

Orchestra concerts at USD March 6-7

The USD Symphony Orchestra will give its winter concert on Thursday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Knutson Theatre in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts.

The concert will feature Prokofiev's charming introduction to the instruments of the orchestra, "Peter and the Wolf," and perhaps the most famous work for orchestra, Beethoven's Symphony No. 5.

USD Professor of History Dave Burrow will tell the story of Peter, who with his friends the bird, the duck and the cat capture the wolf, who is certainly big and bad.

The next evening, Friday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. there will be a concert by a string orchestra of 50 high school students from around the region, who will have come to USD that morning for a day of rehearsals and music-making.

Jungho Kim, associate conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic, will lead the Spring Orchestra Festival, and Rick Rognstad will play the double bass solo in R. Nathaniel Pages' The Incantation of Rudaki.

There is no admission charge to either concert.

For more information contact Rick Rognstad, 677-5722.

VHS gymnasts bring home State A hardware

By Scott Bormann

ABERDEEN – The Tanagers traveled to the great white north of Aberdeen for the State A gymnastics meet. The Tanagers brought home the fourth-place trophy on Feb. 21 before competing in the individual event finals on Feb. 22.

"Our rotation was the same as regions: Vault, Bars, Beam, and Floor," Coach Skye Bork said. "Sydney Tigert started off the meet not only for our team, but for all teams on the Vault. She performed very well and received a 7.75. After Sydney, each of our next four gymnasts scored mid to high 8s which helped us going into bars."

There were a couple of mishaps on bars, but nothing to make a major dent in the Tanagers' scores. Keeping all the scores in the 7s made sure that they didn't have a drop-off in scores.

"Beam was the real difference maker," said Bork. "We outscored all but two teams on beam, Madison and Deuel, but we weren't far behind. Anneliese Taggart had a solid beam routine that brought in an 8.025 and Carter Williams finished out the event for the Tanagers with an 8.275."

Scoring 8.0 or higher on the beam at State is very

difficult. Only 13 scores that high were awarded on the beam, while the vault saw 38 scores that high.

"Floor is always a fun event, and having it last was very fortunate for the ladies as they had only gained momentum throughout the meet," said Bork. "Each one performed their floor routines the best they had all season which sealed our spot on the podium for fourth place."

The top teams were Madison (141.4), Dual (134.125), Chamberlain (130.375) and Vermillion (128.825).

The Tanagers only had four girls with State Meet experience competing this year. Having lost six of the ten members from last year's sixth-place team, this was a great result for Bork's first year at the helm.

Individual day was a little more difficult. "The girls are not used to having back to back meets," Bork said. "After every meet their bodies are sore and tired, so it is hard to push through. They did an outstanding job of pushing themselves and one another. We brought home four medals from individual day, which is great."

Vermillion's sole senior, Anna Hammond, tied for 20th in the vault (8.45) to end her career on a high note.

Seventh-grader Carter Williams gives a glimpse into a bright future for the Tanagers by capturing three medals. She tied for 14th in the all-around (33.0), sixth in the balance beam (8.5), and 13th on the floor exercise (8.85).

"These ladies had an outstanding season," said Bork. "We began our 1st meet with a 109 total team score and ended with 128.825 at the state meet. With a gain of 20 points over the course of the season."

More importantly, the ladies improvement over the season saw them jump from 10th place to fourth.

"I look forward to what this team can accomplish in the coming years," said Coach Bork. "We are a young team with endless potential and drive."

The Tanagers are losing a lone senior – Anna Hammond, and they took one junior – Hope Knedler, one sophomore – Cheyenne Mallory, one freshman – Sydney Tigert, two eighth-graders – Anneliese Taggart and Morgan Graham, and two seventh-graders – Carter Williams and Peyton Larson to this state meet.

Results:
Team Day (Friday)
Vault: Sydney Tigert – 7.75, Anna Hammond – 8.55, Anneliese Taggart – 8.825, Carter Williams – 8.85,

Cheyenne Mallory – 8.6. Bars: Morgan Graham – 7.2, Carter Williams – 7.8, Anna Hammond – 7.8, Cheyenne Mallory – 6.95, Anneliese Taggart – 7.275. Beam: Morgan Graham – 6.625, Anna Hammond – 7.05, Cheyenne Mallory – 7.35, Anneliese Taggart – 8.025, Carter Williams – 8.275. Floor: Anna Hammond – 7.05, Morgan Graham – 7.6, Cheyenne Mallory – 8.55, Carter Williams – 8.5, Anneliese Taggart – 8.575.

