

VCT Kicks Off Season With Auditions

BY JAMES COOPER
For the Plain Talk

Another Vermillion summer means another stellar production by the Vermillion Community Theatre (VCT). With such past credits including "Oliver" (2014), "My Fair Lady" (2011), "Oklahoma" (2010), and "The Music Man" (2008), it is natural to assume that the VCT will continue their streak of successful productions.

This year is no substitute, in fact, it is VCT's most ambitious show to date; "Mary Poppins."

Traditionally, VCT strives, "to include everyone who wants to be involved, whether on stage or off..." but with a limited number of roles, VCT included a statement to their summer show announcement encouraging everyone to, "show (them) your best!"

In response to this announcement, the Vermillion community will have to bring its A-game to the auditions this year.

Of course, with a demanding summer show and such a talented pool of performers in the area, everyone is looking forward to their chance to sing, dance, and act for the directors.

Mandi Steele, a graduate student in Music Education at The University of South Dakota said, "Just the experience of auditioning in front of people



is a good experience... just to say you did it, you know?"

This will be the first musical theatre production that Steele has auditioned for and she is even excited to have two of her five children also auditioning, 10 year-old Haydn and 7 year-old Emmaline will be displaying their talents right alongside their mom, and are confident that they will have fun and learn something new.

JoeBob Geis, a veteran of the Vermillion Community Theatre who has been involved for the past four years, will be serving as the Assistant Technical Director for the show.

While not auditioning for the show as a cast member, he will have the opportunity to work with an experienced and skilled crew to bring the magic of Mary Poppins to life when the show goes up at Vermillion High School on August 21-24. He is most looking forward to, "meeting all the new folks and seeing all (his) old friends again."

The directing duo of Callie Hisek

and Anthony Burbach, who triumphed in last year's production of "Oliver", will be returning to tackle "Mary Poppins."

Hisek, a USD alumnus and adjunct professor of theatre has worked for many Midwestern venues, including the Black Hills Playhouse and Prairie Repertory Theatre.

Burbach, the current VCT Board president, will serve as the musical director for the show.

As the auditions approach on Sunday, May 17 from 4-6 p.m. and Wednesday, May 20 from 6-8 p.m. at the Vermillion Performing Arts Center, these two are undoubtedly swamped with plans and excitement as the community prepares to compete for coveted cast positions in Mary Poppins.

If you would like to try your hand at musical theatre, the VCT does not require any previous performance experience, audition materials, or age requirements.

There are also several volunteer positions available for those who want to be involved, but maybe not right under the spotlight.

For more information, visit vermillioncommunitytheatre.org and see all the ways you can be involved in your local artistic community this summer.

Professors Honored By Ed. School

Three professors at the University of South Dakota School of Education are being honored for teaching, research and service.

Karen Kindle, Ed.D., assistant professor in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, receives the Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching. Kindle has worked to develop an English Language Learner (ELL) minor and an Integrated Literacy course for students in teacher preparation programs. She says it's her responsibility to not only develop challenging content for her students, but for her students to serve as exemplars in the classroom.

"It is critical for teacher educators to stay current with the content. The course we teach must adequately prepare future teachers to enter the profession with the knowledge and skills to be successful," she said.

Gera Jacobs, Ed.D., professor in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, receives the Faculty Excellence Award in Research. Jacobs co-authored her second book entitled "Supporting Students, Meeting Standards: Best Practices for Engaging Learning in First, Second, and Third Grade," which the publisher expects to be a high impact book for early childhood educators. Jacobs visited primary grade classrooms and interviewed numerous teachers and researchers in the field to understand the Common Core State Standards, other national standards, and best educational practices for meeting these standards. She also received a \$69,000 grant from the South Dakota Department of Education to lead the revision of preschool standards for the State of South Dakota.

Kelly Duncan, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Counseling and Psychology in Education, received the Faculty Excellence Award in Service. Duncan is active on campus with a variety of student-related groups, including the STARS group that provides assistance to Native American students on campus. Duncan also is a long-time member of the South Dakota Board of Education. Internationally, Duncan has led delegations of U.S. school counselors to Russia, China, and Egypt, and has shared her expertise in India regarding approaches to deal with bullying behavior in schools. "While service may compose 15% of my assigned effort, I feel I give 110% of effort in this area," she said.

A Quick Look At The History Of CAFOs

BY KATIE CLAUSEN
For the Plain Talk

Since the beginning of time, humans have had some sort of relationship with meat. Hundreds of years later, using it to survive, and using it to maintain health, the pioneers of the great west packed salt pork into kegs and herded their cattle across the prairies in search of the best environment for both their families and their flock.

