

# Bluegrass association SDNG names senior enlisted leader to hold monthly jams

The East River & Missouri Valley Bluegrass Music Association will sponsor a monthly open jam session at the Washington Street Arts Center on the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Washington Street Arts Center.

Bluegrass musicians at all levels of experience are welcome, as is the public.

The association was formed as an organization of professional and amateur musicians, music fans and patrons dedicated to the preservation, support and advancement of bluegrass music as a unique American art form.

The area to be served by the bluegrass association encompasses the upper Missouri River basin, including southeastern South Dakota, northwest Iowa and northeast Nebraska.

The association's purpose is three-fold:

- To sponsor and promote the performance of bluegrass music in informal gatherings as well as in professional concert settings;
- To promote, educate and nurture the development of young people and novice adult players; and
- To educate the community at large in the rich history, traditions and especially the repertoire of bluegrass.

With the support and encouragement of the Vermillion Area Arts Council (VAAC), the association will be housed in the Washington Street Arts Center, located at 202 N. Washington St. in Vermillion.

The association was founded through the efforts of musicians Alan Reinbold and Jon Hittle.

A multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, Reinbold has been a member of the board of the South Dakota Friends of Traditional Music for several years and has been active in the promotion of that organization's annual summer festival.

Hittle has been performing professionally on string bass since the early 1970s with bluegrass groups in multiple states, and has been involved as bassist, publicist and promotion manager for various bluegrass artists. He also teaches string bass and conducts bass workshops, in addition to publishing numerous articles.

Reinbold and Hittle will serve as the executive coordinators of the association's activities until a board of officers is approved by the membership at large.

Anyone seeking more information can contact Reinbold at (605) 987-4191 or Hittle at (877) 621-4118.

By Staff Sgt. Michael Beck  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

South Dakota Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. James Welch, of Sioux Falls, is the state's first senior enlisted leader for the South Dakota National Guard. Welch is the first noncommissioned officer from either the South Dakota Army or Air National Guard to be named to the new position.

Welch was appointed to the position during a ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Joint Force Headquarters building on Camp Rapid. Welch will serve as an advisor to the state's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, on all enlisted matters concerning the Guard's 4,300 soldiers and airmen, including health, morale, welfare and readiness.

"My duties and responsibilities are to provide leadership for the total enlisted force of the South Dakota



WELCH

National Guard, both Army and Air," said Welch. "Whether this position is held by an Air or Army National

Guardsmen should not matter. It comes down to taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen, doing the right things and leading by example."

Prior to the position of senior enlisted leader, Welch served as the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of operations for the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron, the 114th Fighter Wing command chief and state command chief for the South Dakota Air National Guard.

"Chief Master Sgt. Welch has a long record of exemplary service, which includes time in the regular Air Force, the South Dakota Army National Guard and the South Dakota Air National Guard," said Reisch. "He is exceptionally well prepared to perform the duties and responsibilities of this position and I look forward to working with him in this new capacity."

Welch said one of his priorities is to ensure the best for the soldiers and airmen working in the SDNG.

"With the cost cutting measures taking place, it's high on my list to make sure that our soldiers and airmen do not lose the level of readiness and training they presently have," said Welch. "They need to be mission capable and support the war fight, as well as support South Dakota,"

Welch enlisted in the Air Force in 1975 as a cable splicing

specialist and was stationed at Griffis Air Force Base, NY. He obtained the rank of buck sergeant (E-4) and was honorably discharged in 1979. In 1981, he enlisted in the South Dakota Army National Guard as a 12B (engineer) and obtained the rank of sergeant (E-5).

In October 1982, Welch transferred to the South Dakota Air National Guard as a refrigeration and air-conditioning technician. By January 2000, he rose to the position of noncommissioned officer-in-charge of operations in the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron, and later assumed the 114th Fighter Wing command chief position in October 2006. He served as the state command chief for the SDANG since March 2010.

Welch is married to Mary, of Sioux Falls. They have two children, Nicholas, of Sioux Falls, and Amy, 27, of Denver.

## Sanford/USD med center recognized

For the third consecutive time, Sanford/USD Medical Center has achieved Magnet® recognition as part of the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program, positioning the institution in the top 1 percent of facilities nationwide for nursing excellence.

Bestowed every four years, the Magnet Recognition Program's distinction is the highest honor an organization can receive for professional-nursing practice. Magnet® recognition is often considered when the public judges health care organizations. Just 378 of the United States' nearly 6,000 facilities attained Magnet® status for this cycle.

Magnet recognition is a prestigious honor that reflects our commitment to deliver the highest quality of care," said Diana Berkland, RN, chief nursing officer at Sanford/USD Medical Center. "Our staff pursues excellence each and every day – always keeping the needs of our patients at the forefront."

Sanford/USD Medical Center passed a rigorous and lengthy process that demanded widespread participation from leadership and staff. The facility was also required to submit written documentation demonstrating qualitative and quantitative evidence regarding patient care and outcomes, which, when deemed to be at an excellent level, prompted an on-site review. The Commission on Magnet then voted to grant recognition.

Because Sanford/USD Medical Center was a Magnet® recipient in 2008, it was required to provide how Magnet® concepts, performance and quality were sustained and improved over the past four years.

