



VAAC celebrates the holiday with Sharing the Dream

Page 03

PLAIN TALK

Serving our readers since 1884.

Volume 126, Issue 46
USPS 657-720



Friday, November 18, 2011 **75¢**

© 2011 YANKTON MEDIA, INC., all rights reserved

www.plaintalk.net

'Job well done and God's speed'

Vermillion honors veterans during Friday program

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

Lt. Col. Damian Donohoe, who has been home since August after being deployed in Afghanistan, donned his military uniform one more time Friday before taking part as keynote speaker at Vermillion's Veterans Day program.

Standing before a packed audience in the W.H. Over Museum, he admitted that it was "different" to get out of the routine of wearing civilian clothes that morning.

Donohoe chose not to wear his formal uniform, but rather chose the daily garb of many of the military currently serving in Afghanistan. "This is the current, what we call 'Operation Enduring Freedom' camouflage pattern," he said.

Donohoe spoke at a gathering of citizens in the museum's Sletwold Hall.

Maxine Johnson and other volunteers at the W.H. Over Museum made sure the room was adorned with many pieces of the museum's property to honor the nation's veterans. The room's décor included uniforms from WWI, artwork, and a large American flag that at one time flew above the USS South Dakota.

"I hope in some small way to pay tribute to the men and women, many who have selflessly served our nation within the military," Donohoe said. "Veterans Day is a time to honor and show appreciation to those who have served our great nation within the ranks of our armed forces."

"The service and the sacrifice that each servicemen provided gives them the title of veteran," he said. "A veteran is a great person, but often that greatness is hidden beneath the humble attitude that service to country was first a matter of pride and of subordination – not a boastful display of arrogance."

Donohoe said he's met many veterans during his lifetime who have served in the military with distinction, yet their humble demeanor never denotes the sacrifice they made.

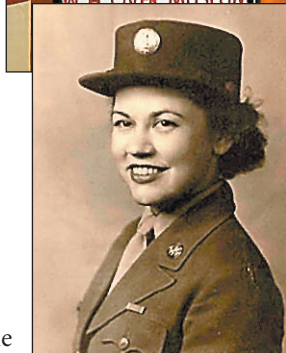
"To each of the service people who gave their time and their talents to serve our country, I want to again say 'thank you,' because you willingly and humbly stepped up when your nation called," he said. "The fact that you served is a mark of distinction. While you quietly may go about your day-to-day lives, know that each of us lucky enough to be living in the United States owes you a debt of gratitude for keeping our nation free."

Veterans Day is a time for cities like Vermillion to celebrate the efforts of men and women who have served in the military and returned to make the community a vibrant place, he said.

"I also want to take a brief moment to remember today those who are serving across the globe," Donohoe said. "The commitment to serve still takes place every day, and the sacrifice of service members insures the rights of our citizens."

"To the men and women serving locally and abroad, I pray that God keep you safe and bring you home safe to your loved ones," he said.

Donohoe added that each generation of Americans suffers a loss of some of



Fern Morse, a World War II veteran, gives a reading during Friday morning's Veteran's Day Program held at the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion.
(Photo by David Lias)



A youngster celebrates Veterans Day Friday evening by enjoying the South Dakota High School Football championships held at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. Before the kickoff of the 9AA championship game, tributes were held to honor both past and present members of the armed services.
(Photo by David Lias)

■ VETS, Page 7

Shakespeare festival will premiere in Vermillion with 'As You Like It'

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

"All the world's a stage." At least, Prentis Park's stone amphitheater will be on June 8-10, 2012, when it is the site of the inaugural South Dakota Shakespeare Festival (SDSF).

"As You Like It" – the play from which the above line originates – will be the inaugural show, it was revealed Tuesday.

The announcement was made during a meeting of the Rotary Club of Vermillion in the Al Neuharth Media Center that afternoon.

"Filled with music, poetry, romance and lots of good, clean fun, this comedy promises to warm your heart, tickle your intellect and soothe your soul," said Chaya Gordon-Bland, SDSF artistic director and assistant professor of theatre at the University of South Dakota College of Fine Arts.

Two representatives of Coyoteopoly – one of the organizers of the festival – also were on hand to discuss the event's financial status.

The overall budget is "just over \$39,000" said Greg Miner, Coyoteopoly CEO.

"We're not all the way there yet, as far as funding is (concerned)," Miner said. "We



Allen Jones performs "O Mistress Mine" from William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" during a meeting of the Rotary Club of Vermillion Tuesday. Jones was one of several University of South Dakota students attending the meeting dressed in Shakespearean garb.
(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

have about \$19,500 in the bank ready to spend on this project. We have about \$8,000 in receivables from the grants and a

■ FEST, Page 7

USD newspaper honored with Pacemaker Award

By Derek Bartos
derek.bartos@yankton.net

Many newspapers win awards, but The Volante at the University of South Dakota has made it a habit.

For the sixth time, the university's student publication has been named recipient of the Pacemaker Award for being one of the nation's best weekly college newspapers.

This year also marked the 15th time The Volante has been a finalist for the honor.

"We knew The Volante was a great newspaper, and once again the rest of the nation does as well," said Michelle Van Maanen, chair of the USD contemporary media and



Josie Kirk, who served as editor in chief The Volante from the fall of 2010 to the spring of 2011, and Chris Jessen, who took over that role last spring, display the Pacemaker Award at a reception held last week at the Neuharth Center in honor of The Volante's staff.
(Photo by David Lias)

■ USD, Page 7

South Dakotans Talking: Meeting gathers local input on state budget

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Valiant Vineyards was crowded Wednesday with local officials and residents talking about budget-related concerns for the state.

They met as part of South Dakotans Talking, a program that allows citizens to voice their concerns about the state budget, with final information to be tallied and presented to the legislators at next year's session.

"It's an attempt to do analysis and fiscal policy education from an objective point of view," said Joy Smolnisky, director of the South Dakota Budget and Policy Project. "Our mission is to promote responsible and equitable fiscal policy through research and education. ..."

"We're here to talk as South Dakotans about what we want to know and understand about the budget process, and what our thoughts are about fiscal policy," she said.

The program has been taken throughout the state since Oct. 14, and

■ TALK, Page 7