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Vermillion's past ■ **p. 2****Dance, Dance**VHS Dance Inferno performs
annual recital ■ **p. 5****Cookie walk
planned Dec. 12**

The Clay County Historical Society will be sponsoring their second Sweets 'Treats or Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Austin-Whittemore House. Cookies will be displayed in the dining room for purchase and will be \$5 per dozen. Coffee and punch as well as cookie samples will be served in the music room and the living room.

**Blood drive
Dec. 18 in Irene**

The Siouxland Community Blood Bank will host a blood drive at the Irene-Wakonda School in Irene from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18.

The Siouxland Community Blood Bank was founded in 1967 and is the sole provider of blood and blood products to 37 Siouxland area hospitals.

To be eligible to donate blood individuals must be at least 16 years of age; however there is no upper age limit as long as the donor is in good health. Donors under the age of 17 require parental consent. In addition, donors need to weigh at least 110 pounds and have not donated whole blood in the past 56 days. A photo I.D. is required at the time of registration.

For more information about the Siouxland Community Blood Bank or blood drives in your area, call 712-252-4208 or 800-798-4208, in the Mitchell area call 996-3896 or visit the Siouxland Community Blood Bank's Web site at www.siouxlandbloodbank.org.

**Marketplace season
closes this weekend**

The traditional end-of-season shopping weekend at the St. James Marketplace is set for Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, in St. James, NE.

The Marketplace founding five rural residents have special treats planned for both days. The weekend is a Christmas music Open House and everyone is invited to come and share their musical talents on the stage in the old parochial school house. On Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., moms and dads can make Christmas cutout cookies with their kids.

For a \$10 fee, on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., the Foster Sisters will present their Country Music Christmas program. Sisters Marci and Terri are natives of Obert, NE, and were featured this past fall at Western Days in Valentine, NE.

There are only two shopping days left before Christmas at the St. James Marketplace so come fill your stockings with all the marvelous items the vendors display and enjoy free hot cider, coffee and cookies.

Yarbrough spreads Christmas joy with original music

Son's death changes Vermillion composer's view of life

By David Lias

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Writing music for the Christmas season is nothing new for Dr. Stephen Yarbrough, composer in residence at the University of South Dakota.

Two of his new works will premiere in holiday performances this month.

Yarbrough relies on the gift of creativity, his education, and his mastery of the language of music that he's gained through years of experience.

There's an added ingredient that makes his creative process unique and the outcome of his writings so appealing.

Yarbrough recently had to endure one of the worst things a parent could experience — the tragic death of his 35-year-old son, Jonathan Yarbrough, in a motorcycle accident.

Music helped him cope with the loss. And, in turn, the loss



Yarbrough

strengthened his faith, changed his outlook on life, and has made him more determined to touch people with his compositions.

Jonathan died July 10, 2008, near Alexandria, MN. During a moonlight drive, his

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H1N1 flu vaccination clinic for Vermillion announced

The South Dakota Department of Health along with Sanford Vermillion Medical Center, Sanford Health and Avera Health announces an H1N1 flu vaccination clinic at the Vermillion High School on Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 3:30 to 7 p.m.

Vaccinations are being offered only to tier 1 & 2 individuals as identified by the

Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

- pregnant women.
- *children 6 months – 18 years of age.
- young adults 19 – 24 years of age.
- adults 25 – 64 years of age with chronic health conditions.
- caregivers of children less than 6 months of age.
- healthcare and emergency medical services workers (note — employees from

these fields must bring their employee ID badge to the event for identification purposes).

*Note — children under the age of 10 must have received their first H1N1 dose before

Nov. 12 to receive the second H1N1 dose at this event. H1N1 vaccination is completely voluntary, and there is no charge for the vaccination. The CDC recommends that an individual who previously suffered from a suspected case of H1N1 without a lab confirmation should still receive the H1N1 vaccine.

