

# Showtime For Vermillion High School Theatre

By Sarah Wetzel  
For the Plain Talk

Have you ever wondered where snowflakes come from? How about who teaches birds how to fly or fish how to swim?

Vermillion High School students will answer these questions in their final play of the school year, *Still Life with Iris* by Steven Dietz.

This full-length children's play is described in the script as an Adventure/Fantasy/Drama and is appropriate for theater lovers of all ages.

The production will consist of 7:30 p.m. showings today and Saturday with a matinee on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the High School Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are available at the door costing \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Admission is free with a Vermillion School District activity card.

According to Mary Begley, English teacher at VHS and director, the setting of the play is the magical land of Nocturno whose inhabitants create things during the night that exist during the day.

"They don't have the ability to remember things in their head but in their coats," Begley said. "The little girl has her coat taken so she has no memories. The crazy fun part of the world is that it's ruled by a king and queen called 'The Goods.' They're very particular about having the best of everything so they can't have two of anything so they do ridiculous things like wear one shoe."

The turn of events, Begley hopes, will teach an important lesson.

"I hope people come away with some kind of moral to the story that imperfection is what makes us human and interesting," she said. "To me the story teaches a good lesson of unrealistic expectation of perfection and material wealth. Families, memories, sadness and loss are what makes us human, happy and complete. They try to convince the girl she has no need



COURTESY PHOTO  
Young thespians from Vermillion High School will present a mystical and magical theatrical production this weekend.

of memories because then she'll miss people and things but she just wants to remember who she is."

Begley said the audience can expect an especially visually exciting production.

"It's spectacular for lighting," she said. "It's a fantasy world so we try to make it as fantastic or magical as we can."

According to Begley, the student actors have worked hard to bring this play to life, many of whom have participated in all three of the school year's extracurricular theatrical productions.

"I usually have a big turnout," she said. "This play I cast everyone who auditioned. There are 18 in the cast and 12 in the crew."

The cast and crew hit different rough spots every rehearsal according to Begley.

"It's challenging putting all the pieces together," she said. "Challenges change every day. Today it was getting through the whole play once."

Also challenging, Begley said, is

coordinating schedules since many in the cast are involved with other extracurricular activities.

"It's great for kids to be involved," she said. "It's healthy and gives the kids balance."

If anyone can handle busy schedules, Begley said, it's these kids.

"They amaze me because they will be struggling and rough right up until the last week before the show," she said. "That's a low point for me as a director but then the kids step up. They know that the performance is imminent."

Begley said she tries to do her part to support and push them.

"I hold them to a high standard and I don't expect anything less than their best," she said. "I expect them to be constantly learning and challenging themselves. The Vermillion High School kids step up to the challenge. There are a lot of new and young actors in this production so I've seen them learn how to really embody their characters. It's a challenge for them to be larger than life."

# Proposed Tax Changes Would Heavily Affect Farm Families

By Katie Clausen  
For the Plain Talk

Changes in laws affect everyone in our daily lives, but changes to estate laws affect farmers in particular when it goes in agricultural land. Proposal to end Estate Taxes, commonly referred to as death taxes, is amidst our lawmakers right now, and its causing quite a stir.

Government tax laws, specifically referring to inheritance taxes, have farm families who wish to pass down agricultural land from one generation to another wondering why things have changed. Inheritance Taxes and Estate Taxes may be an uncomfortable subject for some, given the circumstances from which they often arise, but are an essential part of life for many.

South Dakota is currently not one of the 17 states which impose their own estate or inheritance tax, but does fall under the federal tax regulations.

Simple estates being passed from a parent to child include items such as cash, easily valued assets and publicly traded securities. Agricultural properties, which have grown exponentially in value over the last few years, often are part of an estate one wishes to pass to the next generation to con-

tinue to farm in the family name or use as a source of income by renting the property.

Because of the drastic increase in value for farm land, simple ownership of the land has placed titleholders in a new realm of taxation.

According to a congressional study performed by the Joint Committee on Taxation, approximately 89 percent of estates with agricultural properties are able to pay off mortgages, liens, and debts and still pay the tax. However, many are still skeptical that the moral ground for which the tax is imposed is firm.

"It is, at its heart, an immoral tax," said Representative Kevin Brady, a Texas Republican.

