

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

- The Vermillion Area Dance Organization will hold an open house from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Studio VADO, 19 S. Plum Street (across from Sanford Vermillion). This event will include dance performances.
- National Music Museum (NMM) Brown Bag Lunch at 12:05 p.m. featuring Christmas with The Polka Professor. Audience favorites, Prof. John F. Check, concertina (Vermillion); Prof. John D. Check, tuba (University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg); Prof. Deborah Check Reeves, clarinet (USD); and Prof. Gary L. Reeves, horn (USD), return to center stage to ring in the season with a joyful Christmas polka-fest! Arne B. Larson Concert Hall at the NMM located on USD campus of Clark & Yale St. Free and open to the public. December's Free Friday Sponsor is CorTrust Bank!
- Annual Christmas Dinner at Main Street Center, 320 W. Main St., beginning at 5:15 p.m. Volunteers for serving the meal will be Friends & Supporters from Polaris. Advance tickets available by calling the Main Street Center at 605-624-8072.
- Debate, 11 a.m. in Brookings.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- Overeaters Anonymous, 9 a.m. at Sanford Vermillion Hospital, 20 S. Plum - Administration entrance across from the Vermillion Clinic - take a right to the end of the hall - board room on the left.
- Winter Commencement: USD's 36th Winter Commencement, 10 a.m. in the DakotaDome.
- Debate, 8 a.m. in Brookings.
- Winter Formal Dance, from 8:30-11 p.m. at Vermillion High School.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- Preservation Wednesdays presented by Clay County Historical Preservation Commission & Clay County Historical Society, 7 p.m. at the Vermillion Public Library. John Erikson will present "Picture Framing." Free and open to the public.

PLANNING AHEAD:

- JAN. 4-6 — Dakota Farm Show, USD DakotaDome.
- JAN. 8 — Pancake Sunday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Main Street Center, 320 Main St.
- JAN. 16 — Vermillion Community Martin Luther King Day of Service. USD students will finish over 20 projects for non-profits and individuals with the help of community volunteers. To help provide supplies, offer monetary donations, or to send employees to help with the MLK Day of Service, visit <http://tinyurl.com/USDMLK> to pre-register. At this site, one has the option of taking part in service, a hunger banquet, or both. Event check-in begins at 12 p.m. and participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Vermillion Food Pantry. Service projects begin at 1 p.m.; Hunger Banquet at 5:30 p.m.
- JAN. 17 — Martin Luther King Day keynote speaker, Bryant Terry, at 7 p.m. in MUC Ballroom.
- MARCH 23-24 & 30-31 — Schmeckfest in Freeman. For more information, visit www.schmeckfest.com, e-mail: schmeckfest@gmail.com or call 605-925-4542.
- JULY 16-AUG. 12 — Olympic/Educational Tour. A once in a lifetime trip to Ireland, Great Britain and the Summer 2012 Olympics in London. For more information, contact Leni Billberg at lenni.billberg@k12.sd.us or 605-670-2717.

Does your business or organization have an event you would like included in the Community Calendar? If you do please call the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce and Development Company at 605-624-5571 or e-mail vcdc@vermillionchamber.com or contact the Plain Talk at 605-624-2695 or e-mail david.lias@plaintalk.net.

CHAMBER CHAT

Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company
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Vermillion, SD 57069
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vcdc@vermillionchamber.com
www.vermillionchamber.com

Chamber Business:

Dakota Roots: Are you an employer with workforce needs? Have you considered Dakota Roots as a way to help recruit new employees? The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation with assistance from the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company is hosting an informational meeting so businesses and workers can learn more about the Dakota Roots program. The meeting will be Friday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. at the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation office at 1024 West Cherry Street, Vermillion.

In an effort to bring more of that great South Dakota talent back home, the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation created the Dakota Roots program. Dakota Roots joins citizens, business leaders, and state government in a successful, on-going initiative to grow the South Dakota workforce.

Dakota Roots is the largest

state job search database where both the workers and employers can reach out to one another to find great jobs right here in South Dakota. Since its inception in 2006, nearly 2,000 people have come back to work in South Dakota through this program.

Visit www.dakotaroots.com for the information you need to list a job, search for a job, refer a family member or friend for a job, and learn about how South Dakota can help in the relocation process back home.

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 to 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 or at 624-5571.

Announcements:

- '\$5 Felines Adoption Event' - Want a warm, fuzzy feeling this holiday season that can be yours for years to come? Adopt a cat or kitten from Heartland Humane Society during the special "\$5 Felines," adoption event. For more information visit www.heartlandhumane.org or call 605-664-4244.

