



# PLAIN TALK

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## Pepped up for State 'A' Tourney



FROM LEFT: Cheering as the school song is played during Tuesday's rally are Tanagers Val Robinson, Bailey Carlson, Blair Gilkyson and Mariah Larson.; Annie Roche, who is finishing up her last year as a member of the University of South Dakota's women basketball team, offered advice and encouragement to the Tanagers. Annie, a 2007 graduate of Vermillion High School, was on the VHS basketball team that won the State "A" championship that year; and Head coach Nick Mayer thanks local fans during a pep rally held Tuesday night in the Vermillion High School gymnasium. The next day, the Tanager girls basketball squad was on its way to Spearfish to compete in the State "A" basketball tournament.

(Photos by David Lias)

## Trip is 'dream' for Tanager girls

By Parker Knox  
Sportswriter

"State was our goal. It was our dream," Beth Szymanski of the Vermillion Tanagers said early this week as her team prepared to head to Spearfish for the state Class "A" basketball tournament. "To have met that goal is the greatest feeling, but we hope to exceed it by playing our best."

Vermillion, the No. 7 seed, was slated to open state tourney play at 7 p.m. (CST) last night (Thursday) against No. 2 seed

Miller. The Tanagers' Friday opponent will be No. 3 seed Sisseton or No. 6 seed Parkston.

"Ever since eighth grade my class has talked about how we were going to state our senior year," Val Robinson said. "We've worked so hard through the years, and now it's happening. It's surreal!"

The fact that the Tanagers with a sparkling 18-4 record are the seventh seed among eight teams says volumes about the caliber of Class "A" girls basketball this year. The "worst" record among the state tourney teams – as if calling it "worst" is

even fair – is No. 8 Pine Ridge's 17-5.

The eight tournament teams have a combined record of 156-24. Three have lost only twice, and three others have lost only three games.

"We will have to play three of our best games of the year in a row," Coach Nick Mayer said last weekend. "Hopefully our practices will have prepared us for the grueling three days."

Defending champion Sisseton (21-2) lost only to Class "B" Northwest and to Aberdeen Roncalli but avenged the Roncalli loss in fine style with a 16-point

win in the regional finals. Last year's third-place team, Clark-Willow Lake (19-3) lost only to Sisseton, Roncalli and Elkton-Lake Benton, which is also in the tournament. Also returning is last year's fourth-place St. Thomas More, the No. 1 seed at 21-2, with losses only to top-ranked Wagner and Chadron, Neb.

Elkton-Lake Benton (20-3) lost only to Class "B" Summit, Estelline and Castlewood, two of whom are in the "B" tourney this week. Parkston (20-3), who knocked out Wagner in their district finals, lost only to Elkton-Lake Benton, St.

Thomas More and Wagner. Pine Ridge's five defeats came at the hands of Red Cloud, Winner, White River, Spearfish and Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, four of the five losses by a total of 13 points.

The Miller team which Vermillion had to face first came into the tournament at 20-2. The Rustlers' only two losses came back-to-back in early January to Redfield-Doland and Sully Buttes, the latter of whom is in the "B" tournament. Miller then proceeded to win 13 games in a row.

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Café Brulé co-owners Monica Iverson and Jim Waters stand with Executive Chef Robert Hesse, who assisted them in a fundraiser last month for Domestic Violence Safe Option Services. Hesse appeared for the past two seasons on the FOX TV program, "Hell's Kitchen." (Courtesy photo)

## Café Brulé 'crazy-tastic' event helps DV SOS

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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Jim Waters coined a new term to describe how the Hell's Kitchen Wine Dinner went at Café Brulé last month: "Crazy-tastic."

The event was held Feb. 29 as a way to raise money for Domestic Violence Safe Option Services (DVSOS) in Vermillion, while offering area residents a chance to eat a meal they couldn't get anywhere else.

It all started when Executive Chef Robert Hesse – known for his appearances on the past two seasons of the FOX reality program, "Hell's Kitchen" – was doing some consulting work at the Sioux City Country Club.

"He was helping them with their business and putting together a wedding package for their club," said Monica Iverson, who co-owns Café Brulé with Waters, as well as

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## Hyperion opponents file appeal to S.D. High Court

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Several organizations opposed to a proposed \$10 billion oil refinery in southeastern South Dakota say they are taking their case to the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Save Union County, the Sierra Club and Citizens Opposed to Oil Pollution filed paperwork Monday appealing the decision by Circuit Court

Judge Mark Barnett to uphold the air quality permit for Hyperion Resources, according to a story published Thursday on The Argus Leader website (<http://argusne.ws/wiG3un>).

"The issues that we raised are the ones we feel the circuit court did not adequately address. We tried to reduce the number of items the court has to consider," said Ed Cable, spokesman for

Save Union County.

Barnett had ruled in February that the state Board of Minerals and Environment did not make any mistakes in issuing an air quality permit to Hyperion Resources.

Barnett also upheld the board's decision to extend the deadline for starting construction on the project until March 2013.

Hyperion is also expected to appeal one aspect of the permit they have challenged in the past, said Hyperion spokesman Eric Williams. He said the company will file an appeal sometime this week challenging whether a limit on carbon monoxide emissions from the refinery's large process heaters is technically achievable.

## City seeking funds to expand local welding training

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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The city is applying for a community development block grant that will help in part to expand a workforce training program that teaches adults basic welding skills.

Action was taken to apply for the grant at the regular Vermillion City Council meeting Monday night.

The grant was brought to the attention of the city by the South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG).

"What the governor is trying to do is get more educated workers in the state, and so this is kind of a statewide effort to get more training programs," SECOG planner Janice Graving explained at the meeting.

The welding program itself was implemented earlier this year, with its first section concluding Feb. 28. It is a partnership between the Vermillion Area Chamber &

Development Company (VCDC), the Vermillion School District and Masaba Mining, Inc.

If the grant is approved, the program will be expanded for three years of quarterly sessions.

"If it's approved, the grant will allow us to not only expand the number of students we could teach, but also upgrade the equipment so that the students are learning on equipment that's close to what the employers are using in their shops," Steve Howe, VCDC's executive director, said in an interview Tuesday with the Vermillion Plain Talk.

The grant also will help to offset the cost for the instructor, Mark Pier of the Vermillion School District.

"That way we will be able to get if offered at a lower rate for the students," Howe said. "Right now we charge them \$250, and then when they get a job the VCDC reimburses

that. ...

"We want to be able to provide the tuition at no cost. We will continue to offer the class at a charge to make sure that people are taking it seriously, but we want to be able to reimburse them for their tuition and still pay the instructor," he said.

The grant must be applied for by the city, which will then give funds to the VCDC if they are awarded, Graving explained.

Howe said the class is six weeks and 35 hours of actual coursework. The first round of classes had a total of 10 students – eight adults and two high-schoolers.

Its purpose is to provide the students with the basic skills they need "to get their foot in the door with an employer," he said.

"It's not going to provide them with any extensive certification, but it's giving them the basic skills that they need to be taken

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