

Dakota Seeds grants take root locally

By Travis Gulbrandson

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Two Vermillion companies are among 30 throughout the state that are receiving grants from the governor's Office of Economic Development to create internships through the Dakota Seeds program.

Mesaba and Polaris Industries are participating in the program, which will create 80 internships statewide.

This is Mesaba's "third or fourth year" of participation, said Heath Johnson, vice president of marketing and operations.

"Overall, I can't say enough about the program," Johnson said. "It's not only good from an educational standpoint, but it's great for South

Dakota businesses to have a tool like that to help them ... promote internships."

The grants provide funding to cover up to one half of the internship's wages, with a maximum of \$2,000 for undergraduate or graduate student internships, \$8,000 for master's degree students and \$10,000 for Ph.D. students.

The goal of Dakota Seeds is to help in-state companies find employees, and students find in-state jobs.

Johnson said the majority of interns at Mesaba are mechanical engineering students from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

"We bring them in and we have them kind of shadow some of our

existing mechanical engineers on-site, and then they work for the summer here," he said. "By the last month of their internship, we try to get them working on actual, live projects."

Many of the interns go on to find employment at Mesaba, Johnson said.

"We've had a very high success rate in terms of bringing in our interns and offering them full-time employment afterward," he said. "This year is actually a pretty good example of that, because the summer of 2010 we had two interns that were working for us, and we offered one of them a position."

This is one of the main objectives of Dakota Seeds. Of the program's participants who have gone on to graduate, 35 percent have returned to the business where they served as an intern.

"We're very proud of that statistic," said Commissioner J. Pat Costello in a press release. "It shows Dakota Seeds is doing just what it is supposed to do. It's creating job opportunities that are keeping our young people here, and providing businesses with the talent they need to continue to prosper."

Johnson said one thing he noticed among the interns he has met is that while they may have come from South Dakota, they went to college elsewhere.

"A lot of times we find that they're actively working on how to get back home, so to speak," he said.

For that reason, Johnson said Mesaba has utilized different programs to attract employees to - or back to - the southeast corner of the state.

"Mesaba is the kind of company that believes in internships in a very big

way, just because it helps students understand what they'll be doing when they get off in the real life, as well as what it takes to be successful in their job," he said. "But also, it almost enables Mesaba as a company to test-drive employees a little bit, as well, and see whether they'd be a successful employee or resource going forward."

Dakota Seeds grants are funded by a partnership between the governor's Office of Economic Development and the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research and approved quarterly by the Workforce Development Council.

A call made to Polaris Industries was not returned as of press time.

SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Cleo Erickson

Excerpts from the Plain Talk

1954

The Tounsens Plan for National Insurance is still a lively topic of discussion. This is a pension plan which would be financed by placing a two per cent tax on the gross incomes of businesses and individuals. Every citizen over 60 would be eligible for a pension of around \$135.00 per month. The money received in pensions would have to be put back in circulation within 30 days through payments for goods and services. Proponents of the plan contend that this would serve to stimulate business by keeping spending at a constant level.

Would you believe there were 180,500 chickens on Clay County farms in 1954? This is according to the State Federal Corp. and Livestock Reporting Service. Now that's a lot of chickens.

Grand opening of the new Dairy Queen will be held Saturday. Clark Swisher is the owner and manager will be Curley Reiger.

Lewis Radigan was elected Chief of the Vermillion Volunteer Fire Department at the annual meeting. Joe Reedy was named first assistant chief and Stanley Larson will serve as second assistant chief during the following year.

A new trailer court will be opened next week on north Plum Street by J. H. Rudebusch. You could win \$10.00 by naming the

trailer court. The court has been laid out for 30 trailers.

The new Danforth Meditation Chapel on the campus was dedicated on Sunday afternoon. The total cost of the chapel will be about \$17,000.00.

The 1954 Studebaker's advanced styling insures you a high resale value. The '54 Champion custom 2-door, 6 passenger sedan is priced at \$1831.61, delivered locally at Swenson and Donahoe.

The Dallas Jewelry Company is holding a grand opening this weekend in their beautiful new store on Main Street. The new store was formerly occupied by the Coyote Barber Shop. The store has been completely redecorated with soft colors and new modern lighting. Dallas Christopherson, owner of the store has been in the jewelry business in Vermillion since 1946.

The Vermillion Lions will be selling brooms made by the blind. The project is a part of the Lions benefit program for the blind.

Are you taking a vacation and don't know where to leave your dog? The New Dog Motel in Sioux City, IA will be a good place to check out. They have reasonable rates, air conditioning and individual runways. Pick up the phone and call 29-3325 for more information.

