

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, February 4
BASKETBALL BOYS' Friday, February 5
Marion, 5 p.m. Menno vs. Bridgewater-Emery, 6:30 p.m. Canistota vs. Hanson, 8 p.m. Lewis & Clark Conf. Tour. (At Winslow — Newcastle vs. Wakefield, 6 p.m.; Osmond-Ponca, 20 minutes after game 1; At Homer — Winniebaggo vs. Bloomfield, 6 p.m.; Wynot vs. Emerson-Hubbard, 20 minutes after game 1; Niohora Valley Conf. Tour. (East Final at Elgin — Ewing vs. Clearwater-Olchard, 8 p.m.; West Final at Stuart — West Boyd vs. North Central, 8 p.m.); Freeman Academy at Wagner, Marly vs. South Central at Bonesteel, Scotland 8 p.m.
BASKETBALL BOYS' MS YMS at Mitchell (4:15 p.m.)
BASKETBALL GIRLS' Mid-State Conf. at Norfolk (Consolation at Norfolk Catholic — Madison vs. Wayne, 6:15 p.m.; Battle Creek vs. Pierce, 7:45 p.m.; Semifinals at NECC — Boone Central vs. Norfolk Catholic, 6:15 p.m.; West Point CC vs. Hartington CC, 7:45 p.m.); Niobrara Valley Conf. Tour. (East Final at Elgin — Elgin-Pope John vs. Ewing, 6:15 p.m.; West Final at Stuart — Chambers vs. West Boyd, 6:15 p.m.); Northeast Neb. Activities Conf. Tour. at Crofton (Fifth — West Holt vs. Plainview, 4:30 p.m.; Third — Creighton vs. Elkhorn Valley, 6:15 p.m.; Championship — Laurel-Concord vs. Crofton, 8 p.m.); Bon Homme at Avon, Dell Rapids at Vermillion, Elk Point-Jefferson at Lemmon, Gayville-Volun vs. Irene-Wakonda at Irene, Parkston at Freeman, Wagner at Andes Central
BASKETBALL GIRLS' MS Mitchell at YMS (4:15 p.m.)
WRESTLING, PREP Huron at VHS (6 p.m.)
WRESTLING, JV Huron at VHS (6 p.m.)
Friday, February 5
BASKETBALL BOYS' Cornbelt Conf. Tour. at Marion (Menno vs. Hanson, 3 p.m.; Freeman vs. Bridgewater-Emery, 6:30 p.m.; Canistota vs. Hanson, 8 p.m.; Lewis & Clark Conf. Tour. (At Winslow — Newcastle vs. Wakefield winner vs. Osmond-Ponca winner, 20 minutes after girls' game; At Homer — Winniebaggo-Bloomfield winner vs. Wynot-Emerson-Hubbard winner, 20 minutes after girls' game); Mid-State Conf. at Norfolk (Consolation at Norfolk Catholic — Madison vs. West Point CC, 6:15 p.m.; Battle Creek vs. Boone Central, 8 p.m.; Semifinals at NECC — Hartington CC vs. Wayne, 6:15 p.m.; Norfolk Catholic vs. Pierce, 8 p.m.); West Holt, 4:30 p.m.; Third — Elkhorn Valley vs. Laurel-Concord, 6:15 p.m.; Championship — Creighton vs. Crofton, 8 p.m.); Alcester-Hudson at Beresford, Andes Central at Wagner, Bon Homme at Avon, Centerville at Hurley, Elk Point-Jefferson at Dakota Valley, Gregory at Parkston, Irene-Wakonda at Baltic, Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Marly, Vermillion at Madison (KVV-AM), Vidor at Freeman Academy
BASKETBALL GIRLS' Lewis & Clark Conf. (At Winslow — Wynot-Winniebaggo winner vs. Osmond-Emerson-Hubbard winner, 6 p.m.; At Homer — Homer-Bonesteel-Rosalie winner vs. Wausau-Newcastle winner, 6 p.m.); Alcester-Hudson at Beresford, Centerville at Hurley, Elk Point-Jefferson at Dakota Valley, Gregory at Parkston, Irene-Wakonda at Baltic, Scotland at Parker, Tripp-Delmont-Armour at Marly, Vidor at Freeman Academy
HOCKEY MEN'S CLUB USD at Creighton
HOCKEY, PEWEE Sioux Falls at Yankton (7 p.m.)
SWIMMING, YOUTH Mitchell Inv. at Huron (Yankton)
TRACK, COLLEGE Frank Sevin Inv. at Lincoln (USD)
WRESTLING, PREP Alcester-Hudson/Dell Rapids at Tri-Valley (5:30 p.m.); Vermillion at Crofton (6:30 p.m.)
■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