The Magnet® model is designed to provide framework for nursing practice and research and measurement of outcomes.

Elements like quality of nursing leadership and coordination, collaboration across specialties and processes for measuring and improving the quality and delivery of care were considered for selection.

"Retaining this honor for another four years is a testament to our nurses and nursing leadership and the quality care they provide," said Charles O'Brien, MD, president of Sanford/USD Medical Center. "We strive daily to become a better institution, and this award illustrates that this effort is surely paying dividends."

Magnet recognition has been shown to provide specific benefits to hospitals and their communities:

- Higher patient satisfaction with nurse communication, availability of help, and receipt of discharge information;
- lower risk of 30-day mortality and lower failure to rescue;
- higher job satisfaction among nurses; and
- lower nurse reports of intentions to leave position.

## SD Shakespeare Festival auditions at USD

The Department of Theatre at the University of South Dakota will host auditions for the 2013 summer season of The Black Hills Playhouse and the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Sunday, Feb. 10 from 1-4 p.m. in the Arena Theatre in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts. Interviews for technical theatre positions with the BHP will be held Sunday, Feb. 17 in 10-minute increments from 1-4 p.m. in room 180 in Fine Arts.

Actors should prepare a monologue and 16 bars from an up-tempo Broadway-style musical. If interested in the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, the monologue should be from one of Shakespeare's plays.

Actors should bring sheet music; an accompanist will be provided. Technicians (carpenters, painters,

seamstresses, crafts and lighting, etc.) should bring a resume and portfolio that exhibits artistic or craft processes.

All interested parties can reserve a specific time for their audition or interview by signing up on the Theatre Department callboard in the east wing of Fine Arts, by calling (605) 677-5419, or by e-mail to Chaya.Gordon-Bland@usd.edu.

For 67 years, the Black Hills Playhouse has been presenting exciting theatre in beautiful Custer State Park. This year's BHP season includes a mix of farce, drama and musical theatre with "Boeing Boeing," "Tuesdays with Morrie," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Children of Eden" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles."

## USD Symphonic Band to give winter tour concert

The University of South Dakota Symphonic Band, under the direction of Dr. Rolf Olson, will give its 2013 Winter Tour Concert on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. in Aalfs Auditorium, Slagle Hall. Also conducting on the concert from the USD music department will be Dr. Gary Reeves and Dr. Jonathan Alvis.

Following the concert, the band will depart for a three day Black Hills area tour, where they will perform for the following high schools: Rapid City Central, Rapid City Stevens, Rapid City Christian, Rapid City St. Thomas More, Sturgis Brown, Spearfish, Hot Springs, Lead-Deadwood, Oelrichs, and Custer. On the way back from the Hills, the band will perform for the entire student body at Pierre, TF Riggs High School and Platte-Geddes. While in Rapid City, the band also plans to visit Mt. Rushmore.

This tour is an important recruiting tool for the music department and the entire university. Several members of the band are from the Black Hills area and the band hopes to attract even more students to

USD through their performances.

The program consists of several outstanding classics for band, including Leonard Bernstein's "Overture to Candide," William Schuman's "Chester Overture," and Karl King's "Barnum & Bailey's Favorite." Of special interest is a unique and exciting work by Eric Whitacre titled "Ghost Train," a three-movement piece which features unique train sounds and lively, syncopated rhythms with a little jazz mixed in.

Featured performers are senior percussionist Rachel Poss, and student brass quintet members, Erik Mahon and Mike David, trumpet; Becca Lunstrum, horn; Mark Sweeney, trombone; and John Mathews, bass trombone. They will be featured on David Gillingham's piece titled "Quintessence," for solo percussionist and solo brass quintet with band.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Rolf Olson at 677-5726 or Rolf.Olson@usd.edu.

## Ed. changes at SD Mag

John Andrews is the new managing editor of South Dakota Magazine, while Katie Hunhoff will assume the role of editor. Both are veteran staffers of the bi-monthly Yankton publication that explores the culture, history and geography of the state.

Andrews is a native of Lake Norden and former Brookings Register staffer who studied at both SDSU and USD. He joined the magazine's editorial staff in 2007. Hunhoff, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, grew up in the family-owned publishing business and returned as a full-time staffer 10 years ago.

In their expanded roles, Hunhoff will coordinate overall editorial planning with freelancers and the Yankton staff, while Andrews will oversee the daily writing, editing and proofing.

Bernie Hunhoff, who founded the magazine in 1985 with his wife, Myrna, says readers are in good hands. "We're all proud to have John and Katie here, helping to tell the great stories of South Dakota," he said. "They have both been very involved in all aspects of the magazine these past few years as we've experienced continued growth in circulation and I know they will make it even bigger and better in the issues to come."

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**Open House & Registration**  
for the 2013-14 School Year

The Vermillion School District will offer an "Explore Preschool" Open House to all interested 3 and 4 year olds and their families on

**Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 5pm to 6pm**  
**at Austin School**

Registration information and additional information can be picked up at the Open House or at Austin School after February 7th.

Please call 677-7010 or email Kimmarie.Johnson@k12.sd.us with any questions.

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