

NMM

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photos that are now on display on the NMM's Facebook page.

"This is the second time I've gotten to ride it. I rode it to the trailer," Snider said. "I think last time was Auto Mania in Sioux Falls about two years ago. So, it doesn't leave very often."

The bike still has only 1,200 miles on it.

"Elvis couldn't have ridden it much," Snider said with a laugh. Even so, its title is still in Presley's name.

Banks said the bike's trip out of the building – which had to be complete by 9 a.m. Saturday – was not without its difficulties, but may have been a bit easier.

"I didn't actually see what happened, but I think they had some of the same issues," she said. "It might have been easier to get out because it was a straight shot to the elevator. I think part of the problem was getting it out of the elevator."

"I was sad to see it go. I think that was a big draw for many people," she said.

Perhaps the biggest draw were the six "celebrity" instruments now in the museum's permanent collection that are currently on display:

- A 1975 C.F. Martin that Presley used in 29 concerts during the last year of his life;
 - A 1966 custom-made Grammer-branded Johnny Cash guitar;
 - A 1961 electric guitar used and autographed by Muddy Waters;
 - A 1958 Explorer model bass guitar once used by The Who bassist John Entwistle;
 - A 1954 electric guitar once owned by Chet Atkins; and
 - An A-flat Hohner Marine Band 1896/20 model harmonica once owned by Bob Dylan.
- Heck's Dakota Style Barbecue served Memphis-style barbecue for both days of the event.
- Commencement weekend also was a big factor in the high visitor numbers Friday and Saturday.



Maren Formisano, 2, covers her ears at the National Music Museum as the orchestron – a large coin-operated instrument on the second floor – plays Friday afternoon. Her sister Olivia is standing on the right. (Travis Gulbrandson/Vermillion Plain Talk)

"It peaked at times – of course after commencement Saturday there were people coming in (wearing) their caps and gowns still, and families," Banks said. "On Friday night we had a fellow who was getting his law degree, and he had his gown on, and his family was from Hawaii. Otherwise they might not ever have been here, I suppose."

One of the many visitors was Shanna Formisano, who came with her husband and their three young children.

Formisano said they come to the NMM on a fairly regular basis.

"We come to the brown bag lunches," she said. "They love it. They have a little bit of a short attention span, but they loved the gong show last week."

While her children also liked the motorcycle,

Formisano said it meant less to them than it did to some of the other visitors.

"They don't even know who Elvis Presley was," she said. "We tried to explain to them, 'He's very famous.'"

Snider said this is a not-uncommon reaction among the very young.

"A lot of times I observe when youngsters come in (at Murdo)," he said. "We have a statue of Elvis on a stool playing guitar right when you walk in the door. Youngsters say, 'Mom, who is that?'"

However, there is no question the Presley name helped to bring people in over the weekend, with many of them taking pictures of and with his guitar and motorcycle.

Snider said he and the museum were glad they could help out.

"I think it's great," he said. "I hope a lot of people come up to see this place. It's pretty neat."

Banks said this was the first time the NMM held an event like this, and according to Ted Muenster, capital campaign director, it might not be the last.

"I think with (new director) Cleveland Johnson coming, it opens a new era for the museum, and these instruments open a new dimension for the museum," Muenster said. "We'll be doing more of these kinds of special events going forward, and the museum will be more appealing to a broader range of people. ..."

"Historically, the real treasures are still the (classical) instruments, but this is fun," he said.

Physics major to study in Germany

University of South Dakota student Mitchell Wagner, a junior majoring in physics, is the recipient of a UAS7 Study and Internship Scholarship from German Universities of Applied Sciences.

Wagner, part of USD's Honors Program, credits Susan Hackemer, associate director of the Honors Program, as well as language professor Istvan Gombocz, Ph.D., who teaches German, for their assistance during the application process for this unique scholarship opportunity.

"The Honors Program teaches you to think outside the box and gives you a motivation to try new things," said Wagner of Milbank. "I had taken two years of Spanish in high school, so I was just going to test out of Spanish 101 and 102 and put it behind me. However, I decided that I wanted to be a more rounded individual so I decided to step outside of what I was used to and take German."

Wagner will depart for Germany in late summer to spend a semester at Hamburg Universities of Applied Sciences taking classes in the field of information engineering, which consists of electrical engineering and computer science. Upon completion of the academic program, he will spend an additional six months

completing an internship either through the university or with a German company.

"After I graduate, I would like to get my master's degree in an engineering branch of some sort, more likely mechanical or aerospace," Wagner added. "It would be my dream to get my master's degree from a German engineering university and either stay there and work for the private sector or come back to the U.S. and work."

