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Vermillion

PLAIN TALK

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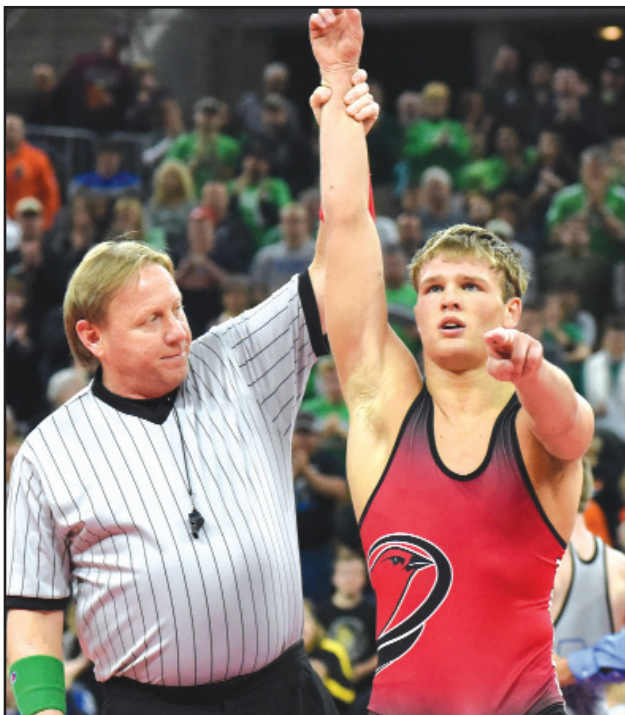
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Regan Bye (left) and Brett Bye of the Vermillion Tanager wrestling team, captured the 160 and 170-pound individual titles respectively last weekend at the Class A state finals in Sioux Falls.

ALL PHOTOS BY JAMES CIMBUREK / PRESS & DAKOTAN

Bye, Bye Champions

TANAGER WRESTLING COUSINS WRAP HIGH SCHOOL CAREERS WITH INDIVIDUAL TITLES; VHS TAKES 7TH PLACE.

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

SIOUX FALLS - A scene can be new or different, but winning never stops because of a change of venue.

Just ask Vermillion High School's Brett and Regan Bye.

The senior Tanager wrestling duo showed everyone this weekend they could get on a mat in Rapid City, Vermillion, Sioux Falls or a truck stop in Aberdeen and one thing would never change: Bye wrestling dominance.

Saturday at the Denny Sanford Premier Center both Byes concluded their careers with two more individual titles and five total over their Tanager careers to spark the Vermillion High team to a seventh-place finish (79.5 points) at the Class A state wrestling finals.

Pierre won the state team title with 161.5 points.

Vermillion's Trey Hage (third place, 120-pounds), Carter Kratz (fourth-place, 145-pounds), and Jacob Husby (seventh-place, 113-pounds) made it five Tanagers to place at state. "One of our goals all

year long was to get on the podium so seventh is good enough for me," Vermillion head coach Hazen Bye said. "We have been ranked around there all year long so I am happy with that.

"We had nine qualify this year and eight last year (when they finished 11th). It's been an amazing season. The guys who filled in (the lineup) that weren't here all did something to help win a dual. Something worked out almost every time (during the season) and it helped make it always a team effort."

Regan Bye, won his third consecutive state title with an injury default victory over Kasey Klapprodt (Rapid City Stevens) at 3:06.

Prior to that, Regan dominated the match to such a level that he literally drug Klapprodt around the mat to completely boss the action.

Regan had won consecutive titles at 145-pounds entering this season prior to earning his third crown.

"The only reason I was at 145, was for the team, and for the team that's where I felt comfortable and it was a natural place for me," Regan Bye said. "Weight-wise I probably would have been fine at 170, but it didn't work out because of the seniors we had and (Brett). I definitely got a lot stronger and as (this season) went on I felt

stronger every time I wrestled. I put myself in positions that helped me feel great every time I wrestled."

Brett Bye won a second straight individual title as he added to his 152-pound title he earned last winter.

He did so by defeating Pierre's Dawson Monfore 3-0.

"I tried to go out there and wrestle my match and do what I am good at I guess," Brett said. "His front right leg was up there a bit and his arm was up and I saw an opening (for an early takedown)."

The two wrestlers knocked heads and Monfore seemed to take the brunt of it. From there, Brett Bye dominated as the Pierre wrestler seemed to just let the Tanager ride out the win and not allow Vermillion to earn the pin.

Brett saw that the momentum was completely his after the two had collided.

"That was kind of where he broke and realized I was little bit more physical then," Brett Bye said. "That's when he shut down."

Brett also became the first ever Tanager to claim a state final placing in all six years of varsity action dating back to his seventh grade year.

