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Veterans Day Military Salute Pages 15-16

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A tall order

Handlers take a newly-inflated Sega's 'Sonic the Hedgehog' helium balloon on a test flight inside the DakotaDome on the University of South Dakota campus Oct. 27.



Macy's Parade balloons go through paces in DakotaDome

By David Lias david.lias@plaintalk.net

Before sitting down to eat a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, mashed potatoes and stuffing, millions of Americans will likely begin Nov. 24 by watching the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as it is televised in New York.

Many Vermillion citizens may not know is that a tiny bit of the parade - specifically, some of its many character helium balloons, have already gotten off the ground at least once.

Right here. In Vermillion. In the perfect place to fly a giant balloon

without having to worry about that pesky South Dakota wind - the DakotaDome.

Many of the balloons that appear in the annual Macy's parade are constructed at Aerostar International, a division of Raven Industries in Sioux Falls. Upon completion, the new balloons are taken to the DakotaDome in a clandestine move to give the balloons a test flight with hopefully no one seeing them.

Macy's painstakingly guards the identity of each new balloon until it begins the promotional events leading up to the annual parade.

In a day and age when just about

everyone owns a cell phone with a camera, the people at Macy's have discovered that trying to fly a giant helium balloon in a public university's athletic facility without attracting attention is a pretty tall order.

The test flights of two new balloons - a jetpack sporting monkey, Paul Frank's 'Julius,' and Sega's 'Sonic the Hedgehog,' took place in the DakotaDome the morning of Oct. 27.

Photos of the new balloons soon spread throughout the community on Facebook. USD even posted snapshots of the balloons taking flight on its official Facebook page.

Macy's officials on hand to watch the

balloons' flights in the DakotaDome would not answer questions, and noted that the "national unveiling" of the new balloons would take place earlier this week.

Video of Sonic and Julius undergoing outdoor test flights have been posted by Macy's as part of an electronic press kit at http://magicbulletmedia.com/MNR/MacysParade. The video also includes brief statements from John Piper, vice president, creative director of the Macy's Parade Studio, and Amy Kule, executive producer of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

One of the goals of the outdoor

flights featured on the video is to see how the balloons fare outdoors in an environment that's much more realistic than the earlier flight they took in the DakotaDome.

"This is our celebration of our brand new balloons; it's their day to come out and join the party," Piper said. "It's also our chance to give them one last check. Every step in the process of designing a balloon ... we check and double-check every last detail. This is our last chance to put them up in the air, outside, in a wide open area so that they are going to be subject to the

PARADE, Page 3



Tom Emanuel, political science major at the University of South Dakota, discusses the capitalist system as associate professor of law Mike Myers and retired English professor Norma Wilson listen. The trio participated in the regular International Forum at USD Monday, the topic of which was "Goodbye Capitalism?"

(Photo by David Lias)

Capitalism's future discussed

By Travis Gulbrandson travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Goodbye, capitalism? The individuals who took part in a University of South Dakota forum asking that question Monday do not seem to think so. But, some said they thought change is possible.

Norma Wilson, former English professor and current president of the South Dakota Peace and Justice Center, likened the system to the

mythical hydra - except that it has not nine, but 1 million heads, at least, she said.

"It could take more than 500 years for the entire system to collapse, so the question before us is, can we reform capitalism, or will capitalism kill us? The only solution I see for us ordinary Americans is to organize and get busy reforming the system," she said.

These comments were made

FORUM, Page 3

Janklow says he's dying of cancer

CHET BROKAW and KRISTI EATON Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS - With a fresh incision curving along his hairline from temple to ear visible to all, former South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow broke down and cried Friday, Nov. 4, as he announced that he's dying of brain cancer.

But it wasn't the cancer that prompted the tears. It was recalling what he called the one regret of his life: a 2003 car wreck that killed a Minnesota man and ended Janklow's political career.

"I know it's over. I know it's at the end of the trail, but I don't hurt," he said of the weeks-old cancer diagnosis.

Janklow, 72, a Republican who dominated South Dakota politics for more than a quarter century, said the cancer is aggressive and that he's undergoing treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The incision along the left side of his face is from a recent procedure during which doctors examined the cancer.

Janklow gathered reporters to make the announcement Friday afternoon, and said he wanted to keep the meeting short because he has trouble forming his thoughts. At various points, he had to pause to find the right words and said he could not recall his specific type of cancer.

He chose Friday to publicize the diagnosis partly in reaction to a news report earlier in the day that said he recently closed his state campaign finance account, which he had maintained since leaving office nearly nine years ago. The account held more than \$850,000.

"I removed (the funds) from the public arena because I'm using them for things other than politics," he said. "There are other people that are sick. There are other people that are dying.



Former South Dakota governor, Bill Janklow, announces he has terminal brain cancer, Friday, Nov. 4, at his office in Sioux Falls. (AP Photo/Argus Leader, Elisha Page)

They don't need to be on television or in the newspaper. I'm

JANKLOW, Page 3

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