

Inside

Local News 2-3
 Opinion 4
 Community 5-6
 For The Record 6
 Our Towns 7
 Sports 8-9
 Crossword 8
 Public Notices 10-12
 Obituaries 12-13

Welcome Table will meet March 22

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, March 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

It will be the 436th Welcome Table meal served.

The March 22 meal will be sponsored and served by SAE.

Thank you to The USD AWOL for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

Use sump pumps properly

The Vermillion Waste-water Department reminds home and business owners that water from sump pumps must discharge outside away from homes and businesses so that the storm water system can receive it.

When discharged into the sanitary sewer system, these waters cause an unnecessary hydraulic load to both the sanitary sewer system and the wastewater treatment facility and are a financial burden to the community.

For more information, call the wastewater facility at 677-7077.

City Ordinance 756 (e) 1 reads:

No person(s) shall discharge or cause to be discharged any unpolluted waters such as storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, or cooling water to any sanitary sewer. Failure to do so may bring a penalty of up to \$100 a day for non-compliance.

Supreme Court holds March term at USD

Chief Justice David Gilbertson of the South Dakota Supreme Court announces that the Supreme Court will hold its March 2010 Term of Court at the Law School, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, on March 22, 23 and 24.

The Court will hear oral arguments in three cases each day. Court will open at 9 a.m., and cases will commence on the hour. The sessions will be held in the Courtroom of the Law School. Booklets containing a schedule of the cases to be heard and a short synopsis of each case, as well as biographical information on the Justices and a short summary of appellate procedure will be available for persons attending any of the Court's sessions. The synopses are also available on the Supreme Court section of the Unified Judicial System webpage at www.sjudicial.com.

Traditionally, the Court holds one of its spring terms at the Law School. Those arguments are open to the public and Chief Justice Gilbertson extends a special invitation to the residents of Vermillion and area communities to attend any of the Court's sessions.

Individuals requiring assistance should contact the State Court Administrator's Office (605) 773-3474 at least 48 hours before the session to make any arrangements.

For further information please contact Greg Sattizahn at (605) 773-3474.



A car slowly drives over the bridge that spans the Vermillion River on 306th Street, commonly known as the Volin Road, Monday afternoon north of Vermillion. A portion of the road near Highway 19 was closed later in the week as water continued to rise. (Photo by David Lias)

Rising Waters

Flooding experienced so far is typical for area

By David Lias
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The practice of building houses and outbuildings on high ground, adopted so effectively by Vermillion's pioneers approximately 150 years ago, is still proving to be the best course of action today.

Especially as Clay County awaits the formal arrival of spring, and watches as over 20 inches of snow that has fallen this winter is melting, swelling rivers and creeks and covering lowlands with water.

This annual ritual of rising temperatures transforming snow into runoff is being taken as simply a sign that spring will soon be here. There is no panic in the countryside, no

buildings being threatened by high water, no sandbags being stacked to try to thwart rising water.

"At this point, we just have a few roads that are under (water) and that's it," said Layne Stewart, Clay County's emergency management director.

As of Wednesday, a string of rural roads and highways have been closed because of rising water. The portions of these roads that have been blocked — specifically, 309th, 308, 307 and 306th streets — all cross some of the lowest and wettest parts of Clay County.

"The most notable area is probably Highway 19 and 306th Street, Highway 19 between 299th and 301st Streets, and the intersection of High-

way 19 and Highway 46," he said.

According to information released by the South Dakota Department of Transportation Tuesday afternoon, the following roads in the southeastern part of the state are being affected by flooding:

- Highway 46, east and west of Highway 19A, south of Centerville between mile markers 355 and 357 — closed March 15.

- Highway 46, northeast of Lester-ville between mile markers 324 and 325 — closed March 16.

- Highway 19A south of Centerville between mile markers 25 and 27 — closed March 15.

- Highway 19 north of Vermillion is closed from Highway 46 to mile marker 18 — closed March 14.

- Highway 18 west of Davis, mile marker 424.4 at the Vermillion River — closed March 14.

- Highway 48 at the Iowa line (on the Iowa side) has now gone under water due to flooding on the Big Sioux River. Highway 48 is closed in South Dakota from mile marker 383 to the Iowa Line — closed March 16.

Motorists are urged to use caution when approaching sections where water is flowing adjacent to or over the road. Do not attempt to drive through water covering the road as it may be washed out underneath.

"The biggest problem we have right now is drainage from surface water," Stewart said. "Some of it is

Turn to WATER on Page 2

Wheelchair athletes take their sport in stride

Vermillion plays host to conference tournament

By David Lias
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They've battled and overcome so much in their young lives.