Prep Hoops

WEDNESDAY'S NEB. GIRLS
Loop Valley Conf. Tour.
Anselv 47, Acadia 38
Mullen 49, Litchfield 32
Sandhills/Theoford 57, Loop County 35
Sargent 56, Callaway 26

The NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
Boston 31 16 650 GB
Toronto 27 23 540 5 1/2
New York 19 29 398 12 1/2
Philadelphia 17 31 354 14 1/2
New Jersey 4 44 1083 27 1/2

Southwest Division
Dallas 31 18 633 GB
San Antonio 27 19 587 2 1/2
Houston 26 22 542 4 1/2
Memphis 26 22 542 4 1/2
New Orleans 26 23 531 5

Central Division
Cleveland 38 11 780 GB
Chicago 23 24 489 14 1/2
Milwaukee 21 26 447 16 1/2
Indiana 17 32 347 21 1/2
Detroit 31 34 301 21 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division
Dallas 31 18 633 GB
San Antonio 27 19 587 2 1/2
Houston 26 22 542 4 1/2
Memphis 26 22 542 4 1/2
New Orleans 26 23 531 5

Northwest Division
Denver 33 15 688 GB
Utah 29 18 617 3 1/2
Portland 29 21 580 5
Oklahoma City 28 21 571 5 1/2
Minnesota 11 38 224 22 1/2

Pacific Division
L.A. Lakers 37 12 755 GB
Phoenix 29 21 580 8 1/2
L.A. Clippers 21 28 429 16
Sacramento 16 31 340 20
Golden State 13 35 271 23 1/2

Tuesday's Games
Indiana 130, Toronto 115
Cleveland 105, Memphis 89
Orlando 99, Milwaukee 82

Wednesday's Games

Ottawa 4, Buffalo 2
St. Louis 3, Chicago 2
Carolina at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Philadelphia at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Detroit at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Atlanta 103, L.A. Clippers 97
Toronto 108, New Jersey 99
Philadelphia 106, Chicago 103, OT
New York 107, Washington 85

Oklahoma City 103, New Orleans 99
Boston 107, Miami 102
Dallas 110, Golden State 101
Portland at Utah, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Phoenix 1, Nashville 0, SO
Washington 4, Boston 1
Toronto 3, New Jersey 0
Tampa Bay 2, Atlanta 1
Montreal 3, Vancouver 2
Dallas 4, Minnesota 2
Colorado 5, Columbus 1
Los Angeles 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Detroit 4, San Jose 2

Saturday's Games
Phoenix 1, Nashville 0, SO
Washington 4, Boston 1
Toronto 3, New Jersey 0
Tampa Bay 2, Atlanta 1
Montreal 3, Vancouver 2
Dallas 4, Minnesota 2
Colorado 5, Columbus 1
Los Angeles 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Detroit 4, San Jose 2

Sunday's Games
Phoenix 1, Nashville 0, SO
Washington 4, Boston 1
Toronto 3, New Jersey 0
Tampa Bay 2, Atlanta 1
Montreal 3, Vancouver 2
Dallas 4, Minnesota 2
Colorado 5, Columbus 1
Los Angeles 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Detroit 4, San Jose 2

The NHL

Phoenix 1, Nashville 0, SO
Washington 4, Boston 1
Toronto 3, New Jersey 0
Tampa Bay 2, Atlanta 1
Montreal 3, Vancouver 2
Dallas 4, Minnesota 2
Colorado 5, Columbus 1
Los Angeles 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
Detroit 4, San Jose 2

LABER

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athletic program, but first off, my major is going to be in the medical field and USD has a great program," she said. "My major is the most important thing because that

Transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Announced RHP Dennis Sarfate has cleared waivers and been assigned outright to Norfolk (IL).

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with C Gustavo Molina and RHP Joe Nelson on minor league contracts. Promoted Eddie Romero to assistant director of its Latin American operations and Gus Quatlebaum to assistant director of amateur scouting.

SEATTLE MARINERS—Agreed to terms with 1B Casey Kotchman on a one-year contract.

BASEBALL
National Football League
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Named Doc Jaaron senior assistant/defensive backs coach.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
ANAHEIM DUCKS—Assigned D Nick Boynton to Manitoba (AHL).

BOSTON BRUINS—Reassigned F Matt Marquardt from Providence (ECHL) to Providence (AHL).

