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running this state, we'd have a better government running this state. We need more Democrats; we need our Republican Party to reform itself."

A woman in the audience told the two lawmakers that she didn't care so much about the legislative process. She is more interested in the results of the legislators' accomplishments while they are in Pierre.

"I'm become concerned when I heard that this resolution (about global warming) was passed," she said. "It means a lot to me that my kids are educated well, and they are being taught by the highest standards that are out there."

"When it comes to a vote that really means that, that can determine that, I'll be there," Nygaard said.

University of South Dakota President James Abbott was in attendance at the meeting, but had to leave early to attend a function on the USD campus. He asked the two lawmakers to support the Opportunity Schol-

arship offered to students who attend the state's public universities.

"It's the only state scholarship that we have, and we're the only state in the country that doesn't have a needs-based scholarship," he said. "The Opportunity Scholarship is \$1,000 to any student who has a 24 or above ACT and who took a certain curriculum while in high school."

Different legislation has been introduced calling for high school students to complete more required classes before being eligible, or for delaying payments of the scholarship to recipients until they are sophomores at a South Dakota university.

"I think that is tantamount to trying to kill it," Abbott told the legislators. "... I'm just curious where we are on that, because it's really important to us."

Boomgarden told Abbott that he likes the idea of increasing the number of required credit hours to be eligible for the scholarship from 30 to 32.



Rep. Eldon Nygaard (left) listens as Rep. Jamie Boomgarden addresses a constituent's concerns during Saturday's Cracker Barrel legislative meeting, held Saturday morning in the Vermillion Public Library. (Photo by David Lias)

"I've also heard that there are rumors of pro-rating the money involved in this fiscal year by adding more time to the scholarship's payment schedule.

"It's basically an accounting trick that I don't necessarily approve of," Abbott said, who warned that delaying payments

to students until they are sophomores likely will be detrimental to the state's higher education goals.

"Students tend to stay where they attend school their freshman year," Abbott said. "We've gone at USD from 68 percent who attend here their freshman year and stay, to 74 percent. Now, if you let someone go out of state their freshman year, they aren't coming home for a \$1,000. That's why I think the payment should go up front, because it encourages the student to stay."

Nygaard asked audience members to give him direct input on legislation he sponsored that would outlaw drivers from text messaging on cell phones while operating a motor vehicle.

He said he believes drivers who engage in such activity become impaired in the operation of their vehicles because they're concentrating on sending a message rather than driving.

The majority of the audience agreed that the bill should have

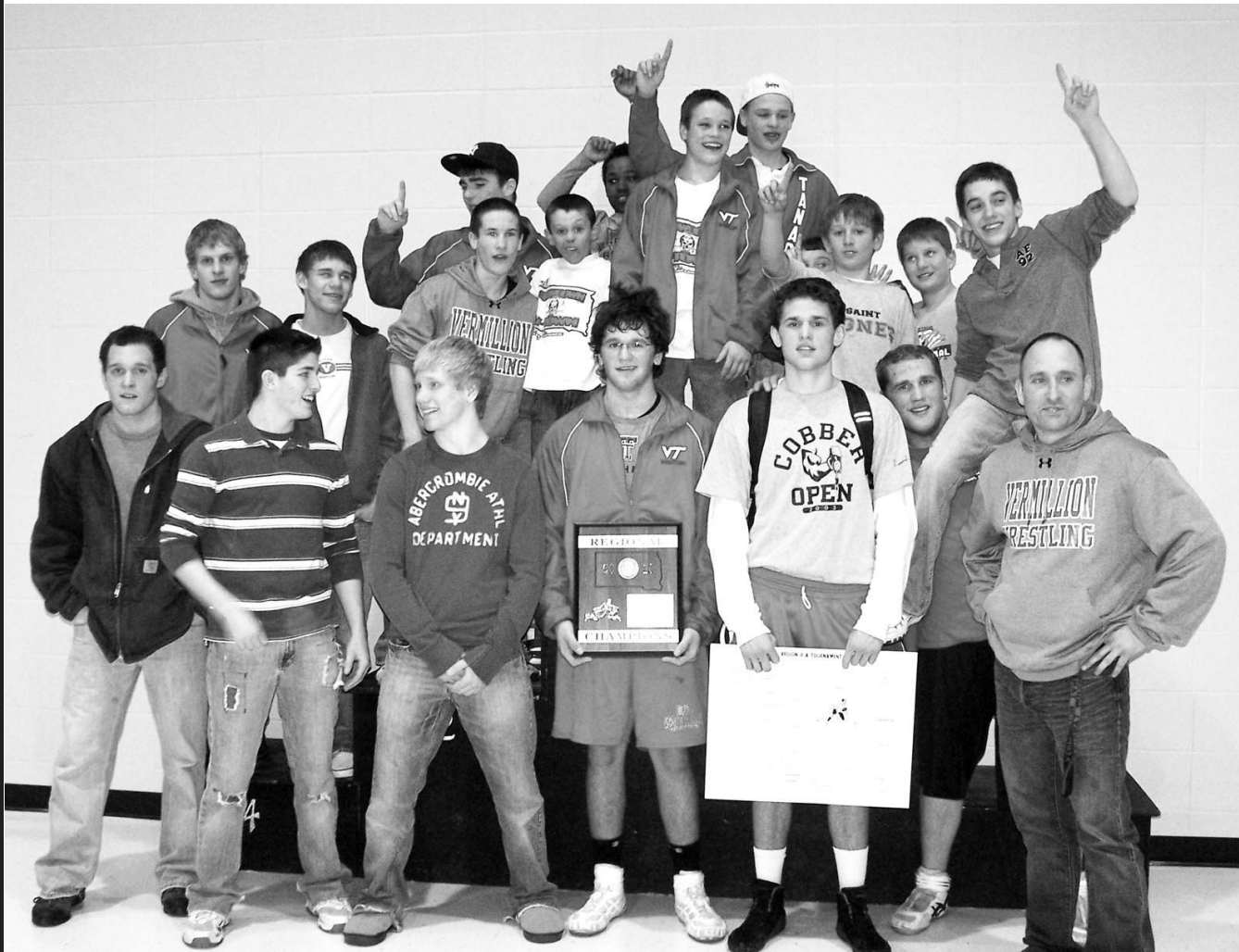
been approved.

