

INSIDE:**Highlights**

Learn about

Vermillion's past ■ p. 2

Man dies in Wednesday accident

A 19-year-old Volin man died in a one-car roll-over Wednesday morning on a road about one mile west of Volin.

Anthony Wade VanHorn Jr. was a passenger in a 1993 Ford Explorer driven by his cousin, Crystal Ann Marie VanHorn, 19, of Yankton.

The vehicle was traveling west from Volin and left the road as it attempted to make a curve in the road. The vehicle went into the north ditch, came back across both lanes of traffic and went into the south ditch, where it rolled. Anthony VanHorn was thrown from the vehicle. Crystal VanHorn was hospitalized with serious but non-life threatening injuries.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol investigated the accident, assisted by the Yankton County Sheriff's Department.

Welcome Table to meet Oct. 12

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Oct. 12 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota. The Oct. 12 meal will be sponsored and served by Friends of Welcome Table.

Thanks to Clay County Thrivent for sponsoring and serving the Oct. 5 meal.

Health, Product Fair scheduled for Oct. 15

The Silver Threads Health & Product Fair will be held Thursday, Oct. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Vermillion Senior Center, 320 W Main Street.

Area businesses and organizations will display and share information with individuals on health care, eye care, hearing care, flu shots, physical therapy, home care, senior living, insurance, outreach services, and other topics related to retirement and planning.

Two mini seminars are scheduled: 11 a.m. – Mike Myers, WNAX Radio and the Elderlaw Forum and 12:30 p.m. – Craig Thompson, Where My Assets Are. A bake sale will be held, and lunch of soup, sandwich and desserts will be served from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

There will also be door prizes and drawings. For information call the Vermillion Senior Center at 624-8072.

Hospice volunteer training offered

The Avera Sacred Heart Hospice Program will be offering Hospice Volunteer Training for those people interested in volunteering their time to a very worthwhile and compassionate cause. The Hospice program needs volunteers and will provide this training at no charge.

The training sessions will be held Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 8 from 12 to 4 p.m. at Avera Sunset Manor in Irene. Attendance is required for both sessions.

For more information or to join us in this very special mission, call 668-8080.

Plain Talk poll results**Poll results 10-01-09**

Should South Dakota follow Michigan's example and stop funding the state fair?
Yes (10 Votes)
No (13 Votes)
Undecided (1 Vote)

To participate in the Plain Talk Internet poll, log on to www.plaintalk.net.

Abbott: USD on track to meet goals

By David Lias

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The University of South Dakota will face many of the same challenges in the coming year that it has in its recent past.

The declining total enrollment of South Dakota high school students adds a continuing level of difficulty to building enrollment figures on USD's Vermillion campus.

The condition of South Dakota's budget is showing many of the same signs of weakness that it was a year ago, meaning funding for necessary university programs will continue to be difficult.

University President James Abbott is confident, however, that these and other problems can be dealt as the university administration strives to meet its ambitious long-range plans for the future.

In his annual State of the University speech to faculty and students Wednesday, Abbott discussed the strategic goals of academic excellence, research and creative activity, and enrollment.

"It is difficult, I'll admit, to quantify excellence," he said. "There are, however, indicators – some that are universally acceptable, and some that are not. While one can argue the validity of national rankings, they do reflect peer opinion."

Abbott said he is pleased that USD has advanced to a higher tier among higher education institutions ranked by U.S. World and New Report. He also cited the many prestigious awards received by university faculty in the last year that demonstrates the level of outstanding teaching currently taking place on the campus.

"Our students continue, as well, to garnish significant graduate and undergraduate scholarships and awards," Abbott said.

He added that there is still room for academic

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University of South Dakota President James Abbott discusses future goals with faculty and students during his State of the University address Wednesday. (Photo by David Lias/Yankton Media, Inc.)

USD enrollment climbs 3.5%

Total students now approaching 10,000

By Randy Dockendorf

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Despite the recession – or perhaps because of it – total enrollment at the University of South Dakota has continued growing toward 10,000 students.

The Board of Regents released enrollment figures Thursday for USD and the other public colleges and universities in South Dakota.

According to information released by the Regents, 9,617 students are enrolled this fall at USD, a 3.5 percent increase from last year's 9,291 students. The figure includes students enrolled in distance learning and one of the off-campus centers in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City.