Much has changed in livestock ownership and production since those days. Some for the better and some for the worse. Some changes are still being debated. Concentrated animal feeding operations commonly referred to by the EPA's definition of CAFO's can be seen across the landscape of the United States' agricultural lands. Animals are kept in a building where they are fed until ready for market. Their waste is collected and placed in a lagoon. The EPA designates these structures as ones of a certain size which confines animals for more than 45 days during a growing season in an area that does not produce vegetation.

Changes for the better mean livestock are now

afforded better health-care just as humans are in current years. Veterinary services are available for ailing animals and livestock owners are often able to have livestock treated for diseases, injuries and birthing issues. Modern agriculture has also provided us with the capability to provide consistent and healthy feed to livestock. Living in a CAFO for livestock means shelter from the rain and sun and consistent feed rations. CAFO's are often temperature and climate controlled for optimum health and comfort of animals. CAFO's also contribute to agriculture's ability to produce food at a reasonable price.

Negatively, the growth and change of our topography has allowed for less space for livestock animals. What once were rolling pastures are have now become roads and buildings as our society advances and our population grows. Water quality has also become an issue, making manure collection a critical aspect. Animals in a CAFO do not have the capability to roam as freely as they would on pasture. Because of this they might transmit disease to each other at a higher rate and have other health

issues. The lagoons used to collect their waste are also considered a concern because of the high concentration of waste and waste products in once place. CAFO's are monitored by the EPA because of air and water quality threats they pose. Animal rights activists and concerned citizens in general are often plagued by the thought of animals living in such close quarters, without any capability to roam freely and enjoy an outside space.

Some Clay County residents are for the allowance of livestock buildings and some are against. Both sides present good points. The EPA breaks CAFO's down into three classes: large, medium, and small. Each class changes based on head count depending on the type of production such as beef, dairy, or poultry. The majority of poultry consumed in the United States is grown in a CAFO, which became a popular poultry management practice in the 1950s. Beef CAFO systems gained popularity in the 1970s and 1980s.

Livestock waste is a significant contributor to our ecosystem. It is estimated that cows contribute to the global waste structure considerably. Tons of manure

are collected from CAFO's each year, and CAFO's provide for a heavy concentration of waste. CAFOs are required to abide by the regulations of the Clean Water Act.

Livestock markets contribute greatly to local economies. Currently, according to USDA data, Clay County ranks last in beef livestock numbers. An increased limit on CAFO's in Clay County would open economic doors on a local level. Under this unique circumstance, it is possible that a CAFO increase would aid in the development of agricultural diversity in the area. Because of rising land prices, CAFO's make it possible to utilize a smaller portion of ground to raise meat.

CAFO's, however, are considered significant competitors to local livestock producers who are raising range animals under more traditional system structures.

When purchasing meat, it is important for the consumer to understand the difference between how that meat was raised and each family must decide which type of agricultural system they'd like to support.

Beacom Named Among Top In World

The online MBA program at the University of South Dakota's Beacom School of Business has been ranked No. 16 out of 80 business schools worldwide that were analyzed by The Princeton Review.

"The high ranking for our online MBA program continues to reflect the quality of learning experience and the value we offer at an affordable cost," said Venky Venkatachalam, dean of the Beacom School of Business. "We have a cutting-edge curriculum. Our faculty are truly world-class, and they are also well-trained in online instruction. The result is that students get the best value."

Princeton said its 2015 list of top 25 online masters of business administration programs is the first such ranking based on both surveys of administrators at the 80 schools and of about 2,000 students enrolled in those programs. Criteria focused on five areas: academics, selectivity, faculty, technical platforms and career outcomes.

The full Princeton list can be viewed at www.princetonreview.com/online-mba.

It's the second recent top ranking for USD's online MBA program. The QS Distance Online MBA last month listed the Beacom program among its top 25.



COURTESY PHOTO

Grateful donation received from the Order of Eastern Star to the Vermillion Food Pantry. Left to Right: Fran Moore, Treasurer, Order of Eastern Star, Vikki Fix, Volunteer for Vermillion Food Pantry and Grace Bick, Worthy Matron, Order of Eastern Star.

USD

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day will forever represent The University of South Dakota. That resonating statement left inquiring minds asking, "How would you rate your experience at USD?"

Both Christopher and Lincoln ranked it as, "amazing," while Connie replied, "Well, I don't have another university experience to compare it to, but overall, I'm happy that I moved here." They all cited positive experiences with facilities, faculty, peers and the opportunity to pursue enriching elective courses.

