## VHS Dance Team Returns To Summer Camp -Takes Home Top Spirit Award

STORM LAKE, IA, - July 9-12, 2015: This month, the Vermillion High School Dance Team returned to Iowa for their annual summer dance camp. The camp, hosted by Just for Kix, was held at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake. The team procured several awards including Most Spirited for the entire camp.

In attendance were over 150 dancers from four different states. Inferno dancers continued to perfect their skills, learned new routines and acquired new dance technique during the fourday camp.

New assistant dance coach, Shana Cerny saw a transformation from the team. "The girls didn't just learn new skills, they really became dancers. It was a great kick-start to the season!"

They were recognized as the "Most Spirited Team" because they had great attitudes, assisted other teams and worked hard throughout the duration of the



Front: Lily Foster, Mia Johns, Tasia French, Kylee Retzlaff, Shelby Husby, Tomalyn Peckham Back: Shana Cerny, Jess Braunstein, Alex Rosdail, Lauren Bern, Carter Williams, Rachel Brady, Peyton Larson, Joni Freidel Not pictured: Morgan Halverson, Amanda Finnegan, Sowmya Ragothaman

camp. In addition to that honor, they also earned: 3rd place Home Routine, a Firecracker Award (Lauren Bern), a finalist for Best Turns (Rachel Brady) and a semi-finalist for each Best Toe-Touch (Peyton Larson) and Best Turns (Laruen Bern).

The highlight for the VHS coaches was when the camp staff made a point to compliment the team on their positive attitudes. Head dance coach Joni Freidel said the experience the team gained was invaluable. "Since we have a very young team, the opportunity for them to bond as a team and participate with dancers from other high schools was a great learning experience. They went to camp as individual dancers and left as a team."

Inferno's first performance will be at the VHS Booster Bash on Friday, August 21.

## **A Beary Scary Tale**

## **BY DARIS HOWARD**

My university colleagues and I always tried to find summer work, and then returned to share stories of our adventures. But John's story was unsurpassed that year.

As he had in other years, John found work in Yellowstone National Park doing trail maintenance. He would walk the trails of the park with a chain saw, cutting trees that had fallen across the paths. Also, as in previous years, because he would be working in the back woods, he had to sit through bear safety training even though he could nearly repeat it by heart.

Black bears seldom attack unless they think their cub is threatened. The best defense against them is to run away. It doesn't do much good to climb a tree because black bears can climb trees and do it much faster than a human.

Grizzlies are much more prone to attack. Grizzly cubs can climb trees, but grown grizzlies can't, so if a grizzly charges, if possible, For all bears, make plenty of noise so you don't surprise them, and usually they will avoid human contact. If a bear does attack and you can't get away, roll into a ball to protect vital parts of your body and play dead.

He had just about tuned it all out when the head ranger said, "Be especially careful this year since we have had more grizzly sightings than in years past."

The summer work started out normally. There were a lot of trees downed by the heavy winter snows. John would find the trees across the trail about every hundred yards. He didn't worry about making any additional noise, feeling the chainsaw made plenty. But after a few weeks on the job, he had one of the scariest experiences of his life. He came around a corner in the trail and there, about fifty yards from him, was a female grizzly.

He was surprised that she hadn't left the area when she heard the chainsaw. But when she turned and saw him, John knew he was in trouble and quickly sized up the surrounding trees. He charged almost immediately. John ran to the best tree he could see. He reached it and was able to pull himself up into it just before she ripped out a chunk of wood below his feet. He climbed up until he knew he was safely out of her reach and sat down to wait until she left.

But that was where the bear training didn't work. The bear was supposed to prowl around the tree for a time and then leave. But this bear started shredding the base of the tree. John was grateful it was a strong tree, but he knew she would eventually topple it if she continued to rip it apart. He couldn't understand why she was so determined to get him. That is, he couldn't until he heard a cry from above him in the tree. John looked up, and to his horror he saw a grizzly cub ten feet up.

