

VHS ORAL INTERP TEAM WINS AT LENNOX



Members of the Vermillion High School Oral Interpretation team won the Region 1A team title at the contest held Tuesday, Nov. 13, in Lennox. Vermillion was one of nine schools in the speech competition. In addition to capturing the team trophy, six VHS students qualified for the State Oral Interpretation Festival to be held on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at Yankton High School. These students are Rachel Axtell, William Card, Leah Geis, Savannah Kirsch, Sam Pearson and Katie Zimmerman. (Front row, from left) Katie Zimmerman, Savannah Kirsch, Sam Pearson, (back row, from left) Leah Geis, Kelsey Meadows, Rachel Axtell and William Card made up the winning team at the Region 1A oral interpretation tournament Nov. 13.

Courtesy Photo

USD Theatre presents 'Brigadoon'

The University of South Dakota Department of Theatre will present the musical "Brigadoon," Nov. 29-Dec. 3, in the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre. "Brigadoon," which starred Gene Kelly and Cyd Charisse in the renowned 1954 film version, is the first major Broadway success from Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, the team that also authored "My Fair Lady."

"Brigadoon" will feature the USD Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Richard Rognstad, spectacular sets and costumes, Scottish folk dancing (and bagpiping), and memorable melodies like "I'll Go Home with Bonnie Jean," "Waitin' for My Dearie," and "Almost Like Being in Love."

In addition to Professor Rognstad from the Department of Music, the artistic team is comprised of USD Theatre faculty: Matt Nesmith as stage and music director, Patricia Downey as choreographer, and Tim Case, Linda Scribner and Anthony Pellecchia as designers of sets, costumes, and lighting, respectively. For Professor Case, Brigadoon will be his final scenic design at USD before retiring this spring after a twenty-six year

career. Audiences may remember his inventive and stunning designs for productions like "Top Girls," "Twelfth Night," "Evita," "A Christmas Carol" and "All My Sons," to name a few.

The story of "Brigadoon" centers on two American tourists, Tommy Albright (Andy Hanson, Rapid City) and Jeff Douglas (Zach Hebert, Floyd's Knobs, IN) who, while walking through the mist of a Scottish forest, discover an enchanting village that only awakens once every one hundred years. When these New Yorkers enter Brigadoon, they find themselves in the middle of preparations for a wedding and, in short order, Tommy falls in love with a local beauty, Fiona MacLaren (Emily Vortherms, Yankton). When he learns that if he stays in Brigadoon for more than a day he will never be able to leave, Tommy must choose between the beautiful Fiona and the mesmerizing village of Brigadoon and his fiancée Jane (Christine Pietz, Blair, NE) and the life he has in New York. His conflicted situation unfolds against the backdrop of Lerner and Loewe's score.



Courtesy Photo

"Brigadoon" performs Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. in the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre on the USD campus. Tickets, which are \$15 for Adults, \$12 for Senior Citizens (62+), \$10 for K-12 and non-USD students, and \$5 for USD students with ID, can be reserved in the afternoons (noon-5 p.m.) by calling the USD Theatre Box Office at (605) 677-5400 or online at www.usd.edu/theatre.

HIV

From Page 1

poverty." At the time Mukumba tested positive for HIV, she was getting a degree in counseling — mostly HIV counseling. "It was a blessing," she said. At first, Mukumba was angry with her husband, but eventually she forgave him. She said it was an important part of moving on with her life. A book written by a couple living with HIV suggested talking to the virus as if it were a person. Mukumba said she has taken that approach. "OK, virus, you've come into me,"

she explained. "We're co-habiting. If you kill me, you die. The best thing is for us to stay OK. You support me. I support you. Life will go on." This is the attitude I've tried to adopt.

Mukumba said that, as long as she avoids stress, medication keeps the virus under control. She said her husband never did get tested for HIV, nor did he want to know the results of her test in 2000. "Let sleeping dogs lie," Mukumba recalls him saying. "Sometimes men have an ego, and they don't take advice from their wives." On Feb. 10, 2008, he died from complications related to HIV. Mukumba found herself with little money and no job. Prior to her husband's death, she had been working as a nanny in South Africa. "I went to South Africa, picked up

my things and came back home," she said. On Feb. 7, 2009, Mukumba was sitting on her veranda trying to figure out how to put her life back together and care for her four children, who were born between 1973 and 1987. None of them have HIV. "I heard the voices of little girls playing by the roadside," she stated. "I went to the gate and said, 'How are you, girls? What are you doing here? It's school time. You're not supposed to be playing here. You're supposed to be in school.'" The two girls responded that their father had not gotten them placed in school, which can be very expensive in Zimbabwe. Mukumba then got an idea — she could teach them. She spoke to their father, and by

