

YMS students tops at USD Spelling Bee

Danielle Gillis, a Yankton Middle School student, correctly spelled "behemoth" to take top honors at the Southeast South Dakota Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the University of South Dakota.

Gillis, the daughter of Mike and Lilah Gillis of Yankton, finished first in the competition that featured 13 contestants from five area schools while Yankton Middle School student Bailey Sejnoha, daughter of Beau Sejnoha and Marie Huerta, was second.

Gillis and Sejnoha advanced to the University of South Dakota Scripps Spelling Bee, which will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 17, at Aalfs Auditorium on the USD campus. The winner of that competition will have an opportunity to advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., May 29 through June 1.

In addition to Yankton Middle School, schools represented at the 2012 Southeast South Dakota Regional Spelling Bee included Sacred Heart Middle School (Yankton), St. Agnes Elementary (Vermillion), Dakota Valley Middle School (McCook Lake) and Scotland

Middle School. Prior to the oral bee, students were required to complete a 50-word written spelling test. Yankton Middle School student Lauryn Perk, daughter of Lisa Perk, was declared the winner of the written test followed by Dakota Valley's Erica Okine, daughter of Albert and Mary Okine, who was second.

Additional students participating were Alex Messersmith of Dakota Valley Elementary, Tanner Fitzgerald, Kellie Geigle, Spencer Huber and Brandon Shuey of Sacred Heart Middle School, Kerry Cosman, Logan Fischer and Kyra Sundleaf of Scotland Middle School and Maddie Powell of St. Agnes.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee is administered on a not-for-profit basis by the E.W. Scripps Company and local spelling bee sponsors in the United States, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Department of Defense Schools in Europe; also, the Bahamas, Canada, China, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. The competition is open for students in first grade through the eighth grade.

Chamber Singers tour starts today

The nationally-recognized University of South Dakota Chamber Singers will begin a weeklong tour of Iowa, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota on Friday, March 2, with a 7:30 p.m. performance at Augustana Lutheran Church, 600 Court St. in Sioux City, Iowa. The concert is part of an annual spring tour by the Chamber Singers and their conductor, David Holdhusen, Ph.D.

"Our students will have an opportunity to perform in multiple venues with different acoustics," described Holdhusen, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities at USD. "Because we are on the road for the entire week, the students have the opportunity to work like professional performers. I think that is and important experience for our young musicians, and something they will really enjoy."

This year's musical program, "Make a Joyful Noise" includes classical and contemporary musical selections. Some of the songs featured in the program span a historical spectrum, from the early music of Josquin's "Ave Maria" to Mendelssohn's "Heilig" of the Romantic Period to more contemporary works like William Albrigh's "Chichester Mass."

Also featured are spiritual and cultural music from around the world, including a Hebrew folksong and selections from India, Russia and Africa.

According to Holdhusen, the idea behind this year's program is that regardless of language, country, race or religion, people are very much the same.

"They have the same feelings and emotions, experience similar events and celebrate through song," he added. "It is music that ties us together. It really is the universal language."

This is the first tour for the Chamber Singers since being recognized as one of five national finalists for the American Prize in Choral Performance.

Holdhusen said of the honor, "While we did not win the competition, to be recognized as one of the finest collegiate choirs in the country is truly exciting. It is a testament to quality musicians at USD and the dedication and artistry these singers exhibit in preparation for performance."

In addition to performing in Sioux City, the choir will travel to Colorado Springs, Colo., for a 7:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, March 3 at the First Christian Church, which is located at 16 East Platte Avenue. The following morning, the ensemble will provide service music at the Protestant Cadet Chapel for the Traditional/Liturgical Worship service at the United States Air Force Academy - a performance the group is honored to present.

The Chamber Singers continue with another performance that day, a 4 p.m. concert at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (1600 Grant Street) in Denver, CO, on Sunday, March 4. On Monday, March 5, the Chamber Singers travel to Gillette, WY, for a 7 p.m. concert at First Presbyterian Church (511 Carey Avenue) before returning to South Dakota for a performance in Rapid City at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church located at 1012 Soo San Drive.

While in the Rapid City area, the choir will also present concerts at six area high schools and the State Capitol Rotunda in Pierre before returning to eastern South Dakota for its final performances: Thursday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m., at First Methodist Church in Huron (2660 Dakota Avenue South) and Friday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the 1st Congregational

Church, located at 300 S. Minnesota Ave., in Sioux Falls. Admission is free to all of the Chamber Singers performances; however, a freewill offering will be collected at each venue.

