

Decision 2014 | Vermillion

Rounds Rallies USD Students In Monday Campaign Stop

BY SARAH WETZEL
Vermillion Plain Talk

VERMILLION — Former Governor and U.S. Senate Candidate Mike Rounds made a stop at University of South Dakota Monday on the eve of Election Day to rally the support of students.

"I support Gov. Rounds," said Jason Nerland, political science and history major. "He is a great candidate, especially for students. He's got a great economic future plan for students where we can actually have jobs in the future. In the economy, we're at a spot where we're on the edge of a cliff and I think Gov. Rounds is a candidate that will pull us back onto solid ground. He created a lot of jobs for South Dakota even during a national recession. I think he's the right candidate for the job."

Rounds was joined by current Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Lt. Gov. Matt Michels.

Michels referred to those in America's history who have died in order to give us a better life.

"That's what we're asking for now and a change in the U.S. Senate so we can have Republican leadership in the U.S. Senate," Michels said. "In 48 hours, the sweetest words we could hear are 'Former Majority Leader Reid.'"

According to Rounds, there is a definite possibility that those words will indeed be heard.

"We need six changes in the United States Senate from Democrat to Republican to change the course of history for our country," he said. "It doesn't come along very often like that when you get a chance to make a difference."

"This is a critical time in our country's history," he said. "It's not just a matter of firing Harry Reid as the majority leader of the Senate. It means bringing in folks that really want to see brighter days ahead for America."

Voters may make a bigger impact than they might think, Rounds said.

"If we're fortunate we may get a 60 percent voter turnout," he said. "It is possible that we won't get that many. Think of how magnified those votes are when not everybody goes to vote. Those individuals that do go to vote, their votes become even more powerful."

The governors commended the USD students who had gathered for their support and participation.

"When you folks turn out more than 60 strong in D-Days parade, it's a fabulous message to people all the way along; young people at the University of South Dakota are



SARAH WETZEL/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK:
Former Governor and U.S. Senate Candidate Mike Rounds addresses USD student supporters Monday in Vermillion. Rounds was joined by Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Lt. Gov. Matt Michels.

actively engaged in the process," Rounds said. "What a powerful message that is for them that they need to get involved as well."

Rounds shared some advice with the students.

"Number one, don't forget to vote yourselves, and second of all, make sure your friends get to vote," he said. "For those that are wondering what they should be doing and where they should be voting and what

issues they should be focused on, don't be afraid to share your point of view because you may very well know a lot more about it than they do.

"We're down to the last 100-yard dash," he said. "We're down to where all the work we've done to identify our supporters, now we have to make sure they get out to vote. Let's hear it, Go 'Yotes!'"

Forum

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- We have recently had an issue of lack of cooperation between the Democratic and Republican parties, what would you do to alleviate this?

- How do you believe the state should address the issue of lack of affordable housing in this area? Do you support the governor's program?

"This is really an example of how issues flow together," said Stevens when asked about housing. "You can't talk about housing without talking about economic development. You can't talk about economic development without talking about the wage issue. You can't talk about fair wages without talking about education. They are all so interconnected. It will take a change in the thought processes at Pierre to address all of them."

When it came to education, only Stone said he felt that the state legislature had done a good job in allocating funds to the state's schools.

"Everyone knows per-pupil funding is down from when the cuts were made," Stone said. "But let's take a look at the funding total for education. Special education is up 4 percent that's adjusted for inflation even. Total education is up 6 percent. I think the Legislature has done a wonderful job getting the total funding up. We still have work to do getting the per-pupil number up, but working together, I believe we can do that."

Williams and Winter disagreed with the idea that the Legislature has done a good job funding education.

"Education funding in this state is, as a percentage of the state general fund, down 24 percent," Williams said. "It was at 38 percent of the general fund in 1995, it is 29 percent in 2012. We can talk about funding education all we want, but the truth is a single-party state government doesn't believe in education and they haven't been funding it."

Bernie Hunhoff said that the state's failure to expand health care coverage in the state may be the biggest error in his lifetime at the state level, going so far as to say, "We are on the wrong side of history."

Winter and Williams said they would have supported accepting the additional Medicaid dollars that the state refused.

Sean Hunhoff said the issues faced by legislators were the restrictions that the state needed to meet in order to expand the program. She noted that it was the Legislature's responsibility to meet the needs of the state's residents and put what is right for South Dakota first. She added that the federal government wouldn't provide the extra dollars that would have been needed to meet the new levels.

However, Winter noted that he believed the refusal of the federal dollars to expand Medicaid was not due to the restrictions placed by the federal government, as much as it was an effort to embarrass the president and ensure that the Affordable Health Care Act didn't work.

"This Affordable Care Act

wasn't designed to provide for the highest income earner, rather it was for all Americans," Williams added. "We hurt the poorest of our neighbors when these dollars were refused."

Helping the lowest wage earners in the state was discussed several times by the candidates, but in terms of the minimum wage initiative, all the candidates except Stone acknowledged that they believe there is a wage issue in the state.

Williams, Winter and Bernie Hunhoff all said they support Initiative 18 to raise the minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour. Winter added that he doesn't understand how anyone could support a fam-

ily at the current rate of \$7.25 per hour.

However, Stone said the research shows that states with a higher minimum wage have higher levels of unemployment.

