

Neuharth memorial is May 17 at USD

The life of media visionary and South Dakota native Al Neuharth will be celebrated with a public tribute on Friday morning, May 17, at the University of South Dakota, his alma mater.

Neuharth, founder of *USA Today*, Freedom Forum and the Newseum, died April 19 in his Cocoa Beach, Fla., home from complications of a fall. He was 89.

The memorial celebration will begin at 10 a.m., May 17, in Slagle Hall's Aalfs Auditorium, 414 E. Clark St., Vermillion. Doors will open at 9 a.m. A reception and luncheon, also open to the public, will follow at the Al Neuharth Media Center, located nearby on the USD

campus at 555 Dakota St., Vermillion.

To assist the staff with planning, guests are asked to RSVP by phone to (800) 653-6786 or by e-mail to alneuharthcelebrationSD@news.eum.org by May 9.

The family is planning a private burial in Neuharth's hometown, Eureka, SD, sometime later this spring.

Neuharth, a 1950 USD alumnus, visited South Dakota frequently in his later years. Because of his appreciation for the state, its people and their free spirit, he directed that a "final celebration" be held at USD and he will be buried on what he called "the sacred soil of South Dakota."

9 SD towns to welcome health professions students

This summer, 18 university students will learn first-hand about providing healthcare in rural South Dakota. This is thanks to nine communities' collaborations with a grant program designed to raise awareness for the healthcare services needs in underserved areas of the state.

The nine communities were selected as "Best Practice Model" sites for the Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students Program (REHPS) in 2013. The REHPS program connects interprofessional students enrolled in physician, physician assistant, doctor of nursing practice, and pharmacy programs through the University of South Dakota (USD) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) with medical professionals practicing in nine rural South Dakota communities. The program has expanded from three sites in 2011, to six in 2012, and to nine in 2013.

Students are selected in a competitive process to participate in REHPS' Summer Experience Program 2013.

- Custer: Amanda Niemann, Physician Assistant student from Foley, MN; Amber Zemlicka, Pharmacy student from Twin Brooks, SD

- Miller: Rebecka Bogue, Physician student from Beresford; Claire Carson, Pharmacy student from Custer

- Parkston: Maria Christopher, Pharmacy student from Letcher, SD; Martha Holstein, Physician student from Fairfax, SD

- Platte: Shelby Nielsen, Pharmacy student from Castlewood, SD; Erin Rasmussen, Physician student from Vermillion

- Redfield: Abbie Johnson, Pharmacy student from Mt. Vernon, SD; Kevin Oliver, Physician student from Aberdeen

- Sisseton: Ashley Benda, Pharmacy student from Jackson, MN; Elizabeth Hoffman, Physician student from Eureka

- Wagner: Merritt Groh, Physician Assistant student from Sioux City, IA; Murphy Mack, Pharmacy student from Redfield

- Wessington Springs: Emily Coughlin, Pharmacy student from Pierre; Ashley Zwiwiel,



Eighteen students are experiencing rural healthcare in nine South Dakota communities this summer. Students are: (back row, standing, left to right) Kevin Oliver, Amanda Niemann, Deb Busmann, Elizabeth Hoffman, Rebecka Bogue, Ashley Zwiwiel, Emily Coughlin, and Merritt Groh. (middle row, sitting, left to right) Shelby Nielsen and Maria Christopher. (front row, sitting, left to right) Kirsten Johnson, Erin Rasmussen, Martha Holstein, Abbie Johnson, and Ashley Benda.

(Submitted photo)

Rasmussen selected to experience rural health care

Erin Rasmussen, physician student from Vermillion, will call Platte home for four weeks this summer as she learns first-hand about providing healthcare in rural South Dakota.

Rasmussen was selected in a competitive process to participate in the Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students (REHPS) in 2013. She is joined in Platte by Shelby Nielsen, pharmacy student from Castlewood. Platte was selected as a "Best Practice Model" site for REHPS this year.

The REHPS program connects interprofessional students enrolled in physician, physician assistant, doctor of nursing practice, and pharmacy programs through the University of South Dakota (USD) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) with medical professionals practicing in nine rural South Dakota communities. The program has expanded from three sites in 2011, to six in 2012 and to nine in 2013. Platte is joined by Custer, Miller, Parkston, Redfield, Sisseton, Wagner, Wessington Springs and Winner. Each community will welcome two students.

In addition to the enriching career experience, students also will be involved in a community project designed to provide



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interaction with people outside of a clinical setting.

Kassy Youmans, REHPS program manager, said the student summer

experience provides a framework for community leaders to follow in efforts to successfully recruit and retain healthcare professionals.

"Rewarding, positive experiences early on in student training are influential in deciding future career paths. This opportunity exposes students to the exceptional healthcare services available in rural South Dakota along with the unique features of each community," Youmans said.

South Dakota is experiencing a shortage of healthcare workers. The number of high school graduates in the state decreases as the number of retirees is increasing. Between now and 2018, 10 percent of the new jobs in South Dakota will be healthcare related. Fifty-nine of South Dakota's 66 counties are designated as medically underserved.

VPD to receive money for equipment

Attorney General Marty Jackley announced Tuesday that the Vermillion Police Department has been awarded \$1,839.96 for a camera and five pairs of binoculars to be used in drug investigations. The money was awarded out of the Drug Control Fund. The award will assist local law enforcement in drug control and apprehension purposes.

"The Drug Control Fund was created for exactly this type of expenditure to assist law enforcement in protecting our communities from monies taken from criminal activity," said Jackley.

"These funds will allow us to purchase a new high quality camera and binoculars for each of our vehicles. This will improve our ability to conduct surveillance and collect evidence in drug investigations,"

said Vermillion Chief of Police Matt Betzen.

If you have any additional questions, contact Sara Rabern at (605) 773-3215.

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