

# One in a *Ver* Million

## Meet Will Card

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

"A sense of euphoria."

That's the best way Will Card can describe what he experiences when he steps on a stage to perform.

The Vermillion High School senior has spent his entire life in the community, and a great deal of that time, he's been in the spotlight.

He's active in the high school band, the high school chorus, a variety of vocal ensembles, and Rhythm in Red.

He discovered a love for performing when, at about the age of 10 or 11, he first became involved in a Vermillion Community Theatre production.

"It was absolutely incredible, and I love performing," he said. "I love the opportunity that I get here in Vermillion because I get to be a part of so many groups. I really get to have the chance to be a part of

almost anything I want to be a part of."

Will's latest opportunity to take the stage came Friday, when he joined other VHS classmates in the production of "Midwest Side Story," a one-act play written and directed by Mary Begley.

After Friday's performance, the cast and crew took the show on the road to the Region 1A South Dakota High School Activities Association's one-act play contest held at Yankton's Mount Marty College theatre on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

Will wasn't able to be part of the Vermillion Community Theatre's last two performances – "Annie," and "My Fair Lady" – but he landed a role in the musical "Oklahoma!" which was staged by the VCT in 2010.

"That was a lot of fun," he said. In 2007, he had a part in the VCT's production of "Pirates of Penzance," and a summer



ago, filled a role as an understudy for "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Will also enjoys the chance to rub elbows on stage with not only his cohorts at VHS, but also music and theatre students from the University of South Dakota who become involved in community theatre productions.

"I get to meet a lot of students from the university who are also studying theatre, so being able to build a relationship that way is really cool," he said.

This May, Will graduates from Vermillion High, with

hopes that show business may be part of his future.

"I am planning to go to the University of Colorado in Denver for a music business degree," he said, "and I hope to be a singer/songwriter, too. I don't know if I want to make a living doing performances, but I love being around the whole environment of performance."

That could lead to a host of opportunities, from working in management, to scheduling and booking.

"Everything that has to do with music and performance is sort of what I want to do," Will said.

# Shoot down HB 1010

A piece of legislation that likely is very similar to a bill that couldn't survive a veto from Gov. Dennis Daugaard at the end of last year's legislative session has been introduced again.

The new bill may have the same intent as the one from last year. It couldn't be introduced, however, in a time of wildly different circumstances.

State Representative Lance Russell (R-Hot Springs) and Senator Ernie Otten (R-Tea) have introduced HB 1010, the South Dakota "Constitutional Carry Bill" of 2013.

The legislation is backed by an organization called South Dakota Gun Owners, which claims to have 4,000 members in the state.

In a press release issued by South Dakota Gun Owners Monday, Rep. Russell states, "This common-sense bill provides safety for South Dakota families and matches the clear intent of the Second Amendment."

The bill's supporters claim it has also won strong support from the National Association for Gun Rights, which has 1.8 million members and supporters nationwide and over 3,000 in South Dakota.

Excuse us if we don't share Russell's enthusiasm, or, for that matter, the excitement exhibited by South Dakota Gun Owners.

This bill was a bad idea last year, and it's still a bad idea. We say this without passion – it's easy, after the mass shootings this nation experienced in 2012, to be swayed by emotion instead of rational thought.

Sandy Hook happened approximately a month ago and many people are still reeling from that, with some calling for stricter gun control while others, citing the Second Amendment, call for an affirmation of the freedom to bear arms.

The South Dakota "Constitutional Carry Bill," if approved as currently

written, removes the penalty for carrying a concealed handgun without a permit. According to South Dakota Gun Owners, it eliminates "intrusive, government mandated background checks for law-abiding citizens and does away with the tax or fee and the waiting period currently required to obtain the permit."

South Dakota Gun Owners calls this a "common sense approach." We find it to still be just as unnecessary as it was last year, when the governor vetoed it, and for all of time before that when South Dakotans did just fine, thank you, without this law.

In his veto address last year, Daugaard said the state's permitting laws are already "fair and reasonable." Nothing since then has changed to make those laws unfair or unreasonable.

"Each year, locally-elected sheriffs deny permits, in most cases because the applicant has a serious criminal history," Daugaard wrote in his veto message. "Under this bill, those who are prohibited from carrying a concealed weapon would no longer be informed of that fact. Understandably, law enforcement officials from across South Dakota have objected to this bill."

There has been no press announcement, to our knowledge, from any state or local law enforcement organization in reaction to the announcement about this bill. Currently, sheriffs are required to issue permits to any adult who does not have something in their background that would prohibit them from carrying a weapon, such as a history of mental illness, chronic drug or alcohol use or violent crimes or domestic violence.

"Constitutional Carry" supporters evidently believe that the simple act of being required to get a permit to carry a gun is government overreach.

### BETWEEN THE LINES



DAVID LIAS

david.lias@plaintalk.net

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