Individual day (Saturday) Vault: 20 – Anna Hammond 8.45, 27 – Cheyenne Mallory 8.35, 28 – Carter Williams 8.325, 35 – Anneliese Taggart 8.15. Bars: 22 – Anneliese Taggart 7.725, 26 – Morgan Graham 7.575, 31 – Anna Hammond 7.425, 34 – Carter Williams 7.325. Beam: 6 – Carter Williams 8.5, 38 – Anneliese Taggart 6.8, 40 – Cheyenne Mallory 6.55, 41 – Anna Hammond 6.5. Floor: 13 – Carter Williams 8.85, 22 – Cheyenne Mallory 8.675, 40 – Anneliese Taggart 8.0, 43 – Anna Hammond 7.825. All Around: Anna Hammond – 30.45, Cheyenne Mallory – 31.35, Anneliese Taggart – 32.265, Carter Williams – 33.5

All Around: 14 – Carter Williams 33.0, 31 – Anneliese Taggart 30.65, 32 – Anna Hammond 30.2.

VERMILLION EMS CALLS FOR SERVICE

02/17/2014 02:48:50 – Medical
02/17/2014 11:30:21 – Medical
02/17/2014 12:34:18 – Medical
02/17/2014 22:04:53 – Medical
02/18/2014 07:41:36 – Medical
02/18/2014 15:47:11 – Intersection of Jefferson Street and W. Clark Street vehicle accident
02/18/2014 20:58:58 – Medical
02/19/2014 19:24:37 – Medical

02/19/2014 20:02:17 – Medical
02/20/2014 05:18:04 – Medical
02/20/2014 12:00 – Fire Inspection
02/20/2014 17:05:35 – Medical
02/20/2014 19:07:50 – Medical
02/23/2014 17:20:03 – Medical
02/23/2014 17:33:01 – Medical
02/23/2014 18:58:40 – Medical

GREETINGS FROM PIERRE

By Rep. Ray Ring
District 17

Thanks to everyone who came out for Cracker Barrels in Irene and Viborg. We had a good discussion and exchange of ideas. I wish more people would come out to share their views. Your next – and probably last – Cracker Barrel for this session is Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m., at Vermillion City Hall.

This past week, I met with several District 17 school board members and administrators, some constituents, and of course, the paid lobbyists. I really want and need to hear directly from more constituents. If you can't come to Pierre, please call, e-mail or come to a Cracker Barrel. My contact information is at the end of this column. I do read all e-

mails, even though I don't always have time to answer all of them.

Week 6 was a busy one. The House Committee on State Affairs considered another bill to improve school funding, then deferred it to the 41st day. (There is no 41st day; that's an indirect way to kill a bill.) South Dakota education remains sorely underfunded. The Education Committee also defeated more attempts to stop the state from adopting the Common Core. I still believe that many of the opponents are misinformed. Many teachers and administrators are e-mailing me in support of the Common Core. They're the experts and I think we need to listen to them.

In the Committee on State Affairs, over a dozen proponents testified for Medicaid Expansion. The

only two opponents represented the Daugaard Administration. A representative of the Bureau of Finance and Management (BFM), South Dakota's budget office, acknowledged that the state would qualify for Federal payments of \$275 million next year, in return for \$1.9 million of state funds, then admitted (or claimed) that the folks at BFM haven't even discussed that very high "return on investment". Our hospitals typically lose around \$90 million a year in uncompensated care; expanding Medicaid would save them about one-third of that. Several recent studies find that access to health care improves health and reduces mortality. One study estimates that expanding Medicaid would save 36-95 South Dakotans' lives each year. Despite all the support

for Medicaid expansion (including polls of South Dakotans), the committee voted along party lines to reject the bill. South Dakotans remain uninsured despite a ready opportunity to insure many of them at very little cost to the state.

