



SPORTS
Page 8-9, 12

Volume 129 Issue 40
USPS 657-720

Friday, October 2, 2015



PROVIDING ORIGINAL CONTENT SINCE 1884 | WWW.PLAINTALK.NET

75¢

Abbott Gives State Of University Address

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

“Liberal Education is an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.”

-ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, USD STRATEGIC PLAN

“Thinking is the ultimate skill,” stated University of South Dakota (USD) President James W. Abbott during his 19th State of the University Address Thursday in Vermillion.

Beginning his address by saying that liberal arts education is under siege he said, while every form of education is needed, liberal arts colleges like USD are preparing the people who will change the world.

“As we listen to TV and read different things – particularly politicians – all we hear these days are three words: skills, skills, skills,” Abbott said. “... I support all kinds of education, but I believe we are being done a disservice when we don’t stand up for liberal arts. Is there a more important skill than critical thinking? That is really what the liberal arts are all about. ... We need technical schools, we need community colleges, we need every form of education we can get. But, long term, the world is changed by people who have the ability to think, to problem solve, are organized and can express themselves through writing and orally.”

Abbott said he believe that the University of South Dakota is providing those future leaders the educational facilities, professors, staff and resources to succeed.

“Our campus and grounds have never looked better,” he said.

He said that several projects including the new soccer, track and field complex and the new basketball/volleyball area and educational facilities are proceeding on schedule.

While there are many building that do need upgrades and remodeling, Abbott noted the ability to complete those projects are based on funding availability.

He also said that the Onward campaign is going very successfully, having raised \$165 million of its \$250 million goal.

“I am confident we will meet our goals in the next 16-17 months,” Abbott said. “If we do that, then maybe we need to attempt to raise a little bit more for other projects.”

Abbott spent several minutes discussing both student satisfaction surveys and the 2015 fall enrollment numbers.

“All the data we are presenting is as of Sept. 11,” he explained, because the numbers are not finalized for the semester. “We have 1,199 full-time freshmen living on campus this fall. That is an increase of 4.5 percent over last year. We have a decrease of 0.89 percent of combined full-time and part-time students but our FTE is up. I think that is because of

ADDRESS | PAGE 11

Go Yotes!!



ELYS BRIGHTMAN/PLAIN TALK
Nicolas Ellerbroeck, aka mini-Charlie, will be performing Saturday with Charlie Coyote at the USD Homecoming parade and football game. Ellerbroeck has been a mini-mascot at several different pro-sports venues and at age six is sure to entertain.

Mini Charlie Coyote To Perform Saturday

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
Elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

The golden rule of a mascot it to never talk with the mask on. That is a rule six-year-old Nicolas, from Sioux Falls, would never break.

“He knows that he cannot talk with the mask on. He would never compromise the mascots golden rule of talking with the mask on,” said mom Angela Ellerbroeck.

At six, Nicolas is a veteran three-year mascot performer and has appeared with a variety of professional and semiprofessional teams and is regular for the Sioux Falls Canaries and Stamped.

This weekend, Nicolas can add the University of South Dakota to his already lengthy resume as he will be performing as mini Charlie Coyote at USD’s homecoming football game against Youngstown State Saturday afternoon.

“I actually went to USD,” said Ellerbroeck. “So, I thought it would be very fun if he did this because obviously Charlie has a little soft spot in my heart. I just emailed USD and called them and showed them the videos on his Facebook page and all the photos of the different things that he’s done. They were really open to it and were excited to have him.”

Nick fell in love with mascots at three-years-old when he spotted Thunder of the Sioux Falls Sky Force while at a game with his parents.

“He wanted to see videos of him,

MASCOT | PAGE 11

TANAGER OF THE WEEK

McFall Leading The Pride Of Vermillion With Enthusiasm

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

Vermillion High School senior Rob McFall is having a pretty good week, the Pride of Vermillion marching band, for which he is one of two drum majors looks and sounds great, oh and yeah, he was also named Vermillion High School’s king of the 2015 homecoming. For that and more, McFall has been named one of this week’s Tanagers of the week.

“I would have been really surprised if beforehand people hadn’t been telling me they were going to vote for me,” McFall said. “When it came to actually winning homecoming king, logically it sort of made sense. I had what was essentially the entire band’s vote and miscellaneous underclassmen. Whereas, the rest of them had the football team to divide among the five of them. I still didn’t really believe it though when they said my name.”

Even though he is confident when in front of the band, McFall said it was not

easy being on the homecoming stage.

“It was terrifying being up there,” he said. “I don’t know why. It is different than being out there with the band, just being up there with people saying yeah I like him more than the other five guys ... just enough.”

“Personally, I am not a very decisive person, so I didn’t have any set expectations for this year, but I expected things to happen. I expected to have to make decisions. I didn’t expect to be the center of attention as much as I have been so far, but I suspect that will die down some.”

McFall said being one of two drum majors for the Pride of Vermillion has been a goal since first entering high school.

“This is the first year I have been drum major, but that is fine, it is too much work to do for more than one year,” he said. “It is a lot of fun and I really enjoy it and have been looking for



SHAUNA MARLETTE/PLAIN TALK
Rob McFall, drum major for the Vermillion High School Marching Band and homecoming king has been named Tanager of the Week.

MC FALL | PAGE 11

USD APPAREL

Jordan Allison Chelsea Dustin

HyVee Vermillion
525 West Cherry Street • 605.624.5574

ELEVATE YOUR TAILGATE