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Vermillion Appeals Test Score Results

School District Is 6th In State To Challenge Performance Scores

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The count is now six districts appealing their latest school performance scores from the state Department of Education.

Vermillion is the latest and perhaps final. The deadline for appeals was 5 p.m. Thursday. Five came earlier from Tea, Corsica, Dakota Valley, Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

A state official said she came across Vermillion's appeal Thursday evening as she was leaving work for the day.

"The majority have to do with summer graduates," said Mary Stadick Smith, a spokeswoman for the department.

She declined to provide further specifics because state and federal regulations prohibit releasing some information when student groups are too small in number.

The scores are calculated before summer class work concludes and graduation discrepancies weren't a surprise.

"That happens every year, so there's nothing unusual in that," she said.

The scores this summer are the first using the department's new performance-index system as a replacement for the No Child Left Behind approach of the past decade.

Last summer there were eight appeals. There were 23 appeals in each of the two prior years.

Hands-On Learning



Yankton teacher Kim Velk, left, took an opportunity during a tour of Yankton's Gehl Company to get some hands-on experience. Approximately 240 teachers visited various manufacturing plants and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Friday morning to learn more about the work done in the community.

NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

Local Teachers Get A Lesson In Manufacturing

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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During an inservice prior to school starting next week, Yankton School District teachers learned Friday about the labor of others in the community.

Approximately 240 teachers visited two businesses each Friday morning via a dozen school buses.

"It's an opportunity for us to get out into the community as educators and see what happens out there," Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle stated. "We hit most of the manufacturing groups in town, and it was a real eye-opener for me. I didn't realize some of the things we're doing right here in Yankton."

The businesses offering tours to teachers were Dakota Trailer; Lewis and Clark Hydraulic; EPI; Gehl Company; Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc.; Sapa Extrusions; Vishay; Ehresmann Engineering; Shur-Co; Applied Engineering; L&M Radiator; and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.

During the visit to Gehl, plant manager Dave Ewald shared information about his facility, which was originally built in 1974 and has had various expansions. The facility covers approximately 215,000 square feet and employs 219 people.

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A Time For Heroes



Superheroes leapt into action Friday night as the 30th annual Riverboat Days celebration kicked off in Yankton. The annual, festival-opening kiddie parade brought an assortment of participants decked out in honor of this year's theme, "Comic Book Heroes." Four-year-old Asher Nockels was one of several Batman enthusiasts in the procession. Following the opening ceremony at the Riverside Park amphitheatre, dancers from the Academy of Dance performed, and as these dancers demonstrated, they brought a lot of energy to the stage. Riverboat Days continues throughout the weekend, and includes today's (Saturday's) parade which starts at 9:30 a.m. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Geddes Celebrates Norbeck's Legacy

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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GEDDES — He never ran for the offices, but Brian Begley will be called "Governor" and "Senator" during today's (Saturday's) visit to Geddes.

Begley, a traveling actor and a theater professor at the University of South Dakota, will re-enact the late governor and U.S. Sen. Peter Norbeck, who lived from 1870-1936. Begley's performances are part of the open house at Norbeck's boyhood home in Geddes.

Begley was last in Geddes

about five years ago, performing Norbeck during the town's festival honoring its native son.

"The people in Geddes contacted the USD theater department, asking if there was anybody they knew who might want to do (the re-enactment)," he said.

Begley hadn't created the Norbeck role, and he wasn't looking to perform any kind of re-enactment.



Norbeck

However, he decided to accept Geddes' offer.

"I looked a bit more like (Norbeck) and his age than most of my students. I researched him and put together a short program, like a chautauqua," Begley said. "At the time, I saw the earliest stages of Geddes' work on the Norbeck house. I look forward to seeing their progress on it."

The Charles Mix County Historical Restoration Society — also known as the Geddes Historical

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Rhoden Seeks Simpler Government

BY ROB NIELSEN
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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

U.S. Senate hopeful Larry Rhoden of Union Center brought his campaign to Yankton Friday. The Republican spoke with reporters at the Press & Dakotan.

Republican U.S. Senate candidate Larry Rhoden came to Yankton Friday with a very simple message.

"We've got to get back to the basics and the founding principles that made our country great: limited government, individual rights, personal responsibilities and (recognizing) you cannot spend more than you earn," he explained during a stop at the Press & Dakotan. "We have strayed away from those principles, and until we get back on track in that regard, we don't have much of a chance of fixing what's wrong with the country."

"A little over a year ago my wife and I were approached by individ-

ual citizens and business owners about considering running," Rhoden says. "We're going in the wrong direction in a lot of ways in our country, and my view was it'll take people with strong moral fiber, a clear vision of what it takes to put our country back on track and people who are going to have the courage and convictions to stand by those beliefs. I felt I had the experience and the qualifications to bring that to the table and felt a call to service to do that."

Rhoden, a rancher from Meade County, has had experience serving in the National Guard along with his service in the State Senate where he is currently the majority whip. He says he has a very simple

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