

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

• Overeaters Anonymous, 9 a.m., 20 S. Plum St., administration entrance - board room. Description: Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step program for people with eating disorders and struggles. The group meets every Saturday.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

• Dakota Farm Show, USD DakotaDome.
• Booster Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Vermillion High School.
• Victory Over Stroke from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Sanford Vermillion (Administration Entrance - Board Room). Description: Seeking support from others who've experienced stroke can be a huge benefit to the recovery process. Stroke groups provide an opportunity to share feelings, ideas, resources and often provide important education for survivors and caregivers alike. Stroke Support Group meets the first Wednesday of every month. Contact Kim Reins, speech language pathologist at 638-8380 for more information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

• Dakota Farm Show, USD DakotaDome.

PLANNING AHEAD:

• JAN. 6 — Dakota Farm Show, USD DakotaDome.
• JAN. 6 — Hospital Auxiliary Meeting, 2 p.m. at the Care Center Dining Room, 125 Walker St.
• JAN. 7 — Debate: Central Forensics Conference at Brandon Valley High School at 8 a.m.

• JAN. 7 — Overeaters Anonymous, 9 a.m., 20 S. Plum St., administration entrance - board room. Description: Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step program for people with eating disorders and struggles. The group meets every Saturday.
• JAN. 8 — Pancake Sunday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Main Street Center, 320 Main St.

• JAN. 10 — Vermillion Rotary Club Meeting, noon-1 p.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room of the Al Neuharth Media Center.
• 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. 12 — Prenatal Childbirth Classes, 7-9 p.m. at 20 S. Plum Street, Administration entrance just south of the hospital entrance in the board room. Description: Sanford Vermillion Medical Center is offering free childbirth classes for expectant mothers. Classes will be held Jan. 12, 19 and 26 (breastfeeding only). Participants are encouraged to attend all three nights as different subjects will be covered each night. The class topics are as follows: Labor and Delivery, Breathing, Relaxation and Massage, and LDRP Tours; Pain Control Options, C-sections, Special Considerations, Post-partum; and Newborn Care; Breastfeeding will be covered during the third class. There is no charge to attend. Participants should bring a doll or stuffed animal to the third class if you want to participate in breastfeeding practice. To register, call Jill at Sanford Medical Center at 638-8465 or jill.christopherson@sanfordhealth.org.

• 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. 19 — Book Blab will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the Community Room of the Vermillion Public Library. This is the fifth year adult readers will share favorite authors and books and discover some new ones with other book lovers.

• 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.

• JAN. 21 — Fun and Games will be held from 1-4 p.m. in the Community Room of the Vermillion Public Library. Adults and youth ages 12 and up will play games and put jigsaw puzzles together. A wide variety of challenging and interesting games and puzzles will be available to provide mental stimulation. Learn or show others how to play Dominos, our newest game that offers a variety of game options. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

• FEB. 11 — SAVE THE DATE: Community Health & Wellness Fair hosted by Sanford Vermillion in collaboration with USD Health Professions program students at the Sanford School of Medicine. More details to come!

• 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 leni.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 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 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
116 Market Street, Suite 103
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-5571
vcdc@vermillionchamber.com
www.vermillionchamber.com

register or for more information please contact the VCDC at 605-624-5571 or vcdc@vermillionchamber.com. Sponsored by the Vermillion School District, Masaba, and the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company.

Chamber Business:

"Code Red": stop in the VCDC office to win two free ticket vouchers to USD Mens and Womens basketball games in December. Just say "Code Red" to win two vouchers.

Basic welding skills course will be offered at the Vermillion High School beginning Monday, Jan. 9, 2012 through the end of February, meeting twice per week in the evenings. Tuition is \$250. To

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.

RECEIVES PROMOTION



Lt. Col. John Holter, a native of Vermillion, is promoted to the rank of colonel at Camp Rapid in Rapid City Friday, Dec. 16. His wife, Tracey, and mother and father, Joane and Vern Holter, place the new insignia on his uniform. Holter, who currently resides in Rapid City, works full-time as the South Dakota Army National Guard's director of operations and serves as the commander of the 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute).

(SDNG photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald)

A HIGHER RANK



Lt. Col. Marshall Michels, a native of Vermillion, is promoted to the rank of colonel at Camp Rapid in Rapid City Friday, Dec. 16, 2011. His children, AJ and Allie, place the new insignia on his uniform while his wife, Lynette, looks on. Michels, who currently resides in Rapid City, works full-time as the South Dakota Army National Guard's director of personnel in Joint Force Headquarters.