While the votes for or against the taxation changes were mostly along party lines, both sides have strong points regarding the issue.

"Republicans are helping the rich get richer," said Representative Jim McDermott of Washington. "Repealing the estate tax will surely sow the seeds of a permanent aristocracy in this country."

While the proposed change would save tax payers funds, it is estimated it would cost the Federal Government roughly \$269 billion dollars over

the next 10 years. Funds used by the government to insure infrastructure and operate our economy could come up short.

A family farm is a lot of things. At its core it is a way of life and an emotional support system for a family. The major extension of its core, however, is that it is also a family business.

"It penalizes those who have worked all their lives and reinvested in their family businesses," said Representative Adrian M. Smith, a Nebraska Republican, said of the Tax.

While farm families do, in fact, have large assets they also often have large amounts of debts. The ebb and flow of commodity markets, growing conditions, and high dollar input, equipment, and repair costs make generating income a variable. Farmers often are forced to put their own financial health on the line to ensure a crop is harvested.

This is the first time since 2005 that the Estate Tax has been looked at by congress. While the vote to repeal this tax earlier this month passed in the House of Congress, it is unlikely anything will come of it in 2015.

## OBITUARIES

### Linda Buckingham

Linda Elaine (Cusick) Buckingham, 80, passed away on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the St. Cloud Hospital due to respiratory complications.

Linda was born to Lee and Inez (Adams) Cusick on April 26, 1934 in Vermillion, South Dakota. She grew up on her family farm in Burbank, South Dakota

where she attended country school. She then attended high school in Vermillion. In 1951, she was united in marriage to Thomas J. Buckingham. Together they raised four children and lived in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa before settling in Benson in 1960.

She is survived by her children: Linda Glee Buckingham, Gwen (Steve Howlett) Buckingham, Gregory (Carol) Buckingham and Christopher (Diane) Buckingham; five grandchildren: Kerry (Ben) Niles, Carly and Alexa Buckingham, Dylan and Brett Buckingham; and her brother, Laddy (Mona) Cusick. Linda was preceded

in death by her husband, Thomas Buckingham and her parents.

Linda enjoyed spending time outdoors in the sunshine, especially gardening and watching the hummingbirds in her feeders. She loved visits from her grandchildren and reuniting with old friends. And although she would never admit it, her cooking and baking skills were superb. Linda touched the hearts of many and will be greatly missed.

Services in memory of Linda will be held on Friday, May 1, 2015 at 11 a.m. at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Benson. There will be a visitation prior to the service.

Please sign the guest book at [www.zniewskifunerhome.com](http://www.zniewskifunerhome.com).

### Rosie Roegiers

Rosie Roegiers, of Burbank, South Dakota, died Friday, April 24th of injuries sustained in a car accident the previous day. Rosellen Elaine Salter was born to Woodrow and Esther Salter in Burlington, Iowa on July 22nd, 1939. She grew up on a farm just outside Biggsville, Illinois with her three younger siblings, John Salter, Frank Salter, and Mary McAllister



Roegiers

and their foster sister, Judi Kohrs. Rosie is survived by her husband, Dr. Charles L. Roegiers, their four children, Charles B.

Roegiers, Leigh Ann Dilley, Dawn Martinez, and Douglas Roegiers. Her legacy also includes nine grandchildren and countless others she often referred to as "family not related by blood."

The Roegiers family invites you to come share your memories and "Celebrate Rosie" at the St. Agnes School gymnasium in Vermillion on Wednesday, April 29th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Funeral services will be held the following day, Thursday, April 30th at St. Agnes Catholic church at 10:30 am. To honor Rosie's cheery spirit and love of life we invite all who attend either event to wear something red. It was her favorite color.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Dakota Senior Meals or the St. Agnes Religious Education Program.

For obituary and online condolences visit [hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com)

To see this week's Chamber Chat, Court Reports, Police Record, and Clay County Sheriff's Report, please visit [www.plaintalk.net](http://www.plaintalk.net).

# The Big Squeeze To Continue Into May

By Anne La Brake  
For the Plain Talk

Vermillion Sanford Medical Clinic, even in the face of time constraints, has reached more than half of its goal to perform 1,000 blood pressure screenings in the month of April.

