

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, APRIL 12

• Brown Bag Lunch Program: featuring "Marcia Hadjimarkos" from France on clavichord at 12:05 p.m. at the National Music Museum located on USD campus, corner of Clark and Yale streets. April's free Friday sponsor is Sanford Health of Vermillion. Free and open to the public.

• (TBA) Seventh/eighth grade boys/girls track: Beresford (Quad) (T)

• Boys tennis: Mitchell at 4 p.m. (T)

• USD Women's Softball host Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne DakotaDome Softball Complex (all day)

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

• ACT Test at Vermillion High School

• Overeaters Anonymous at 9 a.m. Location: Sanford Vermillion Medical Center, 20 S. Plum St., administration entrance just south of the hospital entrance in the board room. Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step program for people with eating disorders and struggles.

• Free income tax assistance offered to qualified taxpayers as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Students at USD Law School and Beta Alpha Psi will be available from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in Muenster University Center Ballroom. Individuals attending VITA session should bring: Social Security card(s), tax returns and all other tax documents, including W-2 forms, 1099 forms and Social Security statements. Assistance offered on a first come, first serve basis.

• First annual Bunyans Prom. Doors open at 7 p.m.; DJ and Dance at 8 p.m. Flashback to your prom – come dressed in your prom attire. King and queen will be crowned. Raffle prizes. \$5/couple. All proceeds raised will benefit the Vermillion Backpack Program.

• USD Women's Softball host Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Friday-Saturday, April 12-13, DakotaDome Softball Complex (all day)

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

• Fourth Annual Vermillion Special Olympics Polar Plunge at 1 p.m. at Vermillion High School parking lot. The cost to jump is \$100 (or if you would rather, you can pay \$50 to be "too chicken to jump"). Jumpers and chickens will receive a souvenir T-shirt and lunch. Businesses who give \$100 or more will get their name on the back of the T-shirts and their business will be promoted at the event. Donation event Web site online registration: <http://www.firstgiving.com/sosd/2013-vermillion-polar-plunge/>. For more information, contact Jennifer Law: (605) 670-0030 or e-mail [jenmadsen216@yahoo.com](mailto:jenmadsen216@yahoo.com).

• East River and Missouri Valley Bluegrass Music Association to feature "Monthly Open Jam," (second Sunday of each month), from 1-6 p.m. at Washington Street Arts Center, 202 Washington St. All levels welcome – open to pickers and listeners. Event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (877) 621-4118.

• Music recital: Tanya Olsen, alto sax and Lee Comp, alto and baritone sax, present their senior recital at 1 p.m., Colton Recital Hall, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

• Music recital: Walker Rose, baritone, presents his senior voice recital at 4 p.m., Colton Recital Hall, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

• Music recital: Patrick Patterson presents his Senior Percussion Recital at 7 p.m., Colton Recital Hall, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

### MONDAY, APRIL 15

• Al-anon meeting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Linden. For more information, call 624-9764.

• Music recital: Jake Matheson presents a sophomore tuba recital at 7:30 p.m., Colton Recital Hall, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts located on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 16

• Vermillion Rotary Club meeting from noon-1 p.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room of the Al Neuharth Media Center.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

• Lions Spring Pancake Days at the National Guard Armory. Serving 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. \$4 in advance; \$5 at the door – kids 8 and under free. Raffle tickets for miniature golf cart will be sold with proceeds funding Lions Club projects.

• USD Department of Theatre presents "Rent," Wednesday, April 17-20 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at Wayne S. Knutson Theatre, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Visit [www.usd.edu/theatre](http://www.usd.edu/theatre) for ticket information.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18

• Cancer Support Group meeting at 2:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sletwold Room, 816 E. Clark. For further information, call Marcy, 624-8706.

• Lions Spring Pancake Days, at the National Guard Armory. Serving 11:30-1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. \$4 in advance; \$5 at the door – kids 8 and under free. Raffle tickets for miniature golf cart will be sold with proceeds funding Lions Club projects.

# Fighting poverty with Kids Count

By Travis Gulbrandson

[travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net](mailto:travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net)

Growing up in poverty is one of the greatest threats to healthy child development.

"Poverty and financial stress can impede children's cognitive development and their ability to learn, and those risks posed by economic hardship are greatest in children who experience poverty when they are very young, and children who experience persistent and deep poverty," said Carole Cochran during a presentation at the Muenster University Center on March 28.

Cochran is project director of South Dakota KIDS COUNT, which is located at USD's Beacom School of Business.

With funding provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT collects and publishes data regarding the demographics, health, education, economics and safety of children.

According to the most recent KIDS COUNT data, 22 percent of children in the United States are living in poverty, the poverty line translated as \$22,811 for a family of two adults and two children.

In South Dakota, the rate is 19.4 percent – more than one-fifth of the state's children, living in 34 counties.

"That's about 39,000 children in South Dakota living in poverty," Cochran said. "To put that into perspective, those 39,000 children would fill Target Field, the home of the Minnesota Twins. That's a lot of kids."



COCHRAN

These rates are present despite the fact that the parents of most of those children holding down jobs.

In 2011, 79 percent of South Dakota children under the age of six had all available parents in the labor force.

Cochran said this translates to about 51,000 children.

The numbers are even higher for children ages 6-12, with 74 percent, or 57,000 children, she said.

The use of public assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid are increasing as well, she said.

South Dakota KIDS COUNT was founded in 1993.

