

INSIDE:**Highlights**

Learn about
Vermillion's past ■ p. 2

**Vermillion schools
schedule concerts**

The Fall Show at Vermillion High School will be held Friday, Nov. 20, and Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. both nights.

The concert will include middle school and high school show choir performances plus solo performances.

Also, the fifth grade will hold its concert Monday, Nov. 23, at Vermillion High School.

**Camp Jorgensen
fundraiser Nov. 15**

The Bergen Lutheran Church, rural Meckling, will host a concert by John Jorgensen and family, accompanied by Becky Aga, on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. as a fundraiser for Camp Jorgensen.

Camp Jorgensen is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing youth and families with a non-denominational Christian experience of camping and canoeing on the Missouri River.

Come and enjoy a night of music and learn what Camp Jorgensen is all about. Coffee and fellowship will follow the concert. A freewill tax-deductible donation will be accepted. For information call 605-529-5119.

**Welcome Table
to meet Nov. 16**

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Nov. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota. The Nov. 16 meal will be sponsored and served by the The Young Democrats.

Thanks to the Newman Center for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

**Documentary on
water use scheduled**

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, come see "FLOW", an award-winning documentary that focuses on the world water crisis and asks the key question: "Can anyone really own water?" The documentary will be shown at the W.H. Over Museum, 1110 Ratingen at 7 p.m.

Local people involved in Tuesday's presentation note that in South Dakota, it is likely that several industries, including refineries, coal companies, nuclear power plants, and ethanol plants may want to divert water in Missouri River reservoirs to new uses in their dry states.

Worldwide, the emergence of water cartels threaten to privatize dwindling supplies of fresh water. Beyond identifying the problem, FLOW also gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis and those developing new technologies, which are fast becoming blueprints for a successful global and economic turnaround.

RtI effort pays big dividends in elementary literacy

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

The Vermillion School Board learned Monday that the practice of getting highly involved in meeting the literacy needs of some of the school district's youngest students is paying high dividends.

The district's Response to Intervention (RtI) program is having a positive outcome for students in kindergarten through fifth grade at Austin and Jolley elementary schools.

RtI is defined by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education as the practice of providing

high-quality instruction and intervention matched to student needs, and using learning rate over time and level of performance to make important educational decisions.

"Last year, we started the ground-work," Elementary Principal Mark Upward said. "We did so some insertive, and we put a lot of this in place last year. This year is when we are starting to do the RtI model."

"It's not a curriculum," said Kim Johnson, principal at Austin Elementary. "It's a practice of how we make our meeting time work better for our students, and how we assess

our students' needs and practice intervention that will help them meet their goals."

Upward said students are evaluated using a state education standard called a discrepancy model. "We test the ability of where the child can be (academically), and we test their achievement, of where they really are," Upward said. Many times, he said, there is a number of students whose tests results in those two areas aren't far enough apart – in other words, there's not enough discrepancy in the scores – for some children to qualify for special education programs.

"So you wait another year, and then you test again," Upward said. "And it (the child's test scores) are getting closer for them to qualify. And so you wait another year."

A child, under the practice of testing and waiting and testing again, may finally qualify for special education services. But in such a process, the student isn't receiving the extra services he or she is needing.

"With RtI, since it's based on a tiered approach, if you follow the RtI program, you can qualify kids for special education using the RtI

Turn to **SCHOOL** on Page 3



Annie, the canine companion of Tasha Anderson, is adopted from a shelter. "It's a good, fulfilling feeling," she said of finding a pet at an animal shelter, "and sometimes you get the best of all the breeds that are mixed in there." (Photo by David Lias)

**No dog-eat-dog
world at Cotton Park
Heartland Humane Society
hosts Tails and Trails**

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

It wasn't a dog-eat-dog world Saturday at Cotton Park in Vermillion.

