

BURNED OUT



Local fire and rescue personnel, including the Vermillion Fire Department, the Clay County Sheriff's Department, and the South Dakota Highway Patrol responded at approximately 5 p.m. Tuesday to a car fire in the eastbound lanes of Highway 50 near Meckling. No other information about the incident is available at this time.

(Photo by David Lias)

DOL offers tips for job seekers

By Travis Gulbrandson

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On Thursday, March 22, the Vermillion office of the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will offer locals a chance to hone their job-searching skills.

The Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP) has been around for more than a decade, and provides attendees with information pertaining to all areas of acquiring new employment, from coping with job loss, through search methods, applications, cover letters, résumés and the interview process.

"Attendees are going to walk out of here with a lot of good information," said office manager Dan Hart. "They're going to have that resource manual that they flip through as their building their résumé or their cover letter. That are some good exercises in there, an hand-outs and examples that they can use for reference."

Generally, between six and eight people take the class at one time, with as many classes scheduled as needed.

"We've never had more than two in a month," Hart said.

Hart added that JSAP was designed to fill the

needs of everyone who takes it, no matter the kind of job for which they are searching.

Many of the questions that are asked during class-time pertain to applications and résumés, he said.

"Tricky little things come up that people don't pay attention to sometimes," he said. "Things change from application to application. For example, on one application they might ask for three professional references, on another they might ask for three professionals and two personals."

"People don't always have those prepared, and don't always read to see if there's something different than the last one they filled out," he said.

Hart said this was never more true "when the economy went down" and many of JSAP's participants were coming off 20- to 30-year stints with the same employer, never having written a résumé before.

"Those people were just frightened, so we tried to ease those fears a little bit and show them it's pretty easy," Hart said. "We've got programs here that make it even easier, and we're all available to assist. We'll do everything but type it for them, basically."

Further assistance also is offered in one-on-one sessions that take place after the class is over, he added.

Another beneficial aspect of JSAP involves finding out which companies are hiring.

"When people start looking for a job, they look in the want ads," Hart said. "That's where they first look. Well, when a business is looking to hire, that's the last place they look for an employee. So, that's a piece of knowledge that somebody's really happy to get, because they've been doing it backwards."

Attendees also learn what qualities employers are interested in, as JSAP often features a short presentation from a local businessperson.

"We basically just ask them to come in and talk about what they look for in an employee, so that people can hear first-hand what a hiring manager might be looking for in the area," Hart said.

Participants often have little negative to say about JSAP, he said.

"I would venture to say 80 percent of them are happy they came," Hart said. "I get comments all the time that it's a great course. A lot of people say they would like to see it lengthened."

JSAP will be held at the Vermillion office of the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with one hour for lunch, on March 22.

It is provided at no charge, but interested persons must reserve a spot by calling (605) 677-6900 by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 20.

For more information, visit www.sdjobs.org.

STATE

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were still within a point. Stevens was fouled with 11 seconds left, and she also hit both ends of a one-and-one for a three-point lead. Amundson's potential game-tying shot at the buzzer missed, and the season was over.

Three players – Stevens with 27, Grensberg with 10 and Mackenzie Huber with 10 – accounted for 47 of Clark-Willow Lake's 50 points. Stevens had 13 of her team's 46 rebounds. The Cyclones cleaned house on the boards, snaring 46 (35 of them at the Vermillion basket) to the Tanagers' 24.

Regnerus and Robinson led VHS with 10 points each. Szymonski and Amundson had eight apiece, Josie Huber six, Carlson three and Gilkyson two. Szymonski had six boards with Robinson, Amundson and Regnerus grabbing four each.

Amundson, who was selected for the all-tournament team, had four steals, Gilkyson and Szymonski three assists each. The Tanagers had a 27 percent shooting day, making 17 of 63. From three-point land they were eight of 27.

Miller 57, VHS 50

Second-seeded Miller used a 19-point surge in the third quarter to take command of the game and shot 73 percent from the field in the second half to pass by Vermillion, 57-50, Thursday night.

Down by nine after three quarters, the Tanagers tried to stage a rally and four times closed to within four points of the Rustlers but could get no closer.

Miller's front line of three six-footers accounted for 41 of their team's 57 points and half of their 30 rebounds.

"They pounded it inside, and we didn't have an answer for that," Coach Nick Mayer said afterward. "You have to give them credit." The coach also praised his own girls' hustle and effort.

After an early 8-3 deficit, the Tanagers came alive with style with an 18-point first quarter that included three-pointers from Beth Szymonski and Bailey Carlson and six points from Kelly Amundson. Vermillion's biggest lead came at 22-17, but five points from Val Robinson and two Mackenzie Huber free throws were the Tanagers' only second-quarter points. Nevertheless they led at halftime, 25-21, their scrappiness on defense resulting in 10 steals up to that point.

Thirteen of Miller's 19

third-quarter points came from their frontline trio. At the same time the Tanagers could manage only two Josie Huber buckets and one by Robinson, and they trailed 40-31 with one period left. Miller sank eight of 11 from the field in that fateful quarter, most of them from nearly point-blank range by their big girls.

A Carlson trey and an Amundson basket got the Tanagers to within four. Three more times in the ensuing minutes they again answered Miller baskets with two-pointers of their own.

