

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Williams addresses Vermillion Rotary

The Vermillion Rotary Club held its weekly luncheon meeting on Tuesday, November 17, at the Neuharth Media Center on the campus of USD. President David Lorenz opened the meeting and led us in the invocation and recitation of the Rotary 4-Way Test. This was followed by a round of singing, introduction of guests including four Vermillion High School seniors, and announcements.

Rotarian David Herbster introduced Coach Ryan Williams as our speaker for the day. Coach Williams is the head women's basketball coach at the University of South Dakota. Rotarian Herbster stated that Coach Williams is an outstanding coach, teacher, and ambassador for USD.

Coach Williams said that he is starting his second year at USD. He began by saying that the USD Women's Basketball program is in the second year of a transition from Division II to Division I. Because of this, it is difficult to get established teams to come to Vermillion for home games, but this will change next year.

He also stated that with just three returning players it would be an interesting year. He said the defense is good even at this early stage.

The season opener was last Wednesday in Sioux Falls against the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay. He also said that this was an interesting introduction to Division I because Green Bay is a very good team. They had been in post-season play the last 12 years.

He said that being in the Great West Conference is challenging because of the amount of travel involved and that they will be playing some really good teams around the country.

He gave us some example of the personnel. Amber Hegge was red-shirted last year. She is feeling a lot of pressure on both defense and offense but she is an amazing athlete. Jasmine Moseley is also a very good athlete and has a good work ethic. Annie Roche is the hardest working player and probably the best shooter. Case and Heibert both sat out last

year because of transfers. He said the whole team are really great pieces of the puzzle but are not quite working well together yet. He said this would be a great team later this year.

Coach Williams also mentioned that they signed three great players last week including probably the best player in South Dakota.

He is very excited about this team. He said they are very good students, great players and hard workers. He added that he really loves coaching this group of players.

Jolly J.J.'s 4-H club elect new officers

The Jolly J.J.'s 4-H club met on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Extension building. Club members worked on filling out their 4-H journals. Brittany Hanson, club president, called the meeting to order. Marley Hanson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ashley Sorensen led the 4-H pledge. Ashley read the secretary report and Pam Hanson gave an updated treasurer report.

Numerous thank yous were verbally given. Reminders were given about the 4-H journals, award applications and club award deadlines.

Discussion took place about what the club members should do for October - National 4-H Awareness Month. It was decided to declare it 4-H Week in Clay County and the City of Vermillion during the week of Oct. 4 through 10 - Mayoral and County Proclamations. It was also decided to put up a 4-H display.

It was decided to not have a club meeting in October, but to meet in November before the 4-H Recognition Event. Pam will let everyone know when. The meeting was adjourned.

New club officers were elected for the 2009-2010 4-H year. They are as follows: president, Ashley Sorensen; vice president, Hannah Doohen; secretary, Brittany Hanson; treasurer, Marley Hanson; reporter, Terrissah Doerring and community service book, Ellen Hanson.

If anyone is interested in joining a 4-H club please contact the Extension office at 605-677-7111.

Herseth Sandlin hosts briefing featuring Vermillion winemaker

Rep. Herseth Sandlin recently hosted a Congressional Soils Caucus briefing for Members of Congress and their staff entitled, "The Essence of Earth and Wine: Terroir," to highlight the importance of geology, soils, and climate on wine characteristics and quality. As co-chair of the Soils Caucus, Rep. Herseth Sandlin invited State Representative Eldon Nygaard with Valiant Vineyards to discuss his wine operation in South Dakota. Eldon spoke about his flavorful Wild Grape wine, a product of the American grape, *Vitis riparia*, discovered on property near the Vermillion River in South Dakota.

"Through my involvement as co-chair of the Soils Caucus, I recognize the role that management of the soil resources plays in wine grape production. Soil is certainly a key ingredient contributing to the overall composition, quality, and flavor of wine," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "Eldon has become a leading advocate of the wine industry, both in South Dakota and nationwide, and I am pleased to have been able to work with him on legislative issues to assist the wine industry, including new and increased funding specialty crops research and certification systems as part of the 2008 Farm Bill."