"One of the most difficult tasks for a tour like this is choosing a repertoire," explained Holdhusen, who noted that copies of the Singers' CD, "Nature's Witness," will be on sale at all tour locations. "The program starts to come together with the selection of a few key pieces. Once those are in place, a theme was developed and additional music was chosen to fill out the program. It's my goal to create a dramatic and emotional journey that speaks to the audience throughout the concert."

The Chamber Singers, the premiere vocal ensemble at USD with 32 members, features graduate and undergraduate students selected through auditions from the entire university student body. Its repertoire, which is primarily a cappella, includes music from the Renaissance to the present in a wide variety of styles. They have performed for state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference and have appeared on the public radio program "Going Beyond Words." In 2011, the ensemble was selected as one of five finalists for the American Prize in Choral Performance (College and University Division).

For more information about University Music Ensembles, visit www.usd.edu/cfa/Music/ensembles.cfm.

For information about the Chamber Singers' 2012 Spring Tour, contact Holdhusen at (605) 677-5721 or e-mail David.Holdhusen@usd.edu.

USD readies for 28th State Science Olympiad

More than 20 of South Dakota's middle schools and high schools will compete in the 28th annual South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament at the University of South Dakota on Saturday, March 31.

Schools to be represented are Brookings High School, Dakota Valley Middle School and High School, Deuel Middle School and High School (Clear Lake), Gayville-Volin Middle School and High School, Great Plains Lutheran High School (Watertown), Madison Middle School and High School, Mickelson Middle School (Brookings), Missouri Valley Christian Academy (Yankton), Mitchell High School, Sacred Heart Middle School (Yankton), Spearfish Middle School and High School, Todd County High School (Mission), Tri-Valley High School (Colton), Vermillion Middle School, and Yankton Middle School and High

School.

In addition to the ongoing individual challenges and team events, there will be open house activities during the day, including demonstrations by Sanford Research and the United States Army ROTC.

The state tournament will involve more than 250 middle school and high school students competing in several science events. For the state tournament, faculty, staff and students from USD organize and judge these events. The top teams from each division will be invited to the 2012 National Science Olympiad Tournament in May. All events for the Science Olympiad are determined at the national level.

A schedule of events can be found at <http://orgs.usd.edu/sdscioly>. A brief description of the events is also available at www.soinc.org.

Synthetic drug bill signed into South Dakota law

Attorney General Marty Jackley, the South Dakota Police Chiefs' and Sheriffs' Associations, the South Dakota Department of Health and the South Dakota State's Attorneys Association announced last week that Gov. Dennis Daugaard has signed SB 23 into law adding synthetic designer drugs to the list of controlled substances.

These drugs are being labeled and sold as "bath salts," K2, Spice, Posh, Blaze and others.

Effective immediately, this state law prohibits the unauthorized manufacture, distribution, counterfeiting or possession of

substances with high potential for abuse as a felony, punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and/or fine.

Law enforcement is working on providing further public notice to retailers that are knowingly selling these products. Store owners are being advised to rid their inventory of these extremely dangerous substances and refrain from the selling of these products to consumers. Retailers or any other individuals who are selling these products may be subject to compliance checks to ensure that this law is not being violated.

"This legislation addresses

serious health and public safety concerns that are too often affecting school age children," said Jackley. "We remain hopeful that retailers will work with law enforcement to remove these dangerous chemicals from South Dakota."

"I'm very pleased to see that the governor and legislature have sent a strong message with the passage of this law. We have experienced firsthand the devastating effects these dangerous drugs are having on our citizens and in particular our youth. We will vigorously enforce these changes and hope to bring a quick end to a drug that

has no place in our communities," Sioux Falls Chief of Police Doug Barthel.

"I am very happy the legislature and Governor understand the seriousness of the synthetic drug issue. Their actions have created pro-family and pro-community law that will serve as a starting point for the removal of dangerous synthetic drugs. We will certainly respond with strict enforcement," said Rapid City Police Chief Steve Allender.

For additional information about these controlled substances contact the Division of Criminal Investigation at (605) 773-3111.

IRS has \$2.2M for 2,300 South Dakotans who did not file a '08 tax return

Refunds totaling more than \$2.2 million may be waiting for 2,300 South Dakota taxpayers who did not file a federal income tax return for 2008. The Internal Revenue Service estimates that half of these potential 2008 refunds are \$669 or more.

