



These are the 2012 Boys and Girls State delegates: (front row) Allison Howe, Meghan Cameron, Kelsey Meadows, Mackenzie Huber, Allison Heine, Epiphany Knedler, (second row) Collin Bertram, Christian Wasley, Austin Krier, Christopher Lubbers, David Day, (third row) Samuel Pearson, William Getzin, William Card and Mark Helenurm.

## Vermillion Boys and Girls State delegates for 2012 announced

Girls chosen to represent Vermillion are Meghan Cameron, Allison Heine, Allison Howe, Mackenzie Huber, Epiphany Knedler and Kelsey Meadows. The boys chosen are Collin Bertram, David Day, William Getzin, Mark Helenurm, Christopher Lubbers, Austin Krier, Samuel Pearson and Christian Wasley. William Card is being sponsored by the Alsen Legion.

These young people have demonstrated very definite leadership skills in their school and community activities and each has earned a scholastic ranking that places them in the upper third of their class.

"During the selection process, all delegates demonstrated outstanding qualifications in character, honesty, service and initiative, and American Legion Post #1 and Legion Auxiliary are proud to have these young people represent Vermillion at the 2012 Boys and Girls State Session," said Ray Hofman, Legion

Americanism officer

American Legion Boys and Girls State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Boys and Girls State has been a program of the American Legion and Auxiliary since 1935.

South Dakota Boys and Girls State will run from May 28 to June 2, and will be held on the campus of Northern State University for the boys and University of South Dakota for the girls.

Donations from the Civic Council, Eagles Club, Knights of Columbus, Lions, Rotary, Rebekah Lodge, Masons, Incense Lodge and the VFW have helped sponsor the students.

For more information, call Ray Hofman at 624-6457 or by e-mail using rhofman@vyn.midco.net.

# Benefit planned for Vermillion resident, artist Sarah Hanson

On Saturday March 31, from 7 to 9 p.m., there will be a benefit for Vermillion resident Sarah Hanson at the Washington Street Arts Center located at 202 Washington, Vermillion. All proceeds will go towards paying Sarah's medical bills, which have accumulated over the past year due to several chronic illnesses. Sarah's illness started one week before major kidney surgery in November of 2010. Since that time she has been seen by 16 medical doctors in the pursuit of a diagnosis.

After visiting three general practice physicians, one physician's assistant, two gastroenterologists, one endocrinologist, one rheumatologist, one internal medicine doctor, two emergency room doctors, one surgeon, one neurologist, and one chiropractor, it was her urologist and a

certified nurse practitioner who discovered that she was exhibiting the signs of mold exposure and battling a systemic fungal infection. It took 14 months, 16 doctors, and an indoor quality air sampling by GeoTek to secure the diagnosis.

Sarah began the treatment for fungal overgrowth seven weeks ago and will continue to work towards recovery which may take up to two years. The family is moving in June and will need to wash, destroy and/or replace all of their items due to mold spore contamination.

Sarah hopes that this benefit will also raise awareness about fungal overgrowth and mold exposure.

The benefit will have original works of art and special music performances up for silent auction or raffle. Some of the artists

and musicians who are donating include Mike Hill, John Banasiak, Michael Hook, Chris Meyer, Arian Sheets, Elaine Peacock, as well as several USD students. Other items that will be in the auction include packages from local businesses. The benefit is free to enter and will feature live music from Eli Show. There will be a cash bar.

If you are interested in making direct financial donations to Sarah, contributions may be sent to or deposited at Bank of the West, 15 East Main Street, Vermillion, SD, in care of Sarah Hanson.

For more information about the benefit, please email Alison Erazmus at alisonerazmus3@gmail.com or go to <http://vermillionareaartscouncil.blogspot.com/>

## Beresford teen named Distinguished Young Woman of South Dakota

Statewide scholarship program awarded cash scholarships to participants

On March 11, Alinia Houser of Beresford was named the Distinguished Young Woman of South Dakota and awarded \$500 in cash scholarships during a statewide scholarship program for high school girls held at Kresge Recital Hall on the campus of Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

Houser was one of three high school senior girls from South Dakota who competed to represent the state as the Distinguished Young Woman of South Dakota for 2012. Participants were evaluated in

the categories of Scholastics (20 percent), Interview (25 percent), Fitness (15 percent), Self-Expression (15 percent) and Talent (25 percent).

Throughout the next year, Houser will represent South Dakota at various public events and serve as a role model to young people by spreading the program's national outreach message of "Be Your Best Self." The outreach program is designed to encourage self-esteem and excellence in all young people through its five principles: Be Healthy, Be Involved, Be Studious, Be Ambitious and Be Responsible.

Houser is the daughter of Woodrow E. Houser, II and

Melinda Houser and is a senior at Beresford High School. Houser's achievements include: Varsity football cheer captain; state one-act outstanding actress award; state oral interpretation qualifier; School Board State Recognition Award; honor roll and National Honor Society. In addition, Houser's activities include: Cheerleading; oral interpretation; dance; one-act; FCCLA; Quiz Bowl; youth group; yearbook designing; Roseni Lutheran Church and Cross Peer Age Tutoring.

The 55th National Finals will take place on June 28-30, in Mobile, AL. Houser will travel to Mobile along with 49

other state representatives to participate in personal development activities and community service projects before competing for the opportunity to become the Distinguished Young Woman of America for 2012 and for a share of more than \$130,000 in cash scholarships. Tennessee's Katy Brock, who is attending the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, won the 2011 overall award.