Nygaard said the main reason he introduced the legislation was to hopefully give a tool to law enforcement that would allow them to interact properly when they encounter someone whose operation of a motor vehicle is impaired because they are texting.

"It is to hopefully allow officers to give such drivers a warning, to tell them to pull over to the side of the road and stop, and then send a text message rather than doing it while they are driving," he said. "It will correct the problem once they do that. And when mom and dad find out that they are doing that while driving the family car, and it's against the law, and their insurance may not cover any accidents that may occur ... I had some technical reasons for supporting this bill."

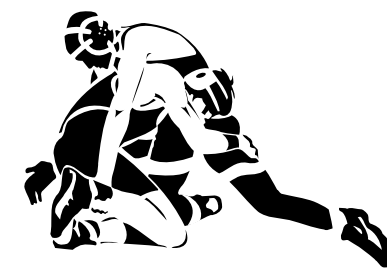
District 17 Sen. Ben Nesselhuf was not present at Saturday's meeting, which was held in the Vermillion Public Library.

GOOD LUCK AT STATE WRESTLING FEB. 26-27

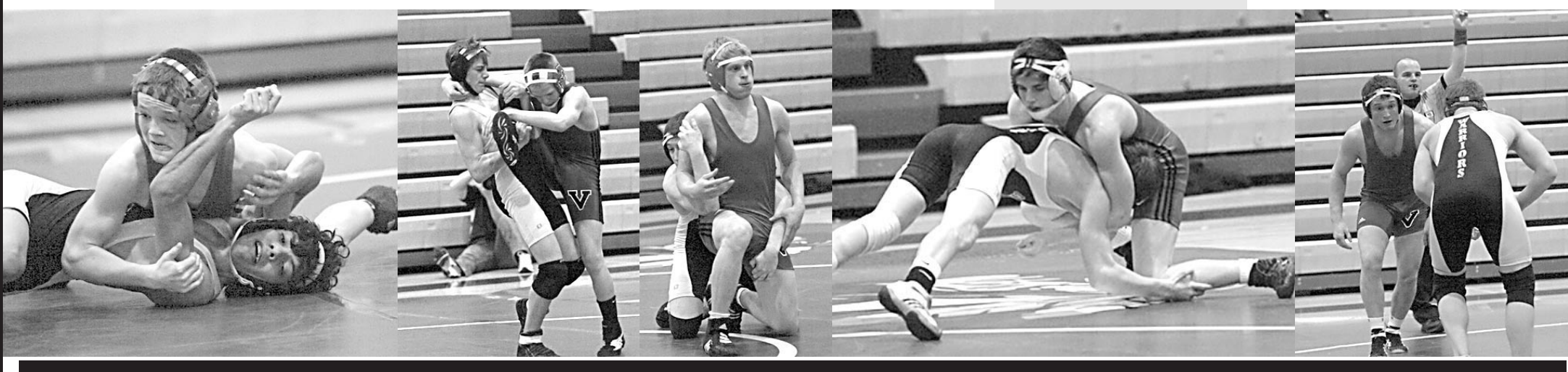


Vermillion Tanager Wrestling

Name	Grade
Andrew McCann	11
Bennet Johnson	12
Brandon Fischer	10
Brandon Steenholdt	10
Brenden Raizola	12
Brett Bye	7
Chase Allen	12
Chris Mart	12
Dylan Clark	9
Earl Kiertzner	12
Gerrit Heine	12
Joey Mueller	11
Josh Callahan	10
Lance Burkhart	11
Nick Mart	12
Niko Cruz	12
Regan Bye	7
Tanner Mart	12
TJ North	12
Tony Henderson	10
Will Mart	10



Head Coach: Joe Delvaux
Asst. Coaches: Kyle Seibel
Managers: Jana Bye
Statisticians: Jenny Bye
Trainer: Amy Richardson
Superintendent: Mark Froke
Principal: Curt Cameron
Athletic Director: Jason Huska



Thank you to the following businesses. A portion of the proceeds from this section will be donated to the Vermillion Athletic program.

- Hy-Vee
- Ouellette Trucking
- First Bank & Trust
- First Dakota National Bank
- Herren-Schempp Building Supply
- Knutson Family Dentistry
- Matthew R. Knutson, DDS
- Richard L. Knutson, DDS
- Pump 'N Pak
- WalMart Supercenter #3734
- Johnson Electric Inc. of Vermillion
- Sturdevants Auto Parts
- Varsity Pub/Sammelson Brothers
- Vermillion Beauty Shop
- Vermillion Ford
- Innovative Financial Services

- Jones' Food Center
- Kalins Indoor Comfort
- Verizon Wireless World
- Willson Florist
- Dakota Realty & Property Management
- Iverson-Siecke-Kober Funeral Home
- Bank of the West/BW Insurance
- Hansen Funeral Home
- Dairy Queen
- Davis Pharmacy
- Subway Sandwiches & Salads
- Henderson Exhaust Plus & Ultimate Car Washes
- Ludey's Ready Mix
- Taco John's/Steak Escape
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Vermillion