

Vickrey plans to step down as dean Page 03



ALSO INSIDE:

- ▲ Contaminant level low in city water, Page 02
- ▲ USD takes double-dual, Page 06
- ▲ VHS baseball wins a thriller, Page 07

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A Rockin' History

Local band is inductee to S.D. Hall of Fame

By David Lias
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Young people across South Dakota were experiencing, at best, the afterglow of Bill Haley & His Comets when Bob Ellison, a student at Vermillion High School, decided to start his own band.

Haley and his Comets, well known today as the earliest group of white musicians to bring rock and roll music to the attention of white America and the rest of the world, had reached its apex.

Its bright influence on the musical tastes of younger Americans had begun to fade when Ellison and three of his buddies from VHS formed their own band known as The Galaxies in 1963. Shortly after its start, a fifth musician was added to the band, and its name was changed to The Shattoes.

Ellison didn't know that he was about to embark on a historic adventure that would eventually lead to him being recognized as one of the pioneers of rock and roll music in South Dakota.

The Shattoes will be inducted into the South Dakota Rock & Roll Music Association's 2011 Hall of Fame Saturday, April 16 in the Ramkota Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls.

The band, with Ellison at its helm, saw many members depart to be replaced by other musicians. It survived the ever-changing culture of the '60s, and adapted by changing its name, changing to keep up with every new clothing and hair style, and altering its music to stay ahead of the revolution in rock and roll



The Shattoes, a rock and roll band begun in Vermillion in 1963, will be inducted into the hall of fame of the South Dakota Rock & Roll Music Association Saturday in Sioux Falls. Pictured are Bob Ellison, the band's founder, Terry Ramey, Howard Ernst, Roger Purcell and Will Ernst. (Photo courtesy of Bob Ellison)

that would take place in the decade after Ellison began the band.

VERMILLION'S FAB FOUR

The Galaxies' roster included Ellison, who played bass guitar and was lead vocal; Terry Ramey, guitar and

vocals; Willie Ernst, guitar and vocals; and Roger Purcell, drums and vocals.

■ **ROCK**, Page 8

OLLI plans to expand program

By Travis Gulbrandson
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After a successful first semester in Vermillion this winter, administrators of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) are planning to expand the program for the fall term.

Program Director Lori Bonderson, Michelle Laughlin, assistant dean for continuing and distance education at the University of South Dakota, and Ted Muenster of the USD Foundation spent much of Thursday, April 7, meeting with representatives from USD and the city of Vermillion, as well as club members and regular citizens regarding the program.

"I think Vermillion is a wonderful community to have this program," Bonderson said. "The resources are here, the enthusiasm is here. So I'm very optimistic."

Muenster agreed, adding that Vermillion "is a natural place for this to take root because of the influence of the university here, and the diversity of expertise on the campus. There are a lot of residents in the community that have a great intellectual curiosity and I think if we bring those two things together it can really enrich life in the community and make Vermillion a more attractive place to be."

For the past five years, South Dakota senior citizens have been given the opportunity to take college-level non-credit courses as part of the OLLI program.

Laughlin said that most universities have "community education programs," but OLLI is different.

"This is really taking it one step further," she said. "This is a much higher level of learning, which is just a great addition (to Vermillion)."

Classes and lectures are offered during winter, spring and fall terms. For a fee, participants join the program, whereupon they can take any number of classes at any

■ **OLLI**, Page 5

FREEZIN' FOR A REASON



The dean of students at Vermillion High School, Jason Huska, also known as The Flash, may have won points for style but unfortunately, his super powers didn't save him from taking an icy plunge. The annual Polar Plunge, "Freezin' for a Reason!", was held Sunday afternoon, April 10, in the Vermillion High School parking lot. Approximately \$18,000 in proceeds were raised for Special Olympics by community members who sought monetary pledges in exchange for taking a dip in the very cold water. See more photos from the event at spotted.yankton.net

(Photo by David Lias)

Area Extension offices to close

By Randy Dockendorf
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The Extension offices in Clay and Yankton counties and other southeastern counties will close this fall under restructuring announced Tuesday by the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service.

Extension educators were informed Tuesday of the changes, which take effect Oct. 21, at a Brookings meeting. Reduction in force notices were issued to 99 Extension educators, who can apply for new jobs under the restructuring.

The decisions were made in the light of budget cuts, changing demographics and new technology, said Barry Dunn, director of the Extension Service at South Dakota State University. He also serves as dean of the SDSU College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences.

The state's rapidly changing demographics – particularly an aging, shrinking population in the

"We are starting from Ground Zero with a new organization and with new job requirements. We expect the best and brightest to apply for jobs."

BARRY DUNN

state's rural areas – have changed the demand for Extension services, Dunn said.

"This is a very different state than it was 10 years ago, certainly 30 years ago or 97 years ago when the Cooperative Extension Service first came to South Dakota," he said.

The restructuring plan calls for SDSU Extension to establish seven regional extension centers across

■ **EXTENSION**, Page 5

Experts discuss 'Obamacare' at USD

By Travis Gulbrandson
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According to one health care specialist, the response of the European medical community to the United States' Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act (PPACA) – otherwise known as Obamacare – is simple.

"Welcome to the civilized world."

Dutch health care expert Freek Lapre relayed this opinion to the audience at the International Forum held in Farber Hall at the University of South Dakota Monday.

Brian Hensel, assistant professor of health services administration at USD, said that while some provisions of PPACA addresses the issue of cost, it is at



Dutch health care expert Freek Lapre discusses health care in the Netherlands as associate professor Mike Myers and assistant professor Brian Hensel look on at an International Forum held in Farber Hall at the University of South Dakota Monday.

(Photo by David Lias)


heart an access bill. "The punchline is that the congressional budget office projects that 32 million more of

the currently uninsured will be covered by insurance," he said.

Hensel said that estimates indicate there are approximately


50 million uninsured persons living in the United States today.

■ **FORUM**, Page 5



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