

WOKSAPE

“The Wise Book”

Yankton One Act, “Hush: An Interview With America,” Earns State Superior



BY
**OLIVIA
CHRISTOPHER**

Yankton High School students performed their one act play Feb. 1 in Brandon Valley at the annual one act play festival. Keith Goeden and Pam Kallis directed the play, “Hush: an Interview with America.”

Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 44 plays were performed by the state’s schools at the festival. Each act must be set up, performed, and taken down within 45 minutes or less. Judges critique the acts and each is awarded with superior, out-standing, or nothing.

“Hush: an Interview with America” follows a young, blind girl who creates a world of im-agination and stories. The news media catches sight of one of her stories, and it is spread world-wide that a blind girl has seen an angel. The girl’s life is quickly overwhelmed by the power and effect of mass media.

“I liked how it speaks to one’s imagination,” said director, Keith Goeden. “I like looking at the world through a child’s per-spective. I also found it edgy that it deals with current events.”

The play sends a good mes-sage to be true to one’s self in

the face of the overwhelming power of the media. Alexa Berg, senior, played the leading role of Maggie Parks, the young blind girl.

Berg said her hardest obstacle was portraying the role of not only a little girl, but a blind little girl.

Goeden deemed her perfor-mance “marvelous.”

I did a couple practices blind-folded to prepare myself, which was really touching, I even cried!” Berg said. “And one cast member brought their younger siblings and I would watch them, how they run and play. They gave me inspiration for my role.”

At state, the leading roles and chorus were awarded a superior. Yankton’s over-all performance received an all-around superior.

“A lot of time and effort went into this play and we deserved the superior,” said Berg.

Over the past few years, Yankton has excelled at the state one acts competition.

“I was not surprised by the state results as I push the kids hard and expect only the best from them,” Goeden said. “I have yet to be disappointed. I never want to walk away from a play and think ‘I could have done better.’ Give your best and good things usually happen.”



PHOTO BY HAYLEE WORM

Maggie Parks, played by senior Alexa Berg, is shown enjoying Fruit Loops during the one act play, “Hush: An Interview with America.”

Yankton National Honor Society Holds Induction Ceremony *University of South Dakota President, Dr. James Abbott, was Guest Speaker*



BY
**ASHLEY
EILERS**

The Yankton High School Arikara Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 70 new members into its Chapter on Jan. 22. The new inductees consisted of 65 juniors and five seniors.

Students, parents and guests were welcomed to the induction ceremony by Mrs. Jennifer Pow-ell, Yankton High School coun-selor and National Honor Soci-ety Chapter Adviser.

In addition to hearing from the current chapter’s class officers, those present, also enjoyed lis-tening to the University of South Dakota’s President, Dr. James Abbott, who was invited to be the honored guest speaker at the ceremony.

The National Honor Society not only recognizes its members for their academic achievement, but also for their leadership and service both in school and in the community.

During the ceremony, Mrs. Powell shared that each member is required to serve a minimum of 15 hours of community ser-vice. However, many of the 2013 National Honor Society members far exceeded that re-quirement.

The newly inducted members have several projects on the horizon. A few of the special projects include serving the community banquet on Feb. 14, playing bingo with the residents of Majestic Bluffs the first Sat-urday of each month and pack-aging meals for the Kids Against Hunger program.

National Honor Society mem-bers also plan to elect new offi-cers at the next meeting.

In addition to the community service projects, the Arikara Chapter members are planning to hold two fundraisers to help with their project expenses.

Each of the new inductees received a certificate of mem-bership as they were recognized and introduced at the ceremony.

A small reception was held following the ceremony in the Yankton High School common area.

The newly inducted members shared that they look forward to fulfilling the oath they took that evening.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. JULIE KOCH

Three senior National Honor Society officers are shown pictured with University of South Dakota President, Dr. James Abbott. From left to right: Joshua Arens, President Abbott, Drew Konopasek, and John Fanta. Dr. Abbott was the honored guest speaker at the recent NHS induction ceremony.



smart.

• CONFIDENT.

• READY.

Campus Visit Days

March 1 • April 26

Y’s Words on the Passage of the South Dakota House Bill 1087, the Sentinel Bill



BY
**ASHLEY
EILERS**

The House of Representatives recently decided to pass House Bill 1087. The House Bill 1087 stated that local school boards throughout South Dakota should be allowed to decide whether to designate people as sentinels to guard our schools. The Bill passed with a 42-27 vote.

