

# VHS yearbook receives highest honor

For the second consecutive year, the VHS yearbook was awarded Top of Class, the highest honor given, at SDHSA High School Press Day held on the SDSU campus in October.

The yearbook entitled Color Me Red was also recognized with an All-State Award. Rankings are given based on a point system that includes criteria on unifying concept, coverage, writing, photography, design, and reader services. Books that earn a minimum of 900 points on a 1,000 point scale are ranked an All-State publication. Top of Class is awarded to the school whose yearbook received the most points regardless of the school's student enrollment. Vermillion's yearbook received 960 points.

This year's judge, who resides in Texas, said, "Impressive book - it's clear the pride the staff takes in producing a book they and their school can be proud of."

"To win Top of Class against the AA schools like those in Sioux Falls or Brookings is a quite an accomplishment. We have been entering our book since 2008, and I cannot recall any A school that has done this," yearbook adviser Cindy Heckenlaible said.

Senior Mikaela French, co-editor of the yearbook this year, attended the event in Brookings. "[Winning] makes us hold ourselves to higher standards. We realize we need to put in more time because we want to get this again."

Heckenlaible, who has been entering the yearbook in the state competition since 2008, said the yearbooks have been ranked All-State every year.

"I take the suggestions for improvement very seriously and use those to guide the staff to improve the next book with the goal of winning this event. It's nice when experts in the field recognize our efforts," Heckenlaible said.

## VHS presents Fall Show

The Vermillion High School Fall Show is set for Friday, Nov. 16 and Saturday, Nov. 17, starting at 7 p.m. at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center.

Fall Show showcases Vermillion's Middle School Show Choir - Music In Motion, which is made up of seventh- and eighth-grade students - and Vermillion

High School's Show Choir, Rhythm in Red, which is ninth- through 12th-grade male and female students. Both of the show choir groups are under the direction of Trisha Fisher.

This is a fundraiser for the Vermillion High School Show Choir groups. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for K-12 students.

## TEACHER

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men and women who have served for us."

The stories have ranged from one about a young soldier who was injured in Korea and rescued by a family, to another about a young female codebreaker who recounted D-Day as the day

when the air went silent, to a story of a Marine who arrived at his barracks shortly after the 1983 bombing Lebanon.

"All of these stories each and every year make me wonder how you guys did it, how you dared to put on that uniform," Billberg said. "But the question for me when I was given this award was, 'Why did you do it?'"

Billberg said her grandfather, who served in France during World War II,

## First Dakota National Bank and Bank 360 reach merger agreement

Larry Ness, Chairman and CEO of First Dakota National Bank and Mark Southwick, CEO and President of Bank 360, announce an agreement has been reached for Bank 360 to merge into First Dakota. The agreement is subject to regulatory approval.

First Dakota has \$900 million in total assets and 14 banking locations in 10 communities throughout southeast South Dakota. Bank 360 has locations in Yankton, Beresford and Elk Point with \$40 million in total assets.

"We are delighted with the prospect of serving the communities of Beresford and Elk Point," said Ness. "These are good, strong communities with hard working and talented people. We are

confident we can play a role in their future success and we can't wait to get there."

"I am pleased with this merger," said Southwick. "First Dakota is a strong financial institution with a wide range of financial products and services. We are especially excited about their involvement in agriculture. First Dakota is the second largest community ag bank in the United States."

Ness stated, "Our banking philosophy is to provide a high level of customer service and the products and services our customers need. There will be no interruption of banking services and Bank 360 customers can be confident their accounts are secure and accessible."

## VETS

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International Airport.

"We treated the 3rd Infantry Division soldiers as they were trying to return home," he said. "This was a huge eye-opener. We had heard of battlefield fatigue and the thousand-yard stare, but this was seeing it firsthand."

He was later stationed at a remote base that was mortared almost every night.

"It got to the point where we would sleep through some of the mortar attacks because we could tell if the mortars were close or not," Wallin said. "I could not help but think about the soldiers in World War II sitting in their foxholes with actual artillery shells coming in

on them constantly for days. What I was going through wasn't that bad in comparison."