LOCAL GRADUATES:

Beresford - Eliann Renee Carr, Doctor of Philosophy, Counseling & Psychology in Education; T. Zachary Orr, Master of Public Administration; Teri Jean Krommendyk Beeson, Master of Science, Administration; Michael Alan Jensen, Bachelor of Science, Communication Studies; Madison Lee Landeen, Bachelor of Science, Economics, Bachelor of Business Administration, Management; Kaitlyn McCoy, Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology & Sport Science; Kyle DeLay, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Robyn R. Rentschler, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Centerville - Brian James King, Bachelor of Arts, History; Cynthia Kim Bendt, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art; Amanda Kay Nelson, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences; Molly Mae Pingrey, Bachelor of Science, Addiction Studies; Kayla Ann Bennett, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Kelsey Rae Laska, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Dakota Dunes - Anthony John Teesdale, Juris Doctor; Courtney Ellen Solma, Bachelor of Science,

Criminal Justice; Riley Jo Meier, Bachelor of Science in Education, English Education; Richard Waugh, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences; Preeti Devendra Gupta, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Elk Point - Jolene Kay Konechne, Specialist in Education, Educational Administration; Michelle L. Corio, Bachelor of Arts, Sustainability, Political Science; Elizabeth Anne Frisbie, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice; Cassie Lynn Hilbrands, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Cayla Marie Hilbrands, Bachelor of Business Administration, Management; Riley Braun, Bachelor of Science in Nursing;

Gayville - Emma Octavia Ladwig, Doctor of Physical Therapy; Heather Ann Wardle, Bachelor of Science, Biology; William James Larsen, Bachelor of Science in Education, History Education

Jefferson - Debi Ann Younger, Master of Arts, Educational Administration
Newcastle - Brittney Ann Gutzmann, Master of Social Work; Tara Rohan, Bachelor

of General Studies

Vermillion - Holly Teresa Baker, Doctor of Philosophy, English; Laurel Krokstrom, Doctor of Philosophy, Counseling and Psychology in Education; Chia-Ming Wu, Doctor of Philosophy, Materials Chemistry; Lisa Ida-Marie Inglis, Transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy; Jonathan Keith Brooks, Master of Arts, Educational Administration; Jackson Dean Freidel, Master of Arts, Kinesiology & Sport Science; Teniesha Anastasia Kessler, Master of Arts, English; Jamie Ann Turgeon-Drake, Master of Arts, Educational Administration; Hao Mei, Master of Science, Physics; Yadav L. Shrestha, Master of Science, Computer Science; Xianmin Xu, Master of Science, Computer Science; Tasia Marie Hofman, Master of Social Work; Janelle Luz Galpin Bachelor of Arts, International Studies and Media & Journalism; McKenzie Marie Huska, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology; Bodhi Grey Schultz, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; Erica Rose Moe, Bachelor of General Studies; Nicholas Kyle Schuttinger, Bachelor

of General Studies; Ashley Elizabeth Brunick, Bachelor of Science, Psychology and Health Sciences; Wendy Kristine Bucklin, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Gary Christiansen, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science; Paige Jacqueline Korn, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Anna Katherine Kuznik, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Brent John Olinger, Bachelor of Science, Political Science and Speech Communication; Christine Ann Fisher, Associate of Arts; Patrick Ryan

Baird, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance; Whitney Redler, Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology & Sport Science; Stacie Helene Kjelden, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education; Sarah Merrigan, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education; Jason D. Logan, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art; Lukas David Ptacek, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre; Emma Lea Miller, Bachelor of Science, Medical Laboratory Science; Amber Jo Walker, Bachelor

of Science, Dental Hygiene; Brittany Dilts, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Lindsay Marie Robinet, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Misty Deane Spraitz, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Viborg - Stephanie A. Cain, Bachelor of General Studies; Alisha Lynn Roesler, Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting
Wakonda - Melissa Marie Hessman, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice and Psychology



May 18th,
2015

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Salad Luncheon
Eagle's Club
of
Vermillion

Sponsored by Juno Chapter
Order of Eastern Star
\$ 7.00

You're News!
The Vermillion Plain Talk

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Division of Rehabilitation Services - Rapid City, SD
This is a key position in the operations of the Rapid City Vocational Rehabilitation Office. This position works with individuals with disabilities who require Vocational Rehabilitation Services to obtain or maintain employment. Vocational Rehabilitation is a successful State & Federal funded program that has demonstrated success in assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain employment. This position will manage a caseload of approximately 80 individuals, will determine eligibilities, develop plans, approve services and provide Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling. This position is typically Monday thru Friday 8hrs a day and is open until filled. Some travel will be required to deliver services in an assigned territory. For more information or to apply, please go to <http://bhr.sd.gov/workforum> and reference Job ID #4751 or contact any South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation Local Office.
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