CAROLINA HURRICANES—Activated D Jose Covio. Placed F Tuomo Ruutu on injured reserve. CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—

Scoreboard

Assigned 1B Tommy Everidge outright to Tacoma (PCL). TAMPA BAY RAYS—Claimed RHP Mike Ekstrom off waivers from San Diego. Agreed to terms with C Alvin Colina and LHP Heath Phillips on minor league contracts.

FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with RHP Seth McClung on a minor league contract.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Ramon Quiroz and INF Alfredo Amezaga on minor league contracts.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Announced RHP Chris Smith accepted outright assignment to Nashville (PCL). Claimed RHP Marco Estrada off waivers from Washington. Designated RHP Tim Lillard for assignment.

HOCKEY
National Football League
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Named Doc Jaaron senior assistant/defensive backs coach.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
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BOSTON BRUINS—Reassigned F Matt Marquardt from Providence (ECHL) to Providence (AHL).

CAROLINA HURRICANES—Activated D Jose Covio. Placed F Tuomo Ruutu on injured reserve. CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—

HOOPS

Activated C Dave Bolland from injured reserve. Recalled G Joe Fallon from Rockford (AHL). COLUMBUS BLUE JACKS—

Named assistant coach Claude Noel interim coach. NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Signed D Jared Cowen.

Recalled D Alexander Sulzer from Milwaukee (AHL). OTTAWA SENATORS—

Signed D Jared Cowen.

BEARS

Missouri State, attended a Bears' basketball game earlier this season.

For Saunders, he is following in the footsteps of his older brother, Brian.

Brian Saunders was recruited to play football at Wayne State, where he spent one season before joining the Marines.

"It's close to home, so all my family can come to my games," said Johnny Saunders, who was

DAKOTA CHRISTIAN 51, AVON 48

NEW HOLLAND — Cooper Dykstra scored 14 points to lead Dakota Christian past Avon 51-48 in a boys' makeup game Tuesday night in New Holland.

Mitch Vander Pol added 12 points for the Cadets (10-3), who led 25-22 at halftime and 37-36 after three quarters.

Lee Nieuwenhuis and Josh De Waard each scored 10 points in the win.

For the Pirates (7-6), Marshall Cihak recorded 16 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, while Jeff Bertus scored 11 points. Jon Vilhaus added nine points and Nick Poppe pulled down nine rebounds.

On Friday, Avon hosts Bon Homme and Dakota Christian hosts Mount Vernon. AVON (7-6).....8 22 38 48 DAKOTA CHRISTIAN (10-3).....14 25 37 51

LABER

will be your career, so USD's medical program had a big part to do with it as well."

Laber said she hopes she can go in and make a quick impact at USD.

"I wanted to go somewhere that I can improve and be challenged, so I am very excited about my choice," she said. "I was impressed with USD's coaches and I am excited to have them coach me."



Crofton's Kristin Steffen, front center, signed to run track and cross country for the University of South Dakota. Pictured with her are parents Nancy and Handy, front, and Crofton cross country coaches Jason and Jayne Arens.

STEFFEN

From Page 8
placing fifth in 2009. CHS won the state title all four of those years.

"Kristin's been a cornerstone of our program since she came in as a freshman," Jayne Arens noted.

Steffen's resume also includes a state team track title and four state track meet medals. She was also a member of the Warriors' Class C1 basketball title in 2007.

Along the way, Steffen proved to be a leader off the course and the track as well.

"Our runners feel comfortable going to her," Jayne Arens said. "She's humble when it comes to winning. She's very team-focused,

which has helped our program." The CHS coaches feel that USD's proximity to Crofton will allow Steffen to continue to help the Warriors.

"They're a close-knit group," Jayne Arens said. "She can still run with the girls during the summer. It will be nice to have that extra support there."

The USD coaching staff feels that Steffen will continue to progress during her collegiate career.

"We think she has untapped potential, and will thrive academically and athletically," Fitzsimmons said.

Steffen joins Amber Hegge as a Crofton alumnus on the Coyote track and field team.

Justin Rust of the Press & Dakotan contributed to this article.

COYOTES

From Page 8
In addition to Jelsma, USD's 2010 recruiting class includes three other South Dakota products — kicker Kevin Robb (St. Thomas More), transfer quarterback Brandon Gorsuch (Rapid City Central) and walk-on Parker Erickson (Gayville-Volin).

Robb, who is ranked in ESPN's top 100 kickers, connected on 55-of-55 extra points and 8-of-12 field goals for St. Thomas More last season.