There is currently a limited supply of vaccine, and vaccine is currently only available to those who are at the highest risk for contracting H1N1. As more H1N1 vaccination clinics are scheduled, they will be posted on the South Dakota Department of Health Web site, <http://h1n1.sd.gov>.

To speed up the vaccination process, parents and participants are encouraged to go online to www.vermillion.k12.sd.us and print out the "Flu Vaccination Clinic Information Form" necessary to get the shots and bring the completed form to Wednesday's clinic. Blank forms will also be available at the event.

The vaccine is being provided by the federal government and vaccination clinics are being administered statewide by the South Dakota Department of Health in partnership with Avera Health, Sanford Health and Regional Health.



A joyful noise

The Vermillion High School Auditorium was filled with young voices singing Tuesday night as first grade students from Austin Elementary and second-graders from Jolley Elementary presented their winter music programs. Second grade vocalists Baylee Prather and Alexandra Carr wore big red bows in their hair, transforming themselves into singing Christmas presents as they and their classmates sang "Mail Myself to You." See more photos from Tuesday's concert at spotted.yankton.net. (Photo by David Lias)

Vermillion PD address false crime reports

The Vermillion Police Department, with assistance from the USD Public Safety, arrested Shelby Harkness, 18, for making a false report regarding threatening text messages, according to a press release issued Dec. 1.

Last Tuesday Harkness reported that a former boyfriend, who resides in Nebraska, sent her threatening text messages. During the initial report, she stated she had observed him in the area after receiving the messages and hid from him. Later in the day, Harkness contacted USD Public Safety stating she had observed him inside the DakotaDome.

Officers from USD and the Vermillion Police Department responded to the Dome but were unable to locate the former boyfriend or his vehicle. Nebraska law enforcement was contacted and verified that the vehicle was at his residence. The investigation revealed that Harkness made up the story regarding the threatening text messages and observing him in the area.

Vermillion Police Chief Art Mabry said, "We are seeing an increase in false reports involving significant others, former relationships and child custody issues."

According to Mabry, based on the initial report, this case, like others, required immediate and significant resources. As a result, other cases and responsibilities receive limited attention until the case is resolved.

"In addition to wasted resources, people's lives can be ruined by these allegations even when they are proved to be false," Mabry said. "Educational opportunities such as medical or law school, employment and relationships are often lost for both the person making the false allegation and the victim of the allegation."

Mabry said the investigation is continuing to determine if more serious charges are warranted concerning statements made by Harkness when obtaining a temporary protection order for her former boyfriend.



Under control

The Vermillion Fire Department was called to the western outskirts of Vermillion Monday afternoon when fire broke out in a recently harvested field of corn near Timber Road. The large plume of smoke caused by the fire was clearly visible from the city, and a light wind pushed the smoke over Highway 19. But no property was damaged by the fire which was quickly brought under control by firefighters. (Photo by David Lias)

Local students urged to excel ethically

By David Lias

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Local attorney Craig Thompson had no algebra problems in store for the students in Paige Chapman's math class at Vermillion High School.

The topic he brought to the high schoolers Monday was ethics, and the young people who listened to Thompson soon learned that coming up with the right answer in some situations can be more difficult than solving a complex equation.

"As a lawyer, I am kind of lucky because we get a book that has all of the rules of ethics in it," he said. "Some people, in their jobs or professions, will have written rules, but not everyone does."

Ethics, Thompson explained to the class, is the principle of right and wrong that is accepted by individuals, groups or professions.

"You all have your own set



Vermillion attorney Craig Thompson presents Junior Achievement's Excelling through Ethics program Monday morning to members of Paige Chapman's math class at Vermillion High School. (Photo by David Lias)

of values, but they don't necessarily match each other," he said. "Values are the fundamental belief that drives behavior and decision-making. Whatever your values are drives you to do the things you do."

Thompson, joined by 14 other executive-level members

of the Vermillion community, volunteered their time to present the Junior Achievement Excelling through Ethics program aimed at teaching Vermillion High School students the importance of ethics in the workplace.

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