

Pearson wins POL, VFD utilizes new technology on to nationals

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Samuel Pearson, a senior at Vermillion High School, won the state Poetry Out Loud (POL) competition, Monday in Sioux Falls. Pearson will travel to Washington, D.C., to represent South Dakota at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals April 28-30.

Pearson also won a \$200 cash award, and his school will receive \$500 to be used for poetry books, in addition to his trip to the national finals.

Nine students from high schools across South Dakota competed for the title. Second place in the competition went to Tristan Chasing Hawk, a junior at Harrisburg High School. Chasing Hawk was awarded \$100 cash, and his school will receive \$300 for the purchase of poetry books. Akicita Cistila His Horse is Thunder, who is a senior at Little Wound High School in Kyle, earned the third-place spot.

Just three points separated the first-, second- and third-place scores. Joshua Hinkemeyer, Sisseton High School, was ranked fourth. The following students received medals for qualifying as state finalists, but the remaining scores were not ranked: Annie Deutscher, Lincoln High School, Sioux Falls; Keana Jackson, Rosholt High School; Savoy Schuler, Stevens High School, Rapid City; Kayla Dittenhauser, Washington High School, Sioux Falls; and

Samantha Elbert, Watertown High School.

Three teachers were also awarded for their efforts in and out of the classroom as Poetry Out Loud coaches. Kim Davidson, Rosholt High School, took the top spot and earned a \$500 cash prize. Sharon Prendergast, Sisseton High School, and Gretchen Brimm, Newell High School each received honorable mentions in the category and \$100 cash.

Poetry Out Loud is a recitation program and competition that urges the teaching of poetry as an oral art form in high schools. Schools that participate in Poetry Out Loud enter students into a preliminary round, from which the state finalists are chosen.

Poetry Out Loud was created in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, with the collaboration of State Arts Agencies. Through Poetry Out Loud, students master public-speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

In South Dakota, POL is a program administered by the South Dakota Arts Council, an office of the state Department of Tourism, in partnership with South Dakotans for the Arts and South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Until last month, there was no way for the Vermillion Fire Department to know how many of its members were going to respond to a call.

Now, thanks to a Web-based program from lamResponding.com, they not only know how many will be responding to emergencies, but which members will be responding.

The system works by sending data to a large TV screen that is prominently displayed at the station.

As volunteers verify they will be coming, their name appears on the screen.

"When we receive a call, dispatch sends out a message with the address (of the emergency site) in text form," explained Fire Chief Richard (Shannon) Draper. "Every member has a phone number pre-programmed into their phone. They just dial it and put the phone down, and it will automatically populate the TV screen so that our members know who's responding."

This allows the volunteers to operate on a timelier basis, Draper said.

"The biggest hurdle for is us, we're all volunteer, and there are times where I may have a hard time getting some volunteers (to respond)," he said. "Time is of the essence, and so prior to have this system, a big hurdle was not knowing if anyone was coming."

CALL (800) 123-4567	TO RESPOND	RESPONSE CODES			
SCHEDULE	ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS	PRINT SCREEN	CLEAR 'NOW RESPONDING'	HELP	SIGN OUT
On Duty	Position	On Duty For	On Duty At	Until	
Chris Doe	Chief	Fire	Home	14:30 Mar 19	
Brad Doe	Asst. Chief	Unavail.	Out of Town	12:00 Mar 23	
Jane Doe	EMT-P	EMS	Station 1	18:30 Mar 19	
John Doe	Exterior FF	Fire	Station 1	16:30 Mar 19	
James Doe	Interior FF	Fire	Station 1	18:30 Mar 19	
Sam Doe	FF/EMT-P	Fire/EMS	Station 2	20:00 Mar 19	
Gary Doe	FF/Driver	Fire	Work	16:30 Mar 19	
Now Responding	Position	Responding To	Called At	ETA Before	
Steve Smith	Interior FF	Station 1	09:23	09:28	
Bob Andrews	Interior FF	Station 1	09:24	09:29	
Eric Johnson	Asst. Chief	Scene	09:24	09:29	
Charlie Daniels	Driver	Station 1	09:24	09:29	
Jim Smith	EMT	Stand-By @ Station	09:25	09:30	
Joe Ryan	Interior FF	Station/Delayed	09:25	09:30	

A screenshot from lamResponding.com, a program now being utilized by the Vermillion Fire Department that shows which volunteers are responding to an emergency call.

(Courtesy photo)

"We might have somebody sitting out on the apron waiting five, 10 minutes, seeing if anyone else will come," he said.

Alternately, volunteers who arrived just a few minutes after everyone else might have found themselves left behind.

