

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

• Christmas Vacation at Vermillion Public School through Jan. 3.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

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

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

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

### PLANNING AHEAD:

- JAN. 4-6 — Dakota Farm Show, USD DakotaDome.
- JAN. 6 — Hospital Auxiliary Meeting, 2 p.m. at the Care Center Dining Room, 125 Walker St.
- JAN. 8 — Pancake Sunday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Main Street Center, 320 Main St.
- JAN. 12 — Cancer Support Group meeting, 2:30 p.m. in the Sletwold Room at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark St. For additional information, call Marcy at 624-8706.
- 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.
- JAN. 18 — International Forum, "Stop Canadian Oil?" at noon in Farber Hall located in Old Main on the USD campus. Should we stop Canadian oil from entering the U.S. via a pipeline? Canada is already our No. 1 source of foreign oil. Would the new pipeline not provide additional jobs and annual revenues (both private and public) for South Dakota and other states? Are pipelines the safest way to transport oil? Is it time to consider a carbon tax on all sources of energy? Panelists: Dr. Howard Coker (Chemistry), Dr. Dennis Johnson (Economics) and Dr. Benno Wymar (Economics). Moderator: Richard Muller (Marketing and former S.D. Public TV on-air host). Hosted by Beacom School of Business.
- JAN. 21 — Vermillion Area Farmer's Market at Clay County Extension Building, 515 High St. The Winter Market includes fresh and preserved produce, local meats, crafts, woodworking, knife sharpening, breads and other baked goods.
- MARCH 23-24 & 30-31 — Schmeckfest in Freeman. For more information, visit [www.schmeckfest.com](http://www.schmeckfest.com), e-mail: [schmeckfest@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lenni.billberg@k12.sd.us) or 605-670-2717.
- JULY 20-23 — Vermillion Community Theatre presents the Broadway musical, "Annie" at 7 p.m. July 20, 21 and 23 and 2 p.m. July 22. All performances will be at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center. See [vermillioncommunitytheatre.org](http://vermillioncommunitytheatre.org) for additional information.

*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](mailto:vcdc@vermillionchamber.com) or contact the Plain Talk at 605-624-2695 or e-mail [david.lias@plaintalk.net](mailto:david.lias@plaintalk.net).*

## 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:

Merry Christmas from the VCDC staff! The office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26.

VCDC Board of Directors Election Results: The Nominating Committee received four nominations to fill the four open Board of Director seats for 2012. As no additional nominees were submitted from the membership, a formal election was not necessary. The appointees must be certified by the full Board of Directors at the January 2012 meeting.

New Board members are: Amy DeJong representing Vermillion Vision Clinic and Mary Merrigan representing Sanford Vermillion. Returning Board members who will be serving their second 3-year term are: Randy Houska representing Houska Dental and Gerry Tracy representing SESDAC. Other members of the 2012 VCDC Board of Directors with unexpired terms are: Dan Kenton, Paul Preister, Sheila Gestring, Paul Eickhoff, Al Pravecck, Jim Brady, Alan Fritch, Jon Robertson, John Prescott and Jack Powell. Officers for 2012 will

be named at the January Board of Directors meeting.

Vermillion Logo Shirts: Nothing says "I shopped Vermillion for the holidays" like a Vermillion logo shirt. Polo and dress shirts featuring the Vermillion logo are available now at special holiday pricing through December 23! We have long sleeve dress shirts for men and women, as well as both cotton and wicking mesh polos in our signature Vermillion colors. Give the gift of community pride this holiday season. Supplies are limited so hurry in to the VCDC offices at 116 Market Street!

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](mailto: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](http://www.heartlandhumane.org) or call 605-664-4244.

## Spanish classes at VPL

The Vermillion Public Library, located at 18 Church St. in Vermillion, is offering a Spanish class. The purpose of this class is to provide everyday phrases and vocabulary, and important phrases and information concerning travel in a Spanish speaking country.

There will be six classes on Sundays starting Jan. 22 and ending Feb. 26. Classes are from 3 to 5 p.m. in the South Dakota Room at the library. The cost is \$45 for all six sessions.

