

COMMUNITY CALENDAR**FRIDAY, DEC. 6**

• State Oral Interp at Watertown, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7 (TBA)
 • Brown Bag program featuring "Holiday Brass" at 12:05 p.m. at the National Music Museum located on USD campus, corner of Clark and Yale. Free and open to the public.
 • First Dakota National Bank invites the community to a holiday open house from 1-4 p.m. Register for door prizes while enjoying pie, coffee and punch. The First Dakota staff wishes you all a happy and safe holiday season.
 • Bowling: Sioux Falls O'Gorman (Home at Yankton Family Fun Center) at 4 p.m.
 • Tour of Homes: "Joyful Traditions" hosted by Clay County Historical Society, 4:30-8 p.m. Featured homes: Erin/John Beyers-216 Forest Ave; Michelle Kanto Nelson-122 N. Yale; Virginia Talley-121 S. University; Joanne/Mel Ustad-937 Ridgcrest Dr.; Sandy/Ross Dickenson-16 Cypress Dr.; Austin-Whittemore House-15 Austin St. (complimentary refreshments served at this location). Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at Nook 'n Cranny, Vermillion Beauty Shop and the Austin-Whittemore House. All proceeds go to the Clay County Historical Society.
 • Dance Inferno Dance Recital at Vermillion High School, Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. at Vermillion High School.
 • USD Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m., Aalfs Auditorium in Slagle Hall. Free admission.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

• Overeaters Anonymous at 9 a.m. Location: Sanford Vermillion Medical Center, 20 S. Plum St., administration entrance just south of the hospital entrance in the board room.
 • St. Agnes School to host their fourth annual Breakfast with Santa in the St. Agnes School Gym from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Event includes French Toast Breakfast, Pictures with Santa, Kids Crafts and Activities, and Santa's Workshop featuring great local vendors. Tickets available at the door. Join St. Agnes in the Christmas spirit of giving to those less fortunate. Bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Vermillion Food Pantry.
 • Wrestling: Sioux Falls Roosevelt at 9 a.m. (T)
 • At 11:30 a.m., winners of coloring contest sponsored by Hy-Vee have "Lunch with Santa."
 • Junior Baritone Recital featuring Brian Rasmussen at 3 p.m., Colton Recital Hall located in Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on USD campus.
 • Turan Piano Scholars Recital at 7:30 p.m. in Colton Recital Hall located in Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on USD campus.
 • "A Poker Alice Christmas" at 8 p.m., Gayville Hall, 502 Washington St. in Gayville. For ticket information, call (605) 267-2859.
 • Winter Formal at Vermillion High School from 8:30-11 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

• Christmas Festival hosted by W. H. Over Museum from 1-4:30 p.m. Everyone welcome to come enjoy the vendors, bake sale, children's activities, dancers, baton twirlers, decorated trees, wonderful refreshments and hospitality.
 • East River and Missouri Valley Bluegrass Music Association to feature "Monthly Open Jam," (second Sunday of each month) from 1-6 p.m. at Washington Street Arts Center, 202 Washington St. All levels welcome-open to pickers and listeners. Event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (877) 621-4118 (toll free).
 • USD Music Department Holiday Concert at 3 p.m., Aalfs Auditorium located in Slagle Hall on USD campus. Goodwill donations will be taken at the door. Proceeds go the USD Music Scholarship fund.

MONDAY, DEC. 9

• Junior Trumpet Recital featuring Jordan Hoffman at 7 p.m., Colton Recital Hall located in Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts.
 • Vermillion High School Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m.
 • Al-anon meeting at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Linden. For more information, call 624-9764.

TUESDAY, DEC. 10

• Vermillion Rotary Club meeting from noon-1 p.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room of the Al Neuharth Media Center. For more information, visit www.vermillionrotaryclub.org.

PLANNING AHEAD:

• DEC. 14 – Overeaters Anonymous at 9 a.m. Location: Sanford Vermillion Medical Center, 20 S. Plum St., administration entrance just south of the hospital entrance in the board room.
 • DEC. 14 – Sweets and Treats hosted by Clay County Historical Society, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Austin-Whittemore House, 15 Austin St. A holiday open house to come and select homemade Christmas goodies.
 • DEC. 19 – The Department of Labor and Regulation will be hosting a Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP) at 504 River Dr., North Sioux City from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The JSAP is a free workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered are: resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. Parties interested in attending should register by calling (605) 242-5445 before 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16. (Previously scheduled for Dec. 13.)