Wallin decided to join the 211th in November 2008 when he received an e-mail that said the company was requesting medics.

"I thought it had been a while since I had been deployed, and there were soldiers who were already on their second and third deployments," he said. "I figured it was my time."

The deployment also gave Wallin a chance to earn the Combat Medic Badge. While his father had earned the award years before, Wallin himself had not because of the type of unit he had been serving on.

He later went on to receive the badge, which he said brought him closer to his father.

"Although I could not understand what he went through to receive his, I can

## CLAY COUNTY 4-H MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



The South Dakota 4-H state-wide community service project for this 4-H year, October 1, 2012, to September 30, 2013, is "Feed the Hungry in South Dakota." The Weekend Backpack Program is a particular focus of this project. On Make a Difference Day 2012, Oct. 27, Clay County 4-H helped the Vermillion Backpack Program with all the county 4-H clubs coming together. Emily Rolfe, a fourth year member of the Clay County Flyers, organized the event. Thirty-two 4-H members, leaders, and parents packed 1,800 bags of cereal and 286 bags of cookies. They also baked 588 muffins. This food will be packed into bags to send home with kids that may not otherwise have enough food to eat over

now understand what it means to be referred to as 'doc' by my fellow soldiers," Wallin said. "To a medic, this is the greatest honor you can have, because it means the complete respect of your fellow comrades."

Nygren and Wallin both described undergoing similar experiences in the Middle East, one of which was the heat, which they each described as something akin to standing in front of an open oven.

Another was noting the cultural differences between the Middle East and the United States.

Nygren said the lack of traffic laws was one thing that stood out for him.

"They do not abide by any sort of speed limit, they drive as fast as their vehicles will allow, and many are terrible drivers," he said. "Children are not in car seats. In fact, many times they

would stand in the back window of the vehicle waving at us."

Another difference Nygren described was how women walk around completely covered except for their eyes.

"One thing I found difficult to get used to is that in their society women do not make eye contact. In fact, if we found ourselves talking with a Middle Eastern man who was accompanied by a woman, we instructed not to even attempt to address her," he said.

Nygren and Wallin each concluded their remarks by the present veterans for their sacrifices.

"You have shown us what it's like to be a soldier, what it means to fight with morals, ethics, courage and most of all pride for the United States," Wallin said.

The Veterans Project has given some of Billberg's students a chance to do what she was unable to.

"I had a student two years ago who walked up to me at the end of the school year, six months after his project, who said, 'Ms. Billberg, thank you for making me do the Veterans Project,'" she said. "His grandfather had passed

away one week earlier. It was truly an honor for me to say, 'I'm glad you got to know your grandfather.'"

Billberg said it was also an honor to address the assembly of veterans and their families Monday morning.

"So many of you served in local Guard units, so many of you have served just to serve," she said. "You continue to

serve because (the people in) this great region of South Dakota ... don't want your 15 minutes of fame. You served because you're laborers of freedom, and unafraid to sacrifice the most to make a difference for us all."

*Welcome to the World*

The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in October 2012:

AALIYAH	BRYCEN	ELIZABETH	KENDRICK	MEMORI
ADRIAN	CARTER	EMMA	KENNADY	MESSIAH
ALEK	CARTYR	GABRIEL	LENDAN	NARIAH
ALEXIS	CHESENEY	GAGE	LEONDIS	OLIVER
AMELIA	CHEYANNE	HAYDEN	LILLY	ROSSTON
ANGEL	CHLOE	KAEL	LOGAN	SHAUN
ANNASTIN	COOPER	KAITLYN	LUCAS	SOPHIA
AUBREY	COOPER	KAMI	LUNA	SOTA
BREANNA	DESMOND	KATLYN	MAESA	SYDNEY
BROOKLYNN	DYLAN	KEILANI	MANUS	TATEWIN
BRYANT	EASTON	KEIRSTIN	MAXWELL	ZAYD

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