House Bill 1087 was introduced by: Representatives Craig, Bolin, Campbell, Ecklund, Gosch, Heinemann (Leslie), Hickey, Kopp, Lust, May, Olson (Betty), Qualm, Schoenfish, Sly, Stalzer, Steele, Verchio, and Wick and Senators Tieszen, Begal-ka, Bradford, Ewing, Jensen, Kirkeby, Lederman, Maher, Novstrup (Al), Omdahl, and Rhoden.

Looking at the bill’s language allows us to begin with facts: **FOR AN ACT ENTITLED,** An Act to authorize individual school boards to create, establish, and supervise individual school sentinel programs to promote school safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. Any school board may create, establish, and super-vise the arming of school employees, hired security personnel, or volunteers in such manner and according to such protocols as the board, in its sole discretion, may believe to be most likely to se-cure or enhance the deterrence of physical threat and defense of the school, its students, its staff, and members of the public on the school premises against violent attack by any terrorist, crim-inal, deranged person, or other perpetrator of deadly force.

Section 2. Before any school board may implement any school sentinel program pursuant to section 1 of this Act, the school board shall interface with any law enforcement agency that has enforcement jurisdiction over the school premises. Any material changes in the school sentinel program’s personnel or protocols shall be reported to such law enforcement agency forthwith.

Section 3. No school board, in implementing the provisions of section 1 of this Act, may arm any individual teacher or other school employee without the latter’s free, willing, and voluntary consent. No individual teacher or other school employee may be censured, criticized, or discriminated against for unwillingness or refusal to carry firearms pursuant to this Act.

Section 4. No provision of § 13-32-7 or any other provisions of state statute is effective to restrict or limit the provisions of this Act. However, nothing in this Act authorizes any person to carry a concealed weapon without a valid permit.

Section 5. The failure or refusal of any school board to imple-ment a school sentinel program does not constitute a cause of action against the board, the school district, or any of its employ-ees.

In my opinion the students, faculty, and visitors of any school deserve to feel safe. I am sure most teachers never dreamed they were entering into what could be a potentially dangerous and life threatening career when they chose their profession.

With the way this bill was written, each school board may de-cide what is best for their school district. I would favor having an armed guard at Yankton High School as long as they are a well-trained expert in their field. I do not think it is wise to put weap-ons in just anyone’s hands and ask them to use them to protect the school. Doing so, could potentially lead to even more danger-ous situations.

I agree with the bill’s provision stating no school board can force a teacher to be armed. Teachers are trained to educate stu-dents, not to be an armed guard for the staff and students. If our school board chose to have a sentinel, I would feel safer at school knowing we have a trained professional walking the hallways rather than an armed teacher. Another consideration if teachers were allowed to be armed is where those weapons would be stored, so they would not fall into the wrong hands. As I spoke to some of my classmates about this topic, they also agreed that a trained professional is a wise choice compared to adding this responsibility to our teachers.

Allowing the school board to be the deciding party as to wheth-er or not an armed guard is necessary also puts a lot of extra pressure on them. Being a school board member is a huge re-sponsibility already. I would think that adding this decision to their list of responsibilities is even more stressful. It also adds responsibility to the voters who elect their future school board members to ensure they have chosen the right people for the job.

I honestly think it is sad that our world has come to the point where we even need such a bill to be written, but in light of the recent school tragedies that have occurred, I understand why our legislators believe it is important.

Again, every student, faculty member and visitor has the right to feel safe in their local schools. School safety is a very im-portant part of creating an atmosphere that allows all of us to focus on learning and enjoying time with our classmates. In the upcoming months, we all need to put our trust in every school board in South Dakota to make the right decisions for the schools in their district.

SALE!!

Congoleum DuraCeramic

In-Stock **\$3.69** sq. ft.

- Warmer and More Comfortable Underfoot than Ordinary Ceramic
- Durable Limestone Composite Base
- Upscale 16” x 16” Nominal Tile Size

Sierra Slate in Terra Slate

Yankton Paint & Decorating

406 Broadway • Yankton • 665-5032

www.yanktonpaintanddecorating.com