

# VETS

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its heroes.

"We stand here today as free people, because somewhere, at some time, a member of our armed forces gave the ultimate sacrifice," he said. "I know I spend time each day thinking of the people I knew who gave that sacrifice. I worry for their loved ones. I sometimes ponder what might have been. But with each of those thoughts, I quickly realize that their sacrifice insured the liberty of our citizens."

"Their sacrifice liberated people of other nations who suffered tyranny," Donohoe said. "Their sacrifice will build opportunities for real and

meaningful peace throughout the world. For those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and died serving their country, I humbly say, 'Job well done and God's speed.'"

One of the best ways American citizens can honor the nation's veterans is to look out for their needs after their military service has ended, he said.

"There's a large and growing population of veterans from recent conflicts who enter life after military with a host of questions," Donohoe said. "They have issues. But the unique thing is they have skills that are often unrecognized. Their questions are related to how they will be viewed by those who have never served or those who can't relate to their experiences."

"The issues for veterans run

the gamut from employment, health care, family needs and housing, to education, mental health and substance abuse," he said.

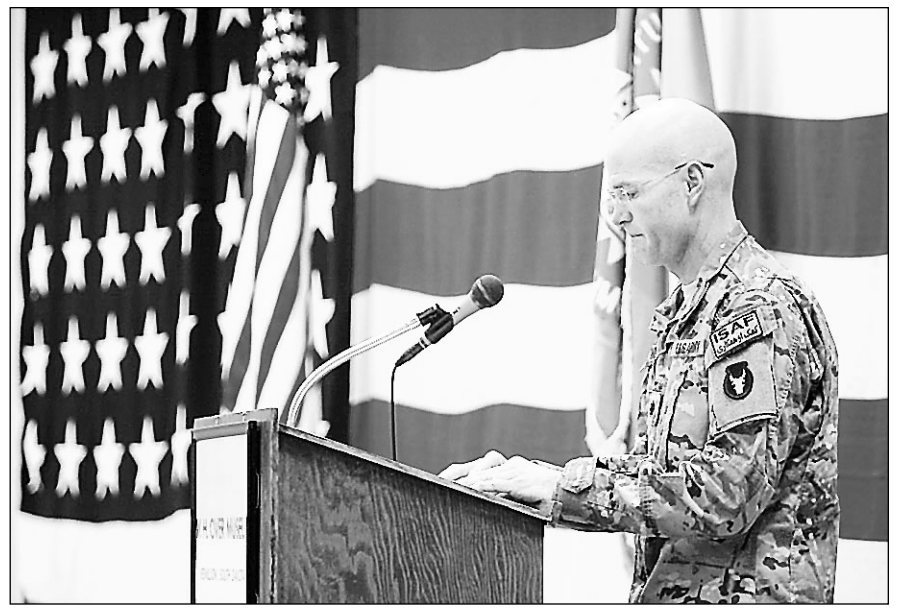
Returning veterans possess great negotiation skills and mental agility. "And we all know they have the ability to follow directions, but they do act independently," Donohoe said. "I believe that we as a nation need to step up and work to solve their issues. And I mean we as a nation. Not politicians. Not folks who can't get it done."

He urged the audience to not hesitate to "seize the moment" and do more than simply offer thanks to a veteran.

"What I think we need to do is take the time to care," Donohoe said. "I want to thank the service members who came

before me, and the many advocates of veterans' services. Your efforts have made the transition to civilian life easier for veterans, and we're better because of your work."

Participants in the morning's program included USD ROTC cadets, Fr. John Fischer of St. Agnes Parish, the local American Legion Auxiliary, Sue Paquette, who led the audience in the singing of patriotic songs, and the local VFW and American



LT. COL. DAMIAN DONOHOE

Legion Color Guard, which concluded the program with a rifle salute and the playing of "Taps."

# FEST

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sponsorship pledges that we still need to collect. That just leaves \$11,500 for us to still go out there and collect (before) the event actually occurs."

One of the primary focuses of next semester is to recruit new sponsors among area businesses and individuals.

"We plan to advertise in all different mediums, from T-shirts to billboards across the state that we plan on putting on the Interstates, along with brochures and things like that," said Coyoteopoly president Elly Smith.

She added that free online advertising will be utilized through social networking Web sites such as

Facebook.

"Any of the possible facilities we have, we're going to try to use," Smith said.