Teen driving safety task force created

South Dakota's Task Force on Teen Driving Safety will spend the next year reviewing statistics and laws affecting young drivers and preparing recommendations for the 2013 Legislature.

The task force, created by the last Legislature, met in Fort Pierre on Thursday, Dec. 15 to begin its assignment. The group is charged with:

- Examining data on teen driving, including statistics on traffic citations, crashes, injuries and fatalities.
- Reviewing current laws affecting teen drivers.
- Examining data on driver

education available for teens.

- Reviewing national best practices to improve safety of young drivers
 - Examining policies or practices that hinder efforts to improve teen-driving safety.
- "Too many young drivers are involved in highway crashes that result in injuries or deaths in South Dakota," said Lee Axdahl, Director of the Office of Highway Safety in the state Department of Public Safety. "We need to get an accurate picture of the teen-driving experience in our state, and this task force will be a great way to explore the obstacles standing

in the way of pushing those crash numbers down."

The task force is funded by a federal highway-safety grant. The group is to provide recommendations for improving teen driver safety to the 2013 South Dakota Legislature. The meeting began at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the AmericInn Conference Center in Fort Pierre.

Task force members include: Sen. Todd Schlekeway, R-Sioux Falls; Sen. Craig Tieszen, R-Rapid City; Rep. Peggy Gibson, D-Huron; Rep. Nick Moser, R-Yankton; Staci Eggert, executive director, South

Dakota Sheriff's Association, Howard; John Foster, South Dakota Department of Transportation, Pierre; Cindy Gerber, South Dakota Driver Licensing Program, Pierre; Maj. Randy Hartley, South Dakota Highway Patrol, Pierre; Bob Clark, Bob Clark Insurance, Pierre; Mark Swendsen, Dakota Radio Group, Pierre; Susan Randall, South Dakota Voices for Children, Sioux Falls; Capt. Steve Haney, Sioux Falls Police Department; Chief Richard Greenwald, Oglala Sioux Tribe Highway Safety Division, Pine Ridge; Nancy Allard, Unified Judicial System, Pierre.

Board revokes license of Yankton Chiropractic

The South Dakota Board of Chiropractic Examiners has revoked the license of Larry L. Jones, DC of Yankton effective immediately. Dr. Jones will not be allowed to reapply for a license for five years.

The board action stems from the fact that Dr. Jones has been charged by the State of South Dakota in a criminal information for making false claims (SDCL 22-45-2(1)) a Class 5 felony. Dr. Jones admitted that between Jan. 1,

2005 and March 31, 2011, he submitted claims for reimbursement to the South Dakota Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) knowing the claims to be false. Dr. Jones also admitted that he submitted similar false claims to Medicare.

Copies of the stipulation and agreement as well as the final order are available via the Board's website under the disciplinary action link at <http://chiropractic.sd.gov>.

Johnson pushes for moratorium on post office closures and consolidations

U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) is pushing a plan to prevent the United States Postal Service (USPS) from closing or consolidating mail processing facilities or rural post offices for the next six months. Johnson has been working with his colleagues to reform USPS in a way that addresses the agency's fiscal challenges while preserving quality postal services in rural areas. He believes that a six-month moratorium is necessary in order to prevent USPS from making drastic changes before Congress considers meaningful reforms.

"The Postal Service plays a critical role in our state's economy and our way of life, and I don't want the USPS to make potentially painful and permanent changes before we finish our work on postal reform," Johnson said. "There is

agreement that significant changes are needed to restore financial solvency to USPS, and this six-month moratorium will give us time to enact reforms that ensure the Postal Service remains financially viable and continues to provide quality service to rural America."

Johnson and more than 20 of his colleagues are calling on Congressional leadership and the Appropriations Committee to include the moratorium in an appropriations bill that is being debated this month.

Johnson is a cosponsor of the Protecting Rural Post Offices Act, which he wants to see included in a broader reform package. This bipartisan legislation would prohibit the Postal Service from closing any post office that would result in a distance of more than 10 miles between any two post offices.

15 YEARS OF SERVICE



Vermillion Plain Talk editor David Lias was recently honored for 15 years of service to the Plain Talk and Broadcaster Press.

(Photo by Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Holiday Early Deadlines

December 27th Edition

Deadline is

Thurs., Dec. 22nd at 5:00p.m.

The Broadcaster/Plain Talk offices will be CLOSED on Monday, Dec. 26th

Happy Holidays from all of us at the...

Broadcaster Press

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