"This is only our second year, but Sioux Falls has done 'The Big Squeeze' since 2011," shares Carol Lavin, Sanford Vermillion Wellness nurse. "Last year, the goal of Sioux Falls was to get 5,000 screenings, of which we ended up contributing 1,400 just from here in Vermillion."

"The Big Squeeze" here in Vermillion, however, has now extended the events encouraging blood pressure awareness into the month of May, having the last event scheduled on May 13 for the Great Strides post party bash at the USD Wellness Center where walk-in blood pressure screenings can be done at 5:30 p.m.

"Our goal remains to just increase awareness of what blood pressure actually is, and so we are doing this through some screenings throughout the community," shares Lavin. "Really, however, we are asking people to know their blood pressure numbers. Whether this is through the screenings we are doing, by going to their primary care provider and the county health nurse, or just going to Davis Pharmacy and sticking their arm in the blood pressure cuff, we're just asking individuals to heighten their awareness of blood pressure and how many people it really does impact."

"Screenings only take a few minutes," she assures.

"If you choose to have one done at a location such as a pharmacy like Wal-Mart though, normally you should sit for a little bit, catch your breath and then take your blood pressure."

"I don't think many people really understand that high blood pressure can be a silent killer," Lavin continues. "Whether through diet, exercise or medication, however, for the most part, we can have control over it."

"There have been some new guidelines which are 140 over 80 for blood pressure," continues Lavin, "though everyone's normal is obviously a little different. Age, you should, also, know, doesn't alter whether or not you should have your blood pressure taken. By becoming aware of your blood pressure numbers, at any age, you can know if you are in the normal limits and if not, you can seek your health care provider."

For more information on "The Big Squeeze" events, you can go to Sanford Vermillion Website, or contact Wellness Nurse Carol Lavin at (605)638-8367.

## Country Music HOF Inductees Set

The South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame announced the 2015 Hall of Fame inductees in conjunction with Grand Opening of the South Dakota Country Music Opry House and Museum (SDCMO).

The stage was dedicated to Mr. Roy King, Wilbur Foss 2014 Lifetime Achievement award winner, announced the 2015 Lifetime Achievement award winner Mr. Edean Landmark, and also presenting the new inductees: Sam Tulio, Micah Small, Dan J. Small Sr., Isabel Trobaugh, Skip Harding, Rita Harding, Leland Harding III, Del Woodard, Pete Donker, Jim Anderson, Donnie J. Williams and Gary Gibson.

Woodard; Greg Poppinga, Lennox City Councilman; Wini Iverson, SDCMO president; and, Dana Jensen, 2013 inductee, rounded out the festivities of the ribbon cutting, officially opening the Opry House and Museum. Mylan Ray, KLOH radio personality, was on hand to help emcee.

During the day, a decorated guitar, auctioned for a Jon Richter tribute, was presented to the Richter family.

Many donations were presented to the Opry House and Museum throughout the celebration, including several drum sticks for the stick collection.

Wilbur Foss was honored with a copy of an album about his father to be added to the museum artifacts.

An "American Made" band banner, was also donated to the Hall of Fame in memory of Gary Huska who was inducted in 2008.

## Clay-Union Foundation Seeks Youth

The Clay-Union foundation has one adult male and female who are ready to serve as mentors to a child in Vermillion. The target age for these mentors is age 7-12. Youth age 5-17 are welcome to join. Volunteers are background checked and interviewed prior to matches, and spend 2 hours/week in year round mentoring matches. Apply at [www.clay-unionfoundation.org](http://www.clay-unionfoundation.org) or call John Gille 605-421-5050 for more information on being a mentor or signing up a youth.

## DSU Awards Katrenak Scholarship

Adam Katrenak, a senior at Irene-Wakonda High School from Vermillion, was recently awarded the DSU Champion Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to high achieving students based on ACT scores and high school GPA.

Adam will be attending Dakota State University in Madison, S.D. in the fall to pursue a degree in information systems.

## 'Mary Poppins' Auditions Announced

The Vermillion Community Theater is proud to announce audition dates for its upcoming production of "Mary Poppins." The beloved show will run August 21-24 of this summer.

Auditions will be held Sunday, May 17 from 4-6 p.m. and Wednesday, May 20, from 6-8 p.m. at the Vermillion H.S. Performing Arts Center. Visit [www.vermillioncommunitytheatre.org](http://www.vermillioncommunitytheatre.org) for details.

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