"Over those 20 years, we have assembled a lot of data on demographics, health, education,

economic and safety about children and families in South Dakota," Cochran said. "Why are data important? They're going to help us describe a problem, answer a question, help us set priorities, and help us monitor changes. They're going to give us the magnitude of the problem, either through a number or a rate."

"They're going to give the scope of the problem so we can see changes over time, whether good or bad. They're going to give us relative standing," she said.

South Dakota KIDS COUNT uses its data to public a yearly fact book which contains about 50 indicators of child well-being.

It also produces special reports and a monograph series.

"These are often the basis of public policy decisions, and an important resource for those who are seeking and awarding funding, not only for foundations but in the private sector," Cochran said. "Most of those indicators are county-level information and you can access through the Kids Count Web site."

Virtually all of this data is available through the KIDS COUNT Data Center.

"We take data, we sort it, we arrange it in a meaningful way so advocates, policy makers and interested citizens can use that data to improve child well-being in South Dakota," Cochran said. "Here's your challenge: Do you see some ways that you could use this data? Is there something that you can do to impact children and families in your county, your region or the state in a positive way?"

For more information, visit <http://www.usd.edu/business/south-dakota-kids-count/index.cfm>.

## CHAMBER CHAT

**Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company**  
**116 Market Street, Suite 103**  
**Vermillion, SD 57069**  
**(605) 624-5571**  
**[vcdc@vermillionchamber.com](mailto:vcdc@vermillionchamber.com)**  
**[www.vermillionchamber.com](http://www.vermillionchamber.com)**

### Chamber Business:

Everyone is invited to the grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony at Classic Hits 106.3/ESPN Radio 1570 - 5 Star Communications, 18 E. Main St., on Tuesday, April 16 to celebrate their new studio in Vermillion.

The open house will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 12:15 p.m. Grilled hot dogs and refreshments will be served. Please join us to welcome 5 Star Communications to Vermillion.

Open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony at Meridian Title of Clay County, 100 E. Main St., is Tuesday, April 23. The open house will be from 5 to 7 p.m. with the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Please join us to welcome Meridian Title to Vermillion, make new contacts, and find out what they have to offer. Refreshments will be served, plus a take-home gift for everyone.

David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce, will give a legislative session update at the Rotary Club meeting at the Neuharth Media Center on Tuesday, April 30, at

noon. Everyone welcome. Lunch is \$6.50. Non-Rotary members please call the VCDC to register (605) 624-5571. Sponsored by the VCDC Legislative Affairs Committee.

Save the Date: The 2013 VCDC Annual Golf Social is Monday, June 24, at The Bluffs Golf Course. More information available in the near future.

Business After Hours: Are you looking for an opportunity to showcase your business and network with your peers? Sign up to host a Business After Hours event. These events generally run from 5-7 p.m. on a weeknight and the hosting business provides hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

If interested, please contact Ann at: [annb@vermillionchamber.com](mailto:annb@vermillionchamber.com) or at 624-5571.

### Announcements:

"April Showers Bring May Flowers": The Main Street Center Nutrition Board has asked the kitchen staff to compile a "wish list" –

another attempt to make the Main Street Center noon meal, "Meals on Wheels" and Town Square program survive.

We're asking for your help. It's an "April Shower" of kitchen/office supplies you may donate to help keep expenses down. Thank you for any donation.

Folgers Classic Coffee Regular, laundry detergent and Dawn dish soap, white paper towels, reams of printing paper (8 1/2 by 11), 40-50 gallon garbage bags, first-class stamps, black pepper and HP office jet 4500 ink are among the items being accepted.

Meals on Wheels needs your help. Vermillion Meals on Wheels, like other towns participating in the nutrition project of Dakota Senior Meals, is struggling to survive.

The state and federal government provide approximately 40 percent of the actual cost to prepare each meal. The rest of the

cost comes from local sources.

You can help make a difference. Make a donation or enjoy a nutritional, "home-cooked" meal by the Vermillion Dakota Senior Meals at the Main Street Center. Meals can also be delivered to individuals and couples that are unable to leave their home.

To make a donation or for more information, call the Nutrition Kitchen at 624-7868.

Sixth annual community-wide birth-3 screening. Communication-cognitive-social-motor screening for all children ages birth to 35 months old who reside in the Vermillion School District.

Call Kazy at 677-7010 to sign up for a time slot on Friday, April 12, 9 a.m.-noon at Austin Elementary School, 300 High St. (Please enter through east doors on High Street.)

## INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN

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**WAYNE S. KNUTSON THEATRE**  
 WARREN M. LEE CENTER FOR THE FINE ARTS

April 17-20 at 7:30 p.m. and April 21 at 2 p.m.  
 Adults \$15 • Senior Citizens (62+) \$12  
 Youth & Non-USD Students \$10 • USD Students with ID \$5  
 605-677-5400 • [www.usd.edu/theatre](http://www.usd.edu/theatre)



This event is partially sponsored by a generous donation from the First Bank & Trust and the USD Student Government Association. If you see a person with a disability and need a special accommodation to fully participate, please contact Disability Services at 605-677-6389 48 hours before the event.

## BETTY AND BILLY ARE TURNING 80!

BETTY

BILLY

BETTY McDONALD & BILL KABEISEMAN ARE TURNING 80 ON SUNDAY APRIL 21ST!!  
 THEY ARE CELEBRATING WITH AN OPEN HOUSE AT THE CENTER.

1PM - 4PM | THE CENTER | 900 WHITING DRIVE, YANKTON | NO GIFTS PLEASE