

# Poetry reading at library Feb. 4

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library is pleased to present "Environmental Poetry by Norma Wilson" Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Kozak Community Room. This event is part of the ongoing Artists & Authors series and will feature the work of Vermillion poet author and USD Professor Emertus, Norma Wilson, as she reads and discusses poetry from a recent book "Under the Rainbow." Also featured will be the collaborative work with Vermillion visual

artist, Nancy Losacker, who will also be sharing the evening, as they present images and text from their exhibition, Rivers, Wings and Sky, for which they received a South Dakota Arts Council grant. Copies of Norma Wilson's books will be available for sale and signing at the event. The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library is located at 18 Church St. in Vermillion. For more information call the library at (605) 677-7060.

# District 17 Legislative notes

By Rep. Nancy Rasmussen  
District 17

One of the highlights of last week's session was meeting two Viborg FFA Leaders. Kirsten Stevens, District 3 vice-president and Jaclynn Knutson, District 3 state advisor attended the District Officer Training event held in Pierre. A legislative breakfast was provided for us that allowed the House and Senate members the opportunity to hear from our future leaders. It was my honor to listen and observe the talent and

commitment of these SDDFA high school students. This week Ivy Sherard from Hurlley will join me and the House of Representatives to take part in the Legislative Page Program. This is an opportunity for high school seniors to experience South Dakota's government at work. Thank you, Ivy! Congresswoman Kristi Noem addressed both Houses last Wednesday to give updates on the forthcoming farm bill, disaster funding for west river ranchers, school lunch reforms and funding for the Lewis & Clark Water Systems.

Legislation voted on the House floor last week varied from repealing the inheritance and estate tax (HB 1057), reducing penalty taxes paid on aircraft (HB 1042), establishing customer protection services (HB 1054), to recognizing Hot Springs as "The Veterans Town" (HCR 1004). The House will hear two Senate Bills this week addressing Common Core Standards (SB 62 and SB 64). Other bills considered on this week's calendar will be listed for us on Tuesday. I will update you next week. Keep safe and warm!

# Education Department meets with Appropriations Committee

By Sen. Tom Jones  
District 17

Our South Dakota State Department of Education gave three days of testimony to the State Joint Appropriations Committee this past week. The information they gave exhibited the care they have for our K-12 students and our four state technical schools. Their presentation began with the Presidents of our technical schools located in Watertown, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, and Rapid City. We can be proud of the success these schools have enjoyed, including the percentage (71) of their students graduate in three years or less. They are number one in the nation. Currently, there are 6,460 students enrolled in one of these schools. A common problem our technical schools have along with our other facets of education in South Dakota is the increased burden on students for paying their education bills. South Dakota ranks

last among the seven surrounding states in the percentage of state and local aid we provide for them. South Dakota provides 28 percent; Minnesota – 33 percent; Iowa – 35 percent; Montana – 35 percent; North Dakota – 34 percent; Wyoming – 58 percent; and Nebraska – 59 percent. The second and third days K-12 was addressed by our Secretary of Education and her staff. Our total student population across the state is estimated to be 131,250 for the 2014-15 school year. Issues discussed included: teacher shortages and opt-outs. Let me give you an example of each. A superintendent told me that he had two openings this past fall for teachers. He had two applicants. He also said he was very fortunate that both applicants were good ones. Concerning opt-outs; 66 of our 151 school districts passed opt-outs. That's 44 percent. That does not include districts

that failed in their attempt or attempts for an opt-out. Remember, when an opt-out is passed the amount becomes the sole responsibility of the taxpayers in their district. When the state school funding formula was initiated (during Gov. Janklow's terms), it was to come closer to equalizing funding for every student. Dual credits were explained in length. It simply means that if you take a college-level course in high school, students can earn both high school and college credit from one of our four state universities for the same course. The cost for the college credit is \$40.00 per credit hour, which is considerably less than the normal charge. The average cost in college is \$300.00 per credit hour. It's also my understanding that if a student takes the ACT and doesn't quite score well enough to enter college without taking remedial courses, he or she can take

these classes in addition to their regular classes during their senior year of high school at no cost. This can save time and money when they enter college. I hope the above two paragraphs gives some insight to several of you. On Friday, the Senate Appropriations listened to several bill hearings. SB 27 allowed up to \$500,000 transfer from the Natural Resources Fund to the State Conservation Commission. It passed 9-0. SB 31 authorized a \$94,000 payment for reimbursement for a rural physician who has completed the needed requirements. It passed 9-0. Finally SB 32 passed 9-0 a transfer of \$1,900,000 of General Funds and \$21,100,000 of Federal monies for the National Guard Armory construction and land in Watertown. Once again, if you have questions or would like to contact me concerning a bill, my e-mail address is sen.jones@state.sd.us.

