

## CHAMBER CHAT

Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce  
& Development Company  
116 Market Street, Suite 103  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
605-624-5571  
vcdc@vermillionchamber.com  
www.vermillionchamber.com

**Chamber Business:**

The VCDC will have a Vermillion Area Information Booth in the DakotaDome lobby during the 27th Annual Dakota Farm Show on Jan. 5, 6 and 7. If you have a brochure, menu, coupons, etc., that you would like available for the Farm Show exhibitors and visitors please drop them off at the VCDC office at 116 Market Street, Suite 103 or call Ann at 624-5571 by Dec. 30. This is a perfect opportunity to let visitors know about your business!

The Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company office has relocated to the Market Street Professional Building at 116 Market Street in Suite 103. Please stop by and see us at our new location. Look for us under the water tower!

**This Weeks Happenings!**  
Christmas! Friday, Dec. 25.

**Next Weeks Happenings!**  
USD Men's Basketball vs Morehead State (Kentucky)

University on Monday, Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. in DakotaDome.

USD Women's Basketball at California State University-Northridge on Tuesday, Dec. 29 at 9 p.m.

USD Women's Basketball at Colorado State Univ.-Ft. Collins, CO on Saturday, Jan. 2 at 3:05 p.m.

USD Men's Basketball at Kansas State University on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 12 p.m.

**Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Jan. 18, 2010. Registration has begun for the 2010 MLK Day of Service. Volunteers, groups, or individuals as well as site leaders to help facilitate the projects are needed. Pre-register at <http://sites.google.com/site/mlk-day2010/> to volunteer & email [sdmklkday@gmail.com](mailto:sdmklkday@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a site leader or have a project idea. For information, call 605-677-6338.

Preservation Wednesdays — The Clay County Historic Preservation Commission & the Clay County Historical Society are presenting the second Annual Series of Historic Presentations. A presentation by Will Schweinle entitled "Vintage Tools" will be at 7

p.m. at the Public Library on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010. The presentations are free and open to the public.

Clay County ACS Relay for Life, Sunday, Jan. 31, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Dakota Dome. Sponsored by the Clay County ACS and the USD Campus Against Cancer organization. For more information, contact Wess Pravecek at 624-5352.

Does your business or organization have an event you would like included in the Chamber Chat? If you do please call us at 624-5571 or email us at [vcdc@vermillionchamber.com](mailto:vcdc@vermillionchamber.com).

**Doug Hanson Benefit Fund**

The Hanson family of Meckling lost their home in a fire several weeks ago. No one was injured but the Hanson family lost most of their possessions. Doug serves the Yankton Community on the Yankton Police Department. One of his sons works for McDonald's in Vermillion and a daughter is an employee at Sanford Clinic Vermillion. He has four children and one grandchild at home.

Please help us make their holiday season a little brighter! Cash Donations Can Be

Made At:  
First Dakota National Bank  
111 Court Street,  
Vermillion, SD 57069

— OR —  
225 Cedar Street,  
Yankton, SD 57078

— OR —  
2105 Broadway Ave.,  
Yankton, SD 57078

Checks must be made to Doug Hanson due to how the fund is setup.

Gift Cards Are Being Accepted and will be delivered to the Hanson family by the Yankton Police Department, 410 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078 Vermillion Police Department 15 Washington St., Vermillion, SD 57069

**Clothing Donations Are Being Accepted**

Please Contact Rena Brunick 605-624-9214 for sizes and items needed.

Sanford Vermillion is also accepting donations of items for the Hanson family at two locations within their facility

Thank you to the Yankton Police Department, Vermillion Police Department, McDonald's of Vermillion, Vermillion Chamber of Commerce, First Dakota National Bank of Yankton and Vermillion, Broadcaster Press and Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan.

## Growth continues in online classes

Growth in online learning at South Dakota public universities outpaces the national trend line, according to a report that will be presented this week to the South Dakota Board of Regents.

The number of students enrolled in some type of distance education course in the 2008-09 academic year was up 17 percent over the previous year, compared to a 12.9 percent growth rate nationally as reported by the Sloan Consortium. The unduplicated distance student headcount in South Dakota was 21,998, compared to 18,815 in 2007-08. Registrations for individual distance courses also increased last year by 14 percent to a total of 31,636.

"The popularity of distance education in South Dakota remains strong, and it shows no sign of letting up," said Cathy Anderson, who coordinates distance learning programs for the regents. "In South Dakota, online education has truly become part of the mainstream of higher education."

Availability of distance education is especially important to a rural state like South Dakota, said Jack R. Warner, the regents' executive director and CEO. "Technology has brought about greater access to higher education, with more learning options for people who live in small communities far

removed from a college campus or for those who are otherwise place bound," he said.

Here are other facts about distance learners found in the annual Electronic University Consortium (EUC) report:

- Students enrolled in distance education coursework in South Dakota range in age from 16 to 78, with 61 percent falling in the 18-to-24 age group.

- The most common way to deliver distance education was by the Internet, with 65 percent of all distance courses utilizing that method.

- Internet-delivered courses averaged 10 students per section, with enrollments ranging from 1 to 278 students across all types of delivery methods.

- The five most frequently taught courses by distance were Composition II, South Dakota Indian Studies, College Algebra, Composition I, and Intermediate Algebra.

EUC was created in 2000, with legislative approval, to coordinate the distance education course offerings of all six public universities in South Dakota. Employing a convenient and integrated "one-stop" portal and point of contact for statewide distance education, EUC leverages the unique strengths of each public university to better serve students.

