

## St. Lucia celebration to be held Dec. 14

The 36th annual celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, 30595 University Rd. There will be Lucia Court and Scandinavian

food and program. Freewill Collection. The event is sponsored by Dalesburg Scandinavian Association.

For information or in case of inclement weather, call (605) 253-2575.

## Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive being held

Contribute an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Buddy Basket, single relief item or monetary donation through Jan. 2 to provide a comfortable holiday season to our veterans and military families in need.

Drop off contributions relief items: The Broadcaster/Plain Talk, 201 W Cherry Street, Vermillion or Berakha House, 400 N Western Avenue, Sioux Falls.

Monetary donations mailed to: American Legion Post 15, Veterans Build, 1701 Legion Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

All community members, businesses, organizations or students are encouraged to participate.

The school or youth organization contributing the most American Legion Auxiliary Buddy Baskets or relief items will receive a telescoping flagpole and USA flag, which will be presented by their local American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Post and Autumn Simunek, Miss Siouxland.

E-mail a photo of the relief items collected standing with your group, along with an estimated value of the donation and a contact name and phone number to Autumn.Simunek@gmail.com.

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.

# City hears presentation on credit union tax

By Travis Gulbrandson  
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

The Vermillion City Council was reticent about passing a resolution in support of the full taxation of federal credit unions and farm credit system institutions.

The council was urged to do so in a presentation by Lynn Peterson, senior vice president of CorTrust Bank in Yankton during its special meeting Monday afternoon.

Council member Howard Willson said that decision should be left up to Congress.

"I don't think we can sit here and decide who should and who should not pay taxes, but I don't see anything wrong with asking (Congress) once again to take a look at it," Willson said.

Upon questioning, Peterson did acknowledge a professional disadvantage between banks and credit unions.

"I don't think it's up to the city council to decide whether or not that competitive disadvantage should be allowed," council member Tom Davies said.

However, Peterson said he was not addressing the council as a banker, but as a taxpayer.

"We're just here to present some information, and if you feel the same way the rest of the public and people within my industry feel, you will possibly sign a resolution," he said.

Community banks in South Dakota pay a 35 to 39 percent rate of taxation on their net income, Peterson said.

"Currently, at this point, credit unions in South Dakota ... pay zero federal income tax, they pay zero state sales tax and they pay zero bank franchise tax," he said. "They do pay property tax, they do pay payroll tax, but everybody else does the same, as well."

This is putting a "big, big tax disparity" within the South Dakota General Fund, he said.

"Of the 35 to 39 percent that ... we're being taxed on, 6 percent stays in the general fund in the form of a bank franchise tax," Peterson said. "All financial institutions in South

Dakota are subject to this tax except credit unions and farm credit services.

"Farm credit services pays a nominal tax between 1 and 5 percent of total income. Combined, these two industries are a \$5 billion industry in South Dakota," he said.

The groups had "around \$95 million of net income" in 2012, Peterson said.

"We're missing out on a big chunk of income to the state of South Dakota to come back to the general fund," he said. "Those funds are paid into the general fund, and then they're kicked back to the cities, counties and schools through the South Dakota treasury."

By signing a resolution, Peterson said the city council would be asking Congress to have hearings and "try to stop some of this leaking that's going on."

"It isn't about the \$5 million that we're not getting in our state coffers today," he said. "It's about the next day ... and when that \$5 million grows to \$8 million, and \$10 million, and \$20 million. That is how this is working. The larger they grow, the less comes in to our state funds."

Amy Kleinschmit from the Credit Union Association of the Dakotas said the increase in credit union users can be attributed to any number of factors, such as banks that failed in the economic downturn, the merger of smaller banks or people who were just unhappy with their current financial institution.

But the growth of credit unions is nothing compared to that of community banks in the state, she said.

"South Dakota community banks ... have grown to \$3.3 billion in the last 10 years. South Dakota credit unions have grown to \$2.5 billion, but that has taken 75 years to get to that point," Kleinschmit said during Monday's meeting.