For more information on Distinguished Young Women of South Dakota, contact Jennifer Tolbert at (251) 438-3621 or [Jennifer@DistinguishedYW.org](mailto:Jennifer@DistinguishedYW.org).

## THIS WEEK IN S.D. NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY

By CW5 Duke Doering (Ret.)  
SDNG Historian

In recognition of the South Dakota National Guard's 150 years of service to the state and nation from 1862-2012, the SDNG will be publishing significant dates in the history of the organization all year long for the media's use in your publications or broadcasts.

For more information on these events, please contact the SDNG Historian, CW5 Duke Doering at (605) 737-6581, or e-mail [duke.doering@us.army.mil](mailto:duke.doering@us.army.mil).

On this date in SDNG history:

**March 20, 1952**

On this date in SDNG history - Taylor Barracks, Mannheim, Germany: Members of the 109th Engineer Battalion were still sending search crews up and down the Rhine River in Germany in an effort to locate the body of Cpl. Herman Higgins. A few days earlier, members of Company B, of Hot Springs, were working on the Rhine River Bridge at Bruhl, Germany, when a cable snapped, and thrust Higgins into the river. The force ripped off his life jacket. The 109th Engineers had been activated on September 3, 1950, for federal service during the Korean War. Bridge engineer resources were needed in Germany as the Soviets were considered a threat to Europe during this period of the "Cold War." For that reason, the 109th Engineer Battalion, which had units in Rapid City, Lead, Hot Springs, and Sturgis, was sent to Germany. There were nine float bridges across the Rhine at that time. These bridges were entirely different than any they had seen before. Each of the nine float bridges were split in the center and anchored on each side of the Rhine. Using huge Brockway trucks on both sides of the Rhine, they would swing each bridge half to the center of the river. When the ends met, pins were inserted to hold the bridge half's together making a complete bridge. It was on one of these missions that Cpl. Higgins lost his life.

**March 21, 1921**

On this date in SDNG history - Rebirth of the SDNG: When the fighting was over in Europe after World War I, and the American Expeditionary Force had returned to the United States and discharged, the state of South Dakota was without an army. In 1921, the state was authorized to raise a regiment of field artillery and a battalion of engineers. The 147th Field Artillery, to carry on the fame of the World War I regiment, was organized under the command of Col. Boyd Wales. Lt. Col. Edwin Beckwith,

who a few years later would be appointed as the adjutant general, was the executive officer. The 147th was authorized the horse-drawn, 75 mm guns. The engineer battalion was designated the 2nd Battalion, 136th Engineers, and was under the command of Lt. Col. Earle Lewis. The 136th was organized as the engineer element of the 34th Infantry Division. Guardsmen from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota made up the 34th ID.

**March 22, 2003**

On this date in SDNG history - Iraq: The seven person advance detachment of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 109th Engineer Battalion, from Sturgis, readied their equipment this date for departure into Iraq early the next day. The United States had launched its attack on Saddam Hussein's Iraq on March 20, 2003. Allied bombers and cruise missiles struck targets all over Iraq in what the Pentagon billed as a "shock and awe" campaign. When Lt. Col. Craig Johnson, Maj. Don Hollis, 1st Lt. Lew Weber, Sgt. 1st Class Mark McCarty, Spc. Derrick Westbrook, Spc. Bradley Limbo and Spc. Darren Smith crossed the border into Iraq on March 23, they were one of the first

National Guard units to move into the newly created war zone. The 109th Engineers followed the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, units that led the coalition ground attack into Iraq and on to Baghdad. Moving fast, they reached a point where the convoys were halted. They pulled up to the front of the Marine convoy that was stopped and were told they had to wait by a Marine road guard. Lt. Col. Johnson showed the orders from headquarter stating that they were to close on Tallil Air Base that evening. The Marines let them pass. It was late in the afternoon when they arrived at the gate to Tallil. The entry gate was flanked by two Bradley fighting vehicles. The air base had just been cleared of the enemy that day; smoke still billowed from some of the structures. It was on this same day that a convoy of the 507th Maintenance Company from Fort Bliss, Texas, which also was headed for Tallil, temporarily lost direction and mistakenly entered Nasiriyah, a city on the Euphrates River 10 miles north of Tallil. Here, they were engaged in a firefight which ended with the death of 11 soldiers and the capture of six others, including Pfc. Jessica Lynch, whose capture and subsequent return made news

headlines worldwide.

**March 23, 1971**

On this date in SDNG history - Medal of Honor: Michael J. Fitzmaurice was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts on this date. Fitzmaurice was serving as a specialist four in Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, when during a firefight on March 23, 1971, in Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam, he smothered the blast of an

enemy-thrown explosive charge with his flak vest and body to protect other soldiers. Seriously wounded, he continued to fight the enemy and refused medical evacuation. He survived his wounds and was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions. A long time South Dakota National Guardsman, both Army and Air, Fitzmaurice enlisted in the 153rd Engineer Battalion and served for more than 10 years, March 10, 1973 until Sept. 12, 1983. He then took an interstate transfer to

Nevada. When he returned to South Dakota, Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Fitzmaurice Sr. enlisted in the South Dakota Air National Guard on Oct. 27, 1989. He was discharged from the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron on May 30, 1992. The state Soldiers Home at Hot Springs, was renamed in his honor on Oct. 3, 1998, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice Veterans Home.

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