



VERMILLION'S CHILDREN Just To Be Super!

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

As superhero comics and movies dominate our society, the younger generation can scarcely miss the excitement of people with amazing powers who swoop in and save the day.

Ivan, 3, likes Superman because he flies. If Ivan could fly, he said he would fly to Sioux City.

"A superhero is somebody who saves people," said Ashlynn, 7. "They have super powers. Super powers are something people don't have and they use it to save people."

Clark, 5, would disagree because his favorite superhero is unique.

"Batman," Clark said. "He doesn't have any powers but he can still save people."

According to Clark, you don't need a super power to be a hero.

In general, though, Clark knows that super powers are important to a superhero.

"He flies around saving people," Clark said. "If he can't fly then he has to walk."

So what does Batman use instead of powers?

"He uses his arms," Clark said. "He probably uses his hands too."

According to Clark, powers or not, Batman saves a lot of people.

Ashlynn's favorite superhero, Supergirl, represents the female side of the spectrum.

"She's Superman's cousin," Ashlynn said. "She saves people too. She can look through walls and she's strong and she can fly. She can also run really fast."

Though Supergirl is one to be admired, Ashlynn is not hoping to meet her anytime soon.

"She's not real," Ashlynn said. "No one has super powers."

Clark also knows that Batman is fictional.

"Because Heavenly Father didn't make him," he said.

Though men and women that fly and jump over buildings are not part of our reality doesn't stop us from wondering, if they were real would they help us with something like cleaning our rooms?

"Probably not," Clark said. "He would probably go around saving people like you know he does."

Is a homework crisis enough for super help?

"Not really," Clark said.

Ashlynn knows she has other places she can turn to for help.

"I can get help from my brothers and my mom and dad," she said. "So I don't need Supergirl. She probably



Ashlynn, 7, and Clark, 5, know what it means to be a super hero and know which power they would pick if it fell to them to save the day.

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK:

wouldn't come to clean my bedroom."

If there ever was a super-worthy emergency, Ashlynn said she would call the local super on the phone.

Ashlynn and Clark, like most kids, often find themselves dreaming of what power they would have if they could choose one.

Both of them would choose to fly. "It's fun," Ashlynn said. "I would probably go to Oregon to see my grandma and grandpa. I would jump off buildings and fly away."

"I would probably pick flying because you can go super duper high," Clark said. "Big heights I'm afraid of. I would fly on tiny heights not big ones."

When it comes to saving people though, Ashlynn is unsure.

"I don't know how," she said.

Ashlynn knows that she could learn if she had the chance like other superheroes most likely did.

Supergirl for example. "Maybe Superman taught her how to save people," Ashlynn said.

Every superhero needs a costume and Ashlynn and Clark have theirs planned out.

"Probably like Batman's," Clark said, describing his super look. "I would probably get red."

"I would probably wear boots," Ashlynn said. "I would have a cape and I would have pants and a blue shirt. My hair would be in a ponytail."

With the lineup of Marvel and DC Comic movies, the world is wondering what would happen if superheroes start to fight each other.

Superman and Batman for example.

"Superman would win because Superman is really strong," Ashlynn said.

Clark, however, is on team Bat.

"Batman would win because he can knock people out," Clark said.

What about Captain America and Iron Man?

"Captain America because he can throw a shield," Ashlynn said.

Though we have to find out through films how those fights will end, Ashlynn and Clark see heroes saving people in real life.

"Be an ambulance driver," Ashlynn said.

"Police and Firefighters save people," Clark said. "Firefighters can save people by putting out fires and police can save people by taking people to jail."

Ashlynn and Clark also do their part to save the day.

"If someone's hurt I can go tell my mommy and daddy so they can take care of them," Ashlynn said.

Clark agrees.

"I can tell my mommy if my brother got beat up," he said.

Both Clark and Ashlynn agree that makes their parents superheroes.

"We are telling her but she does all the work," Ashlynn admits.

Mommy and Daddy do save the day.

"My dad helps me with my homework so I don't get in trouble and have to stay in at recess in school," Ashlynn said.

Crisis averted thanks to a friendly neighborhood super-dad.

their lifelong support to Vermillion. Third, the governor as well as other members of his staff, including the Commissioner of GOED, Pat Costello will be joining the whole evening.

"We look forward to the program where we look at all the great things that have happened over the past year and what the next year will be bringing us. And if that wasn't enough, we have a number of our community awards to hand out all on a night where you can have a fun social and a great dinner with other community members."

This type of banquet is a way to for the VCDC to have transparency with the public and make itself be seen for being part of the Vermillion fabric.

"Chambers have an annual banquet/meeting with the membership and for a number of years, the VCDC has opened it to the public," Welch said. "We are happy and continue to carry on that tradition. Our purpose that we will

have with this meeting, and the ones to come, is to reflect on the past year, look towards our current successes and hope to inspire for our future years.

"This is a great opportunity to celebrate all the great things we have in and around Vermillion as well as look towards the future."

The banquet also gives the VCDC an opportunity to recognize the achievements of the community's leaders and organizations by presenting the Family Business of the Year Award, the Mayor's Community Service Award, the United Way Volunteer of

the Year Award, the VCDC Community Leader Award, along with other awards.