On Friday, House Bill 1183, a bill to repeal the death penalty and replace it with a sentence of life without parole, was heard. A District 17 resident was the major motivating force behind this bill, spending countless hours and travelling all over the state to foster support for repealing the death penalty. I have done what I could to support the effort. There is no conclusive evidence that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime. Litigation costs that result from appeals, many of which the counties must pay, are usually greater than

would be the cost of housing an inmate for life. Prisons, correctly run, can protect other persons from "lifers". A life sentence leaves time for the prisoner to seek redemption. Nearly all religious denominations favor repeal. For me, repealing the death penalty, like providing access to health care, is part of a consistent pro-life ethic. As the bill's prime sponsor said in his introductory comments, "If human life is sacred, it's always sacred." After more than two hours of testimony and debate, the Committee on State Affairs killed the bill, 6-7.

Many of you know by now that District 17 Sen. Tom Jones announced he will not run for re-election this fall. I know you join me in thanking Senator Jones for his selfless service to District 17 and all of South Dakota,

not only as our state representative and senator, but also through his generous gifts of time and talent to many boards and commissions.

I am personally grateful for Tom's support, advice, and encouragement for the last two years. He encouraged me to run, gave excellent advice on organizing and running my campaign, and continues to provide wise counsel as I learn to navigate the legislative maze. Future legislatures will miss his wise, objective, and practical approach to government and to life.

Please contact me at Rep.Ring@state.sd.us or (605) 675-9379. Don't forget the cracker barrel, March 1, 10 a.m., at Vermillion City Hall. Please come to share your views.

VERMILLION POLICE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING

02/16/14 00:45 – Caller reported loud music coming from a neighbor's house. An officer arrived and found the sounds of a loud party to be unreasonable and contacted the renter and advised the party needed to stop. The party dispersed.

02/17/14 05:19 – Subject called and spoke to an officer to report several things. One, a stupid criminal had broken into the national database and entered erroneous information about her. Two, criminal cops in an undisclosed location had entered false information into her criminal record. The variety of concerns led the officer to talk to the subject about her mental state. She was taken into protective custody for evaluation.

02/18/14 12:04 – Caller reported damage to his vehicle. The damage consisted of a scratch along the front quarter panel. The cause of the damage was not determined.

02/18/14 15:42 – Officers investigated a two-vehicle non-injury accident. One of the drivers was cited for following too closely and no insurance.

02/18/14 16:51 – Officers were called to the library to deal with two young ladies who were arguing loudly and would not stop. Officers contacted the girls and found they were angry over Facebook posts. Both were told to stop and leave the library.

02/20/14 00:13 – Officers found a woman in a local bar that appeared to

be under 21. She denied having any identification and provided a name and date of birth that could not be found in the databases of several states. She continued to insist she was the woman despite multiple inconsistencies and no record of her in local, state, or national databases. She was arrested for underage consumption and false information. Officers later found out the woman's identity using an Internet search.

02/20/14 08:15 – A local business owner reported someone had tried to break into the business. Under investigation.

02/20/14 10:40 – Officers responded to a report of a domestic in progress. Officers found

both parties and discovered that there had been an argument about removing a broken TV from the home and the TV had been thrown into the yard, but no violence or threat of violence had occurred between the parties.

02/20/14 15:09 – Caller reported an odor coming from a neighboring apartment that he thought was marijuana. An officer responded and could smell the odor, but it was not marijuana. The officer believed it was incense.

02/20/14 15:38 – Light and Power reported damage to an electrical box. Officers investigated but were unable to locate any evidence pointing to a suspect.

02/20/14 18:05 –

Officers responded to a business that had a strobe light activated inside, which appeared to be some type of alarm. The business owner was contacted; nothing appeared amiss. The light/alarm had just been installed.

02/21/14 00:26 – Bar owner called police to report a man was drinking in the bar who was claiming to be 19. The man left before officers arrived, but the owner was able to give enough information for the officers to locate the man. Oddly, the man was

21 years of age and admitted to lying to the bar owner for some unknown reason.

02/22/14 23:35 – An

officer stopped a vehicle for no headlights. The driver had been drinking and was under 21 and was cited.

Total Records: 13



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