Any person of any age is welcome to come and learn. This class is perfect for anyone planning to take a trip

to a Spanish speaking country, or anyone who is ready to learn an exciting new language. Call 677-7060 or stop down at our Circulation Desk to sign up today!



Builders Choice  
1212 N. Norbeck St  
Vermillion SD 57069

Builders Choice is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Builders Choice, LLC; a premier Modular and Construction & Manufacturing company, is looking for carpenters, roofers, siders, electricians, plumbers and general laborers. Please call Kimberly or Greg at 605-658-3200 or stop in at 1212 N. Norbeck St, Vermillion SD for an interview.

# Community members send 'taste of home' to troops overseas

By Capt. Anthony Deiss  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

HOWARD — Community members and organizations sent a holiday treat to South Dakota Army and Air National Guard members serving overseas Saturday, Dec. 17, in Howard.

Mark Geib, of De Smet, the Jensen family, of Howard, along with the Sky's the Limit Youth Foundation and the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, teamed up to send nearly 750 pounds of donated beef jerky sticks to South Dakota troops serving abroad this holiday season.

"It's a great way to support our troops overseas. I think they're getting a little taste of home," said Brad Jensen, donor and veteran. "I was over there (Iraq) last time and got some of this meat, and it's a great feeling knowing this stuff is coming from home."

More than 500 Soldiers and Airmen will receive the beef treats by the New Year.

"I think it gives them (service members) the reality of knowing people back home are thinking of them, and just for a moment — when they can chew on one of these beef sticks — they can think of back home," said Les Cummings, Operation Cares member, who partnered with the Sky's the Limit Youth Foundation.

A cow, donated by Geib for a second year, was processed at the Howard meat processing plant, while beef processing costs were donated by the Diocese, and postage costs were covered by the Jensen family.

The donation was a way for these



Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard, thanks Mark Geib, center, and other community members for donating beef jerky sticks to South Dakota troops serving overseas Dec. 17, 2011, in Howard, S.D. Also pictured, from left, are Brad Jensen, Les Cummings, Mark Jensen and Tim Glanser.

(SDNG photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

community members and organizations to say thank you and to give back to the troops.

"I appreciate our military and everything they do," said Mark Geib. "The reason I'm able to wake up in the morning and have all that I have is because of our military. I just like to be able to give a little something back to them."

"We are here to support our military

families in need this holiday season," said Jerry Klein, of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls.

"It warms my heart, because so many times people forget that there is still a war going on and we forget about our Soldiers and Airmen," said Cummings. "By them doing what they are doing — going around the world to defend democracy — you and I get to live in freedom."

## Customs may differ but Christmas remains a global celebration

By Huma Sheikh

For Moses Ikiugu, who is a professor in the department of occupational therapy at the University of South Dakota, Christmas is a celebration that rekindles memories of his country Kenya — elaborate mass at church on Christmas Eve, a huge extended family get-together, and a wide variety of foods. "The midnight mass ends around six in the morning. The Creshe is quite Africanized also; a thatched house built around the manger.

"We have a special goat for Christmas. This goat is domesticated for about a year before it's killed on Christmas Eve for a big traditional meal for Christmas. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with our extended families — aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents besides parents and siblings. Because this is a massive get-together, the main

dish of goat meat goes along with other foods like chicken, beef, potatoes, vegetables, chapattis (flat bread) and rice." New clothes are worn for Christmas. People go to church in coat suits and wear new shoes. Everything that you are wearing has to be new. Parents buy clothes for their children to wear on Christmas.

Christmas is, says Wycklyffe Mogondo, also from Kenya, "a very religious festival for us. We celebrate Christmas with fervor and devotion. The 'Way of the Cross' is the custom in my part of the country in Matunda that prepares us for Christmas. The priest, a few days before Christmas, would choose a spot some miles from the church and people and members of the church would gather there. The priest would then carry the cross and walk to the church with others following him in a procession. This follows the rosary broken into different

parts for worship at the church."