The group already has received two sizeable grants toward its marketing budget – a \$968 South Dakota Department of Tourism Matching Dollars Challenge Grant, and a \$2,500 South Dakota Arts Council Project Grant.

Last semester saw approximately \$5,000 in in-kind donations, and a further \$12,000 has been raised from a total of 45 sponsors, Miner said.

An estimated \$22,000 will be required to cover hiring costs for the production itself, he said.

"We're going to hire about 25 folks to be part of this production, going anywhere to the directors to actors, people behind the scenes creating the

sets," Miner said.

The production will be mounted both by local USD students and out-of-town professionals, creating "an educational component," Gordon-Bland said.

Another \$3,000 will be needed for an educational roundtable to take place next year that will feature three scholars – one local, and two from elsewhere.

"They will come in and have a roundtable discussion about the play to educate the community," Miner said. "It'll be a really great opportunity."

Gordon-Bland took time to acknowledge the people and groups behind the event, including Coyoteopoly, Greg Huckabee, SDSF's executive director, and production manager/technical director Scott Mollman.

Among the other groups and individuals she thanked for aid and sponsorship were USD's College of Fine Arts and the Department of Theatre, the Beacom School of Business, and the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as the city of Vermillion, the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company, Vermillion School District, Sanford Vermillion Hospital, CorTrust Bank, First Bank and Trust, First Dakota National Bank, Raziell's Restaurant, the Prairie Inn, Polaris Industries, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Gordon-Bland said the first year of the festival will be something on which to expand as the festival grows and changes.

"I think the goal this year is to start small and manageable, and really create something ... that Coyoteopoly

and the College of Fine Arts, and this group of people in this size community, can successfully accomplish," she said. "Vermillion will always be the home base of the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival. Vermillion will always be able to claim that."

"But, what I would like to do see expand on not only our length of time, not only the length of shows we offer, but in terms of what area of geography we cover – in particular to cater to communities in the region that don't have access to arts and culture in the way that we might have it," she said.

For more information, visit [www.sdshakespearefestival.org](http://www.sdshakespearefestival.org), or contact [Company@sdshakespearefestival.org](mailto:Company@sdshakespearefestival.org) or (605) 622-0423.

# USD

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journalism department, in a news release.

The Pacemaker Award, presented by the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), is considered to be the highest national recognition for a campus newspaper and is unofficially known as the Pulitzer Prize of college journalism.

Award recipients are separated into three categories – four-year dailies, four-year non-dailies and two-year newspapers – and are judged for their coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting,

leadership on the opinion page, evidence of in-depth reporting, design, photography and arts and graphics. The Volante was selected as the winner in the four-year non-dailies category and was honored by the ACP at the National Media Convention in Orlando, FL, Oct. 29.

"The award really is a validation of everything we're doing not only in the department, but at the newspaper, too," said Chuck Baldwin, advisor for The Volante. "It's a validation of the hard work the students have put in and what they've learned in their internships, what they've learned in their classes and what we've talked about individually. So it's a validation that they're doing a good job."

Baldwin said one of the main reasons the newspaper has been so successful is the well-rounded education students receive at USD.

"I think we have a very solid program here, from the faculty to the classes, but we also put a tremendous emphasis on getting the students out in the summer to do internships," he said. "That real world experience, combined with what we do here at USD, makes a tremendous difference for us."

Baldwin also credited the success to the fact that The Volante is run entirely by students, something that sets it apart from many other college newspapers.

"Only students make

decisions on content. They might come to me about advice on a story, but they do all the work themselves," he said.

"When students take that responsibility on themselves and know that if they make a mistake, they're the only ones to blame for it, I think that makes a difference."

While the experience students gain at USD helps produce a quality college newspaper, it also prepares them for life after school, Baldwin said.

"Through their work at The Volante, they are creating a real

newspaper," he said. "You add that to the internships they have over the summer, and they are

well prepared to go to work anywhere once they graduate."

## sudoku Solution

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9	2	1	6	4	3	5	8	7
4	8	7	9	5	2	6	1	3
6	3	5	1	8	7	9	2	4
2	1	9	3	7	6	8	4	5
8	7	4	5	1	9	2	3	6
3	5	6	8	2	4	1	7	9
1	4	3	2	6	5	7	9	8
7	6	8	4	9	1	3	5	2
5	9	2	7	3	8	4	6	1

# TALK

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will continue to gather information until Dec. 15.