"Events like this are great for many reasons," Welch said. "One is simply because they are a fun night with so many great people. Also, because with organizations like the VCDC, the members, those who are involved, make the organization. We use these nights to take the opportunity to remind people how important they are in the organization and even the community."

"These are important nights and we look forward to this year's night very much."

EVENT

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believe so. The governor has been a great supporter of the efforts we are working on in Vermillion and he's often been available when we reach out. This particular visit lined up with a couple other exciting, timely events that made it possible for the governor to come."

Daugaard is looking forward to the visit to Clay County.

"Good things are happening in Vermillion," Daugaard told The Plain Talk. "Most recently, Polaris has expanded and three local sites are completing the Certified Ready process. I'm looking forward to celebrating these things with the people of Vermillion next week."

Welch is excited about the other aspects of Daugaard's visit outside of the banquet itself.

"The VCDC is extremely excited to have three Certified Ready Sites in Vermillion," Welch said. "A very important step to being ready for the next business growth or expansion to happen in Vermillion."

The banquet will have a "Celebrating the 'You' in Community", theme and its social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the program.

"I think there are a lot of great things to look forward to in the evening," Welch said. "First, it's the first time the public has been able to see the inside of our beautiful new building, the Vermillion Technology Center. Second, the special recognition and tribute we plan on having for Senator Tim Johnson and Barb for

BOOGIE ON UP!



It was "Baby I'm a Star" competition at the Sioux Falls Ramkota and the Vermillion High School Dance Inferno Team sure lived up to the moniker. The team, coached by Joni Freidel won first place in hip hop in the Small Varsity High School category.

"The competition squad was a voluntary and not all 2015-16 Dance Inferno team members were able/chose to participate," coach Freidel said. "For those who did commit the extra time and effort, it really paid off. They have a very long season and this competition showed real dedication. I am very proud of the entire team and happy they were able to end the season on this positive note, especially the seniors who will be greatly missed."

The team celebrated after and is seen here, left to right: Bottom row: Morgan Halverson, Cheyenne Mallory, Kaylee Retzlaff, Lauren Bern and Tomalyn Peckham Top row: Kelsey Freidel Nelson (Asst. Coach/choreographer), Jessie Brady, Hailey Freidel, Alex Rosdail, Teddi Settles, Emily Schmitz, Kayla Stammer and Joni Freidel (Coach).

COURTESY PHOTO

Final Updates For High School Project Set in Stone

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

Plans finalized for the high school remodel as the school board decided Monday the extent of the project based on what they can afford to complete.

The board was hoping to complete remodels of the locker rooms and bathrooms with a lighting upgrade for the auditorium as well, however the original quote added to the other mandatory remodels exceeded the budget.

Board member Chris Esping reported that after evaluating possible changes to the project, Johnson Controls came back with adjusted numbers.

"If we were to do some changes to the restroom remodel the new cost would be \$180,955 instead of the \$287,000 that was originally proposed," Esping said. "The locker room went down from \$576,000 to \$381,000 roughly and then the lighting went down from \$179,000 to \$52,900."

Though considerable savings are reflected in these numbers, Esping said that still puts the total cost of the project over \$5.5 million which is more the board wishes to spend.

"What we are looking at is pulling out the locker rooms and doing those down the road," Esping said. "That would leave doing the lighting upgrade and doing the bathrooms."

Esping also mentioned that if the locker rooms were pulled from the project, it might give the financial flexibility needed to spruce up the bathrooms to the ideal standard.

"Both Doug and I felt that if we could swing it, it would be much better to do

the full remodel," she said. "It will give us more bang for our money down the road. It will look completely new. It will fit the rest of the project that we're doing. That is our proposal to go back to the original cost of the restrooms of \$287,000, remove the lockers and do the lighting upgrade."

With this new change, the board plans to borrow \$4.1 million and use \$1 million from reserves plus an additional \$173,674 in reserves.

According to Esping, the total project cost now comes to \$5,273,674.

Board members shared the desire to complete the bathrooms but understood the benefits of putting the bathrooms as priority.

"Getting the bathrooms done top to bottom, we hope that will lead to reduced maintenance," board member Doug Peterson said. "Hopefully the students will take better care of them but also they've had 50 years of life. There are places where they used to have in-wall places for trash. Those are going to have to be dry-walled. It seems to be a much better option to redo the whole thing."

Cutting the locker rooms comes as another cut to an already trimmed-down project.

"If you look at the capital outlay plan, you know we also pulled out the Austin part," Esping said. "That was about a \$400,000 project. I don't want to see the locker rooms go away. We need to do those. We're just going to have to figure out how and when and when to also do the Austin project."

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NOTICE

THE ANNUAL SPRING LOAD LIMITS will go into effect March 13, 2015 on Clay County roads. Limits will be enforced as posted. We ask for your cooperation at this critical time of the year. Studies show that roads lose over 60% of their strength during the spring thaw. Research by the South Dakota D.O.T. claims road damage by one legally loaded truck causes as much damage as 9,600 cars. One truck with 20% overload causes as much damage as 19,200 cars. You can be assured, we will not have the load restrictions in effect any longer than necessary to protect the large investment you have in your County Highway System.

There will be no over-width or over weight permits issued during this period.

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