

## TOP PERFORMANCE



COURTESY PHOTO

The Superintendent's Performance Award was presented to the Vermillion Squad during their squad meeting on May 21. The award reads: In recognition for the Vermillion Squad's statewide leadership in the area of highway safety. For the past nine months, the Vermillion Squad has focused their efforts on making SD Highway 46 safer through strict enforcement and they worked closely with the DOT promoting safety through messages. Their diligence resulted in no fatal crashes, injury crashes are down 59 percent, and property damage crashes are down 69 percent. Their efforts demonstrate the highest level of dedication to the safety of those that travel through the State of South Dakota. The Troopers pictured left to right are: Brandon Hansen, Michael Boyd, Luis Tapia, Sgt. Robert Whisler, Tyler Boltjes and Cody Jansen. Not pictured is Stuart Griffith.



COURTESY PHOTO

Alleivant employees went above and beyond helping Vermillion's Center for Children and Families give their facility a facelift and ultimately earn \$5000 towards further improvements.

## Grant

From Page 1

"It's amazing the support that we had locally and out of state," Sherlock said. "We're really grateful and thankful for the opportunity for them to come and help us the way they did and then to have this opportunity to win the \$5,000 was just over the top."

During the day of service employees from Vermillion's Alleivant branch scrubbed CFCF inside and out and helped prep one side of the building for a future outdoor nature classroom.

Only the finishing touches remain according to Sherlock.

"Since the weather has not been the greatest it has been a challenge to get back out there and get things done but as soon as we have some nice days we're going to get out there," she said. "I'm glad we didn't plant any seeds for our garden because we had a couple nights of hard freezes last week. They wouldn't have survived. My goal once we have some nice days is to get out there and finish it off."

Since the outdoor project is near completed, Sherlock has other plans for the grant money.

"A big chunk of the \$5,000 will go to finishing the last rooms in the new addition," she said.

According to Sherlock there are two unfinished rooms in the new addition. The grant along with a \$1000 grant from the Vermillion Area Community Foundation will help finish one of the rooms which will hold 15 preschool children.

"The children and the families are so thankful for it," Sherlock said. "They know that it will be a benefit to our community as well. We have had a high number of people interested in preschool care in fall and finishing off that room will enable us to take those kids in. Without that grant it would take a lot of fundraising efforts to finish that room."

Sherlock said she hopes the Alleivant employees will not be the last to volunteer their time to the center.

CFCF is currently looking for volunteers

especially for the summer as the volunteers from the University of South Dakota are on break.

"When the university is out for the summer there's a lot of things that we don't have help with, primarily outdoor stuff like pulling weeds," Sherlock said. "I'd love to have people help one day a week for an hour or so or whenever they would like to come help us maintain that outdoor classroom. Eventually I want to get that outdoor nature classroom certified and one of the big things is having the community involved in that. It's open for anyone who's interested in volunteering."

Other volunteer jobs include office work, cleaning and maintenance inside and out so the building looks nice and is safe for the children.

Volunteers helping out while children are present are required to undergo a background screening and sign confidentiality papers as dictated by the center's state licensing.

"It's a pretty easy process," Sherlock said. "We'd love to have any help we can get."

Interested volunteers may contact the center directly at 605-624-8270. Questions can also be directed to Sarah Sherlock via email at cfcf\_57069@yahoo.com.

## A Message Of Thanks

Center for Children and Families would like to take this opportunity to thank Navigant for donating \$5,000 to our center and to all of the volunteers from Alleivant who worked so hard at our center, making us eligible for the contest! We would also like to thank Nick Slattery of Slattery Construction for coming to cement the posts for the pergola pro bono, and Walmart for \$50 gift card to help supply materials to prepare for the future Outdoor Nature Classroom. Finally, we would like to thank all of the CFCF friends, family, coworkers, and community members that took the time to vote for Center for Children and Families during the online Community Connections contest, sponsored by Navigant. Your 1,814 votes has made it possible for us to complete another room in our center to serve an additional 15 children this Fall!

## Girls

From Page 14

Hovorka said any of the general assemblies are open to the public and she invites any who are interested to attend.

"Tuesday's morning assembly will feature Marty Jackley, S.D. Attorney General," she said. "Tuesday evening's assembly will have a self-defense demonstration led by SW2, Shane Toupal of the SD Army National Guard. This is something we started last year and the girls just really seemed to love it. So, we are excited to bring it back."

Other speakers throughout the week include: S.D. State Representative Peggy Gibson, S.D. State Representative Mike Stevens, S.D. State Senator Jean Hunhoff, Dr. Michael Roche, USD Criminal Justice Professor, Kim Olson, Central S.D. Director for Senator Mike Rounds, Kim Malsam-Rysdon, S.D. Secretary of Health. Due to congress being in session this week, both Rep. Kristi Noem and Sen. John Thune are expected to visit with the attendees, but a time has not been set.

"This is just a great event that the community of Vermillion should be proud to host," Hovorka said. "The partnership with the University and the local law enforcement officials is vital to the success of the programs we offer the girls while they are in Vermillion."

Inauguration of the new ALA South Dakota Girls State governor will take place at 8 p.m., Friday, June 5, in Aalfs Auditorium, with Madison Mead, 2013 Girls State governor, providing

the keynote address. The Girls State Chorus, under the direction of Ethel Cooper, of Springfield, will present a patriotic concert prior to the inauguration ceremony. Other Girls State activities for the week include general assemblies, talent auditions, invited speakers, campus tours and various presentations and meetings. A college/career fair is also scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, in the Muenster University Center concourse.

Hovorka said one other project that the attendees will be a part of during the week is the 2015 community project, which is required by the national Girls State program.

"We ask all participants, staff and volunteers of the Girls state for their support of Berakhah House in Sioux Falls," she said. "The Berakhaha House was formed by veterans' stakeholders to address the needs of homeless and struggling veterans in our community."

She said the services provided through the program are contracted through the Sioux Falls Veterans Affairs Healthcare System with the goal of reducing homelessness among veterans.

Each Girls State participant is asked to bring donations that will then be given to the home.

Some items needed include: shower curtains, twin sheets, alarm clocks, hygiene products, gift cars, household items and similar items.

For more information about the upcoming Girls State and a schedule of events visit the website at <http://usd.edu/girlstate>.

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