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs
Alexander Michael Robertson, 604 Burbank Rd., Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs
Peter Murray, 32189 Ponderosa Drive, Burbank; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs
Shayla Helen Kiertzner, 1105 W. Clark Street, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00
John Kennebeck, P.O. Box 153, Lake Wilson, MN; Headlights must be dimmed, \$54.00 plus costs
Judge Tami Bern presiding
Joshua Thin Elk, 1005 W. Clark Street #2, Vermillion; Domestic abuse-simple assault, not sustained at preliminary/grand jury

By Travis Gulbrandson
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It took 38 rounds, but a winner was declared at the University of South Dakota Scripps Spelling Bee Saturday morning.

Max Oesterling, a Custer eighth-grader representing the South Dakota Christian Home School Association won the oral bee, correctly spelling "pronouncement" in the championship round.

Lexis Sherron of Brandon Valley won second place, with Adele Benoit of Yankton's Sacred Heart School taking third.

This is a return for both Oesterling and Sherron, both of whom competed in last year's bee.

"I'm happy with how I did," Sherron said.

Oesterling agreed, adding, "It's just God who chooses who wins or not."

Following his win in Vermillion, Oesterling will head to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will be held in Washington, DC, May 26-31.

Benoit, a seventh-grader, said she plans to try and make the contest again next year.

"Just being here now is really awesome," she said.

In addition to the oral bee, a written test also was held, the winners of which were Sherron with third place, Oesterling with second and Maria Braga-Henebry of the Greater Sioux Falls Home School Association with first.

"For the written test, we randomly chose 50 words from the guide we get from Scripps," said program assistant Cheryl Havermann. "The written test did not eliminate anyone from the oral bee, but it did have its own award placings."

"If the contestant makes it to the national level, there are three rounds of written tests that do eliminate the contestant from the competition. So, it's good practice for the contestant to have a written test," Havermann said.



(From left) Max Oesterling was first-place winner of the oral competition at the University of South Dakota Scripps Spelling Bee Saturday, followed by Lexis Sherron and Adele Benoit.

(Travis Gulbrandson/Vermillion Plain Talk)

Eleven students competed Saturday, all of whom were culled from regional bees held across the state.

"This spelling bee is a bridge between the regional spelling bee level and the national level," said master of ceremonies Nicholas Tiftt.

"Success in school-level spelling bees is usually tied to memorization of a list of several hundred words. Success at the national level is all about application of language concepts and patterns to correctly spell any of the 472,000 words from the dictionary."

These concepts became more important to the spellers as the competition drew to a close and the words became more complicated.

The students were given the word and heard it used in a sentence, after which point the word was repeated. They also had the option of asking for a definition, the word's place or origin and alternate pronunciations.

"When your moment arrives, just do like the pros do in D.C.," Tiftt said before the spelling began. "Slow down, ask questions, think positively and you will be ready to meet the challenge."

This was the second year the spelling bee was held at USD, and the first time it took place in Farber Hall.

"We were contacted kind of late last year because the prior sponsor was no longer sponsoring," Havermann said. "Scripps approached us, and it

was just a natural fit ... so we took on the role.

"Last year, we had a few bugs because it was our first year, but this year, I think it went very well," she said. "We have lots of volunteers from the university community. Having it in Farber Hall has worked out really well. It's convenient and it's a really nice venue."

Other participants in Saturday's spelling bee were Emily Fox, Genesis Reynolds, Whitney Fuerst, Luke Norby, Maddy Gillett, Connor Lightfield and Carolyn Blaha.

Judges were Marie Anne Ben, Megan Olson and Joni Freidel, and word pronouncer was Tom Sorensen, associate dean of the USD School of Law.

OBITUARIES

William Banks

William L. Banks, age 60, of Bradshaw, NE, died Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at Bradshaw. He was born Dec. 28, 1952 to Lewis and Lois (Anderson) Hahn in Sioux Falls. He served in the US Navy and then the Army National Guard as a gunnery instructor.

Bill loved kids and they loved him. His mom had been a foster mom since he was very young and he always helped take care of them and had a special way with all children his entire life. He worked for Fagen, Inc. out of Fergus Falls, MN at various locations throughout the Midwest for over 20 years as an Electrician Journeyman. Not only was he a great electrician but he also had a way of kidding around with follow employees and was a joy to work with.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Teresa of Bradshaw; son, Josh Banks, his fiancée and two of her children of Randolph, NE; daughter, Bobbie Halverson, her husband, Shannon and their son, Stephan of Cook, MN; two foster children, Andrea Morgan and her five children of Nett Lake,

MN, and Loren LaFave, his wife, April and their eight children also of Nett Lake. Bill's mother, Lois Johnson of Wakonda, is also surviving as well as his brother, Barry and wife, Peggy Banks of Vermillion. He was preceded in death by his father.

Memorial services were held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at the United Methodist Church, Bradshaw, NE. No viewing or visitation as it was Bill's wish to be cremated. Memorials may be directed to the church.

Condolences can be sent to the family at www.metzmortuary.com. Metz Mortuary, York, NE was in charge of arrangements.

Scott Christensen

Scott P. Christensen passed away suddenly on March 12, 2013 at the age of 57. He was born on Oct. 7, 1955 in Vermillion, to Peter and Eleanor Christensen. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Vermillion High School in 1973. He attended college in Milford, NE, and received his Associates degree in Diesel Mechanics

from Southeast Community College. After graduating, Scott moved to Rock Springs, WY where he has lived for the last 35 years. In 1983, he married Kelly Marvel who had a daughter, Amber. A son, Eric was born in 1984.

Scott worked as a Journeyman Field Mechanic and working foreman for 32 years with Bridger Coal. He was extremely active in the local chapter of the Western Energy Workers Union, formerly the United Boilermakers. He was also an active supporter of the United Way of Sweetwater County. Scott married his current wife Sandy (McGuire) Christensen on Nov. 17, 2005.

The thing Scott enjoyed most was spending time with his grandchildren and family. His many interests included camping, hunting, four wheeling, snowmobiling and woodworking. His latest project was a hovercraft.

Scott is survived by his wife, Sandy Christensen of Rock

Springs, WY; two children, Eric Christensen, Amber Schwarzwalter, of Rock Springs, WY; three step-children, Tanya Hardin, and Steve Kiehmi, both of Rock Springs, and John Lusch of Saratoga, WY; nine grandchildren, Brittanee Doan, Nathan and Ryan Lusch, Echo and Peyton Schwarzwalter, Damien and Daniel Spiers, and Dominic Hardin all of Rock Springs, as well as Jolie McGuire of Saratoga, WY. Scott is also survived by three siblings and their spouses, Judy and Jim Peters of Dell Rapids, David and Jacqueline Morris of Hernando Beach, FL, and Clark and Deb Christensen of Vermillion. Scott was preceded in death by his parents Peter and Eleanor Christensen.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 in Rock Springs, WY. A gathering to celebrate Scott's life will be held in Vermillion, at the Eagles Club on Friday, April 5, 2013 from 4 to 6 p.m. All are welcome.

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