## HARPER From Page 01

Central, Vermillion leads Canton (7-2) in the region, and has suffered only a 2-point loss to Lennox. As the season has progressed, so too has Harper, according to Drake. "He changes our team, because he makes plays that you can't coach," Drake said. The battle there, though, is finding a balance between making those 'wow' plays and working within the team system, Drake added. "He's an emotional player, and yet, with some kids it's hard to reel them back in at times, but with him, he really refocuses and listens to coaching," the coach said. In only half a season with Vermillion, Harper is already getting interest from college programs. Though he has yet to make a final decision, Harper does plan to stay

in the area — to stay close to family. "I wish I would have come earlier, knowing how I'd fit into this program, but I'm satisfied with it," he said. "That means I have one year to do what I have to do to get to state." Although a hot start has many people in Tanager land thinking state tournament, Harper urges caution. "I don't want to get too caught up in it, but I think we're really underrated," he said. "I guess we'll just have to keep showing people every night that we're a top five team." It's not going to be an easy road to the State A Tournament in Sioux Falls (March 20-22), Drake said. "Our region is pretty wide open," he said. "The good thing is, everyone feels they have a shot, but it'll take a lot just to advance to state."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](http://twitter.com/jhoeck).

## FOR THE RECORD

**Cases Disposed 1/17-23/2014**  
Natasha Luchtenburg, 220 Sycamore #1, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs  
Jenna Marie Biedendorf, 314 Bower St. Apt. 203, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs  
Gerben Lee DeJong, 2741 Hickory Ave., Hull, IA; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs  
Chad Jay Munce, 2212 S. Macey Ave., Sioux Falls; County speeding, \$39.00 plus costs  
Denna L. Schneider, 8160 Highway 20, Allen, NE; Seat belt violation, \$25.00  
Kyleigh Rose Moran, 1020 W. Clark St., Vermillion; Fail to stop or slow down for school bus, \$54.00 plus costs  
Joseph Alan Brewer, 604 W. Broadway, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00  
Joshua Robert Thompson, 711 W. 4th St., Yankton; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$79.00 plus costs  
Jackson Harris, 700 E. Cherry St. #439, Vermillion; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs  
Troy Anderson, 46731 295th Street, Centerville; County speeding, \$65.00 plus costs

Margaret Bernice Higman, 2954 Peterson Road, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs  
Keith A. Miller, 119 N. Harvard, Vermillion; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$19.00 plus costs  
Amanda Lynn Oleson, 520 E. Main St. Apt. 201, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs  
Devin Patrick Gay, 310 N. Dakota, Vermillion; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed  
Tony J. Willman, 800 E. 12th St., Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25.00  
Vanessa Maureen Carlson, 45621 306th Street, Wakonda; County speeding, \$39.00 plus costs  
Stephen Duane Petersen, 6420 W. 56th St., Sioux Falls; Driving to left on approach to intersection, \$54.00 plus costs  
Ethan David Cleaver, 1510 Lewis St., Vermillion; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs  
Maria S. Sullivan, 402 W. 15th Street, S. Sioux City, NE; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs  
Curtis E. Moulton, 29594 472nd Ave., Beresford; Speeding on a state highway, \$59.00 plus costs

Celia Lee Fatland, 1529 Grandview Blvd. Apt. 4, Sioux City, IA; Open alcoholic beverage container accessible in vehicle, \$54.00 plus costs  
Cordaro James Williamson, 214 N. Wicker, Canton; Open container, dismissal-deferred prosecution  
Nolan Goetzinger, 422 N. Dakota, Vermillion; Open container, dismissal-deferred prosecution  
**Judge Tami Bern**  
Peder Corneil Vagle, 721 Walnut Place, Vermillion; Reckless driving, \$350.00 plus costs  
John Paul Cordell, 901 Rose St. 140D, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs  
Cody Matthew Rolston, 602 E. 9th Street, Yankton; Driving with revoked (not suspended) license, \$300.00 plus costs, 20 days county jail; Reckless

driving, \$350.00 plus costs, 360 days county jail suspended based on the conditions of the court  
Cierra Zomer, 901 Rose #421, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs, license suspended for 30 days; Entering property-after notice, \$54.00 plus costs; Impersonation to deceive law enforcement officer, recharged; Enter or surreptitiously remain in building, recharged; Possession of alcohol by minor, recharged  
Brady Blackwell, 800 N. Plum, Olson Hall #239, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs  
Rhyen Rosenquist, 1034 Cornell, Apt. #114, Vermillion; Driving under influence-1st offense, \$350.00 plus costs, license revoked for 120 days; Seat belt violation, dismissed  
Ethan Scott Brende, 2601 N. Male Lane #205,

Sioux Falls; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs, license suspended for 60 days; Ingest intoxicant other than alcoholic beverage, \$371.00 plus costs; Possess two ounces of marijuana or less, dismissed; Use or possession of drug paraphernalia, dismissed  
Erin Culleson, 702 E. Cherry #429, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$134.00 plus costs, license suspended for 30 days  
Michael James McDole, 103 Union Street, Alcester; Under twenty-one driver, \$54.00 plus costs, license suspended for 120 days  
Nicholas E. Page, 407 SW 1st St., Madison; Possession of alcohol by

minor, \$54.00 plus costs  
Cierra Zomer, 901 Rose #421, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, dismissed  
Shane Michael Gunter, 1005 21st Street, Sioux Falls; Driving under influence-1st offense, \$1,000.00 plus costs, two days jail, conditions of the court  
Trayce Ruotsalainen, 800 N. Plum #117, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$134.00 plus costs, license suspended for 30 days  
Travis H. Vandewater, 713 N. Plum #211, Vermillion; Driving under influence-1st offense, \$350.00 plus costs, license revoked for 30 days, five days jail suspended

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