The enrollment has grown despite financial concerns for many families, said USD President Jim Abbott.

"Given the condition of the national economy, students recognize that their education is an investment," he said. "At

Turn to **USD** on Page 11**Former WH press secretary takes aim at domestic, foreign policies**

By David Lias

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In an address before a packed banquet hall at the Dakota Dunes Country Club Sunday, Ari Fleischer, former press secretary to President George W. Bush, took aim at the current policies of President Barack Obama and the Democrats in the United States Congress.

"We are witnessing in Washington, today, a gigantic clash involving two competing ideologies. One, lead by President Obama, believes the government can rearrange America's private brand of capitalism," he told a gathering of the Great Plains Chapter of the Republican Jewish Coalition. "It's a belief that capitalism has largely failed, and that massive amounts of government intervention, spending, taxes and debt are needed to make America better."

This belief, he said, is in conflict with the feelings of other political leaders who believe that "no matter how bad our economic problems are, that no government of either party is wise enough to rearrange America's private capitalist system," Fleischer said, "to have the government dictate massive redistributions of wealth and unprecedented amounts of government spending."

"Coming out of Washington today is change – change of the most troubling kind," he said. "President Obama's policies represent a fundamental undoing of Reaganomics and free markets which focus on free enterprise, with a belief in the corrective capacity of that mechanism. Instead, those who now run Washington seek to spread a government-imposed, publicly-funded heavy hand that meddles unwisely, unnecessarily, and without any ability in what should be private affairs."



Ari Fleischer, White House press secretary from 2001 to 2003 during George W. Bush's first term as president, mingles with guests before the start of Sunday's banquet of the Great Plains Chapter of the Republican Jewish Coalition, held in the Dakota Dunes Country Club. Fleischer was keynote speaker at the event. (Photo by David Lias)

As former White House press secretary, Fleischer was the primary spokesman for President Bush and delivered the daily White House briefings from 2001 to 2003. In his almost four years working for President Bush, he served as spokesman during the historic presidential recount, the attacks of Sept. 11, two wars and the anthrax attack. His best-selling book, *Taking Heat*, details his years in the White House and reached No. 7 on the New York Times best-seller list.

Sunday's event attracted Jewish and non-Jewish people of from southeastern South Dakota, including Clay and Union counties.

A host of Republican candidates for major state political offices were also present, including gubernatorial candidates Dennis Daugaard, Scott Munsterman and Ken Knappe; Secretary of State Chris Nelson, who has announced he will be a candidate for the U.S. House, and

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Kiaya Stock, Vermillion, holds still as she gets her face painted at Saturday's carnival. She is the daughter of Crystal and Steven McCloud, Vermillion. (Photo by David Lias)

Turnout, fun exceeds expectations at Eagles carnival

By David Lias

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A cold, rainy Saturday didn't dampen the efforts of those who planned and participated in the Eagles Child Health & Safety Carnival and "Child Advocacy Day" held Oct. 3, at the Eagles Club in Vermillion.

In fact, turnout for the event surpassed expectations. "We're having a great turnout," Geri Dooley, junior past president of the local Eagles Club and co-chair of the carnival, said early Saturday afternoon among the din of scores of kids having fun at the various booths set up inside the Eagles. "Lisa (Ketcham) has done a great job getting this out to the public, and bringing it indoors. And the different people that we've got participating this year is great. A lot of that can be attributed to Lisa and her hard work."

Lisa is vice president of the Eagles Auxiliary. Vermillion's event was part of a nation-wide happening going on by Eagles clubs from coast to coast.

"We (the national Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie and Auxiliary) just donated today \$5 million to the diabetes foundation. That's one of the big kick-offs of this Child Advocacy Day – it's to battle childhood diabetes, and it's also to provide funding for the D.A.R.E. program and our police programs in our local communities."

The money raised through free-will donations at Saturday's carnival is sent by the local Fraternal Order of Eagles to its national office. "There, the national organization will double our money. If we make \$500 today, they'll give us \$1,000."

Saturday's event marked the third year of the carnival in Vermillion. It raised \$3,000 two years ago, including the matching grant from the national office. Last year, \$2,000 was raised.

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