

SHAKESPEARE SERVED AT BANQUET



Brianna Wetrosky as Celia, Whitney Egbert as Rosalind and Max Carpenter as Orlando perform a scene from Shakespeare's "As You Like It" at the Dakota Hospital Foundation Community Leadership Dinner held Tuesday evening, May 22, in the Muenster University Center on the USD campus. The banquet crowd received a preview of the first South Dakota Shakespeare Festival which will be held in Vermillion's Prentis Park June 8-10. Watch for a full report of the banquet activities in next week's Plain Talk.

(Photo by David Lias)



The Rev. Steve Miller of Vermillion's United Church of Christ advised the Vermillion High School class of 2012 to approach their goals as if they were eating an elephant: "One small bite at a time."
(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

GRADS

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to invite you to be grateful, and I don't mean in some generic way, I really want to ask all of you to find somebody today who helped you out, and look them in the eye and say, "Thank you."
Second, Miller told the graduates that although they had learned a lot, they needed to remember that they don't know everything.
"So, besides being proud today, I want you to be restless, eager to learn more," he said. "Whether it's in school, work or family, keep learning."
Finally, Miller informed the

students that "any time you eat an elephant, occasionally you throw up."
Everyone makes mistakes, has failures and plans that don't work out, he said.
"But guess what - over the last 13 years, despite your failures, and despite all those places where you fell down, you still did it," he said. "You got back up and got up the next day and went back to school. So besides being proud today, I'd like you to continue to be courageous."
"This world has lots of struggles and problems, and it's time for us to use your help," Miller said. "There are a lot of elephants to eat, and today be proud, be grateful, be restless and be courageous, and come join us."

Transient vendors: Get the facts before you buy

Transient vendor season is underway in South Dakota, a time when out-of-state vendors roll into the state to sell their products and services. While many of the vendors are legitimate, the South Dakota Department of Revenue advises people to take common-sense steps to ensure vendors are reputable before doing business with them.
If you're considering hiring a person to provide repair or construction services, the department advises you to:
• Ask for a price quote, in advance, in writing.
• Question the contractor about a permanent address and

telephone number, and don't assume that if the information they provide is local, they're a local business. Transient vendors often have business cards printed with local mailing services or motel addresses and telephone numbers.
• Ask for a list of local references and check them before making a decision.
• Ask if the contractor has worker's compensation and general liability insurance. If vendors are not properly insured, homeowners may be liable for accidents that occur on their property.
• Be careful about paying for

work in advance; before making final payments, make sure transient vendors have paid their local suppliers or you may be held liable for unpaid materials.
• Make sure you're completely satisfied with the work before paying the bill, and don't pay more for the job than originally quoted unless you've given written approval for the additional work or cost.
Out-of-state vendors often travel to South Dakota to sell items like fruit, seafood, meat packages, paintings, magazine subscriptions, rugs, T-shirts, sunglasses, household cleaners, furniture, stuffed animals, and

asphalting and roofing services. Asking the right questions when approached by those vendors can help you avoid making a purchase you may regret:
• Question the salesperson about the product, warranties, guarantees, etc.
• Get something in writing with the company's name, address and phone number.
• Ask to see their current South Dakota tax license. State law requires everyone selling products or services to have a current South Dakota sales or contractors' excise tax license. To verify if the license is valid, call the Department's toll-free

helpline at 1-800-829-9188.
All sellers must provide you with a contract or receipt at the time of sale showing the date, merchant's name and address, and a statement informing you of your right to cancel the contract within three days. After proper cancellation, the seller has 10 days to refund your money.
If you have doubts about the vendor or think you may have been the victim of a scam, call your local police department or county sheriff's office immediately. You can also contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Office at 1-800-300-1986 or by email at

consumerhelp@state.sd.us. Be prepared to give as much information as you can about the vendor, including the name of the company and salesperson; company address and telephone number; and make, model and license number (if possible) of the vehicle the vendor was driving. Without tips from the public, law enforcement officials may not be able to catch illegal vendors before they move on to the next community.
For more information on transient vendors, contact the South Dakota Department of Revenue's toll-free helpline at 1-800-829-9188.

Irene-Wakonda Board delays project

From P&D Staff Reports
IRENE — The Irene-Wakonda school district has delayed action on its plans for a building addition at the Wakonda site.
The school board conducted a special meeting Tuesday night for the opening of bids on the proposed project, said Superintendent Larry Johnke. However, the board decided against accepting any of the bids, he said.
"(The) availability of bids was not good, so the board rejected all bids and plans to make some changes and rebid the project this fall," he said.

Public universities survey veteran students

A new survey of military veterans enrolled as students at South Dakota public universities finds veterans generally rate on-campus services favorably, but also identify a number of resources they would recommend for future implementation.
In an effort to gauge whether South Dakota public universities are effectively serving veteran students, the South Dakota Board of Regents recently conducted a first-ever survey during the fall 2011 semester.
"Our intent was to see how veterans view our efforts, and also to find out what we can do to improve services to that student population," said Jack Warner, the regents' executive director and CEO.
The survey results were

presented to regents when they met last week in Aberdeen.
With more post-9/11 veterans separating from military service and entering higher education, colleges and universities across the country are giving new attention to the scope and quality of student veteran services. South Dakota is no exception to that trend, Warner said.
Warner noted that a new veteran-friendly law, which takes effect July 1, will waive for military veterans the one-

year residency requirement to qualify for in-state tuition and fees at South Dakota public universities.
"We also have five of six public universities rated as GI-friendly by a national publication, and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is recognized as one of the top institutions in the nation in providing service and support to veteran students," he said.
The survey indicated that veterans believe campus faculty and staff are sensitive to the unique needs of veteran

students, but that students' use of services and resources vary widely by campus.
Included on a requested list of resources and facilities were special academic advising personnel for veterans, veterans' resource centers, a Web page for veterans and visits by speakers to discuss veteran-related issues.
Some of these services have already been implemented on South Dakota campuses, and others are in the planning or discussion stage.

Representatives of South Dakota public universities also met last week with student veterans at a strategic planning session organized under the leadership of Sen. Mark Johnston of Sioux Falls.
The group met to explore a number of student veteran issues, and continue efforts for improving student veteran success within the university system.
"As a community, we need to embrace and respond to the unique needs of this growing student population," Johnston said.

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Elect Incumbent Mark R. Bottolfson

For Vermillion School Board District 13-1

- Family-Wife: Beth; Children: Stacy, Megan & Blaine
- Lifetime resident in Vermillion School District
- Self-employed farmer and property owner
- Current School Board President
- Treasurer for Concordia Lutheran Church

I would like to continue to promote quality education and provide the best learning opportunities for the students of our district while spending your tax dollars wisely.

Thank You For Your Vote on June 5th

Paid for by Mark Bottolfson