Janet Mount, CEO of the Vermillion Federal Credit Union, also attended the meeting, and said there is a place in the world for both banks and credit unions to exist.

Mount also explained the various structure differences between the systems, pointing out that there are limitations to credit union loans, on the types of investments they can do and who can become a member.

In addition, all the members of the credit union's board of directors are volunteers. As such, none of them is paid a salary, she said.

"We have members, we don't have shareholders," Mount said. "The money belongs to our members, so any money we make goes back to our membership, whether it's in the form of dividends paid back to them or services we offer."

Council member Kelsey Collier-Wise said that if the issue was about tax equality or getting more revenue in the tax stream, she was concerned the argument could be applied to any group with a tax exemption.

"We have a lot of farm co-ops, non-profit organizations, obviously, and one of the things we've talked about a lot are these tax-exempt municipal bonds," Collier-Wise said. "That's the same argument that's being used to try and take the tax exemption away from our municipal bonds, which are so important. If the main argument is this equality issue, I worry that that same argument could be applied to any of those other cases."

Peterson said there isn't another co-op that competes directly with tax-paying entities.

"There's not a lot of those that I'm aware of in the state where each industry does almost exactly the same thing, but one's taxed and not the other," he said.

Mount urged the council not to sign a resolution.

"If the tax structure changes, most credit unions ... would probably have to merge or go out of business," she said.

Mayor Jack Powell said there are currently no motions to do so, and that the purpose of the meeting was just to watch the presentations by both entities.

## OBITUARIES

### Norris Erickson

Norris Erickson was born to first generation Norwegian Lutherans on the family farm west of Mt. Vernon, March 25, 1925 – one of five children. In 1938 the Ericksons moved to a farm northeast of Vermillion. He graduated from University High School in 1943 and began studies at the University of South Dakota until being called into the U.S. Army in 1945.

After returning from serving his country in Frankfurt, Germany in 1947, he married his high school sweetheart, Cleo Jean Collar. He picked up where he left off at the University of South Dakota, but in 1949 used the G.I. Bill to enroll at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Norris earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1951 and began his career for Standard Oil Company in Kansas City, MO (and spent a VERY cold winter building an oil refinery in Mandan, ND that still stands on the frozen tundra).

While he and Cleo were visiting his older brother in Los Angeles in 1957, he filled out a job application at Hughes Aircraft – interested in the budding aerospace industry. He was hired immediately and he and Cleo were off to sunny

California. In the next few years, he designed the "T.O.W." anti-tank missile system (still in use around the world) and the first lunar lander, Surveyor I, that preceded the Apollo astronauts to the moon. (A Surveyor I replica hangs in the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Washington, DC today.)

But by 1964, Norris and Cleo's two children had arrived and it was decided that South Dakota was a better place to raise kids than L.A. The family moved back to Vermillion where he became Associate Vice President of the University of South Dakota, in charge of all campus facilities (including construction of the Dakota Dome and the current law school). He retired in 1987.

Norris, like so many of his generation, was a child of the Great Depression. As a result, his hobbies were simple and practical. He liked woodworking and had a large woodworking shop in his home. When not remodeling and tending to his homes over the years, he made simple wooden gifts for family and friends. And he never got over his Depression-era belief that ice cubes were wasteful.

Norris passed away Dec. 2, 2013, at the Sanford Vermillion Care Center. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thorvald and Ellen Erickson; infant sister, Eleanor; brothers, Orwin and Harold Dean; and sister, Marlys (Sidney Haugum). He is survived

by his wife of 66 years, Cleo; a son, Paul; a daughter, Susan (Romney Jones) and two grandchildren that he watched enter college with pride – Dominick and Claire Jones – and numerous nephews and nieces.

A prayer and remembrance service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. Funeral services were conducted at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5. Burial will be in BluffView Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any memorials be directed to the Trinity Lutheran Church radio broadcasts – one of the programs he pioneered as president of the congregation in the 1970s.