Roberto Gomez from Venezuela says Christmas is much louder in his country. "We celebrate Christmas in extended families and do a lot of partying, fireworks, and eating. The traditional Christmas food menu is extensive — bread stuffed Turkey, 'Empanadas' — corn meal pie (the pie has a half-circle shape, and it's usually stuffed with ground beef), Ham, 'Hallacas' — meat wrapped in corn dough and steamed in a banana leaf, and sweet rice made with cloves, cinnamon, and Nutmeg."

But good food doesn't come easy. "We have 'Novena' — nine days of worship — that culminates into Christmas. We pray together for nine successive days to thank God for the special graces and to obtain God's special favor."

For Amimul Ehsan, a Bangladeshi student at USD,

Christmas reminds him of Bengali New year (Pohela Boishaka) celebrated on April 14. "We do a lot of fireworks and make traditional food such as 'Panta Ilish' — Hilsha fish with rice. Cooked rice is soaked in water overnight and then eaten with Hilshaw fish the following day. On this day, people wear clothes of red and green which represent the colors of the Bangladesh flag.

Another USD student, Tridib from India, says Christmas evokes 'Diwali' feelings for him — "Deepavali" or 'Diwali' is the festival of lights and is one of the most important Hindu religious festivals. "We celebrate 'Deepavali' in families and decorate our homes with 'diyas' — small clay lamps. 'Diyas' are placed in varied shapes inside the house, and they are usually in rows outside the house. Sweets are also shared with friends and families on Diwali."

## USD's Larson elected to NLN board of governors

June Larson, associate dean of the University of South Dakota's School of Health Sciences and a national leader in nursing education, has been elected by the National League for Nursing (NLN) membership to serve on the Board of Governors for a three year term through 2014. She was installed as a governor during the annual business meeting at the NLN Education Summit in Orlando, Fla. NLN promotes excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the nation's health.

Larson was named associate dean of the USD's School of Health Sciences in 2009, having been steadily promoted since she first joined USD as an instructor of nursing in 1980. She served as chair of the department of nursing from 1998-2009, leading the program to achieve status as a NLN Center of Excellence (COE) in nursing education. Larson is a national consultant to other nursing programs regarding curriculum and accreditation.



LARSON

In 2005, she became a Certified Nurse Educator and was elected to the NLN Nursing Education Advisory Council in 2006. In 2008, Larson was inducted into the NLN's Academy of Nursing Education, highlighting her contributions to the field. Other honors include the Pioneer in Nursing Award from the South Dakota Nurses Association (2008) and the YWCA Tribute to Women (2009). A past president of the South Dakota Board of Nursing, Larson is currently the board's vice president.

USD's School of Health Sciences has nine programs offering bachelor of science degrees in alcohol and drug studies, dental hygiene, health sciences, medical laboratory science, nursing, and social work; an associate of science degree in nursing; master of science degrees in occupational therapy and physician assistant studies; master of social work; master

of arts in addiction studies; and a doctorate of physical therapy degree. For more information about USD's School of Health Sciences, please visit [www.usd.edu/health/](http://www.usd.edu/health/) or call (605) 677-5000.

### HEART ATTACK

**KNOW THE SIGNS. ACT IN TIME.**

- Pain in the chest, jaw, neck, back or arms
- Shortness of Breath
- Nausea/Sweating

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

American Heart Association

*"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,  
love leaves a memory no one can steal."*

THE FAMILY OF HUBERT GREGOIRE would like to express our extreme gratitude to all of you who supported us in so many ways before and after the death of our wonderful husband and father. The flowers were both beautiful and plentiful, the cards were numerous and uplifting, and the stories shared will never be forgotten. Thanks to everyone for the memorials, food, cards, flowers, and for just being there. Because of you, our load is lighter and our days are brighter.

A special thank you to Dr. Dendinger, Dr. Garnaas, and Dr. Mikkelsen and the entire Avera Sacred Heart Hospice team. You treated him with the care and respect he deserved. Also, a big thank you to Kay and Heartland Home Care for helping us care for Hube during his final months.



**Lois Gregoire**  
**Kim and Rob Paterick, Savannah & Blake**  
**Kristel and Pat Kleinschmit, Kyler & Jake**  
**Kary and Becky Gregoire, Alicia, Nick & Mason**

Please Recycle!