



**Sonia Hernandez**  
For the Plain Talk

The University of South Dakota Sustainability Club is asking Vermillion To think green as part of local Earth Week celebrations.

Emily Hattouni, sophomore at the University of South Dakota majoring in Psychology, is the Earth Day Fair coordinator at USD this year. Hattouni is also a member of the school's Sustainability Club.

"It's called Earth Day," says Hattouni, "But it should be Earth Day every day, and we hope to get more people thinking this way during the week-long events."

The Earth Days celebration includes speakers and activities centered on fostering healthy living, responsible economic development and sustainable growth.

This will be the second Earth Week at USD – a relatively new event that coordinators hope will spark more interest and awareness in sustainability and environmental concerns.

Meghan Jarchow, professor of sustainability at the University, has been part of the Earth Week events since the beginning.

"I mostly do overall coordination of Earth

Week," says Jarchow. "We expanded it to a full week, and linked the campus and the community – there has been more of a concerted effort to do more this year."

Earth Day has been celebrated since the modern environmental movement that emerged from the flower-child culture of the 1960s and 70s. Since then, many communities have adopted their version of the event. Vermillion had its largest community-wide celebration in April of 2014.

April 22 marks the anniversary of demonstrations that resulted from a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969. The political and social climate of these turbulent times helped promote public consciousness about environmental concerns – such as air and water pollution. Since then, Earth Day has gone global. Worldwide movements have fundamentally changed the way people think about the environment.

"You can make a huge impact by making little changes," says Hattouni. "Sustainability makes us take responsibility for what we do, and eventually changes become habit."

Jarchow agrees.

"Americans use so much energy," says

Jarchow. "I think it would be easy to change little things – using cold water to wash clothes and eating less meat and fewer animal products, which are really effective."

Living sustainably does not require an entire overhaul of daily routine, but rather implementing small changes like turning off your lights, using less water, or eating a vegan or vegetarian diet – all of which can decrease a person's carbon footprint dramatically.

The 2014 Earth Days celebration in Vermillion sparked the creation of the non-profit organization Greening Vermillion.

"After Earth Days last year, there was an idea that there are a lot of people interested in sustainability, so we started a non-profit," says Jarchow. "The goal has been to engage with Vermillion at-large to help people do the work they were already doing, as well as promote campaigns related to sustainability within the community."

The groundwork for Greening Vermillion is just now being set in place. Currently, the organization is working on launching a "bring your bag" campaign which encourages community members to lessen their use of

plastic and paper bags when shopping. The organization also hopes to tackle poverty issues in Vermillion.

"We have to ask ourselves what kind of world we want and how do we effect change to get there," says Jarchow. "There are people who don't have their needs met, and those whose lives need improving."

A central idea behind sustainability, says Professor of Sustainability Meghan Jarchow, is interconnectedness.

"There are many arms of sustainability," says Jarchow. "Environmental conservation, economic sustainability, and social justice — we have to think about how we conserve but also think about how people are treated, which is the less well-known but important aspect of sustainability."

This interconnectedness is exemplified in the very nature of Earth Days in Vermillion. The events of the week of April 20-25 bring together students, faculty and community members with a vested interest in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness.

You can find a schedule of events on the Greening Vermillion website, as well as other information regarding the non-profit.

## NMM Concert Featured Peebles

**By Elyse Brightman**  
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The National Music Museum held a free concert Friday afternoon at the Arne B. Larson Concert Hall featuring Will Peebles and his gamelan.

"It's an orchestra of tuned metallophones – metal keyboard instruments – and gongs. This (gamelan) comes from the western end of Java that's called Sunda," Peebles said.

The concert consisted of two songs played by Peebles on a gamelan degung, which is traditional to the Western Java province in Indonesia.

Peebles required the help of volunteers from the museums gamelan ensemble called Tatag. The museum's ensemble plays on a gamelan from Surakarta in Central Java. The two instruments are very similar, but differ in design. The gamelan degung arranges the instruments in a semi-circular shape instead of in rows.

"Think about the violin," said Dr. Deborah Check Reeves, curator of education and the curator of woodwind instruments at the National Music Museum and direct of Tatag. "We call it a violin if it's used for classical music but if it's used for folk music we call it the fiddle, and yet it's the same instrument. It's just a different way of playing and a different kind of music."

The volunteers had to learn to play Peebles' gamelan in only a few hours.

"We started practicing on Wednesday late afternoon,"



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The National Music Museum held a free concert Friday afternoon at the Arne B. Larson Concert Hall featuring Will Peebles and his gamelan.

said Ranjit Koodali, a member of Tatag and an associate professor of chemistry at the University of South Dakota.

"We had one practice on Wednesday, a couple of practices on Thursday and an hour practice today before the concert. About 5-6 hours of practice."

Koodali played the instrument called a jengglong that plays every fourth beat and sets the structure for the other instruments.

"There are other instruments playing that can follow the jengglong to have the entire line follow a typical pattern, so it creates the basic structure for any composition," Koodali said.

Along with Reeves and Koodali, the rest of the volunteers from Tatag were Dara Lohnes, Faythe Weber, Nell Holland, Rich Holland, Risa Hanson, Jing An and Solveig Korte.

Peebles came to the

National Music Museum from Western Carolina University in North Carolina where he is a professor of music. He started playing the gamelan when he wanted to start offering a world music class at the university.

"There were no classes on world music and getting prepared to teach I actually got to play some and decided that at some point I wanted to buy one," Peebles said. "The first one I bought was on eBay."

On May 1, Tatag will hold a concert with the gamelan from Central Java and those who attended Friday's concert will have the chance to hear the differences in the two instruments.

The next National Music Museum event is scheduled for Friday April 23 with a showing of "The Music Man" at the Coyote Twin Theater at 10 East Main St.

## TALKING GOVERNMENT WITH SENATOR THUNE



Senator John Thune visited with Vermillion High School Government students on Friday, April 10. Here he is pictured with a number VHS students.  
COURTESY PHOTO

**Craig Childs is a prolific writer whose interests have led him to the far corners of the earth to blend "the inspiration of wilderness travel, scientific exploration, with questions of human interface and meaning." Childs has published over a dozen books with his writing appearing in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Men's Journal*, and *Outside*. His most recent work, *Apocalyptic Planet: A Field Guide to the Future of the Earth* (2012), received the 2013 Orion Book Award and Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award. Childs is also a commentator for National Public Radio's Morning Edition and teaches writing at the University of Alaska Anchorage and Southern New Hampshire University.**

**The events are on  
Wednesday, April 22**

- ♦Craft Talk: 2 P.M., Farber Hall
- ♦Earth Week Keynote Address: 7 P.M., MUC Ballroom, "Field Guide to the Beginning of the World."

*Both events are free and open to the public. For more information contact the English Department at 605-677-5229.*



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UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

**earth (every) day**  
A community-wide series of events celebrating Earth Days 2015

**Heikes Family Farm event**

Food, Family, Fun & Educational Displays  
Friday, April 24  
4:00-7:00 PM  
Heikes Family Farm  
1408 317th St.

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