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At Their ‘Best’

*The Yankton Children’s Theatre Co. And
The Lewis And Clark Theatre Co. Unite To
Present ‘The Best Christmas Pageant Ever’*

BY REILLY BIEL
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Yankton Children’s Theatre Company and Lewis & Clark Theatre Company are joining forces for Dakota Theatre’s final production of the year.

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” tells the story of a yearly Christmas pageant that portrays the story of Christmas. When a family of misfit, troublesome kids is cast in the pageant, may-hem ensues.

“It’s a good family show,” said play director Sandy Vavra. “With intermission, it will be an hour and 15 minutes. Younger kids will be able to sit through it.”

The play is a collaboration between the two theatre groups and is hopefully the beginning of a partnership.

“We had mutual conversations about if we could do something together,” said Children’s Theatre board president Shelly Heinemeyer. “Lewis & Clark offered to us to do a play together and we’re extremely happy to be working with them.”

Vavra, a third-grade teacher at Sacred Heart School, feels the same way.

“It’s been great working with the Children’s Theatre,” she said. “One of their board members is in the show and another is doing the costumes. It’s a good beginning relationship for the two theatres.”

Vavra, a first-time director, believes her experience with kids has prepared her for the directing experience.

“I work with kids every day.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Mom (Katie Fargo) and dad (Jarred Anderson) discuss an unforeseen turn of events in the annual Christmas pageant while their children, Charlie (Jaden Pearson) and Beth (Rachel Wood), listen during a scene from “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” being presented at the Dakota Theatre starting next week.

This is just a different setting,” she said.

Assistant director Kathy Volk is also on hand to help.

“A lot of the kids don’t have lines and just have to sit, which is difficult for some of them,” she said. “It can be kind of iffy to see what you’re going to get when you have to cast a kids show, but we have a good group of kids.”

Performing in the Dakota Theatre is a good learning experience for the children, said Heinemeyer.

“They enjoy being able to practice in the theatre versus above the Czeckers Bar and Grill,” she said. “The kids are

getting the atmosphere of working in the theatre, and Sandy and Kathy have been good at leading the kids to new places.”

“Being in theatre is a great benefit for kids,” Vavra added. “It helps them overcome their fears and anxieties of being in front of people. They also make friendships with other kids they’ve done multiple plays with.”

“The adult actors get a new experience working with kids and vice versa,” said Volk.

The play has an uplifting message that is fitting to end the year on.

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The unruly Herdman brood — clockwise from top: Ralph (Quinn Fargo), Claude (Nicholas Nayokpuk), Imagene (Zoie Lee Marcotte), Gladys (Addison Boese), Leroy (Seth Fargo) and Ollie (Carson Heinemeyer) — loom as a disruptive influence in the local Christmas pageant, as presented in “The best Christmas Pageant Ever,” starting at Yankton’s Dakota Theatre next week.

This week at

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Bede Art Gallery | Monday - Friday | 8:00 am - 4:30 pm | Mount Marty College Student Art Show | November 23 - December 11

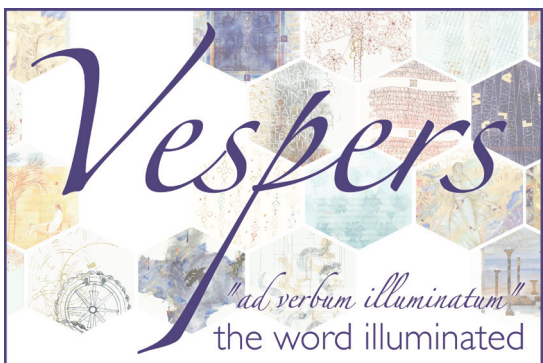
The Saint John’s Bible on display in MMC Library | Mon-Thurs: 7:30 am - 10 pm | Fri: 7:30 am - 5 pm | Sat: 1- 5 pm | Sun: 1-10 pm

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Sunday, December 6, 2015 | 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

FONTANINI CHRISTMAS VILLAGE ON DISPLAY
NOVEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 19TH

Monday - Friday from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
(Hours on Friday, December 4th: 2:00 - 4:00 pm)

Saturday from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Located in MMC Board Room

Fontanini Giftware is Available
at MMC Pages Bookstore!

7:00 PM	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29	Messiah Sing! Concert - St. John’s Lutheran Church, Yankton Note: No 4:00 PM Mass
2:00 PM	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30	Fontanini Village Opens for Viewing - MMC Board Room
7:30 PM		Choral Union Rehearsal - Gregory Hall
ALL DAY	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1	Giving Tuesday
9:30 AM		MMC Theatre Hosts SD High School Runner-Up Oral Interp Contest - Campus Wide
6:00 PM		Yankton Children’s Choir Rehearsal - Bistro
9:30 PM		Men’s JV Basketball - Augustana - Sioux Falls, SD
		Rosary - Peace Chapel
10:00 AM	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2	Mass - South Dining Room
6 - 7:30 PM		The Saint John’s Bible visits St. Benedict’s Parish, Yankton
6:00 PM		Women’s Basketball - Briar Cliff University - Cimpl Arena
8:00 PM		Men’s Basketball - Briar Cliff University - Cimpl Arena
	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3	The Saint John’s Bible visits St. Mary’s Catholic Schools - Dell Rapids, SD
9:00 AM		Noon Forum: “Promoting Interfaith Understanding” with Dr. Paul Anders - SDR
12:00 PM		Adoration - Peace Chapel
8:30 PM	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4	MMC Pages Bookstore Extended Hours
6 - 8 PM	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5	MMC Pages Bookstore Extended Hours
9 - 10:30 AM		Women’s JV Basketball - vs. MMC Alumni - Cimpl Arena
11:00 AM		Admitted Student Day - Campus Wide (Must Pre-Register)
9:30 AM		Women’s Basketball - College of Saint Mary - Cimpl Arena
2:00 PM		Men’s Basketball - Oglala Lakota College - Cimpl Arena
4:00 PM		Indoor Track - South Dakota State University - Brookings, SD
TBD		Outdoor Track Half Marathon - Midland University - Fremont, NE
TBD	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6	Vespers - “ad verbum illuminatum” - Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel (Ticket Required)
4:00 PM		Gregorian Club Vespers Reception - Monastery Chapter Room - Open To All
5:00 PM		Women’s Basketball - Dakota State University - Madison, SD
6:00 PM		Vespers - “ad verbum illuminatum” - Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel (Ticket Required)
7:00 PM		Note: No 4:00 PM Mass

THEME:
Wild Wild West!

THEME:
Santa Hat Saturday
Giveaway!



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