## USD OT professor delivers keynote address at Japan conference

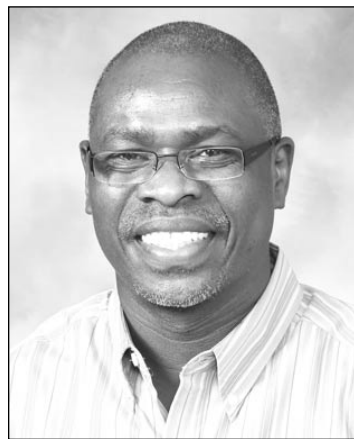
An associate professor of occupational therapy at The University of South Dakota recently delivered a keynote address on human activity and environmental change at a conference in Japan.

Moses Ikiugu, PhD, OTR/L, address was entitled, "Occupation and Human Survival: Why does it matter what we do from Dawn to Dusk?" Ikiugu was one of three keynote speakers at the conference at the University of West Kyushu in Kanazaki.

His presentation was part of on-going research that resulted in publication of a book entitled, "Occupational Science in the Service of Gaia: An Essay Describing a Possible Contribution of Occupational Scientists to the Solution of Prevailing Global Problems."

In the book, Ikiugu presented a framework for occupational behavioral change at the grassroots. The framework consists of education, creating a personal mission statement that addresses the impact one would like to make in the world, identifying daily activities that can fulfill the mission and making a commitment to those activities.

Ikiugu is conducting a pilot project at USD's School of Health Sciences to test his framework.



Moses Ikiugu

## Heartland Humane Society offers pet safety & gift-giving tips for the holidays

Heartland Humane Society wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season. While it may be tempting to give animals as gifts, HHS recommends other options that are better suited:

- Give a gift certificate for an adoption so the recipient can pick an animal that fits their lifestyle and that they are able to bond with.
- Take the recipient with you to pick out the animal and then offer to pay the adoption fee as your gift to them.
- Make a donation or membership to their favorite animal shelter in their name and send a card announcing their gift. HHS offers memberships for individuals \$25, families \$40 and businesses \$100. A membership is a great gift for the animal lover on your list!

- Remember, too, that the holidays can be a happy, but stressful time of year. Keep your pets safe during the holidays.
- Keep holiday ornaments and electrical cords out of pets' reach.
- Invest in a covered tree stand to protect pets from harmful fertilizers and chemicals used to keep real trees looking beautiful.
- Maintain your pets' diet during the holidays and don't overindulge them with holiday treats.
- With visitors and traveling, make sure your animal is in a safe area of your home and wearing identification tags in case it slips out the door and becomes lost.
- Keep pets from holiday plants such

as poinsettias that may be harmful if ingested.

If you would like to make a donation or purchase a membership to Heartland Humane Society, or just need help with a gift for the animal lover on your list, contact Tasha Anderson at 605-664-4244 or email [hhs@midconetwork.com](mailto:hhs@midconetwork.com).

Heartland Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that serves Yankton and Clay counties in South Dakota and Cedar County in Nebraska and surrounding communities, protecting and enhancing the lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people. Visit Heartland Humane Society online at [www.heartlandhumanesociety.net](http://www.heartlandhumanesociety.net).

## Marks of History: Nobles Trail Marker

The Nobles trail was the first federally-funded highway in South Dakota. After discovering a better route west from Fort Ridgeley, Minn., Colonel W. H. Nobles persuaded Congress to fund the infrastructure project. Located north of Forestburg, S.D., the trail enters northeastern Sanborn County and crosses the James River. The Nobles trail marker stands approximately 5 feet high, and marks the spot where Colonel Nobles constructed the ford over the James River in 1857.

Colonel W.H. Nobles discovered the South Pass in

1851 and argued that Fort Ridgeley, Minn. was a better starting point than Independence, Mo. for settlers heading west. Nobles was commissioned by the Department of Interior to survey the road from Fort Ridgeley west for future use by settlers and the railroad.

Col. Nobles spent six years planning for South Dakota's first federally-funded highway. The highway was used for exploration, freight, and settlement. The wagon road provided the infrastructure for railroad and the eventual statehood of South Dakota.

The Marks of History

series is a project of the South Dakota Office of Tourism, designed to highlight historical markers all across South Dakota. In the 1950s, the historical markers became a cooperative program between the Historical Society and the Highway Department. Over the years, approximately 700 markers have been created. A majority of the markers are funded privately by individuals or groups throughout the state. The Historical Society, which is part of the South Dakota Department of Tourism and State Development, oversees the program.

Click on the special "Marks of History" link at [www.Medi-aSD.com](http://www.Medi-aSD.com) to access the complete list of articles.

The Marks of History series is part of Goal 1 of the 2010 Initiative to double visitor spending in South Dakota from 2003-2010 and Goal 4 to enhance history and arts as tools for economic development and cultural tourism in South Dakota. The Office of Tourism serves under the direction of Richard Benda, Secretary of the Department of Tourism and State Development.

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— PG-13 —

**"ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL"**  
— PG —

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Thursday, Dec. 24th for all Theatres.

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**Done with Harvesting  
Rows of Corn...  
On to Harvesting Rows  
of Birthday Candles**

• Cruises to the farm in his dirty red truck  
• Beats us in dominoes even though he  
has one less finger  
• Likes to drive big trucks and push  
things with his loader  
• Has an earlier bedtime than us

Call to wish Grandpa a  
**"Happy 70th Birthday"**  
on the 30th!

Neil, Thad, Luke, Gerrit, Seth, Allison,  
Andrew, Regan, Logan, Noah, Anna, Maia,  
Molly, Lauren, Kate, Sara, Brennen, Erin, Hope,  
Emma, Jaxon, and Cole