"We might have three people jump on a truck and leave, and then all of a sudden somebody else pulls in," Draper said. "Now we can see immediately who is coming, because I'm requiring all our firefighters to use this system."

Along with improving response time, the program also helps Draper decide if he needs to call neighboring departments for assistance.

lamResponding was purchased with funds raised by an association to which the volunteers belong that has in the past bought fire trucks and other equipment for the department, Draper said.

In addition to the program itself, the TVs that display the program data were purchased for both fire stations, as well as the dispatch center.

"They've wanted this for some time," he said. "There seemed to be some questions on the implementation of it, and so I've been working with the company to get through that and get all our questions answered."

The program was installed last month and already has been utilized by the department.

"It's really interesting to watch this during a real emergency because (the screen) fills up real quick," Draper said.

The acquisition of the program makes Vermillion the second community in the area to use it.

"The only other one in this region is North Sioux City," Draper said. "There are other departments that are going toward this, (but) it's totally new to the area."

For more information, visit iamresponding.com.

OBITUARIES

Vera Emerson

Vera R. Emerson, 82, of Vermillion, passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 1, 2013, at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, surrounded by her family.

A visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., with a prayer service to begin at 7 p.m. and an Eastern Star service to follow, on Friday, April 5, 2013, at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2013, at Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Trisha Boese officiating.

Burial will take place immediately following the service at BluffView Cemetery in Vermillion.

Vera Rebecca Wimer was born March 29, 1931, in Lawton, IA, to Harry G and Alice C C (Wingert) Wimer of Sioux City, IA.

Vera graduated from Leeds High School in Leeds, IA. She



EMERSON

married the love of her life, Harland L. Emerson, on June 4, 1950. They made their home in Greenfield, SD, until March of 1965 when they moved

to Vermillion. Vera enjoyed young people and was a "Champion" for the university students, which was evident in the occupational paths she chose. Vera enjoyed her work as secretary to Dr. Charles Estee in the Chemistry department of USD for 25 years and as cook for the Lambda Chi for nearly 20 years following her "retirement" from the Chemistry Department. Vera was very proud of "Her Boys" at the Lambda Chi & especially

proud of her "Honorary Membership" of the fraternity. She also enjoyed working for a number of summers for the Department of Tourism at the rest stop in Vermillion.

Vera enjoyed the many friends she acquired through her employment as well as the Order of the Eastern Star. As a member of the Order of the Eastern Star she served as Worthy Matron multiple times, as Grand Adah, and most recently as Friend of a Feather for the Most Worthy Grand Matron and International Order of Job's Daughters, serving both as Bethel Guardian and Grand Bethel Guardian for the State of SD.

Ever the eternal optimist, Vera fought her cancer with grace and dignity, proud to declare "It never kept me from doing the things I wanted to do." She was always willing to visit with cancer patients to encourage them to fight.

Grateful for sharing her life are her children, Keith (Deb) Emerson of Mesa, AZ, Alan (Dawn) Emerson of Seattle, WA, Suzanne (Mark) Willadsen of Sioux Falls, Jon (Jean-Marc) Emerson of Boston, MA, Becky (Mark) Socha of Lees Summit, MO; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandson. As well as the many, MANY friends she also considered part of her family.

Vera was preceded in death by her husband, Harland; and brothers, Emery, Harry and James.

Memorials may be directed to the Dougherty Hospice House of Sioux Falls, or the Trinity Lutheran Church Food Pantry, or the OES ESTARL Award in Vera's memory.

Services have been entrusted to Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

Condolences may be posted online at www.koberfuneralhome.com.

Earl Goepfert

Funeral services for Earl Goepfert, 85, of Pukwana, were 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 30, 2013 at St. James Catholic Church in Chamberlain with burial in St. Procopius Cemetery of Pukwana. Visitation was Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Hickey Funeral Chapel with a scripture service at 6 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church in Chamberlain.

Earl R. Goepfert was born Dec. 30, 1927 at White Lake to Arnold and Esther (Dethlefsen) Goepfert. He attended country school in the White Lake area. Earl worked for Aurora County Highway Department until he entered the U.S. Army serving during the Korean War. After his discharge, he started working construction on the building of the Big Bend Dam. He later began livestock trucking.

On July 5, 1969, Earl was united in marriage to Vivian Pazour. Together, they farmed south of Pukwana until Earl's retirement.

Earl was a member of the White Lake American Legion. He especially enjoyed the grandchildren and neighbor



GOEPFERT

children and loved telling stories. He also enjoyed horses.