The UAS7 grant is financed from public funds for the purpose of promoting postsecondary studies in the Federal Republic of Germany. More information about UAS7 institutions and the grant is available at www.dwih.com.br/?id=131.

Community blood drive scheduled for May 17

Wal-Mart Vermillion and Community Blood Bank will host a spring community blood drive on Friday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wal-Mart Vermillion.

"With the many people busy with spring planting and the late arrival of spring, we have seen a 22 percent decrease in donations. This spring community blood drive will help ensure that blood is available for all types of surgeries, traumas, burn and cancer patients," said Ken Versteeg, executive director, Community Blood Bank. "When you donate blood on Friday, May 17 you are helping local patients in their time of need. Your donations will make blood readily available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We encourage new donors as well as those donors that have donated multiple times to give the gift of life."

To be eligible to donate you must be at least 17 years old (16 years old with a signed parent

consent form found at www.cbblifeblood.org), weigh 110 pounds or more and be in good general health the day of the donation. Please bring an ID with you. It is recommended that a person eat and drink plenty of fluids prior to donating blood.

For additional information or to sign-up for an appointment, contact Wal-Mart at 624-4013 ext. 182. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Community Blood Bank is the sole blood provider to Sanford Vermillion and 29 other local hospitals. Community Blood Bank is accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), the College of American Pathologist (CAP) and is compliant with all Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines.

Postal Food Drive is Saturday, May 11

On Saturday May 11, the largest annual one-day effort to combat hunger will once again take place in the community. That is the day of the 21st annual National Association of Letter-Carriers Food Drive in Vermillion.

This food drive is conducted with the help of not only the Letter Carriers but also the rural carriers, who cover the countryside including the Burbank and Meckling areas, as well as all the other postal employees. Volunteers from the Vermillion Food Pantry will also be lending a hand to help collect and store as many food items as possible.

This is a list of some food items which are in greater demand for the summer and

donations of these items are highly important to our food pantry:

Fruit juices – family size, Hamburger or Tuna Helper, tuna and canned chicken – small cans, canned soup – all kinds, pasta and pasta/rice side dishes, cans of tomatoes, peas, beans and potatoes, cold cereals, cans of fruits – all kinds, jelly or jam, cake/muffin mixes, spaghetti sauces – family size, Spaghettios, pork and beans, mac-n-cheese, diapers sized 3, 4, 5 or 6.

Please be generous, donated a can or two (or whatever you are able) to the food drive on May 11. You may also be receiving a plastic bag, sponsored by Hy-Vee, which makes it easier to remember to gather up your food items and place them by your mailbox.

Becvar leaving USD for Crazy Horse Foundation

The University of South Dakota announces that Laurie Becvar, Ed.D., Senior Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, will become president and chief operating officer of the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation in July.



BEVCAR

Becvar, who joined USD in 2004 as Dean of Statewide Educational Services, served in a variety of capacities integral to the university community. In 2009, she was named Dean of the Graduate School and the Division of Continuing and Distance Education.

Under her direction, USD grew its graduate enrollment while serving students more effectively. She and her staff also grew Continuing and Distance Education to an operation that has become central to USD's mission, serving more than 3,000 off-campus and distance students each semester.

In 2011, Becvar became an essential part of the Provost team, assuming the role of Senior Associate Provost and was the University's Accreditation Liaison Officer to the Higher Learning Commission.

Her work with the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation began more than four years ago in planning what is now the Indian University of North America. This program, in collaboration with USD, has served students, especially Native American students, by offering the first semester of college for three years with a fourth year to begin in June. She will serve USD through June 21.

"Although I am proud that Laurie will assume such a critical role with an iconic South Dakota effort, USD is disappointed to see Laurie leave," said Chuck Staben, provost and vice president for academic affairs at USD. "She has helped grow the curriculum and enrollment in the Division of Continuing and Distance Education and the Graduate School, and her ability to develop higher education opportunities for people beyond the classroom makes her a consummate educator. We wish her well in her new venture with the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation."

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Deadly Day at the Library
Young Adult Author Susan Dennard
Author Talk & Book Signing
Tuesday May 14 at 7:00 p.m.
Public Library - 18 Church Street.
Books will be available to purchase
Door Prizes - Kindle Fire, Books & More
Free and Open to the Public
Funded by South Dakota Arts Council, VPL Board, Vermillion School District & Madlle.tv South Dakota Arts Council support is provided with funds from the State of South Dakota, through the Department of Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts

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