



FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
The 2015 graduating class of Vermillion High School received their diplomas on Saturday during commencement ceremonies held at the Dakota Dome.

Celebrating The Class Of 2015

BY JAMES COOPER
For The Plain Talk

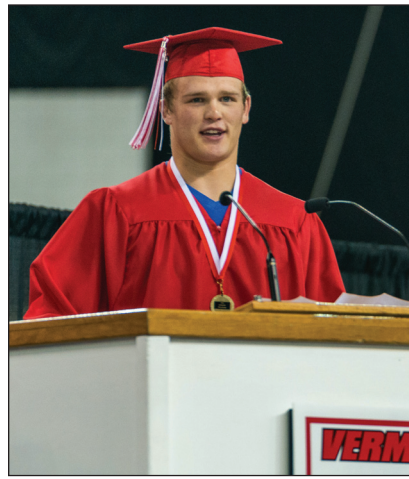
As May approaches each year, the Vermillion community beams with pride as it sends another class of graduating high school seniors out into the world.

Whether they go off to the workforce, further education, or the Armed Forces, the new graduates say "goodbye" to one very long chapter of their lives and prepare for the journey that lies ahead.

Vermillion High School class of 2015 spent the afternoon of Saturday, May 16 at the Dakota Dome sharing memories, offering advice, and celebrating their graduation with their friends and families.

Instead of the traditional speeches given by the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the class, the Vermillion seniors chose five of their classmates to represent them during the ceremony.

The opening remarks were given by senior Jack Brown, who is an Honors Program, National Honor Society



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Class speakers for the graduation ceremony included Regan Bye (pictured), Jack Brown, Jacob Krier, Savannah Kirsch and Jessica Brady.

(NHS), and Regent Scholars graduate. His opening statement as he stood

before his class and guests was, "I wish I could tell you that this road has been easy, but it hasn't..." He went on to say, "We are a group of very unique people. There are dancers, division 1 athletes, singers, artists...drummers, and dreamers. Congratulations class of 2015, we made it!"

Following Brown's touching remarks, the Class Comments portion began with Jacob Krier, also an Honors Program, NHS, and Regent Scholars graduate, who offered to the class three points of very good advice which were, "1. Do what makes you happy...2. Work hard and take pride in your work...and 3. Stay foolish and take your mistakes in stride."

Krier's words will undoubtedly stick with his classmates as they go on to their next adventures.

Senior class President, Savannah Kirsch took the podium after Krier and began with some simple thank you's to faculty, staff, and her parents for helping her get where she is today. Next, Kirsch decided to list the top three

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Austin First Graders Enjoy Final Field Trip

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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The final few days of school are always exciting, but for the first grade students at Austin Elementary in Vermillion, Tuesday was, literally, a field trip day.

The students, teachers, and their parents were invited to the farm of Erlan and JoAnn Olson for a Farm Day event that exposed them to life on a farm.

JoAnn Olson said that the reason she and he husband enjoy have the students visit and learn about life on a farm.

"The students really seem to enjoy it," she said. "It isn't so terribly far out of town, so it is something they can do. When they are here they are raring to go and are excited to see everything."

Olson said teacher, Jen Law, is the driving force behind the day's events.

"We have a lot of first grade standards that we are trying to hit with the different stations the students visit today," Law said. "This ties right in with our curriculum: learning about the animals and their habitats, the current and past equipment, how the plants and animals grow, it just groups all of it together."

She added that the students enjoy the hands on aspect of visiting the farm.

"They get to learn about different animals raised in this area and the meat produced in the area," Law said. "They learn what meat comes from which animals. Also talking about machinery from the past and the present and getting to compare them, learn how we didn't have big machinery years ago is neat for the kids to get to see."

Law said that for many of the students this will be their first experience with a working farm.

"A few of the kids may have been on a farm, but not ones that had animals or machinery on them," she said.

Law noted that the people doing the presentations for the students are all experts in their respective fields that donate their time and expertise to showing the students what goes on at the farm.

"It is fun for them to share what they know with the kids, and then the kids get to take that knowledge with



SHAUNA MARLETTE/
FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Austin Elementary first grade students enjoyed farm day at the Erlan and JoAnn Olson Farm on Tuesday. The event gave the students a chance to explore a working farm. For more photos from the day go to page 14.

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SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
During a public hearing held Monday by the Vermillion City Council, a compromise was reached to allow a right-in and right-out only driveway at this apartment complex located in Vermillion.

Public Hearing Results In Compromise Between City, Developer

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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A point of conflict between property owners Duane and Jeanne Mehlhaf and the City of Vermillion regarding a second driveway access at 1322 E. Clark Street was resolved during the City Council meeting held Monday.

The disagreement centered around plans drawn by city employees, which were

then given to the Mehlhafs. On that plan it designated a future driveway access point. The Mehlhafs said they used that plan for their original building permit and assumed that the driveway would be included when the road construction on Norbeck was completed. However, when the street construction was completed, there was not a driveway access point.

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Special Elections Set For June 30

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Two recent actions by the Vermillion City Council will be up for public approval at a special election set for June 30.

Ordinance 1326 which requires registration of private, in-home, daycares with the city was approved by a council vote of 7-2 on April 13 after nearly 90 minutes of discussion, sometimes heated, with members of the public.

The ordinance requires a provider to register with the city. In order to obtain city certification the daycare provider will need to demonstrate safety items such as having a fire extinguisher, smoke detector, two ways out of basement space used for a daycare, safe electrical wiring, closets that prevent a child from being locked inside and other basic safety requirements, such as having a fenced in yard.

The ordinance allowed that a daycare which registered prior to July 1, would not require an inspection moving the first inspection of the property to 2016.

After the ordinance was adopted, a handout was developed to assist in explaining the details of the ordinance.

It was also noted that when the ordinance is passed there would still be a chance for the public to sign a petition for a referendum, which was completed and turned



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Prentis Park Pool is ready to open for the summer Saturday at 1 p.m. (weather permitting.) It is then scheduled to close on July 31 in order for demolition to begin for the new swimming pool scheduled to open the summer of 2016. However, the vote scheduled for June 30 could have ramification on just what will be built during the next year.

into the council on May 6.

The second item which will be decided on by voters is the council's decision to impose a charge upon malt beverage purchases for use toward paying back the bond which will be needed to support the Prentis Park Pool Project.

On February 17, the City Council approved a second reading of the ordinance enacting sections 112.24 through 112.31 of the City Code

that imposed a 5 percent charge upon malt beverage purchases pursuant to SDCL 35-4-60.2. The ordinance was published on Feb. 27 and became effective on March 19.

An initial referendum petition was received on March 18 that was determined by the City Attorney to not be valid due to the wording on the petition. A second petition was received on May 11 from Blaine Schoellerman

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