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# Saying, 'Thank You!'

## Area Veterans Honored At Program

BY SARAH WETZEL  
For the Plain Talk

Vermillion's annual Veteran's Day program was held Wednesday at the High School honoring all those who serve, have served and will serve in the United States Military. It began Wednesday morning with a small sacrifice by the High School Students themselves who parked without complaint at the far end of the parking lot so those attending the program would have closer parking on the cold day. "This is the second year at the high school," Principal Curt Cameron said. "Prior to this they were doing it at the W.H. Over Museum. We opened up this because we can accommodate so many more people and we get our kids involved in the whole district. It's

nice because in the morning we made sure that the kids are at the far east side of the parking lot. I direct traffic and they come up to me and always say, 'This is no problem. We don't mind doing this for our veterans.' It's always been positive with the kids and rewarding for everybody involved." Local Veterans paraded into the High gymnasium while the High School band played the U.S. Military Themes medley. The University of South Dakota ROTC presented the National Colors. Every school in Vermillion was represented and took part in the program. "I like all of it," Cameron said. "It's so fun for the students to participate is I think the highlight. Just watching the kids and seeing how much they appreci-



Vermillion Veteran Clem Powers sits among students from the Vermillion School District during Wednesday's Veterans Day program held at the High School. Area veterans were honored for their service during the annual event held each Veterans Day.

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## More At Stake For This Year's Coyotes Vs. Jacks Showdown

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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The Division I football rivalry between the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State has been rather one-sided. Both on the scoreboard and in terms of the significance of the matchups. The nearly 130-year rivalry between the two schools reached a new level when USD joined the Missouri Valley Football Conference in 2012, meaning that the Coyotes and Jackrabbits would face each other every year.



Yet, in the three games since, the Jackrabbits - who have won by an average of 20 points - have been the ones playing for more than pride: They've had playoffs on their mind. The Coyotes, meanwhile, haven't had anything

to play for beyond bragging rights. "That changes this year. Last year, we had what, two wins?" USD sophomore tight end Aaron Ramsey said. "Our season was basically over.

"But adding that playoff piece to it brings it to a whole other level." When the two teams take the field Saturday afternoon at the DakotaDome in Vermillion, both sides have legitimate playoff aspirations. The fifth-ranked Jacks (7-2, 4-2) have likely already secured a playoff spot, while the Coyotes (5-4, 3-3) likely need to win out to get an at-large berth. There was eventually going to be a time in this series where both sides had something extra to play for, and

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## Learning From The Best

### Behring Returns To USD To Offer Advice, Training To Students

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE  
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The University of South Dakota located in Vermillion has no shortage of successful graduates now working across the world. The students in the Theatre and Media and Journalism departments had the opportunity to speak with one of those graduates this week when director and producer John Behring returned to Vermillion spending two days on campus sharing the knowledge he has gained since graduating and leaving campus in 1977.

Behring, who has produced and directed for shows including *Vampire Diaries*, *Numb3rs*, *Charmed*, *Arrow*, *The Flash*, *Blue Blood*, *Grimm* and *Gotham*, to name a few, said giving back is why he was in Vermillion this week.



Behring

"Part of the reason I wanted to come here and do this is so that I could give back a little bit," Behring said. "I have always had a passion for still photography and during my time here I specialized and taught it while I was a Teaching assistant. I realized that through photography you can connect images with other images and tell a story with them." He said that prospect was something he dug into when I was a student here. "I developed an understanding of visual narrative storytelling," Behring said. "Part of what makes me successful is that I work hard. I am well prepared; I care deeply about what we do, I care deeply about the people that I work with and that combination of a strategy or

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### AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

## Celebrating The Teachers Of VSD

*Editor's Note: Part one of a two part series.*  
November 16-20, schools across the nation celebrate the National Education Association's American Education Week. "Every day in schools across the country, educators help students learn, grow and achieve," said Lily Eskelsen Garcia, NEA President, on their website. "Every November since 1921 we celebrate American Education Week to recognize and honor all those who work together for student success."  
Natasha Gault, 8th Grade Earth Science Teacher at Vermillion Middle School, decided to honor four teachers she has worked with in developing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects.  
For more information on American Education Week, visit [www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm](http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm).

BY NATASHA GUALT  
For The Plain Talk

### MARY FINK: INTEGRATED AND INDIVIDUAL LEARNING

Mary Fink has been creating "learning conditions" for first grade students



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Fink has taught first grade at Austin Elementary in Vermillion for eight years.

at Austin Elementary for the past eight years. Mary Fink views her role as an educator from a creative and unique perspective. She views her role as both an educator and a facilitator of learning. Mary's authentic teaching method is inspired by the following quote from Albert Einstein "I never teach my pupils, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."

With a Masters Degree from the University of South Dakota and specializations in both Math and Reading, she has been implementing a learning approach where all subjects are simul-

taneously integrated into the first grade classroom. Mary describes this as an important change in education, "When I first started teaching, we would try to fit a little math in with science, or reading in with art, but now we are going for a fully embedded integration, where the students don't necessarily know where one subject ends and the other begins. All subject areas are intrinsically linked in what we are doing in the classroom." Mary expresses a sincere appreciation for the change. The integrated curriculum changes the emphasis in that the focus is more on the process than the product, which allows for a deeper understanding of the content. Mary states that, "This allows each child to feel successful in their own way, which in turn builds a love of learning, which will result in a deeper understanding of the content." There has also been a change in the beliefs of how students learn. According to Mary, "There isn't one set of required learning steps. Children can learn something in a way that makes sense to them, and it's okay. Two students don't have to learn the same way, as long as they both can understand the content."

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