



Jordan Bailey and Princess, Tiffany Paulson and Houdini, Julie Becker and Hutch, Jeanette Kaddatz, director of operations at Heartland Humane Society and Ray, and Tasha Anderson, executive director of the Heartland Humane Society, and Annie, all participated in Saturday's Tails and Trails at Cotton Park in Vermillion. (Photo by David Lias)

Tails/ from page 1

get to know them. "In the past, we've actually had people who met their dogs here at Tails and Trails," she said. "So we have people who have adopted based on their experiences at this event."

A long-term goal of the Heartland Humane Society is to eventually construct a new, permanent housing facility for stray pets in the region.

The funds raised at Saturday's event were allocated to the society's spay and neuter program.

"One of the things that's really important to the Heartland Humane Society is making sure that animals get spayed and neutered," Anderson said. "The money raised today through donations and memberships and things like that will go toward spaying and neutering the animals that we adopt to the community, as well as spay-neuter that we have set up for things like feral cats.

"There are different types of spaying and neutering that we do," she said, "but mainly it is for spaying and neutering animals before they are adopted and helping to maintain that by assisting people, after adopting an animal, to get that animal spayed or neutered."

Heartland Humane Society organized in 2000, and last July, it received a facility to allow it to house sheltered cats. "That's been a really big step forward," Anderson said. "Also, in August, I was hired to serve the organization full time. We've never had a full-time person before, so now we have regular hours, a regular office and we have cats available for adoption at the office.

"This is really the first time that we've had a facility, if you will, and a face in the community, where people can come and interact with us every day," she said, "so it's just been a huge step forward for us."

Heartland's office is located at 601-1/2 Burling in Yankton, next to More Than Pets grooming salon. The office is open to the public Monday through Friday from

Do you need a gift idea?

Subscriptions to the Plain Talk make great presents.

Call 624-2695

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment.

Heartland Humane Society serves Yankton and Clay counties in South Dakota and Cedar County in Nebraska and surrounding communities, protecting and enhancing the lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people.

The new facilities and other progressive happenings at Heartland Humane Society couldn't have occurred at a better time. Several factors have led to an ever-increasing demand for the society's services.

"There are several things that have contributed to that. There is a large population of stray animals. That could be attributed to a lot of things. I know that some of shelters in the area, such as in Sioux Falls and Sioux City, IA have reported that they larger numbers (of stray pets) also.

"The economy has probably taken its toll on some families; they are having to give up animals. We have people moving from houses that they cannot afford, and they have to give up animals, sometimes," Anderson said, "so there is a big need. And there is a big need for education on appropriate pet ownership, and what is the right pet for each particular family. Those are all services that we can help with, by rehoming animals, by helping to educate people, helping to educate school-age children and people who are wanting to adopt. We are happy to help with some of those things."

Anderson knows firsthand how successful that "re-

homing" process can be. Her dog, Annie, a terrier mix, is adopted from a shelter.

Many of the dogs at Saturday's event have a complicated pedigree, but are simply loved a great deal by their owners.

Tasha, (Annie) Jeanette Kaddatz, director of operations, (Ray) Julie Becker brought Hutch, her Great Pyrenees-Chocolate Labrador mix to Saturday's event. Also participating in Tails and Trails was Jordan Bailey, who brought her dog, Princess, a boxer-collie mix. Tiffany Paulson kept a tight grip on the leash of her dog, Houdini, Australian cattle dog/Australian shepherd mix.

All of the animals are the type that typically can be found in an animal shelter—a pet that desperately needs a home.

"Shelters do often have purebreds for adoption, too, but unfortunately, the animals that aren't spayed or neutered aren't choosy," Anderson said. "So they mate with other animals that aren't spayed and neutered, and you get these eclectic varieties of dogs.

"Sometimes, though," she added, "you get the best of both breeds. Sometimes it's a good thing."

Anderson knows from experience that adopting a shelter dog can have a highly rewarding outcome.

"It's a good, fulfilling feeling, and sometimes you get the best of all the breeds that are mixed in there. It's not good that animals have unplanned litters, but it can be a good thing to have a mixed breed, too."

Opera/ from page 1

Gesteland said the goal in developing "The Princess and the Pea" for the local stage is to bring opera to elementary school children, many of whom may experience the classical music for the first time.

Following Monday's performance, she was confident that the performers met that goal in their elementary school debut.

"We wanted to show the young people that opera can be fun and entertaining, and the idea was to bring them a familiar story, so they could meet us halfway," Gesteland said. "It's a lot to ask for them to accept this aesthetic. They're not used to hearing opera singing, so hopefully the humor, and the familiar story and the broad characters helped to draw them in without asking them to go too far."

The audience, ranging from pre-school students up to fifth-grade pupils, at times was enthralled as they concentrated on the unique storyline of the somewhat familiar tale told them in such a unique way. "For pre-schoolers to be that involved in a 45 minute production, I think, is pretty good," Gesteland said. She knew from personal experience that the performance would be a positive experience for both her undergraduate and graduate university students, and the community's elementary youth.