Nationwide, refunds totaling more than \$1 billion may be waiting for nearly one million people who did not file a federal income tax return for 2008. The IRS estimates that half of these potential 2008 refunds are \$600 or more.

Resch said in cases where a 2008 return was not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year

window of opportunity for claiming a refund. That window closes on April 17 and if no return is filed to claim a refund, the money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury. There is no penalty for filing a late return qualifying for a refund.

By failing to file a return, taxpayers may lose more than a refund of taxes withheld. Low-and-moderate income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit, which in 2008 could have been worth as much as \$4,716 for those with two or more qualifying children.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2008 refund that their checks will be

held if they have not filed tax returns for 2009 and 2010. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS and may be used to offset unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

Current and prior year tax forms and instructions are available on the Forms and Publications page of IRS.gov or by calling toll-free (800) TAX-FORM.

Taxpayers who are missing Forms W-2, 1098, 1099 or 5498 for 2008, 2009 or 2010 should request copies from their employer, bank or other payer. If these efforts are unsuccessful, taxpayers can get a free transcript showing information from these year-end documents by ordering online at www.irs.gov, calling (800) 908-9946 or by filing Form 4506-T, Request for Transcript of Tax Return, with the IRS.

OBITUARIES

Alfred 'Bob' Clark

Alfred Robert "Bob" Clark, 86, of Vermillion, passed away Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012, at the Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

Bob was born in Vermillion, on Aug. 3, 1925, to Frank and Rose (Hancock) Clark. He was a longtime resident of Vermillion, where he worked as a postal carrier. On Aug. 1, 1948, he married Geraldine Hansen, who he shared many happy years with until his passing. He was also a very active member of the Vermillion community, engaging in a number of activities and organizations. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, American Legion, V.F.W., Fraternal Order of Eagles, Senior Citizens Center, Good Sam's Camping Club and the Rural Letter Carriers Association.

Bob is survived by his wife, Geraldine Clark; his children, Charles (Carol) Clark of Vermillion, Norma (Dennis) Ferdig of Elk Point, Larry (Gladys) Clark of Elk Point, Allen Clark of Vermillion, and Donna (Dan) Anderson of Benson, MN; his brother, Frank G. Clark of Lewisburg, PA; his sister, Bonnie Sweany of Arvada, CO; his grandchildren, Jerry Clark, Jason Clark, Jean Young, Stacey Hooth, Marty Ferdig, Jody Skogsberg, Shelly Johnson, Nick Enderson, Tyler Enderson, Mitchell Enderson, Kellie Enderson, and Will Enderson; 14 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by

his parents, Frank and Rose Clark; and his sisters, Iva Lewison and Alta Nelson.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 1, 2012, at the First United Methodist Church in Vermillion, with Pastor Rick Pittenger officiating.

Visitation was held from 6 to

7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012, at the Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

The committal ceremony took place at BluffView Cemetery following the service with military honors conducted by VFW Post #3061.

Kober Funeral Home of

Vermillion is entrusted with the arrangements.

Condolences may be posted online to www.koberfuneralhome.com

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FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP
Annual Meeting & Election
Tuesday, March 6, 2012
 7pm at Burbank School
 Voting for Supervisors, Clerks & Treasurer.
 Sealed bids for gravel accepted to be opened 4/10/12.

Carolyn Carlson, Fairview Clerk, 624-4742

CORRECTION PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP
Annual Township Meeting

The Citizens of **PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP** in **Clay County, South Dakota**, and who are qualified to vote at said Township, are hereby notified that the Annual Township Meeting for said Township will be held at the Clay Rural Water System main office, 30376 SD Hwy 19, in said Township on **Tuesday, March 6, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.** for the following purposes: To elect one Supervisor for the term of three (3) years; one Township Clerk and one Treasurer, each for the term of one (1) year; and to do any other business proper to be done at said meeting when convened.

Marilyn J. Rohrer, Clerk

Sanford Vermillion
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DIETARY AIDE: Full and part-time positions in the Nutrition Services Department.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE-CLINIC: Full-time position, 40 hours per week including two evening shifts and occasional Sat. am. Provider support nurse for busy family medicine physician. Detail oriented individual that demonstrates strong organizational skills. Competitive compensation and excellent benefits.

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 For more information, please contact Cindy Benzel: (605) 624.2611 or Cindy.Benzel@sanfordhealth.org

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