It was brought to Vermillion through the Extension Service, the Bush Foundation and the Northwest Area Foundation, with local support from the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company's Legislative Affairs Committee and the W.O. Farber Center's Civic Leadership Program.

"This is one of the goals that we have at the Chamber & Development Company – bringing conversations like this to the table that help (citizens) be active in public policy," said Steve Howe, the Chamber's executive director.

Using electronic voting devices, the approximately 30 attendees of the meeting were divided into groups that discussed such topics as state revenue, Medicaid and education as they relate to the budget.

"What your goal is here is to come up with some ideas – and in particular, one lead idea – that you would like to share with us when I call time at the end of your small-group session," explained Kari Fruechte, community development specialist for the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service.

The information gathered at Wednesday's meeting will then be compared to that which was taken from other meetings.

"Each small group will end up finding areas of consensus," Smolnisky said. "If they don't, that's OK. That tells us something, too. But, if they do find areas of consensus on the topic, we record those, and we combine that data and compare it with the consensus recommendations that come out of small groups from around the state."

Smolnisky said there is no agenda behind the information-gathering.

"What we're interested in is engaging the public so they can understand the process, how they get involved, begin doing consensus-building discussions at the community level, and then providing that feedback to their legislators," she said. "At the national level in many states we see so much animosity in the

way people are communicating about these really important decisions.

"So we really want to facilitate a model of rational public discourse that is non-partisan and can really deal with what are the priorities in South Dakota, and what choices should we consider," she said.

Above all, Smolnisky said she hoped the meetings encourage people across the state to get involved.

"Our encouragement to you is, this is your government, (these are) your services, they are your taxes, so get involved," she said. "Figure out what your priorities are, what you're willing to pay for, what you're not willing to pay for, and what you want to spend it on. And then let your legislators know."

Check future editions of the *Plain Talk* for further discussion of the local South Dakotans Talking meeting.

# Schmeckfest

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MEAL TICKETS			MUSICAL TICKETS		
Date	Quantity	Total Amt.	Date	Quantity	Total Amount
<b>Friday, March 23</b>			<b>Friday, March 23 — 8 p.m.</b>		
Adult Tickets	_____ @ 20.00	_____	Front Floor Tickets	_____ @ 16.00	_____
Children (Ages 2-10)	_____ @ 8.00	_____	Rear Floor Tickets	_____ @ 12.00	_____
<b>Saturday, March 24</b>			<b>Saturday, March 24 — 8 p.m.</b>		
Adult Tickets	_____ @ 20.00	_____	Front Floor Tickets	_____ @ 16.00	_____
Children (Ages 2-10)	_____ @ 8.00	_____	Rear Floor Tickets	_____ @ 12.00	_____
<b>Friday, March 30</b>			<b>Bleacher Tickets</b> _____ @ 10.00		
Adult Tickets	_____ @ 20.00	_____	<b>Thursday, March 29 — 8 p.m.</b>		
Children (Ages 2-10)	_____ @ 8.00	_____	<i>(NO OTHER SCHMECKFEST ACTIVITIES MARCH 29)</i>		
<b>Saturday, March 31</b>			Front Floor Tickets _____ @ 16.00		
Adult Tickets	_____ @ 20.00	_____	Rear Floor Tickets	_____ @ 12.00	_____
Children (Ages 2-10)	_____ @ 8.00	_____	Bleacher Tickets	_____ @ 10.00	_____
If your first choice of days is unavailable, please indicate a 2nd & 3rd choice			Please indicate a 2nd & 3rd choice		
____/3/23	____/3/24	____/3/30	____/3/31	____/None	
<b>Tickets for meal and reserved musical seats will be mailed</b>			<b>GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS</b>		
Please check ticket dates when received			available at the door prior to each performance		
Orders received prior to Dec. 1			Adults - \$6.00 Children (10 & under) - \$3.00		
Filled by random drawing on Dec. 1					
Orders received after Dec. 1 filled as received.					
First-choice preference given when available					
<b>NO REFUNDS OR RETURNS</b>					
For ticket information only call 605-925-4542 or email <a href="mailto:schmeckfest@gmail.com">schmeckfest@gmail.com</a>					
Online credit card orders available at <a href="http://www.schmeckfest.com">www.schmeckfest.com</a>					
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