As the mother continued to rip the tree apart, he considered his options, and he suddenly knew what he had to do if he was to have any chance of survival. He climbed toward the cub, but the closer he came, the more the baby bear cried The baby bear moved as far out on a limb as possible to get away from him. Finally, as John felt the tree begin to shudder, weakened from the amount of wood ripped from its base, he moved within arm's length of the cub.

Holding tight to avoid falling, John reached his foot out and shoved the baby bear. It swiped at him, and when it did, he gave it a hard kick. It lost its hold and tumbled to the ground, landed on its fat backside, and bounced. The mother grizzly immediately ran to it. Then, to John's relief, the mother and cub ran away and disappeared into the woods.

John stayed in the tree for some time to make sure all was safe and to slow his heart. Eventually, he climbed down, and, still shaking, he turned toward the path leading to the ranger station. When he reached it, he heard a loud crash. Thinking the mother bear had returned, he spun around. What he saw really made him tremble. The tree he had

climbed had fallen.

Heartland Humane Society Offers Cuddly Cats During "4-Legged Felines for \$40" Adoption Event



YANKTON, S.D. - Have

you been considering adopt-

Heartland Humane Society

(HHS) has a variety of cats

personalities, and they are

ing a feline companion?

and kittens with unique



having a special for the he Value month of July to encourage adoption. Saving a cat has been made much easier this sum-Broadcaster Press mer with Heartland Humane ermillio: Society's 4-Legged Felines Pr PLAIN TALK for \$40 event extending the month of July (July 1st -Friday, July 31st). "HHS is experiencing SHOPPER an influx of cats and kit-For <u>Your</u> Classified! tens that need homes. We 605-624-4429 currently have close to 40 felines being cared for at Midsommar 2015 was a Great Success! (dalesburg.org/midsommar-2015) Thanks to the many volunteers, contributors and area businesses, including: CorTrust Bank; Mark Crowley, CPA; Edward Jones; First Bank & Trust; First Dakota National Bank; Gateway Engineering; Huot Trucking; Interstate Commodities; Johnson & Strom Farming Partnership; Nelson Repair; PCK Partnership; Sage Project Consultants; Simplot Grower Solutions; State Bank of Alcester; Sternquist Farms; Valley Ag Supply; and WalMart. Δ For Sale By Owner 731 W. Clark, Vermillion, SD Price \$117,500 **Main Floor** Basement Lot Size 9,840 Sq. Ft. 988 Sq. Ft. 988 Sq. Ft.

Well-kept ranch home features 3 bedrooms, 1 bath on the main floor, with updated flooring and kitchen cabinets. Full finished basement with family room, <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> bath, laundry, possible 1 bedroom (no egress) and a storage room. Large fenced back yard with patio area, storage shed and potential garden. Removable front ramp. Close to elementary and middle schools.

For more information contact: Mary Taggart @ 605.670.1133 or Paul Brunick @ 605.675.9233 the shelter, and still some waiting for kennel space residing in foster homes. This doesn't count the felines that are being placed on a waiting list or referred elsewhere. We really want to encourage adopting from us, especially the adults that have been here for quite some time. This will help make more space for cats that need somewhere to go," said Christa Kranig, shelter coordinator for HHS.

All felines available for the \$40 promotion are spayed/neutered, completely vaccinated, healthy and micro-chipped. Any feline at HHS older than 6 months old qualifies for this adoption special.

tion special. "The veterinary care these felines have received would typically cost upwards of \$150 to \$250. Adopting a cat with those costs already covered is an amazing deal," Kranig said.

For more information on this event, contact Heartland Humane Society at 605-664-4244 or email hhs@ midconetwork.com. You can view all animals available for adoption on www. heartlandhumanesociety.net or on Petfinder.com.

About Heartland Humane Society Heartland Humane Society is a private non-profit  $501(c)^3$ corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. It was established in 2006 from a group formerly known as the Yankton Area Humane Society. HHS primarily serves Yankton, Clay and Cedar counties, with an additional 11 county areas often receiving its services. HHS is a limited admissions facility, taking in animals by appointment and only when appropriate space and resources are available to care for them. As a non-profit, it relies 100 percent on private donations and receives no state or federal funding.