"We have a wage problem in South Dakota," Bernie Hunhoff said. "More important, we have a poverty problem in South Dakota. We need to fix that."

The one question that didn't focus on an economic issue was comically answered by Williams when he noted in South Dakota's Legislature, working together in a two-party system is not an issue.

Each of the candidates spoke on working together and opening up the discussions should they be elected

to serve in Pierre.

Stevens said that he doesn't see the issue of working together as an issue in the Legislature, suggesting that in South Dakota it comes down to three other groups rather than Republican and Democrat.

"Here in South Dakota the three groups you can see fighting on the issues are more rural vs. city in South Dakota, East vs. West in South Dakota and USD vs. SDSU," he said.

The polls open at 7 a.m. in Yankton and close at 7 p.m.

Follow Shauna Marlette on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/Shaua-Marlette>. To discuss this topic go to www.yankton.net.

Out On The Town

Knights of Columbus

BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Pancakes, Rolls, Eggs, Ham or Sausage, Milk, Juice or Coffee

KC Hall

2700 N. Broadway
Breakfast served second Sunday of the month.

November Special Western Scramble

VFW

Post 791 209 Cedar
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Wednesday & Sunday

5-7pm Cooks Choice

Thursday

5-7pm - Domestic Beers **\$1.50**
5-7pm - Hamburger/ Pizza Burger & Fries **\$5.00**

Friday

Apple Glazed Pork Chop
Serving 5:30-8:00

Saturday Entertainment

No Band
Regular Menu 5:30-8:00
Post & Auxiliary Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 18th 7:30pm

Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm
Sunday at 6:30pm
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30

Chislic Served Last Wednesday of Month

304 W. 3rd, Yankton 665-6234

Tail Gating at Rounding 3rd

Featuring the Big 10 Network & NFL Games

- Full Menu Available
- Weekend Food Specials
- Happy Hour

Sundays Noon - 5pm

Nov. 7 - Louis Bryant
Nov. 8 - Midnight Special
Nov. 15 - Mrs. Begley & The Boys

Don't Miss Our

All-You-Can-Eat Broasted Chicken & Pollock Buffet

With Salad Bar

Every Wednesday 5 to 9pm

Joe's Substation

Rural Lesterville
605-364-7414

11th Annual

Tabor Ambulance BINGO NIGHT

Saturday, Nov. 8th • 7:30pm

Over \$800 In Pay Outs • Door Prizes To Be Given Away
Beseda Hall, Tabor • Lunch Served Prior to the Games

Sacred Heart School 6th Annual Vendor Blender

Saturday, November 15th 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Elementary School Gym
1500 Saint Benedict Drive, Yankton

- Over 30 Vendors • Bake Sale • Pizza from 11am-1pm

Contact Jessica at 260-1065 or Melissa 660-6177 with questions! We look forward to seeing you there!
Supplemental funds provided by Catholic United Financial

Elks Veteran's Day Soup Kitchen

Tuesday, Nov. 11th 11:00AM-7:00PM

Serving Soups, Taverns, Pies & Desserts
Everyone Welcome!

Overnight Trip To Royal River Casino at Flandreau, SD

Next Trip November 17th & 18th

\$50 (per person/dbl. occ.) **\$60** (per person/single)
Includes: **FREE Evening Buffet, FREE Breakfast Buffet PLUS \$25 FREE PLAY!**

Hennen Tours

For Reservations Call **1-507-401-3465, 1-507-530-0587 or 1-402-394-1547**

Annual YMS Veterans Day Program Set For Nov. 10

The students and staff of Yankton Middle School will be having their 11th annual Veteran's Day Celebration at 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 10, at the Yankton Middle School "Old" gymnasium at 2000 Mulberry St.

Join the students and staff of YMS as they honor our Veterans (and their families) with a ceremony that will include patriotic performances by the band, choir and orchestra. The guest speaker will be KSFY News anchor Brian Allen.

The Yankton Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion will participate in the presenting of the colors; a short video tribute will be presented, honoring the veterans of Yankton Middle School Students and staff, followed by "Taps."

Any person, any age, who has ever served in the military, their families and the general public are welcome to attend this event. It is suggested that veterans wear their awarded medals to the program and that everyone wear something red, white and/or blue. Enter the west, middle doors of the school. The program is free to the public and coffee and cookies will be served to our guests.

SOUP KITCHEN

St. John's Lutheran Church
1009 Jackson St., Yankton, SD

Thursday, Nov. 6 • Serving 11am-7pm

Menu: Soups, Taverns, Hot Dogs, Pie, Coffee & Milk

Open Year Round!

THE DAIRY DOCK

Monday-Thursday 6-8pm
Friday 6-9, Saturday 7-9, Sunday 7-8

Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

4804 W. 8th St. • 665-0732 Check Us Out On...

FOOTBALL DEALS

Sunday
\$10 Bucket O' Beer

Monday
\$5 Cheeseburger & Fries (5-11pm)

Thursday
50c Traditional Wings (5-11pm)

FREE WIFI!

Czeckers Sports Bar & Grill

407 Walnut • Yankton • 605.689.2244

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NOV 7 • 1PM-8PM

Extravaganza! VENDOR SHOW

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CHRISTMAS with the CELTS

DECEMBER 13 3PM & 6PM

ALL AGES WELCOME \$10 ADULTS \$5 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

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