The Tanagers' team finish was the program's best under head coach Hazen Bye, a mighty fine

grappler in his day and Regan's father.

"I won three titles too," coach Bye said. "Regan is the better wrestler though. He's much more technically sound it's not even funny. They eat better now, are better educated, and have all the tools. Not that I didn't, but they took advantage of those tools.

(A match against Regan) Would be close. Did you ask him about it? I have more men strength so he better get it done fast," Hazen smiled.

The Bye wrestlers are not only champions but also a rarity: two Division I recruited athletes from the same team from a high school of such a small enrollment.

Regan is set to wrestle for the University of Nebraska while Brett is set to participate for the South Dakota State squad.

Brandon Hertz (182-pounds) and Kyle Siebel (126-pounds) went 1-2 on Friday and were eliminated short of the medal rounds.

Noah Westergaard (195-pounds) and Noah Walker (138-pounds) were eliminated on day one after being defeated in their only two matches each.

Here is a look at how Saturday went for the five Tanager finalists.

REGAN BYE (champion, 160-pounds)

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Wheel Tax Takes Turn Toward Reality

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

Clay County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt Ordinance #2015-01 – the county wheel tax – Tuesday at their meeting held at the Clay County Courthouse.

The adoption will now be followed by to publications of the ordinance on March 12/13 and March 19/20.

The effective date of the wheel tax is set for April 9 where it would then become ready for collection on Aug. 1.

This wheel tax will be imposed on all licensed vehicles with wheels registered in Clay County at a rate not to exceed \$4 per wheel on all such automobiles.

The total vehicle tax may not exceed \$16 per

vehicle.

Commissioners have continually expressed a need for this wheel tax after discussion with state legislators and literature in a pending state house bill – HB1 – indicated that counties which do not have a wheel tax in place will no longer receive any additional tax revenues that could go toward road improvements.

Clay County has voted down wheel tax adoptions twice before and is one of the last counties to not have one.

A total of 421 registered, county, voters (5 percent) must sign a petition to ask for a referendum for a vote on the ordinance for such an action to take place.

• Despite misgivings from John Robertson and

■ **TAX**, Page 3A



Rhythm in Red ran their seventh annual Show Choir Invitational last week. Though they could not compete, this did not stop the Vermillion High School show choir from putting on a show. **SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK**

Show Choirs Get Down to Business at Rhythm in Red

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

Vermillion High School was busier than usual for a Saturday last weekend as the school's show choir, Rhythm in Red, hosted its seventh annual Show Choir Invitational.

To some, like Rhythm in Red director Trisha Fisher, it seemed more of a family reunion.

"There's this thing in show choir, this bond that we just share," Fisher said. "I always say that we're like this extended family. We spend too much time together sometimes and don't like each other for a while and then we love each other again. You're like our invitational family. Thank you so much for supporting our program."

Fisher also made a point to thank the parents for all their hard work and support as well as the school janitors for agreeing without complaint to say later and help clean up from the day.

To those in the audience it seemed as if Broadway itself had come to Vermillion as they were repeatedly brought to their feet. It was not uncommon to sight a teary eye or tapping foot among the fans.

The competition included seven visiting teams from Sioux Falls(SD), Aberdeen (SD), Groton (SD), Elk Point (SD), and Wahoo (NE).

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See the Talents of Aaron Packard

By Sonia Hernandez
For the Plain Talk

Local photographer and business owner Aaron Packard has lived in Vermillion for most of his life.

Born in 1971 at Dakota Hospital, his roots undeniably run deep in the community.

Packard has been immersed in creativity for his entire life.

At the University of South Dakota, his mother Phyllis taught fiber art, while his father, Dan, taught sculpture and drawing.

"I got into photography at a young age – around 12. I did processing and printing as a hobby with John Banasiak," Packard says.

He was able to work alongside the talents of Banasiak, Professor of Art at the University of South Dakota. During Banasiak's 35 years at USD, he has seen many promising artists come



Local business owner and photographer Aaron Packard has brought his talents to Vermillion and he wouldn't have it any other way.

SONIA HERNANDEZ / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

■ **TALENTS**, Page 6A

Students Continue Attack 'Shark Tank' Creatively

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

Sharks continue to circle around some freshman English classes at Vermillion High School.

Problem is that these sharks are actually the freshmen themselves.

This week students prepared their presentations for the first round of their Shark Tank simulation that would run Thursday and Friday.

The competition, which began last month, is based on the ABC show of the

same name, and aims to emulate much of the program's premise.

The show features a panel of potential investors, called "sharks", who consider offers from aspiring entrepreneurs seeking investments for their business or product. The sharks do receive money for their participation, but they invest their own money. The entrepreneur can make a deal on the show if a panel member is interested.

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