The rally concluded midway through the fourth when the Tanagers had a chance, following a Miller offensive foul, to close the gap even more, but Miller rebounded a Tanager miss and answered with two quick baskets to go back up by eight. A Szymonski three-pointer at the 3:03 mark made it 50-45, but that was all she wrote. Miller kept possession through most of the last three minutes, and in the final seconds Vermillion had no choice but to foul. The Rustlers capitalized with five late free throws.

Alexis Watts had 20 points, Jansen Hunter 11 and Tara Parmely 10 for Miller, and Mallory Fischer had nine points and eight rebounds. Amundson scored 12,

Szymonski 10, Josie Huber nine, Robinson seven, Carlson six, Blair Gilkyson two, Lexi Regnerus two and Mackenzie Huber two for VHS. Robinson and Josie Huber had three rebounds apiece, Carlson four steals and Gilkyson four assists and Amundson three.

The Tanagers shot 40 percent from the field, including 6-of-18 in three-point shooting. Miller, which improved to a 21-2 record, made only one three-pointer, but their bread and butter was inside, and that's where they went offensively most of the time, making 21 of 37 field-goal attempts for a 56 percent night.

Sisseton 49, VHS 37 Making only three of 18 field-goal attempts in an entire half against teams of the caliber of this year's state "A" field isn't going to cut the mustard, and that's what happened to the Tanagers in the consolation semifinals Friday.

The defending state champs, who had lost a gut-wrenching one-point game the previous night to Parkston on a last-second layup, won their 22nd game in 25 tries, and they started on their way to victory in the closing minutes of the first half.

The Tanagers had gotten off to a good start, rolling to a 10-point lead in the first quarter.

Amundson had three field goals, Robinson two and Szymonski two, and it was 16-6. But Jordyn Kirk went on a personal 8-0 run to bring the Redmen back.

After a 16-point first period, the Tanagers settled for only seven points in the second quarter, but after a '3' and a '2' by Robinson and a basket by Szymonski, they led by seven, 23-16. But at that point momentum switched to Sisseton's side and never returned.

The Redmen broke away with two Danni Frederick treys, one just before the halftime buzzer, to go to the intermission in a 23-23 tie. But that seven-point run became a 14-0 run as the second half began. By that time it was 30-23, and the Tanagers were in trouble.

Vermillion went 0-for-7 from the field in the third, and the only VHS points were three free throws. On three straight occasions the Tanagers could make only one of two from the stripe, so unlike their free-throw shooting most of the season. Frederick canned another three-pointer to beat the buzzer to make it 33-26.

Half of the fourth quarter was gone before VHS hit a second-half field goal, one of two late threes from Josie Huber. Twice more, the

Tanagers got only one of two in bonus free-throw situations. Those five misses in bonus situations proved fatal. Had the team been able to score those five points, they would have still been in the game late instead of having to start fouling intentionally.

Amundson's basket with 1:51 left brought the Tanagers to within 42-36, still with a glimmer of hope, but Sisseton cashed in with five of six from the line to salt the game away.

Kirk had 12 points and Frederick nine to lead the Redmen in scoring. They shot 38 percent for the game, making 14 field goals, only one more than Vermillion. But they sank 18 of 22 free throws, compared to the Tanagers' 7-of-13 from the stripe. VHS finished with a 33 percent shooting day on 13 of 39.

Amundson and Robinson had 11 points each, Szymonski eight, Josie Huber six and Mackenzie Huber one. Szymonski had four boards, Robinson and Amundson three each as Sisseton won the rebounding battle, 32-18. Amundson had three assists, Regnerus three steals and Robinson two steals and two assists.

BEE

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Auditorium around 9:30 a.m. Saturday for pre-registration.

This will be followed by a 50-word written test at 10 a.m., and the oral bee at approximately 11 a.m.

The oral bee will go on as long as it has to, Havermann said.

"Immediately following the conclusion of the oral bee, we'll go right into an awards ceremony," she said. "We're trying to run our bee just as close as possible to the national bee, so that the winner (has an idea) of what to expect there."

The words the students will be expect to spell are "pretty tough," she said.

"I was looking at the word pronouncer book that I was sent by Scripps," Havermann said. "I was just looking at the first level, and I thought, 'I can't even say half these words.'"

The first-place winner will receive a package from Scripps that includes an unabridged dictionary.

Runners-up also will receive prizes, including gift certificates from such local businesses as Dairy Queen and Bank of the West, Havermann said.

Additionally, the winner and a parent will be sent to the national bee, which takes place from May 28 through June 1 in Washington, D.C.

"It's quite a little stay they have," Havermann said. "There are planned activities, and I believe that while our test does not eliminate you from the oral competition, my understanding is that at nationals, their written test will eliminate you."

Of the 265 competitors who make it to nationals, about 80 will advance beyond the written test, she said.

The state competition already has generated a fair amount of interest as it draws closer.

"People have called asking if it's free to the public, can the public come, is it closed,"

Havermann said. "I think in recent years with the exposure it's gotten on ESPN, people are kind of like, 'Oh, this is cool.'"

The event is free, and Havermann encourages all interested persons to attend.

"It's a lot of fun to watch these kids," she said.

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