

As school year ends, busy times await Hovorka

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Although most of the students will be gone, it soon will be one of the busiest times of the year for a University of South Dakota program assistant.

Cheryl Hovorka, at USD since 1992, also serves as director for South Dakota Girls State, which will take place in Vermillion from May 28 through June 2.

The yearly event brings together hundreds of high schoolers from all across the state to learn about how government works through visiting speakers and activities.

"I always say (getting the event ready) is kind of a year-round process," Hovorka said. "Once Girls State is over, I immediately just renew all the room reservations and lock in the dorms. Fortunately, we're one of the first camps on campus and all the other activities haven't quite started yet, so we have an advantage there."

This year, 412 girls have

registered for the event.

"The numbers are slightly down, but in talking from other directors from other states, that's a national trend. The numbers seem to be down all over. And, I think it's just because kids are so involved in so many things," Hovorka said.

Much of what Hovorka does in relation to the event is to schedule the speakers – which will include Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Sen. John Thune and Rep. Kristi Noem – and reserve the various dormitories and other buildings used to house the participants and the various activities.

Spotlight On UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

She also provides the girls information they will utilize throughout their time at the university.

"We sent out information packets on Monday, and that's included a whole bunch of stuff that they need to know for the week – what time to be here, what they need to bring and this sort of thing," Hovorka said.

Along with the speeches, campaigning and elections, the girls also will take part in a community project.

"We're asking the girls to bring an item or items to donate to the WOW project, which is Women of

War. It's a homeless shelter out of Belle Fourche," Hovorka said. "It's inexpensive things, like cake mixes or plastic bowls."

This won't be the first time the Girls-Staters have taken part in such a project.

"Several years ago when all the National Guard (members) were deployed, we had all the girls bring items that we could send to the troopers to give to the children over in Iraq," Hovorka said. "That was a huge success. We hadn't done one for the last couple years, and this just came to my attention and I thought it would be a good thing for us to do."

Hovorka's official job is as a USD program assistant, which she described as "kind of like an administrative assistant."

"I'm actually on both sides of the fence, because I'm classified as the campus coordinator for Girls State for the university, and it's kind of housed in the political science department," she said. "But then I'm actually the state



director appointed by the American Legion Auxiliary. So, I've kind of got a dual role."

Hovorka said that "just meeting the girls" is her favorite role.

"I'll go someplace and the girls will come up to me and go, 'I was at Girls' State,'" she said. "Well, obviously when there are

400-plus girls you don't remember them all. But I think that's the fun part about it. A lot of them will keep in touch."

South Dakota Girls State is under the sponsorship of South Dakota Department of the American Legion Auxiliary.

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 04/20-26/2012

Cory Poelstra, 1201 E. 15th Street, Yankton; Contribute to abuse, neglect or delinquency, dismissed

Ivan Leigh Kaufman, 6 Ohio Street, Wakonda; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$204.00 plus costs

William Jon Powell, 1015 Rice St., Vermillion; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs

John Joseph Rivera, 1120 28th St., Sioux City, IA; Violations of safety requirements, \$104.00 plus costs

Jose Dominguez, 223 N. Yale St., Vermillion; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Matthew McKnight, 722 N. University #301, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Waylon Bettelyoun, 911 E. Duke Trl. #30, Vermillion; Open alcoholic beverage container accessible in vehicle, \$54.00 plus costs

Lucas John Packard, 304 Davis St., Gayville; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Alexander Simpson, 3500 W. 53rd St. #301, Sioux Falls; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Shain Allen Becker, 807 W. 1st Ave., Lennox; Speeding on state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Adam Wesley Mickelson, 9830 78th St., Cottage Grove, MN; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Austin Dakotah Langley, 3230 S. Serenity Trl., Sioux Falls; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs

Austin Dakotah Langley, 3230 S. Serenity Trl., Sioux Falls; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Cynthia J. Bush, 4448 Cortez Dr., Soquel, CA; Speeding other roadways, \$254.00 plus costs

Sarah Johnston, 407 N. 9th Ave., Brandon; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs

Ivanna Stepanivna Osadchuk, 211 Spruce St. #111, Vermillion; Speed

on four-lane in rural areas, \$59.00 plus costs

Matthew Lupkes, 901 Rose St. #315, Vermillion; Speeding other roadways, dismissed

Lucas Gerald Hanson, 2026 N. Henry St., N. St Paul, MN; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Wendy Kay McIntosh, 47103 319th, Burbank; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$19.00 plus costs

Samantha Berres, 1900 Margaret St., St. Paul, MN; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Joanna Rae Gobell, 46577 Missouri St., Burbank; Failure to make stop at stop intersection, \$54.00 plus costs

Billie J. Brewer, 29380 442nd Ave., Irene;

Speeding other roadways, \$154.00 plus costs

Alan Wade Miller, 2620 E. SD Highway 50, Vermillion; Speeding other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Erika A. Jensen, P.O. Box 142, Irene; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Billie Jo Zmolek, 109 S. 5th Ave., Arlington; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Steven Ray Manger, 527 Calhoun, Merrill, IA; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs

Bailey J. Abbott, 124 High St., Vermillion; Speeding on state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Billy Bob Osborne, 2210 Willard, Joplin, MO; Expired annual inspection, \$104.00 plus costs

Cheri Pollock, 109 S.

10th St., Albiem, NE; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs

Soon Hee Roh, 6501 S. Connie Ave. #314, Sioux Falls; Speeding other roadways, \$154.00 plus costs

Kimberly Lindgren, 501 N. 7th St., Beresford; Speeding on state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Molly K. Alley, 101 Prospect #6, Vermillion; Renewal registration during assigned month, \$51.00 plus costs

Kristoffer Hewlett, 901 N. Rose St. #271, Vermillion; Disorderly conduct, \$98.00 plus costs

Dylan Hauger, 31214 445th Ave., Meckling; Operate motorcycle without proper eye protection, \$25.00

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