

INSIDE:**Highlights**

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Quad State Marching Competition Oct. 17

The 27th Annual Quad State Marching Competition will take place on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, in the DakotaDome on the campus of the University of South Dakota. There will be 24 bands from South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota, competing with field shows in classes 1A – 4A. The competition runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the Class 1A/2A awards at 12:30 p.m. and Class 3A/4A awards at 4:45 p.m.

The USD Marching Coyotes will perform for everyone at 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. General admission is \$8. To view the competition live on webcast, go to sdpb.org and there will be a link on the front page. Questions and/or comments may be steered to Dr. Rolf Olson in the Department of Music at USD. Rolf.Olson@usd.edu or 605-677-5726.

Teddy Bear**Run raises \$3,000**

The Delta Tau Delta fraternity raised \$3,000 for the Avera Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls. Members ran teddy bears from their front steps in Vermillion, to the Children's Hospital.

The Delta Tau Delta fraternity had the highest recruitment number among the university fraternities. President Patrick Siegling was named Dakota Days King, and the fraternity members are involved in intramural soccer and volleyball.

Apple polishing concert is Oct. 19

The Vermillion High School Marching Band and Concert Choirs will hold their annual Apple Polishing Concert Monday, Oct. 19, at the VHS Auditorium.

Homemade apple desserts, apple cider and fall treats will be served at 6:30 p.m. Free will donations will be accepted.

The musical performances will begin at 7 p.m.

Welcome Table to meet Oct. 19

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Oct. 19 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota. The Oct. 19 meal will be sponsored and served by USD's Alpha Phi Sorority.

Thanks to the Friends of Welcome Table for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

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

Do you believe the nation is pulling out of its economic recession?

I believe it is (21 Votes)
I believe it still has a hold on the economy (46 Votes)
Undecided (2 Votes)

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

H1N1 having little impact on schools – so far

Immunization clinic scheduled for Oct. 29 at VHS

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

The Vermillion School Board learned at its meeting Monday night that the H1N1 flu has not had a dramatic effect on school attendance.

That could, however, quickly change.

"I should note that our attendance in all buildings is normal right now," Superintendent Mark Froke said. "It really hasn't hit us the way some

school districts have been hit."

"I think we're just on the cusp of starting to see some real numbers of kids (catching the flu)," said Matt Lavin, school board member and local pharmacist. "We're hitting where we're in the incubation period after the first exposure. After you start getting the second and third wind of it, we will start to see numbers of students not in attendance, or needing to go home, going up."

Froke noted that it is important

for all children to receive a flu shot, and he urged parents to take advantage of an upcoming immunization clinic that will be held at Vermillion High School.

"There will be a flu immunization clinic for Vermillion area infants and children on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Vermillion High School auxiliary gym," he announced at the meeting. "The clinic will administer both seasonal flu vaccine and H1N1 flu vaccine."

The clinic will also exercise the local point of dispensing (POD) plan

as well. Vermillion is one of 30 POD sites organized by the state to quickly get medications to a larger population in the event of a large infectious disease outbreak or other public health emergency, including bioterrorism and pandemic influenza.

The POD sites receive funding from the South Dakota Department of Health through its federal preparedness grants.

The Vermillion Area POD clinic will provide seasonal flu vaccine to infants and children ages 6 months

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Neuharth: 'Katie shattered the glass ceiling'

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

She's covered the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorism attacks at the World Trade Center live on national television.

She's reported on the Oklahoma City bombing, the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, and the struggle of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

But for Katie Couric, the most memorable story of her 30-year career as a television reporter was one of her first.

"When I was a local news reporter, one of the first stories I did in Washington was about these two young girls, both about 16 years old, who were driving and were killed when their car crashed into a dump truck carrying hot asphalt," she said. "I had to go to the home of these girls, and I was only about 26 years old.

"It was terrifying, and also not to mention maybe completely inappropriate, to knock on the door of a family who had just experienced such sudden and tremendous loss," Couric said.

She informed that family that she was doing a story about their daughter, who was one of the two girls killed in the crash. They gave her a photo that could be used in the newscast.

"I spent some time with her parents, and I said, 'I want to tell their story, and do it justice.' And the mom looked at me and said, 'You know, you've made this a little bit easier.'"



USD alum and founder of USA TODAY, Al Neuharth, listens as Katie Couric answers questions at a late Thursday afternoon press conference held in the DakotaDome. Later that night, Neuharth presented Couric with the 20th annual Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media. (Photo by David Lias)

This early experience served to shape the way Couric has gathered news for three decades now.

"I always think about that story, and the importance of handling people with kindness and compassion and sensitivity, no matter what situation they are in, but especially if they are in a difficult situation," she said. "I've always been a very empathetic person, so stories of loss and tragedy always stay with me."

Couric shared this experience before an audience of 4,000 in the DakotaDome

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Katie Couric and Jack Marsh, executive director of the Freedom Forum's Al Neuharth Media Center, share a light moment as they conversed shortly after Couric received the 20th Annual Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media. Couric also enjoyed give-and-take with the approximately 4,000 people estimated to be seated in the DakotaDome Thursday as the program concluded with a question and answer session. (Photo by David Lias)

Couric: Women deserve more network anchor spots

By Randy Dockendorf

randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

When Katie Couric started her television career in 1979, she saw very few women in leadership roles.

Three decades later, Couric has shattered the glass ceiling. In September 2006, she took the seat as "CBS Evening News" anchor. In the process, she became the first solo female anchor of the weekday evening news on one of the three traditional U.S. broadcast networks.

"I never thought I would see the day," she said. "In 1979, when I started, there were few women in production. Most were secretaries."

For her lifetime achievements, Couric received Thursday the "Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media." She was presented the award in the DakotaDome on the University of South Dakota campus.

Couric became the 22nd person to receive the award,

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**Royal treatment**

Patrick Siegling of Redfield and Anne Grady of Le Mars, IA, reigned as royalty over the University of South Dakota's 2009 Dakota Days parade Saturday morning in Vermillion. Siegling and Grady were crowned during coronation ceremonies held Tuesday night, Oct. 6. Crowds filled the streets of Vermillion for the parade despite brisk temperatures in the low 30s. Conditions were somewhat warmer at the DakotaDome later as USD fell to California-Davis 24-23 in an overtime barn burner. To see or purchase images from the parade or the football game, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Photo by David Lias)

USD dedicates Beacom School of Business

By Travis Gulbranson

travis.gulbranson@yankton.net

It was standing room only at Friday afternoon's opening ceremony for the University of South Dakota's new Beacom School of Business and Beacom Hall.

The \$19.5 million facility, which has been under discussion since at least 1990, will provide approximately 72,000 square feet of classrooms, conference rooms and business incubator space.

Speaking at Friday's ceremony, Miles Beacom, president and CEO of Premier Bankcard and the donor of more than \$5 million toward the building's completion, said the purpose of the construction was "not only to build an incredible building on campus — it's to give our students the tools to be successful. Not only tomorrow, but long into the future."

USD President James Abbott thanked Beacom for his support, as well as support from former USD Foundation Chair Ted Muenster, and the students and faculty.

"You don't make things happen



Miles Beacom, president and CEO of Premier Bankcard, was one of the featured speakers Friday at the opening ceremony for the Beacom School of Business at the University of South Dakota. (Photo by David Lias)

without great faculty and great students," Abbott said. "No one wants to be an institution of great choice and great learning and great fun with-

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