Feb. 9 she had started a school in her home. "A week later, there were two more," Mukumba recalled. "By the 11th day, I had seven children." She now teaches 44 children out of her home and employs four teachers. Many of the students have HIV. Some of the children have parents who can pay a fee, but Mukumba also seeks out orphans in her community with no means to pay. "My wish now is to look for a place and build a structure so I can accommodate those who don't have homes and make it a boarding school for those who need it," she said. "That's my dream. If you educate a child, you educate the nation." By extending love to others, Mukumba hopes it helps them find life a little more worthwhile — especially if

they have HIV or AIDS. "I would like to tell people they don't have to be discouraged if they find out they are HIV positive," she said. "They need to take care of themselves, change their lifestyles, take their medication regularly and have a clean mind. The biggest thing is, they need to change their lifestyle. If they keep on living a careless life, they will infect other people." "Eat well, dress well, live well and pray well," Mukumba said. "God is there. Some people might not believe that, but for me, God is real. I know whenever things are hard, and I say, 'God, this is not for me,' He answers me." For those wishing to learn more about Mukumba's school and how they can help her, email mercymukumba@gmail.com.

IPADS

From Page 1

summer, at which point some of them were distributed to teachers. A further 380 were distributed to the students earlier this month. "Basically all the teachers K-12 have one, and there will be two carts of them at the middle school, and there will be an extra one in every classroom at the elementary," McGuire said. Although it has only been about three weeks since they were distributed to the students, they already are being used by classes of all kinds. "At first it was hard because everyone was learning, but now everyone is starting to get a better hang of things," said VHS senior Mikaela French. "We're working iPads into (our classes) more and more each day." "This last week or so I felt a lot like a technology teacher," said Spanish instructor Megan Fischer. "However, it's getting better. I didn't realize how much

of a learning curve it was going to be for a lot of students. I thought they were going to catch on a little bit more quickly, but they've done really well." French said she was impressed by the variety of tasks that can be performed on the iPads, from taking notes and making presentations, to doing assignments and taking tests. "It's very different, it's very interesting," she said. Fischer said the devices make things easier from her perspective in that when an assignment is turned in, she is notified of that right away. "The technology at their

fingertips means that I can contact them with immediate feedback," she said. "I can also get in contact with them about corrections." McGuire said this early period is being looked at as a kind of test for the program at the school. "We expect a whole bunch of changes between what we're doing right now and what we're doing come next fall," he said. "This is a true testing ground for us. Right in our policy it is stated that we expect this to be very much changing the way we use them and our expectations of what's going on with them."

Part of those expectations involves what kinds of programs the students can access on the iPads. Gault said the devices operate under strict filtering systems that will not allow the students to access inappropriate materials in or out of school. "We really want to make sure people are aware that we're not just giving these kids devices, and then they can go home and get whatever they want on them," he said. Gault said the public also should be aware of the fact that the devices come at no cost to

the students. "We wanted to give everybody the same opportunity," he said. "That was our big push from the get-go. We didn't want to attach a fee to them, we didn't want to attach any sort of money value, because we just didn't want people to have to come up with that." Fischer said one of the overall benefits of the iPads are that they give each student the ability to focus on the aspect of any subject with which they are having trouble. "They have more

opportunities to work on what they feel they need to," she said. Gault said this personalized interaction with the devices is one of the most important parts of the program. "These (devices) are probably what these kids are going to have to use when they hit the job market, when they go into their field of study," he said. "If you go to a hospital, if you go to a grocery store — you go everywhere and these portable tablet devices are (there)."

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Tree of Lights Open House and Wreath Auction
Al Neuharth Center Vermillion, SD
(Corner of Dakota and Cherry Street)
5:00pm Social / 6:00pm Auction

Enjoy refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and wreath auction. This Holiday Celebration is open to the public, please bring your family and friends.

Dakota Hospital Foundation **Wreath Decorating Contest**

Prizes awarded:

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Business	\$100 Vermillion Bucks
BEST OF SHOW	\$100 Vermillion Bucks

Participants may submit a live or artificial wreath up to 26" in diameter decorated to your personal style or theme of choice.

Decorated wreaths with a completed Wreath Contest registration form must be submitted on Wed, December 5, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Special arrangements can be made for an early drop off if needed.

All wreath's entered will be auctioned at the open house. Registration form and other details can be found at sanfordvermillion.org or call 605.624.2611.

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