In addition to Nygaard, speakers included:

- James Fisher, a soil scientist of Soil Solutions LLC, explained the soil criteria used by vineyards to choose the sites for wine grape production.
- John Havlin, North Carolina State University, addressed soil nutrient management techniques specific to wine grape



Rep. Herseth Sandlin with Eldon and Sherry Nygaard at a briefing of the Congressional Soils Caucus entitled "The Essence of Earth and Wine: Terroir" holding a bottle of Wild Grape wine from the Nygaard's Valiant Vineyards near the Vermillion River in South Dakota.

production.

In addition to Valiant Vineyards, vineyards featured included:

- Shelton Vineyards: Located in Yadkin Valley, North Carolina, this is one of the largest vineyards on the East Coast. John Havlin spoke briefly about the soils as well as Shelton's signature Yadkin Valley Riesling.
- Waltz Vineyards: Jan Waltz discussed the geography and soil on his vineyard,

located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and served two of Waltz's delectable wines—the Baron Steigel Red and their Old Line Chardonnay.

• Wines from the State of California: Selections from various wine regions in California, including the Napa and Central Valleys were available for tasting. Soil scientist James Fisher also spoke about his experience working with vintners in California.

House Health Reform Bill meets critical health needs for South Dakotans

By Patrick S. Gross,
Vermillion
AARP volunteer state president

GUEST COMMENTARY

We are at a historic juncture in our nation's history. The passage of the Affordable Health Care for America Act (HR 3962) put us one step closer to achieving affordable health care choices for every South Dakotan. While AARP is disappointed in Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin's decision to vote against this important measure, we are hopeful Rep. Herseth Sandlin will reconsider her vote when a health care bill returns to the House for final approval.

A recent survey shows AARP members support reform that protects Medicare, makes prescription drugs more affordable, and ensures access to their choice of physicians. AARP supported the House bill because it is simply a better bill that does more for seniors and meets critical health needs for South Dakotans of every generation.

For the more than 125,000 South Dakotans in Medicare, this bill protects the benefits they've earned, adds preven-

tive benefits like free cancer screenings and cracks down on waste, fraud and abuse. The House plan makes prescription drugs more affordable by allowing Medicare to negotiate for better prices and by completely closing the gap in prescription drug coverage known as the doughnut hole, which currently affects tens of thousands of South Dakotans.

For nearly 14,000 South Dakotans between the age of 50 and 64, who struggle to find affordable insurance, the Affordable Health Care for America Act strictly limits how much more insurance companies can charge based on age. Right now, older South Dakotans pay up to five times more than younger individuals for the same coverage. This legislation limits the "age rating ratio" to 2-1. No longer will someone be denied coverage because of their health history or discriminated against because of gender, and those who cannot afford insurance will receive help to purchase affordable coverage.

Finally, the House plan addresses long-term care by providing benefits to seniors and people with disabilities to help them continue to live in their own homes, in their own communities. The fight isn't over. While

AARP is pleased to see this important step forward, there is much work to be done. As Congress moves toward final legislation, we'll keep working with our delegation to ensure any final health care reform bill meets the needs of older South Dakotans.

www.plaintalk.net

Dial 511 or go online for travel conditions

The South Dakota Department of Transportation reminds motorists to dial 511 or go online to safetravel.usda.com when traveling this fall and winter.

The free service provides road conditions, weather reports, and forecasts across the state, both by phone and Internet.

"We want to give travelers the information they need to make safe travel decisions," says state Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist. "The 511 system lets people know what conditions they can expect before they begin their trips and also while traveling."

When accessing the 511 system by phone, callers are prompted to enter highway numbers and can then listen to road and weather reports for several sections along those highways. Multiple inquiries can be made during one call.

The 511 service also provides information for several neighboring states, including North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Kansas.

Safetravel.usda.com features an interactive highway map

of South Dakota. Major highways are color-coded to indicate various road conditions, such as wet or slippery surfaces, road closures, areas of limited visibility, and road construction. Regional maps showing all state highways are also available.

Clicking on any highway on the map shows detailed information about road conditions and local weather forecasts. Another feature of SafeTravelUSA displays camera images of current road conditions at nearly 40 locations across the state.

Callers outside of South Dakota can reach the SD 511 system by calling toll-free, 866-MYSD511 (866-697-3511).

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