The Lion's Club initiated a request for an insect control program this summer in Vermillion. The chief purpose for

the proposed program is the elimination of mosquitoes. Support has also come from Civic Council, Chamber of Commerce and several other organizations. A motion was made by Alderman Lee that the city orders the necessary insecticide and assign two city employees to make an initial spraying with equipment which may be available. The motion carried with one dissenting vote. The first spraying will be done in alleys and ditches where water has collected.

Everyone better keep their driver's license handy as a spot check on cars and drivers is now being made at various points throughout the state by officers of the state highway motor patrol. At one point this week several drivers were taken into court because they did not have their drivers permit with them. Checks will also be made on lights, brakes, horns, windshield wipers and license plates. Better make your own check now.

The Rev. L. P. Valentine, a member of the first USD football team attended the graduation exercises this year. He was on the 1890 squad. He was born in Glenwood Township in Clay County and graduated in 1895. While attending USD he served as the Pastor of the Baptist Church at Spirit Mound. He now lives in Los Angeles.

Dr. E. M. Stansbury announced this week that he is retiring from the general practice of medicine.

He has practiced medicine elsewhere and in Vermillion for the past 45 years and for 15 years has also been a member of the teaching staff of the USD Medical School.

The municipal swimming pool in Prentiss Park which was installed some 25 years ago has proved a valuable community investment.

Over one third of Clay County homes have TV sets on the tax rolls. According to the Clay County assessment rolls for 1954, 1,267 television sets were listed. Last year the number was 291. About one family in three in the city of Vermillion has sets.

In the "Days of Yore" column in this edition of the Plain Talk, the following information was found. "In 1889, H. J. Austin, the surveyor, left for Ft. Pierre, where he will remain until September. He drove up in his buggy. In 1879, Col. Jolley introduced Judge Kidder who gave the Fourth of July address. At least five thousand people were here for the celebration. Everybody had a good time and nobody got put in the calaboose, and all went home satisfied with themselves and pleased with Vermillion."

"In 1876, Clay County real estate did not fetch the fancy prices that it did in later years. On Feb. 24th of 1876, Andrew E. Lee purchased 680 acres from E. M. Bond for \$12.50 an acre. This land is located 1 1/2 miles northwest of Vermillion and was known for years as the Lee and Prentiss farm."

"In the decade from 1870-1880

many new enterprises were started in vermilion while some of the old ones faded out. A steam cracker factory began in 1874 and made all kinds of crackers and cookies. F. M. Smith started a cheese factory in 1887 on 12th street near the river. A building to house a brewery was constructed along the ravine road but no beer was ever brewed there. The building was later used as a cheese factory."

Sooner or later and probably not too much later, the City Council may find it necessary to employ a full time municipal engineer. There are many city properties and special project which should be under the constant supervision of a technically trained and experienced man. At present the council must rely on services of an engineering consulting firm on a retainer fee bases. It was suggested at the council meeting that a fund for a fulltime engineer be included in the budget for the coming year.

Elaine Bruyer was named the Days of 59 Princess.

Nels Abrahamson, who has been in the grocery business for 29 years in Vermillion, announced this week that he is closing his store.

Viken's Youth and Children's wear store will open its doors this week in the building formerly occupied by Dallas Jewelry.

A wide screen has been installed in the Co-ed Theatre and will be in use the first time on Sunday. The screen is almost as wide as the building. The first feature to be

shown on the new screen will be "Living It Up" starring Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

A delegation from the Chamber of Commerce will meet with the Commissioners of Dixon County, NE at Ponca to discuss the matter of establishing a ferry route across the Missouri River. The proposed ferry landing would be at Mulberry Point south of Vermillion.

Work on the construction of the new Austin & Jolley grade school buildings was proceeding at a rapid pace this week. The schools are to be ready for occupancy about Sept 1, 1955.

The Hotel Burke is now serving the continental Dinner (formerly called smorgasbord), every Sunday. All you can eat for \$1.25 for adults and 75 cents for children. Reservations accepted but not necessary.

The Flap Jack Carnival, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Saturday, October 23rd. Free pancakes and coffee will be served all day. George B. German, the roving farm reporter of WNAX will be on hand and plans to record a program on the spot through his interviews with folks present.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Peterson have opened a new café, The Tip Top in a building near the March Theatre.

Notice: The Sunday Continental Dinner at the Burke Hotel has been discontinued until further notice.

END 1954

CHECK IT OUT

By Anne Marshall

Activities at the Library

The Friends of the Library will sponsor a spring book sale from May 4 through 8. They are looking for volunteers to set up and take down, sort materials, and cashier. Donations from the book sale help support the Summer Reading Program and other events at the library. Contact Misi at 677-7060 for more information.

Hours of the book sale are on Wednesday, May 4, Thursday, May 5, and Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Friday, May 6, the hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, May 8 from 1 to 5 p.m.

