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DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK University of South Dakota president Jim Abbott delivered his annual State of the University Address Wednesday at Aalfs Auditorium in Vermillion.

# Abbott: USD Must Prep For Changing Ed. Trends

## School President Offers 'State Of The U' Address

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON  
Vermillion Plain Talk

VERMILLION — The face of higher education is changing, with increasing fees, decreased state funding and more students taking more courses online.

University of South Dakota's president James Abbott said these are challenges that must be faced.

"The question that needs to be answered is how USD responds long-term if the current education model changes radically," he said. "I think every university needs to have an all-campus conversation on the future of higher education, and how you react to it, and you change it or not change it."

He said everyone at USD needs to know how "we can be assured that we can do what we need to do, and that we can continue to be the force ... to lead and educate our students."

Abbott made these statements during his annual State of the University Address, which took place Wednesday afternoon in Aalfs Auditorium on the USD campus.

Continuing trends find institutions of higher education losing government funding, which in turn sees an increase in fees for students.

The average college students post-graduation will have a credit card debt of \$24,000, Abbott said.

For this reason, taking courses online is attractive to many students, as it is less expensive. However, it may have unforeseen effects on the systems of universities everywhere.

"Graduate education is subsidized by undergraduate education, upper-division courses are basically subsidized by lower-division," Abbott said. "So, what happens to the business model? What happens to our revenue? What happens to the way we operate if or when lower-division courses become ubiquitous and virtually free?"

Abbott said he is "a little haunted" by the story of the Pony Express, which found itself bankrupt in a short space of time after the invention of the telegraph rendered it obsolete.

"I don't know that there's something like an inter-continental telegraph that's going to take over, but I really do wonder how it is that we are going to respond if some of these things come to pass," he said.

Abbott cited a recent survey which claimed that by the year 2020, 60 percent of college students will be taking 60 percent of their courses online.

He said that while these figures don't seem realistic to him, "It's pretty clear what that would do to our normal situation."

One way to protect the university is to increase the number of on-campus graduate and professional program students, Abbott said.

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## Yankton County

# ATV Ban Process Begins

## Measure Would Target Deer Boulevard Area

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Saying that the situation has worsened in the last few months, the Yankton County Commission vowed Wednesday to ban off-road vehicles in the ditches along Deer Boulevard.

"We've talked about this a lot the last few months. The last time we talked about it, we didn't take action," Commissioner Donna Freng said. "It just seems to me that it's getting worse. I'm getting calls and emails (about reckless drivers). Something has to be done."

The area has been a sporadic source of complaints about reckless off-road vehicle drivers for more than

five years. In response, commissioners passed Ordinance 18 in January 2007. It allows the County Commission, after a hearing process, to prohibit the use of off-road vehicles in designated ditches under the jurisdiction of Yankton County. However, it has never been used.

The section of Deer Boulevard being targeted stretches from Highway 52 south to the Missouri River.

Even members of the Southeast South Dakota ATV Association, who argued against implementing a ban earlier this year, said they are now in agreement that



Freng

more severe action is needed.

After convincing the commission to delay enacting a ban in June, Karl Robinson of the ATV association chronicled the reckless driving he observed and spoke with those responsible in an attempt to curb the activity.

"I agree that something is going to have to happen," he conceded Wednesday. "It's sad that people won't take responsibility for themselves or care about anybody else."

Robinson noted that a majority of the troublemakers are driving dirt bikes and not four-wheelers.

"We really appreciate everything you folks have done to try and resolve this issue," Commissioner Garry Moore said. "You've gone above and beyond

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## BLUE RIBBON BEES



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Bloomfield, Neb., principal Rusty Kluender stands outside the high school building near the end of a recent school day. Kluender serves as K-12 principal, and Bloomfield Junior-Senior High School has been named a 2012 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education for outstanding academic performance. The school will be recognized Nov. 12-13 in Washington, D.C. Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman and the state Commissioner of Education, Dr. Roger Breed, will attend a Nov. 28 ceremony in Bloomfield.

# Bloomfield School District Earns Top National Honor For Excellence

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — It's Homecoming Week in the Bloomfield schools, but it's not the only cause for celebration.

Bloomfield Junior-Senior High School has been named a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Six schools in the entire state of Nebraska received the honor.

The nation's 269 "Blue Ribbon Schools" were recently recognized in Arlington, Va., by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Bloomfield qualified in the "Exemplary High Performing" category as one of Nebraska's highest performing schools in state assessments.

Bloomfield math teacher Duane Wilken uses the Blue Ribbon designation to motivate his students to even higher levels. In a scene resembling a college classroom, he led an intense prep session for his trigonometry class and then gave a quiz.

Wilken wasn't apologetic about remaining all business during a homecoming week dedicated to fun activities.

"Because you are the best students in the nation, I can do things with you faster," he told the class with a smile.

The Blue Ribbon recognition will last for at least two more months, according to Principal Rusty Kluender.

"We are being honored Nov. 12-13 in Washington, D.C., with two of us attending that ceremony to represent the school and accept another plaque," he said. "And we have confirmed that Gov. (Dave) Heineman and the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Roger Breed, will be in Bloomfield on Nov. 28 for a 2 p.m. ceremony."



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Bloomfield High School math instructor Duane Wilken — who has spent his entire 40-year teaching and coaching career at the school — works on papers while his trigonometry students take a quiz. Bloomfield Junior-Senior High School has been named a 2012 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education for outstanding academic performance.

Bloomfield senior Dakota Burgerhoff applauds the school's one-on-one instruction, with faculty and students willing to put in extra time before and after school, nights and weekends.

Burgerhoff also pointed to the availability of distance learning and online courses. He has earned general education credits

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# Menno Powers Up For Power Show

## 26th Annual Event Slated This Weekend

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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MENNO — The Menno Pioneer Power and Toy Show is revving up for another celebration full of vintage tractors, cars and farm equipment.

The event, now in its 26th year, will take place Saturday and Sunday at Pioneer Acres just north of Menno. It is presented by the Menno Pioneer Heritage Association (MPHA).

"It's a big two-day event," said Gerald Nusz, the show's chairman. "People come from far and wide."

This year's featured categories include Minneapolis Moline tractors, Chevrolet cars and trucks, and Gade engines.

While the show includes a variety of machinery, the featured categories are "a little more special," Nusz said.

"They kind of get the highlight," he said. "They are first in line in the parade, and we have a toy Moline tractor that we'll sell."

Saturday's schedule at the power show includes the money pile for children and the antique and mini-rod tractor pull.

Sunday's schedule features the pancake breakfast/lunch, church service, children's pedal tractor pull, bale throwing contest and ladies' nail-driving contest.

Events taking place both days include the flea market, toy show, children's games, steam engine plowing, binding and chopping, corn shelling and shredding, corn cutting and the antique car and tractor parade.

The show also features many exhibits and historic buildings, such as the farm emporium, petting zoo, flour mill, school house, women's building and blacksmith shop.

"We have so many things going on," Nusz said.

The annual power show is held every September on the third weekend after Labor Day.

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