Does your business or organization have an event you would like included in the Community Calendar? If you do, call the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & 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.

Happy 95th Ruth!

On December 13th, Ruth Hesla will turn 95. Share in her celebration by filling her mailbox with greetings and well wishes!

Send them to:
**126 South Plum, Apt. 203,
 Vermillion, SD 57069**

Local police have yet to issue texting ticket

By Travis Gulbrandson
 travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Even though the ordinance banning texting while driving has been on the books since May, no one has been ticketed for it yet.

Vermillion Police Chief Matt Betzen said this is due mainly to the difficulty of enforcing the law.

"You need to be stopped in a stationary place (to spot texters), and the officers are either going on calls or driving around," Betzen said. "One of the big things we do is speeding. Speeding is not on the intersections. It's out on the roadway. It's a different enforcement model."

Betzen made these comments during a special meeting with the Vermillion City Council on Monday.

The meeting followed a recent article in the University of South Dakota's newspaper *The Volante*, which reported that city police had given only two warnings and no tickets to texting drivers.

Betzen told councilmembers that following the article's publication, he tried to gauge the number of violations by sitting in an unmarked car in two locations for 30 minutes each: Near the intersection of Cherry and Dakota streets, and in the Muenster University Center parking lot.

"I'd say there were about nine cars total in an hour I could have stopped," he said. "Whether or not they were texting, that becomes the big question,

because (the ordinance) allowed the use of GPS and other things."

Council member Tom Davies expressed frustration at the lack of citations.

"I made a big stink about this, because I do walk," Davies said. "Granted, I don't have a real rapid pace, but I can certainly see that there's a lot of texting going on. Sometimes at stop signs, I'm truly amazed people are driving down the road, and they've got their phone (out), and they've got maybe their little pinkies on the steering wheel.

"There have been at least two times where I could have been easily hit walking in a crosswalk because somebody was not paying attention. That kind of bothers me, that we went to this effort, and there hasn't been a lot of enforcement," he said.

Davies did acknowledge that the ordinance was difficult to enforce, which Betzen had said during his initial presentation to the city council earlier this year.

While Betzen said a certain amount of people will stop texting while driving simply because it is the law, others won't, and he doesn't know how to get them to stop.

"I am somewhat cynical that education will do it, because I don't think it's possible to not be educated that texting is a dangerous thing to do while driving," he said. "It's kind of like drinking and driving. How could you possibly live in our society and not

know that it's a bad thing to do?"

Following the article in *The Volante*, Betzen contacted other communities in the state that have enacted texting-while-driving bans to see how many tickets they have written.

Sioux Falls, which passed a similar ordinance a few months before Vermillion, has written at least 26, he said.

"I talked to the front desk guy there about who's writing the tickets and how they're doing it, and most of their success has been with motor officers who basically hide near stoplights at busy intersections, and then are able to watch as vehicles stop for a prolonged period of time," he said.

Betzen said Mitchell has taken this route and made "three or four stops," but issued no tickets.

Brookings has cited "three or four" drivers, all from accident investigations, he added.

Betzen encouraged Vermillion drivers to report violators to the police department, as they would for someone they suspect to be driving while intoxicated.

"We do that all the time, on all different types of infractions," he said. "You call and give us a license number and a general description of the driver, (and) we will contact them and say, 'Hey, someone said that you were texting.' ..."

"One of the great things about Vermillion is that we have a low enough crime rate where we actually can do that kind of stuff," he said.

DOT reminds motorists to stay informed

Winter weather is quickly approaching, and the South Dakota Department of Transportation is reminding motorists to stay informed, slow down and drive safely.

Weather in South Dakota is anything but predictable, and a traveler's first action should be to visit www.safetravelusa.com/sd or dial 511 for the most current road condition information.

The South Dakota 511 mobile application for Android (iPhone app coming soon) provides the same information as the SafeTravelUSA website, but in a compatible format with mobile phones.

Another feature on the SafeTravelUSA website is ClearPath511. Users can sign up to receive text messages, e-mails or Twitter alerts to road closures, no

travel advisories and flooding information.

New this year for the SDDOT is a Twitter account, @SouthDakotaDOT, and a Facebook account, https://www.facebook.com/southdakotadot. In the event weather necessitates an Interstate road closure, updates will be posted on these accounts as well.

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 Special Events Committee for the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (V CDC) is sponsoring the fifth annual "Parade of Lights" in Downtown Vermillion on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Vermillion area merchants, businesses, schools and organizations are encouraged to put together a float or entry for the parade. The theme is "The Spirit of Christmas," so get your creativity flowing and enter. First, second and third places will be awarded.

