



Coyotes Roll Marquette

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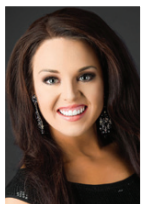
Serving Those Who Have Served

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

Autumn Simunek, the current Miss South Dakota, made it her platform to be an advocate for Veterans even before she was crowned.

This week in conjunction with the American Legion Auxiliary she showed her continued enthusiasm for the effort by presenting the Clay County Veterans Services Center with gift cards to benefit local Veterans and military families.

"It is through generous donations of community members that we have been able to present a current total of \$200 from the Buddy Basket Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive," Marie Anne Ben, Immediate Past President of the American Legion Auxiliary stated. "Once again this holiday season, we are collecting donations to benefit homeless and at-risk Veterans and military families. These individuals have sacrificed to help protect our liberties and freedom. We need to do our part to support them in their time of need."



Simunek

"As Miss South Dakota it's my job as a Veteran's advocate to make sure that people across South Dakota better understand how to serve one another and how to serve their service members and families in their communities," Simunek said. "We have several different drop-off locations throughout South Dakota for what I put together. It's called the Veteran's Holiday Relief Drive."

This is Simunek's fourth year doing the drive which runs until January 15, 2016.

She expressed her gratitude for the American Legion Auxiliary of South Dakota and their efforts.

"They have been kind enough to partner with me and to help make sure that this initiative is statewide and is consistent and leaves a legacy when I'm gone," she said.

According to Ben, the biggest challenge is not raising funds but finding the ones in need.

"The Veterans are very proud and don't necessarily like to ask for help but we're glad to make donations to help them," she said. "We're trying to network between the Veterans' center and the USD Veterans' club."

The gift cards came as part of the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive which includes both monetary donations and what has been dubbed "Buddy Baskets."

"The gift certificates are to Wal-Mart and they're to go directly to Veterans and military families in need," Simunek said. "So the buddy baskets are a separate thing. It's something the American Legion puts together statewide. It's their initiative."

According to Simunek, each Legion in the state does something a little different for the drive.

"We do gift cards because it's an easy way to ensure the money is being used for something specific and it's not going toward furthering

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Stepping Down

Joe Glenn Retires

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

On a November day in 2011, Joe Glenn welcomed two University of South Dakota athletic department officials into his Arizona home.

Shortly after playing the fight song for then-athletic director David Saylor and his associate, David Herbster, the conversation got real. USD wanted Glenn to come back to coach the Coyotes.

Eventually, the veteran coach — who had three national championship rings and 188 career wins — said yes.

"The chance to come home; to come back here and coach the Coyotes is a dream that I've had for a long time," Glenn told a packed ballroom during a Monday morning press conference in Vermillion.

"I just hoped I was young enough to give it what it needed."

Four years later, that same internal compass told the 66-year-old Glenn that it was time to go. And that's exactly what Glenn officially announced Monday: He was stepping aside.

"But I knew when it was time to leave, too," Glenn said.

The USD Hall of Fame inductee, who won a pair of national titles at Northern Colorado and another at Montana, is leaving his alma mater after guiding the Coyotes to a 12-34 record in four seasons. His career record will stand at 200-134-1 over 28 seasons, making him the 76th coach in NCAA history with at least 200 wins.

Despite some struggles during his tenure in Vermillion, Glenn's true legacy with USD will be measured in areas beyond wins and losses, as was evident Monday. The passionate alumnus rattled off names of many notable former Coyote coaches and officials, cracked a couple jokes and concluded

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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

South Dakota head coach Joe Glenn, left, and athletic director David Herbster sit at the podium for a press conference announcing Glenn's retirement. Glenn, a USD Hall of Famer as an athlete, coached the Coyotes for four seasons.

Downtown Vermillion Offers Unique Shopping Experience

Editor's Note: the following story is the first in a series featuring local businesses in Vermillion. Each week until Christmas we will feature a different business showcasing the vibrant shopping opportunities in Vermillion. Remember shopping local is important.

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

Opening the door at Nook 'n Cranny located at 19 West Main Street in Vermillion and you immediately know this is not your everyday shopping experience. From the beautiful decorating, displaying of the products for sale, to the music and welcoming smile that greets you at the door, you know you have just walked into someplace where you are going to find something special.

Owner Gloria Christopherson said when she opened the store 41 years ago, she wanted to create something special and she has succeeded.

"I am at my store more than I am at home, so when you are walking into the door of my downtown home, I don't want you walking out thinking you are not welcome," she said.

Currently decorated for the Christmas season, Christopherson said that



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Gloria Christopherson takes pride in the unique experience offered at her store 'n Cranny located in downtown Vermillion.

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Mingle A Huge Success

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
Elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

Last Wednesday night's Mingle event to benefit the Vermillion Public School Foundation and athletic booster club was one of the biggest ever.

"(We had) 250 plus paid," said booster club president and Vermillion School board president Jim Peterson. "The year before, it's about 25-30 percent more. The year before it was about 150-160, so we got more than I thought. We raised most ever in the silent auction, so the net result will be the most ever raised with community support, but it was for the good cause because it was for the kids. A broad spectrum

The event, held at Red Steakhouse, invited all community members for a night of wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, raffle and a chance to socialize.

"It was a good cross section of people. We had a lot of USD because they know the value of education and then you had teachers and then you had the principals and then you had just community members," Peterson said.

The money raised by the silent auction, raffle and tickets sales will be split between the Vermillion Public School Foundation and the high school athletic booster club.

"(Money will be) split between going to the Booster club for some field upgrades and the other portion goes to a three-year program for the teachers in grades 2-5 to provide them tools for their reading, writing and comprehension of students," Peterson said.

The Vermillion Public School foundation began in the mid 1990's and has been relatively dormant since its establishment. Peterson is hoping the new program funded by the Mingle

event will restart the foundation.

"We have new bylaws, new board members, new website and trying to get more visibility so people can know where to fund donations to the school and augment various programs," he said.

The field upgrades planned by the booster club include soccer field behind the high school, football practice field and the football and track field, where the junior varsity and freshman football teams play a portion of games, as well as the middle school teams.

"We just retained Banner and Associates to laser survey the football, track field," Peterson said. "The football field is not crowned so it we think we need about 12 hundred yards of clay and dirt so we are going to take of the top sod, put in the yards and black dirt, put in a sprinkler system on the football, track field and then we are going to sod it. And then the other fields will just get dirt and seed."

The upgrades also include the concession stand and bleachers.

All the auction and raffle items at the event were donated by local and nearby businesses from Yankton, Sioux Falls, Sioux City and Dakota Dunes.

Food vendors, beverage vendors and wait staff at Red Steakhouse all donated time and refreshments for the event.

"All the workers of Red donate their time. All the partners, the beverage partners donate time to serve and all the beverages, and all the food partners donate the food," Peterson said. "Everything that night is free and then (Red owners) Jerad and Peggy Higman open up Red, so everything is given to us free to go back to the charity."