(SDNG photo by Sgt. Jacqueline Fitzgerald)

PRICELESS GIFT



South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier Chief Warrant Officer 3 JD Rodriguez embraces his wife, Martha, at the Rapid City Regional Airport Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011, after returning home from a four-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Rodriguez, of Rapid City, deployed with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Detachment 48 Operational Support Airlift Command in August as a C-12 King fixed-wing aircraft pilot. This was his second deployment; he first deployed with Det. 48 in 2008.

(SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen)

A CHRISTMAS KISS



South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier Maj. Amber Heinert greets her children Austin, 2, and Riyahn, 3, at the Rapid City Regional Airport Friday, Dec. 23, 2011, after returning home from a five-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Heinert, of Hill City, voluntarily deployed with the 928th Area Support Medical Company, Colorado Army National Guard, in July as a behavioral health officer, providing initial assessments and triage, stress management services and education, and crisis intervention for coalition forces.

(SDNG photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen)

SDSU Extension partners with local charities to establish 'Partners Against Hunger'

SDSU Extension partnered with local charities and governmental agencies to establish Partners Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization whose mission is: "Strengthening and uniting communities that all may be fed."

"SDSU Extension is excited to be a partner with this group in order to work with people in South Dakota to see what they need in order to help reduce hunger and increase food security for all individuals, families, and communities. This outreach cannot be accomplished alone, and it is wonderful to see how all of these organizations can come together to end hunger," said Suzanne Stluka, SDSU Extension Food and Families Program Director.

Partners Against Hunger began when USDA Rural Development Sec. Dallas Tonsager met with Rev. David Zellmer, Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, regarding food ministry and feeding the hungry. After this meeting, representatives from state and federal agencies, three denominations, food pantry and feeding ministries and SDSU Extension were invited to brainstorm ways to fight hunger in South Dakota.

One of Partners Against Hunger's bold goals is to make healthy food accessible to everyone in South Dakota by 2015.

"I am excited about the dedication and commitment of

the people representing the various organizations and agencies that are coming together to end hunger in South Dakota," said Bishop Zellmer.

Stluka was asked to join the action committee which helped draft a vision statement.

"SDSU Extension has been present since the very beginning of the formation of this group. We have helped with the facilitation of the vision and goals of this group, and we will continue to help lead this group forward towards those goals," said Stluka, who was also joined by David Olson, SDSU Extension Community Development program director.

Bishop Zellmer, Maria Birch of Trinity Lutheran Church of Chamberlain and Christine Sorenson of South Dakota USDA - Rural Development were appointed to work on the legal paperwork for the 501(c)3 status.

The group says they are eager to begin implementing their ideas and strategies, while recognizing additional collaboration is needed to increase awareness, provide research, educate people concerning the programs and resources already available and to gather and share success stories and ideas from across the state.

The next meeting of Partners Against Hunger will be Jan. 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at South Dakota Housing Development in Pierre. Those interested in attending should contact Karen Rollag at South Dakota Synod, ELCA, 605-212-5441, or krollag@sdsynod.org.

Magic, soap, careers and more: All part of 'Dakota Life'

DAKOTA LIFE travels to the Black Hills, Sioux Falls, Salem and Sturgis in January to discover the great people and places in our state.

DAKOTA LIFE, SDPB TV's long-running monthly magazine-style features program, crosses the state to showcase the wonder and diversity of our home state. The program premieres on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 8pm (7 MT) with encores on Friday, Jan. 6, at 10pm (9 MT) and Sunday, Jan. 8, at 1:30pm (12:30 MT). The program repeats several times throughout the month.

Thursday, Jan. 5, 8pm (7 MT)

Friday, Jan. 6, 10pm (9 MT)

Saturday, Jan. 7, 5:30am (4:30 MT)

Sunday, Jan. 8, 5am (4 MT)

Sunday, Jan. 8, 1:30pm (12:30 MT)

Sunday, Jan. 15, 10:30pm (9:30 MT)

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1am (Midnight MT)

Saturday, Jan. 28, 5:30am (4:30 MT)

Sunday, Jan. 29, 5am (4 MT)

In January, DAKOTA LIFE will look at:

• "The Crazy Horse Journalism Workshop": Native American high school students learn about careers in journalism.

• "A Magical Life": A 90-year-old Sioux Falls resident shares stories of a long career in illusion.

• "Goat Soap": A Salem hobby farm produces a line of handmade goat milk soaps and other products.

• "For the Love of Lures": A Sturgis man has more than 1,000 lures in his collection.

Tune in. We're living the DAKOTA LIFE.

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