The May Book Page is also available at the circulation desk. Pick up your copy today.

Drawing games with Ms. Paige is scheduled for Thursday, May 12 starting at 3:45 p.m. in the Community Room of the library.

"One World, Many Stories" is the theme of this year's Summer Reading Program. In keeping with the world theme, children are invited to check out a little stuffed animal for one week. During that week the child should read about a foreign

country, take an imaginary vacation to that country, write a note on a postcard (provided by the library) about their adventure with their stuffed friend, and draw a picture depicting a famous landmark or area representing the country. Returned postcards will be displayed on a world map in the Community Room throughout the summer.

The library's summer reading adventures includes an adult program, Cultural Clips Film Festival, young reader and young adult reader programs, and preschool and toddler storytime sessions. For more information, pick up a Check It Out Newsletter and Calendar of Events pamphlet at the circulation desk. This summer is going to be your greatest adventure yet!

Weekly Online Book Club

The DearReader.com Book Club offers many selections to Internet patrons. Each book runs for five days, Monday through Friday. Some genres offer selections every other week. Check out this service by registering at the library's website, <http://vpl.sdn.net> and clicking on the book club icon. The Online Book Club is asking

it's readers to write and tell what they enjoy about this special library service. The featured for the week of May 9 are:

AUDIO BOOK: No selection for this week.

BUSINESS: The Next Evolution of Marketing, by Bob Gilbreath.

FICTION: The Book of Tomorrow, by Cecelia Ahern.

GOOD NEWS: Courting Morrow Little, by Laura Levy.

MYSTERY: The Nearest Exit, by Olen Steinhauer.

NON-FICTION: Cleopatra: A Life, by Stacy Schiff.

PRE-PUB: No selection for this week.

ROMANCE: Aching for Always, by Gwyn Cready.

SCIENCE FICTION: No selection for this week.

TEEN: World's End, by Jake Halpern & Peter Kujawinski.

THRILLER: No selection for this week.

CLASSIC UPCOMING BOOK FOR MAY: Iola Leroy, by Frances Ellen Watkins

New Adult Historical Fiction

Violante isn't supposed to be here, in one of the grandest courts of Renaissance Italy. She isn't supposed to be a lady-in-waiting to the beautiful Lucrezia Borgia. In author Sarah Bower's "Sins of the House of Borgia," Violante's place in history will test her heart and leave her the guardian of dangerous secrets she must carry to the grave.

The legacy of slavery, the loyalty of family and the lure of love form the story in Alan Cheuse's "Song of the Slaves in the Desert." The author traces the thread of slavery from sixteenth-century Timbuktu to the suffocating Southern heat.

Late in the summer of 1877 in the town of Constanta on the Black Sea, a baby girl is ushered into the world by a pair of mysterious Tartar midwives who arrive just minutes before the birth. Eleonora's mother dies soon after and she is raised by her doting father, a carpet merchant and her resentful stepmother. "The Oracle of

Stamboul," a debut novel by Michael David Lukas, is an elegantly crafted, utterly enchanting story set in a mystical, exotic world.

It is 1819, the dawn of the British Empire. Captain Adam Bolitho must make a fast passage from Plymouth to Freetown in West Africa with secret orders for the senior officer there. The slave trade has been declared illegal but over a hundred thousand slaves are still being shipped annually, the profit considered worth the risk. "In the King's Name," by author Alexander Kent, Captain

Bolitho finds greed, corruption and a clever, hidden enemy who will stop at nothing.

New York Times bestselling novelists W. Michael and Kathleen O'Neal Gear have long been considered the foremost chroniclers of early Native American life. Now, in a critically acclaimed, new series, they recreate the years following the first European invasions. "Fire the Sky" follows Hernando de Soto's brutal expedition north from the Florida peninsula as the explorer plunders the heart of a complex and fragile civilization.



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Vermillion
PLAIN TALK Seeks Donations For
Book Sale

The Vermillion Plain Talk is seeking donations for a book sale to be held during the Vermillion's City Wide Rummage Sale. The book sale will be June 23rd and 24th. All kinds of gently used books, VHS/DVD movies will be accepted (No Encyclopedias or Text Books please!) Books can be brought to the Plain Talk Office, 201 W Cherry, Vermillion.

Donations will be accepted M-F
from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. until
June 17th, 2011. Proceeds from the
sale will go to the Newspapers in Education
program, which provides free newspapers to
classrooms in Vermillion and the surrounding areas.

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Due to the passage of healthcare reform and the resulting increasing demand for our products, Aflac is putting together a direct sales team for eastern South Dakota. We are looking for an experienced direct sales manager and people with experience marketing feed/seed, insurance, or other direct sales products to bring our products to the individual market. Interested candidates should submit their resume with detailed work history to donna.grandcentral@midconetwork.com.