Norris' family would like to extend a special word of thanks to the dedicated and exceptionally kind nurses, certified nursing assistants, dining hall workers and custodians of the Sanford Vermillion Care Center who watched over Norris day and night the last years of his life. He spoke fondly of them (except on bath day) and they embraced him and indulged his belief near the end that chocolate was a food group.

hansenfuneralhome.com.

### Marilyn Voudry

Marilyn Jean Voudry, 74, of Vermillion, passed away at Sanford Heart Hospital of Sioux Falls, on Nov. 29, 2013.

A funeral service was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013, at the Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion with Rev. Elmer Aakre officiating. Visitation took place prior to the service beginning at 8 a.m.

Burial took place immediately following the service in the Elk Point Cemetery in Elk Point.

A luncheon was held at the Eagles Club in Vermillion following the burial.

Marilyn was born on Jan. 23, 1939, in Elk Point to Harold and Dorothy (Ferdig) Bryan.

Marilyn grew up in Elk Point and attended Elk Point High School. On April 11, 1959, she married the love of her life Clarence Voudry. She worked frequently as a child care provider from her home and raising and caring for children seemed to be a calling for her. She was considered the caretaker and central hub for her family. She loved her

grandchildren and she enjoyed yearly trips to Worlds of Fun with all of her family, a tradition she began in 1975.

In her free time she enjoyed gardening, both inside and outside, as she loved the game Farmville. She also loved the music of Elvis.

She is survived by her husband, Clarence Voudry; her children, Danny Voudry of Vermillion, Shery (Bob) Budihias of Mission Hill, Kathy Voudry of Merritt Island, FL, Mark Voudry of Vermillion, and Marsha Voudry of

Burbank; her brothers, Truman (Linda) Bryan of Buna, TX, and Merlin Bryan of Elk Point; 14 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Dorothy Bryan; and her brother, Arlin Bryan.

Services have been entrusted to the Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion.

Condolences may be posted online at [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com).



Erickson



Voudry

[www.plaintalk.net](http://www.plaintalk.net)

**YANKTON MONUMENT CO.**  
*Family Memorials by Gibson*  
Amber Larson 610-6992  
325 Douglas Ave. · Yankton · 664-0980  
[www.gibsonmonuments.com](http://www.gibsonmonuments.com) · 1-800-658-2294

At a time of sorrow and uncertainty, you can count on us for the support you need.

- Prearrangement Services Available
- Video Tributes
- Several Cremation Options Available

**KOBER**  
FUNERAL HOME

402 East Main St.  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
624-4466

[www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com)



Lori Kober, Funeral Director, and Tom Kober, Co-Owners



James Bartels, Intern



Eleanor Eagle Bear, Personal Assistant



Lynn Lawrenson, Videographer



Rick Stenhardt, Assistant

South Dakota **CattleWomen**  
**BEEF GIFT CERTIFICATES**  
ARE ON EVERYONE'S LIST

- Redeemable anywhere in the U.S. at supermarkets, meat markets & restaurants for American Beef.
- Convenient! Just mail. Send beef certificates and your shopping is done.
- Perfect for gifts to business acquaintances, friends, employees and for Christmas bonuses.
- Available in \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$25 Certificates.
- Also, available at local banks.

Order by mail by sending check to  
SD Cattlewomen, PO Box 451, Winner SD 57580  
or call: 605-842-9066 or email at: [beefcertificates@yahoo.com](mailto:beefcertificates@yahoo.com)

**Holiday Early Deadlines**  
December 27th Edition  
Deadline is Monday, Dec. 23, at 4 p.m.  
The Broadcaster/Plain Talk offices will be closing at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and closed all day Wednesday, Dec. 25th

Happy Holidays from all of us at the ...

Vermillion  
**PT PLAIN TALK**  
Serving our readers since 1988.