Tasha Anderson, executive director of the Heartland Humane Society, and her dog, Annie, enjoyed the morning's sunny skies and warm temperatures along with several other dogs and their owners at the humane society's Tails and Trails event at the park.

"This is our third annual dog walk, and it basically is a free-will donation for anyone to come out and walk his or her dog," she said. "It promotes a healthy lifestyle, it promotes education of owning animals, and it also gets our name out there, and let's people know we are fun organization."

Tasha, (Annie) Jeanette Kaddatz, director of operations, (Ray) Julie Becker, (Hutch) Tiffany Paulson, (Houdini) Jordan Bailey (Princess).

The event is also designed to remind people that there are several dogs and cats in Yankton and Clay counties that need a good home.

"We had several of the dogs that are available for adoption here at the park," Anderson said. "They wore little bandanas that say, 'Adopt me,' and people could walk them and

Turn to **TAILS** on Page 14

USD students visit with billionaire Buffett

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net

Some area college students got some financial insight from one of the nation's premier investors Friday, Nov. 6.

Twenty-seven students from the Beacom School of Business at the University of South Dakota met with Omaha businessman Warren Buffett.

"One Friday a month for eight months a year, Mr. Buffett meets with college students," said Kumoli Ramakrishnan, Ph.D., associated professor of finance at USD. "So colleges around the country request the time with him and he selects a few schools. We've been fortunate in being

able to go every year for the past five years. ... USD has been very lucky, because most schools don't get a chance to go year after year to see him."

Six universities from across the country take part in each meeting, which involves tours of Berkshire Hathaway-owned companies, an extended question-and-answer session with Buffett and a lunch.

Students also get a chance to take pictures with him.

"He's quite a showman," said Ramakrishnan. "There's some formal pictures, quite a bit of clowning around with him – handing his wallet over or pulling his pockets out like he's broke."

Business student Brad



The doctor (Cody Perk) and Buffo (Ryan Landis) rush to catch a fainting Queen (Kristin Edwards) during Monday's performance of "The Princess and the Pea" at St. Agnes Elementary. (Photo by David Lias)

**Local school becomes
an opera house**

And elementary students
love every minute

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

After the USD Department of Music Opera Workshop completed its performance of the children's opera "The Princess and the Pea" Monday afternoon, Nov. 9, a St. Agnes Elementary School student had just one question for USD student Clint Johnson from Harrisburg, one of the opera's cast members.

"Why are you wearing a dress?" the child asked.

"Did you guys laugh?" he asked the audience of elementary students, sitting spellbound on the floor of the St. Agnes School gymnasium.

"Yes," a chorus of young voices answered

in unison.

"That's why I'm wearing a dress," he said. More laughter followed, along with a growing awareness on the part of the children that, even though opera may be an unfamiliar art form, it certainly is enjoyable.

Under the direction of Tracelyn Gesteland, D.M.A., professor of voice in the USD Department of Music, the 50-minute opera, which is based on a story by Hans Christian Andersen, began its tour of various locations in Vermillion. The first performance was held Nov. 4 at 4 p.m. in Colton Recital Hall on the USD campus. Monday's show at St. Agnes School was the first performance held off-campus; it was followed by a show Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. at Austin School.

The USD students will stage the opera at 1 and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17 at Jolley School.

Turn to **OPERA** on Page 14



University of South Dakota business student Jessica Burchill was one of several USD students who got the chance to meet with Omaha financial guru Warren Buffett Friday, Nov. 6. (Courtesy photo)

Turn to **BUFFETT** on Page 8

**When it Hurts,
Help is Near.**

If you are faced with one of life's little emergencies, you can count on the Vermillion Medical Clinic to help. Our ConvenientCare Clinic is open evenings to treat minor emergencies such as sprains, cuts, fevers and burns.

No appointment necessary. Walk-in patients only.
ConvenientCare Hours: Monday through Friday, 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

ConvenientCare®
101 South Plum Street • Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-8643 • www.yanktonmedicalclinic.com