Earl passed away on March 27, 2013 at Aurora Brule

Nursing Home in White Lake, at the age of 85 years.

Gratefully sharing in his life are his wife, Vivian of Pukwana; a daughter, Carol and Jon Robertson of Vermillion; six step-children, Tim and Karla Pazour of Pukwana, Ted and Jackie Pazour of Frankfort, Diane and Edwin Olson of Mitchell, Mark and Melanie Pazour of Chamberlain, Greg Pazour of Framingham, MA, Mary and Ted Sapountzis of San Francisco, CA; a sister, Cheryl and Dave Miller of Plankinton; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Preceding in death were parents, his son Michael, two brothers, and a sister.

William Barta

William (Bill) Rodger Barta, age 77, of Gayville, passed away Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at Avera Sister James Nursing Home in Yankton, following a brief stay. Memorial Service was 10 a.m., Saturday, March 30, 2013, at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel in Yankton, with Rev. Dave Fulton officiating.

Visitations will begin one hour prior to the service. Burial of cremated remains will be at a later date.

Bill was born Jan. 23, 1936, in Lesterville, to Sylvester and Lillian (Pettit) Barta. He attended school in Meckling. During Bill's high



BARTA

school years, he was an avid sports fan, earning most valuable player honors in football in 1953, which carried over to his lifelong love of the Oakland Raiders. He married Jeanne Marie Burton on Oct. 29, 1954, in Ft. Lee, VA. Bill was in the United States Army from 1954 through 1975, and

retired as Master Sgt. E-8. He served time in the States, Okinawa, Ethiopia, and Vietnam traveling the world during his military career, earning numerous medals of honor. Upon Bill's retirement from the military, he and Jeanne moved to the Napa Valley, CA where they managed the resort "Spanish Flats" at Lake Berryessa until retirement, which led to their move back to South Dakota in 2004. In recent years Bill had his favorite chair placed near the window so he could enjoy the many birds and squirrels that found his deck their favorite feeding spot.

Bill will always be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, storytelling ability and jokes. He could always put a smile on your face.

He is survived by his brother, Robert Barta of Gayville; sister, Marjorie (Rex) Smallie of Virginia Beach, VA; brother-in-law, Gary Groves of Gayville; many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews; and great-great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanne on March 8, 2013; his parents; brother, George Barta; and sister, Jean Groves.

YANKTON MONUMENT CO.

Family Memorials
by Gibson

AMBER LARSON

325 Douglas Ave., Yankton, SD 57078
Office (605) 664-0980 • 1-800-658-2294
Cell (605) 610-6992 • www.gibsonmonuments.com

Help Wanted: GPS Specialist

Titan Machinery has an immediate opening for a GPS specialist for the Miller location. This specialist position would include sales of GPS units as well as installs and trouble shooting, in-field start ups and customer orientation. Titan Machinery is a large growing company with many locations with endless resources. Titan Machinery offers a full benefit package as well as top wages for qualified applicants. Stop in for an application at the Titan Machinery location in Miller or email resume to: jared.brueggeman@titanmachinery.com or call Jared at 605-870-6422.

Division Director
Pierre, SD

The SD Department of Human Services is seeking a Division Director to lead the Division of Rehabilitation Services. This division employs 100+ people who provide services to individuals with disabilities. Successful applicant will be a member of the executive management team and is responsible for leadership, staff, and budget. Incumbent must have strong management skills and a passion for working with people with disabilities. Salary DOE. Open until filled. For more information and to apply, please go to <http://bhr.sd.gov/workforus>, and reference Job ID #1337. EOE.

College of Fine Arts
Department of Music
presents

The USD Brass Choir Spring Concert!
Dr. Rolf Olson, Conductor

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 • 7:00pm
Aalfs Auditorium • Slagle Hall
Free Admission!

COOK

What's cooking in our kitchen? Part-time cook to prepare variety of foods for assisted living facility. Varied hours during the week plus every other weekend. Health care or restaurant cooking exp preferred.

Welcov Assisted Living at Elk Point
600 E. Lincoln St. Elk Point, SD 57025
Apply in person or mail/fax resume to
Cherilyn at 605-356-2097 or call 605-356-2774 or
email: hrdept@welcov.com EOE/AA

St. Agnes
School Classic

Saturday April 13, 2013
St. Agnes School Auditorium
Social Hour at 6
Dinner by Cody's Steakhouse
Auction & Dance to follow
Tickets Available at School or After Mass
\$40 in Advance, \$45 at Door

Please help us honor the
2013 Friend of St. Agnes
Ray & Pam Hofman

Subscribe Today!
Call 624-4429