The main positions of focus for the Coyotes were at offensive line (5 recruits) and the secondary (4), where USD loses a combined four starters.

"At this level, you've got to be disciplined, so you go for what you need and what fits your mold," head coach Ed Meierkort said during Wednesday night's signing day party in Vermillion.

"At the offensive line, we knocked it out; did fantastic," he added. "And we needed to get better in the secondary. It was a success in both areas."

USD also brought in two transfers who are already enrolled in classes and who could both start right away.

Gorsuch, a former R.C. Central standout, comes to Vermillion after two seasons at Arizona Western College. He passed for 1,945 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, when he led his team to a No. 7 national ranking and a Mississippi Bowl appearance.

The 6-foot-1 quarterback — who Meierkort said "fits our system perfectly" — figures to get a shot at the USD starting job vacated by record-setter Noah Shepard. Also in the mix will be sophomore Dante Warren, who has backed up Shepard for two seasons.

"You want to see competition at that position," Meierkort said. "As a coach, I can get them into trouble, but they've got to get out of trouble."

The other transfer is cornerback Marquis Butler (Los Angeles), formerly of Utah State. Like Gorsuch, the 6-foot, 190-pound Butler is already enrolled in classes at USD and will participate in spring ball.

He appeared in two games during the 2009 season after playing in 11 contests and making three starts in 2008. USD secondary coach Todd Strop said during Wednesday's signing day party that Butler could fill a slot at corner "right now."

The one position the Coyotes didn't recruit was at running back. Why?

USD already boasts five tailbacks, and the oldest one — Chris Ganious — coming into the 2010 season will be a junior.

Among the other notable prep signings on Wednesday:

• Adam Praska (OL, Elma, Iowa) — The 6-4, 285-pound lineman has been invited to the 2010 Shrine Bowl and is currently the top-ranked heavyweight wrestler in Iowa. Said Meierkort, "If you dropped a car on your foot, he'd get it off quickly."

• Andrew Schofield (OL, Orland Park, Ill.) — The 6-5, 260-pound lineman is a two-star recruit according to Rivals.com and Scouts.com. Older brother, Michael, plays football at Michigan.

• Mike Ruiz (CB, Riviera Beach, Fla.) — Ruiz was the co-MVP last season for a Dwyer High School team that sent three players to the University of Florida on Wednesday, including the state's overall No. 1 prospect.

• Jordan Butler (WR, North Las Vegas, Nev.) — The brother of USD redshirt freshman D'Angelo, the 5-8 Butler was invited to the USC combine.

At the end of the day, the Coyotes again nabbed one of the area's top recruits in Jelsma, a year after signing former Avon standout Earv Archambeau.

It was definitely a lot of fun recruiting him; we were interested right away," USD linebackers coach Adam Breske said. "It's always nice when you get a local kid. He'll be a great player at this level."

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THE ELKS Sweetheart Dinner
Saturday, Feb. 13
Dinner Served from 6-8:00 p.m.
Entertainment by Mike & Jay from 9:00 p.m.-Midnight
Entrée selection: Cornish Game Hen served with seasoned wild rice, green beans almondine, Romaine salad with your choice of dressing, garlic bread stick and dessert OR Fantail Shrimp served with garlic mashed potatoes, green beans almondine, Romaine salad with your choice of dressing, garlic bread stick and dessert.
Cost is \$15.95 per person
Please call your reservations and menu choice to 665-3333 by Wednesday, February 10 or before.
A wine tasting will be available in the lounge from 5:00-7:00 p.m., wide variety to choose from. Membership drive.

CELEBRATING OUR 14TH ANNIVERSARY ALL MONTH!
Saturday, February 13
6-6:50 Cash Drawings during 6:30p.m. Bingo Session
All-You-Can Eat Pancake Buffet • 8a.m.
Sunday, February 14th Valentines Day
• Free Gift to First 40 Customers starting at 10a.m.
• All you can play Bingo with \$20 Buy in and \$75 payouts
• Chicken & BBQ Ribs All Day Buffet Buy 1 get second 1/2 OFF!
• 8oz sirloin for 2 \$14.00

A TASTE OF New Orleans
Celebrate Mardi Gras
7th ANNUAL TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS
Now, and until Feb. Tuesday, February 16th, enjoy Mardi Gras with a rich sampling of New Orleans' favorite food and drink.
We'll be serving up Creole and Cajun specialties including Po Boy Sandwiches, Jambalaya, and the Cajun Mixed Grill, featuring a platter of traditional New Orleans favorites.
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