Entry forms can be found on the V CDC Web site, www.vermillionchamber.com, or at the Chamber office at 116 Market St. Deadline to enter was Dec. 2.

At the end of the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus will light the community Christmas tree at Ratingen Platz on the corner of Market and Main streets. After the tree lighting, children and parents are invited to the Vermillion Library for "Stockings for Soldiers," an

opportunity to make a free ornament to take home, and to decorate a stocking for a soldier serving overseas, sponsored by the Vermillion Public Library.

For more information, call the V CDC office at (605) 624-5571.


On Saturday, Dec. 7, from 12:30-2:30 p.m., bring the children for free pictures with Santa at Hy-Vee by Peterman Photography. For more information, call the V CDC office at (605) 624-5571.

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 5-7 p.m. on a weeknight and the hosting business provides hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

If interested, contact Ann at annb@vermillionchamber.com or at 624-5571.

Announcements: Help fill the Vermillion Food Pantry shelves,

Town Square I & II Apartments 505-507 W. Main St. Vermillion, SD 57069. 1 BR apartments for anyone 55 years of age or older, or persons with disabilities. Please call **605-624-5218** or visit www.oakleafpm.com. Utilities are included and we are pet friendly. Rental assistance available to those who qualify.

 Equal Housing Opportunity

Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 5-8. Buy a pre-filled \$5 or \$10 bag of Hy-Vee groceries to be given to the Vermillion Food Pantry. Food Pantry staff will be on hand in the store to assist and help with questions. More than 4,800 clients served in 2013.

The Downtown merchants are joining together to collect dollars for the local food pantry – each dollar donation gives you a chance at winning the downtown gift basket (a more than \$800 value).

The Drawing will be held at noon, Friday, Dec. 20. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the food pantry.

ReDiscover Robert Aldern – A South Dakota Original exhibition of Giclee of favorites on display at LumoStudios and Gallery, 2 East Main St. On display Wednesday-Saturday, 1:30-6:30 p.m. and by appointment, (605) 624-9222; www.lumostudios.com.



Veteran's Holiday Homeless Relief Drive
Benefiting Military Families in need and Homeless Veterans

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
AMERICAN LEGION POST 15 OF SIOUX FALLS
AND
AUTUMN SIMUNEK, MISS SIOUXLAND

Contribute ALA "Buddy Basket(s)"
Home-warming Welcome Recipe: Assemble a Laundry Basket/Waste Basket filled with: Paper Towels – Bathroom Tissue – Window Cleaner – Scrubbing Cleaner – Rubber Gloves – Cleaning Sponges – Dust Pan w/Hand Broom – Light Bulbs – Shower Curtain w/rings – Bath Towels – Laundry Detergent – Eating Utensils – Dishes – Frosted with clear wrap, bow and greeting tag/card

Contribute Single Item(s) of need
 Towels – Sheets (single bed) – Shower Curtains – Alarm Clocks – Hygiene Products (shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, etc.) – Shopping Gift Cards – Household Kitchen Items – Winter Coats – Gloves – Hats

Monetary Donation(s) - Checks payable & mailed to:
 American Legion Post 15, Attn: Veterans Build
 1701 Legion Drive Sioux Falls, SD 57106
 Rapid City Cornerstone Mission, Attn: Vet Relief Drive
 P.O. Box 2188 Rapid City, SD 57709

**DROP-OFF CONTRIBUTIONS ITEMS:
 THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2013**
 • THE BROADCASTER/PLAIN TALK -
 201 W CHERRY STREET, VERMILLION, SD
 • BERAKHAH HOUSE -
 400 N WESTERN AVENUE, SIOUX FALLS, SD
 • RAPID CITY CORNERSTONE MISSION -
 30 MAIN STREET, RAPID CITY, SD

*Thank you for supporting Rapid City Cornerstone Mission
 Sioux Falls Volunteer of America, Dakota's Veteran Outreach and Berakbah House
 American Legion Post 15 Veterans Build – Homeless Housing Fund*

Retirement Party

After 50+ years of service as a pastor in the Christian ministry, Reverend Robert Grossmann is retiring. Please join us in a retirement celebration for Reverend Grossmann and his wife Pauline.

Saturday, December 7th
1pm - 3pm

Providence Reformed Church, Vermillion
 Refreshments will be served.
 A short program will be held at 2pm.