

PLAIN TALK



Page 10: USD Football

Volume 129 Issue 36
USPS 657-720

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015



PROVIDING ORIGINAL CONTENT SINCE 1884 | WWW.PLAINTALK.NET

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A GIFT OF SELF-WORTH



Tuesday the Vermillion Lions Club presented Child Protective Services personnel with duffel bags to be given to displaced children. Pictured from Left to Right- Crystal Solomon (Lions Club), Darlis Labahn (Lions Club President), Sarah Nesje (CPS Supervisor), Sarah Sellers (CPS), Marie Anne Ben (Lions Club), Amy Girard (CPS), Randy Sullivan (Lions District Secretary), Ashley Doyle (CPS), Jerry Voss (Lions District Governor), Rae Slowey (CPS).

SARA WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Lions Take Action For Children's Dignity

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

As part of one of the Lions Club International's recent service initiatives, August 30 through September 5 has been declared Children's Dignity Week and the Vermillion chapter of Lions Club decided to take action.

Tuesday members of the Vermillion Lions Club presented Child Protective Services personnel with duffel bags to be given to displaced children.

"Children who are displaced from their homes are given a plastic garbage bag in which to pack their possessions and then haul it off to wherever they end up in the system of foster care," said Marie

Anne Ben, head of the project. "To help bring dignity to that system the decision was to give them duffel bags which would become their own possessions. So we as the Vermillion Lions Club are presenting duffel bags to the Children's Protective Services Agency here in Vermillion that services Clay and Union counties so when kids are displaced they have something better than a garbage bag to haul their things. This is just the beginning of an effort to supply such things for children particularly."

The idea to help displaced children with some basic material items will be an ongoing project for the Lions Club.

"Other things are needed for that," Ben said. "We're looking to incorporate some drives and initiatives and publicity

to get some other things that are needed like personal hygiene products so when they're displaced the CPS personnel can not only take a duffel bag for their belongings but also give them toothpaste and toothbrush, some deodorant and other things that are needed so this person has some things that are theirs to use."

The Lions are looking outside their club for assistance in this initiative according to Ben.

"Truly this is a community effort," she said. "We're looking at the community to help support these kinds of initiatives to help those that are displaced and try to help them have a little more dignity and humanity so they can go on and further

GIFTS | PAGE 3

TANAGER OF THE WEEK



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Natasha Samudzi, a Vermillion High School Senior has been named the Tanager of the Week by the Plain Talk staff for her efforts on the soccer field this past week.

Samudzi Leading Tanagers With A Positive Attitude

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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To say that Natasha Samudzi is having a successful soccer season this fall, would be an understatement.

The Vermillion High School senior is co-captain of the team and in just the first four games of the season scored seven goals.

Because of her accomplishments on the field this past week, the Plain Talk has selected Samudzi as the Tanager of the Week.

"I believe the West Central game I had one goal, the Tea game I had one goal, as well," she said. "Against Garretson I believe I had three goals and then two against Groton."

Samudzi said that soccer is the main activity she focuses on, but her coach Shannon Fitzsimmons said it isn't her only goal in life.

"I really stress to our team having a positive attitude," Fitzsimmons said. "She is one of our co-captains and one thing that makes her an excellent captain is that she truly enjoys playing the game of soccer. She always has a good attitude. Even if something doesn't go right her positive attitude allows us as a team to keep our energy and our spirits up. She never lets anything get her done. She is out there doing something she enjoys and you can see that. She is the same in the classroom. She is very bubbly and has a great

SAMUDZI | PAGE 9

Paging Emily Schmitz: Local High Schooler Gets Life-Changing Opportunity In D.C.

BY SARAH WETZEL
For The Plain Talk

For those who take interest in watching the summer US Senate sessions on television or over internet, it is apparently a much greater experience to actually be there.

Emily Schmitz, a senior at Vermillion High School, had the chance to serve as a US Senate Page during the 2015 summer session and is enthusiastic about her experience there.

"I have never really known what goes on, on the Senate floor," she said. "I have learned about it a little bit during history class but learning it through textbooks isn't



COURTESY PHOTO
The 2015 US Senate Pages from the summer session.

even close to what it is in real life. It's so different. I learned what bills actually look like. I

got to hold bills and I was like 'Oh, my gosh. I'm holding history.' I got to hold Benjamin

Franklin's gavel. Also to be on the Senate floor, it was unreal. It was so cool. Their desks are original from the first Senate room from like 1775 and it was so unreal to think I was touching stuff that was 200 years old. I felt like I was a part of history. It was mind-blowing."

Schmitz was nominated for the Senate page program by South Dakota Senator John Thune.

"I was lucky enough to have my dad be really good friends with John Thune and John Thune gave me the opportunity to come out to DC and page," she said. "I was lucky to be one of the only South Dakota people to go to

SCHMITZ | PAGE 3

COOKING WITH WINE



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
The Great Dakota Wine Festival was held for the 14th year at Vermillion's Valiant Vineyards this past weekend and included many special events including a cooking with wine demonstration. Other events included wine tasting, tours of the vineyard, vendors and special music.

SDSMA Working Behind The Scenes

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) held its first district meetings of the year Tuesday night in Vermillion, meeting with the physicians of the area to find out what issues are important to them.

Dr. Tim Ridgway, the 134th president of the association, said the goal of the association is to work behind the scenes to make sure that all of the state's physicians are on the same page in order to provide the best care to patients of South Dakota.

He noted there are 12 districts in the state, from the most rural areas to the more urban medical centers.

"Every year, we have district meetings around the state of South Dakota," he said. "Each year, the president makes a trip to each district. It is a way for the membership of the association to get together. Basically what I do is talk about things we think are pressing in the state of South Dakota for the organization. Then we open it up and listen to what our members have to say. The organization is about our members. So we need to hear from them, so we can represent them the best that we can."

Tuesday was the first district meeting of the year, with the other 11 scheduled.

"I am thinking that each president has their own



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Tim Ridgway, the 134th president of the SDSMA says he is proud to represent the more than 2,000 physicians, residents and medical students in the organization.

SDSMA | PAGE 2