"I have actually performed opera for young audiences. I did a 10-month tour with Houston Grand Opera's educational outreach troupe, and we would go into schools and perform operas for children," Gesteland said. "I just thought it was such a wonderful thing both for the children and the community and the performers, and when we were talking about ways to build up our opera program at USD, I just thought it was a natural thing to do.

It just seems to benefit everybody, and definitely our (vocal) students had a wonderful time today (Monday), getting the laughs from the kids and feeling their energy and their appreciation," she said.

At the end of their performance, the USD vocalists didn't start packing up their gear to head back to campus. They stood in full costume, and fielded questions from their young audience.

"I know as a performer, that's the part that I always looked forward to — to see



Lucas Swallow, Clayton Sorensen, Lilly Mockler, McKenzie Kerkman, Zachery Brady, and TJ Tracy, kindergarten students in Mrs. Crowley's class at St. Agnes Elementary School in Vermillion, are delighted by Monday's opera performance. (Photo by David Lias)

what the perceptions were and to hear the different questions that came up, and I think my students enjoyed that today," Gesteland said. "I was very happy to see all of the teachers their, too. It really spoke highly of the staff to stay and watch. The teachers really seemed to enjoy it as much as the kids."

One of the students asked the cast how they came up for the idea to perform at his school.

"Well, this was an opera that was written for school kids, and I've actually performed this, and I thought this would be really fun for us to bring to you," Gesteland told the St. Agnes pupil. "So we got together, and we worked really hard to practice the music, and then we eventually made it here to your school.

No detail went unnoticed. One student noticed that Kristin Edwards of Aberdeen, who performed as the queen, placed an unusually large pea under the mattress of the princess' bed.

It was actually a golf ball painted green.

"The pea was so big because it's easier to work with that rather than a real pea, and it's funnier," Edwards told the audience. "And you wouldn't be able to see it if I had a real pea. This way, everybody was able to see it."

The cast, featuring a mix of USD undergraduate and graduate students, is Amanda Rich of South Sioux City, NE, as the Princess; William Darwin of Sioux City, IA, is the Prince; Ryan Landis of Rapid City is Buffo; Kristin Edwards

of Aberdeen is the Queen while Cody Perk of Yankton is the Doctor. Susanne Harmon of Sioux Falls is Dragon; Tim Cone of Rapid City is Ogre; Megan Donohoo of Houston, TX, is Cook; and Kendra Van Nyhuis of Hull, IA, and Clint Johnson of Harrisburg, are Hilde and Esperanza.

In addition to "The Princess and the Pea," Gesteland, Rick Piersall, professor of voice at The U, and the USD Department of Music will produce the department's first full opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," this December. The first performance of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Akron (Iowa) Opera House. The cast will feature a mixture of USD students, community members as well as members of the faculty at USD.

"Another goal of ours is to reach out to the adult and the high school-aged members of the community, and to try to get them involved," Gesteland said. "We have a couple of community members this year, and hopefully, we will get more and more people involved."

She hopes Monday marks the beginning of a continual interaction between music performers at USD and area young people.

"I'm hoping that we can do this on a regular basis. There are a lot of wonderful children's operas out there, and I hope that we can eventually tour to schools outside of Vermillion," she said. "This is a really good first-year experience for us."

A New Name. A New Beginning For You.



The two companies have combined and are now even stronger, able to reward productive employees like never before! The same dedicated employees who helped grow the company are still here...we're just looking to add to the team!

Customer Relations Representatives

You'll provide advice on mobile phone products and help customers select the right service plans.

Enjoy great benefits:

- Earn Up to \$14 per hour
- Full and part time positions
- Medical, vision and dental coverage
- 401K
- Personal Time Off (PTO)
- Casual dress and friendly environment
- Training in evenings to accommodate student schedules

Ready to expand your horizons?

APPLY NOW!

IN PERSON: 1215 West Cherry Street in Vermillion
ONLINE: www.stream.com/careers

Equal Opportunity Employer | An offer of employment made to any candidate will be contingent upon the satisfactory results of a background check. The background check may include one or more of the following: education verification, employment verification, criminal check, sex offender registry check and drug screen.

Reach over 795,000 readers with a 2x2 ad!

An ad this size in 131 South Dakota newspapers! Call for details...

Call your local paper or 1-800-658-3697

COURTYARD Marriott

Shopping Getaway

- Breakfast Included in Package
- 1 King or 2 Queen Beds
- Adjacent to Empire Mall
- \$88 Rate plus applicable taxes

Limited Time Offer Every Weekend NOW through Christmas

By the Empire Mall, Sioux Falls, SD
Courtyard 1-605-444-4300

Ask for the "SHOP" rate of \$88

Government Stimulus.....up to \$1500*
Manufacturer & Utility Rebates.....up to \$2050*
Larry's Stimulus Money.....up to \$450*
* Some restrictions apply. See store for complete details.

For a Total up to **\$4000***

Trade In your Energy Hog Furnace/AC for Great Savings

Call Larry or Brad Today for a FREE Energy Analysis

Larry's HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway • Yankton • 665-9461 • 1-800-491-9461