Serious diseases, like cancer. Problems that were present at birth, ranging from spina bifida to cerebral palsy. Crippling injuries.

It's no surprise then, after watching these group of young athletes who have accomplished so much in a brief time, to see the utter zeal they bring to the sport of wheelchair basketball.

The Junior Northern Wheelchair Basketball Conference Tournament was held Saturday and Sunday in the gymnasiums of Vermillion High School. The event attracted varsity and prep teams from Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with athletes ranging in age in from 18 to younger than 12 years old.

Among the young men and women competing in the event was Vermillion's own Dylan Fischbach.

The tournament originally had been scheduled in Sioux Falls, but when plans for that city to host the event fell through, Dylan's parents, Bruce and Kelly Fischbach, checked to see if Vermillion's school facilities would be available.

The response from local school officials was simple: No problem. "We just booked it in, and everyone said they could come to Vermillion to participate," Kelly said. "We got a lot of good compliments on how nice and clean everything was, and how nice the bleachers and the gyms are. People were very impressed, and it really worked out perfectly."

The Vermillion High School facilities became the weekend playground of the Courage Center Junior Rolling Timberwolves, the Courage Center Junior Rolling Gophers and the Courage Center Rolling Rowdies, all of Minneapolis, MN. They were joined by the Junior Sioux Wheelers of Sioux Falls, two squads of the Wheelin Wizards from Milwaukee, WI, two varsity teams and one prep team of the Nebraska Red Dawgs of Omaha, NE, and the Mad City Badgers of Madi-



Outline: Dylan Fischbach (30) of Vermillion keeps the ball out of reach of a defender during wheelchair basketball tournament action Saturday in the Vermillion High School gymnasium. Dylan plays for the Nebraska Red Dawgs, based in Omaha, NE. (Photo by David Lias)

son, WI.

"We had 150 players and coaches," Kelly said, "and everybody except for the Sioux Falls team stayed here." The teams from Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin all took up temporary residence in Vermillion motels at the end of each day's competition.

"It brought quite a bit of business to Vermillion," she said. "I know all of the team members and their families went out to eat at least a couple times each day here in town, so it was really good for Vermillion."

The caliber of Saturday's and Sunday's competitions also added a bit of prestige to the Vermillion community. The Rolling Timberwolves are two-time defending national champions, who this year have yet to be beaten by a junior team. They have qualified for national competition in Denver, scheduled April 7-11.

The Wheelin Wizards were rated sixth coming in to the tournament in Vermillion, but that status may change, because they were defeated by the ninth-rated Red Dawgs.

"We had already qualified (for the nationals)," Kelly said of her son's team, the Red Dawgs. "We qualified when we went to Nashville in December."

Overall, six of the teams that competed in Vermillion last weekend have qualified for the national tournament — the Timberwolves, both the "A" and "B" squads of the Red Dawgs, the "A" squad of the Wheelin Wizards, the Rolling Gophers, and the Badgers.

The young athletes who participated in the weekend tournament make their sport seem easy. The rules are nearly identical to conventional basketball; what is impressive, however, is the ability for the participants to drive, shoot, and rebound from a sitting position, controlling both the basketball and the specially-built wheelchairs that propel them up and down the court.

"You dribble, just like regular basketball. You can make two pushes (of

Turn to TOURNEY on Page 14

Regents hope to move PETA court action to Pierre

Collier responds that USD is 'proper' defendant and Clay County is proper venue for legal proceedings

By David Lias
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It will be at least a week before it is known whether legal proceedings involving People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the University of South Dakota, and the South Dakota Board of Regents will continue in Vermillion or be moved to Pierre.

Michael L. Luce, an attorney from Sioux Falls representing the Regents, told First Circuit Court Judge Steven Jensen Wednesday morning that legal proceedings should be moved to Pierre, where the Regents' offices are located. He also indicated in his arguments before the judge that the university should be removed as a defendant in the complaint.

Caitlin Collier, a Vermillion lawyer, countered that several times in recent years, the University of South Dakota and the Regents have dealt with lawsuits in Vermillion, demonstrating that it would be proper for court action to proceed in the local court system.

Jensen told the two attorneys at the conclusion of Wednesday's hearing that he didn't believe statutes that had been cited regarding public officers applied in this case.

"But I don't know about USD," he said. "I still have some questions about whether they are a proper party defendant. I want to take a look at that. I don't know if they (the statutes) have the university and the Board of Regents as separate parties that can be sued."

"Would you be willing to accept any briefs that address that particular

Turn to COURT on Page 6

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