

Vermillion
PLAIN TALK
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75¢

USD students search 'soles' to help others

By Randy Dockendorf
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These days, Jeb List and Danielle Dornbusch are doing a lot of sole searching. The University of South Dakota students are spearheading "Share Your Sole." The promotion, conducted through the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), collects shoes for the Cheyenne River reservation in north-central South Dakota.

The reservation, home to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, suffers from some of the nation's worst poverty. Recent blizzards have worsened

the situation by destroying infrastructure, in turn creating power outages and shortages of water, food and fuel.

List, a Yankton native, said he was shocked when he learned that shoes were in short supply on the reservation.

"I have a friend who went to the Cheyenne River reservation, then came back and told me where the kids weren't having shoes. I thought (the shoe project) was something I could do for them," List said.

"Unfortunately, you now have the storms. I talked to a girl from the Cheyenne River reservation who goes to USD, and she said there are still some (areas) without power and heat. I can't imagine what it's been like, especially with how cold it's been."

List said he has remained in contact with the Cheyenne River Youth Project about their needs. "We are definitely speeding things up and trying to get shoes out there quicker," he said.

The project has collected about 200 pairs of shoes in just a week. The next major push for the shoe collection will come during Thursday night's basketball doubleheader against Utah Valley at the DakotaDome. Boxes will be set up for receiving shoe donations, and half-time activities will focus on the project.

The USD shoe project received a huge — and unexpected — boost last week. During his nightly "Countdown" program, MSNBC commentator Keith Olbermann sharply criticized the federal government for not doing enough for the Cheyenne River reservation. He then shone a spotlight on the USD shoe project as a private relief effort.

Dornbusch said she was stunned at the national exposure. She still doesn't know how

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Welcome Table will meet Feb. 22

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Feb. 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

The Feb. 22 meal will be sponsored and served by Vermillion High School Student Council.

Thank you to Friends of Welcome Table for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

Sponsors needed for program that feeds children

When school is in session, more than 54,000 South Dakota children receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program. During the summer, that number drops to about 10,000.

The Summer Food Service Program aims to provide food service to youngsters when school is not in session. Children under the age of 18 can receive a meal free of charge at a participating site.

Organizations are needed to serve as Summer Food Service Program sites. Entities such as non-profit organizations, schools and local governments can apply to be an approved site in either a low-income area or serve a group of children, most of whom are low-income.

To become a sponsoring site, call Child and Adult Nutrition Services at (605) 773-3413. For more information, visit <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/cans/ssp/index.asp>.

The Summer Food Service Program is a federally funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the South Dakota Department of Education. This agency is an equal opportunity provider.

Pump Money Into Vermillion's Economy SPEND \$20 ON THE 20TH

What if? What if we tried to jump start the economy? What if everyone in Vermillion banded together to provide a cash infusion? What if we all spent \$20 on February 20th? The Broadcaster and Plain Talk want to find out. We're asking everyone to head out on Saturday, February 20th and spend \$20 on the 20th. And let's find out - what if?

By David Lias
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Spend \$20 on the 20th. It's not much to ask. But the impact on the economy in Vermillion, by spending \$20 locally, will be substantial.

Just by making a \$20 purchase. Buy something you need, but have been putting off. Join a class. Take your significant other out to dinner.

You can get ideas of how to spend \$20 locally by viewing the advertisements in this week's Broadcaster and Vermillion Plain Talk who are doing their part to help strengthen the city economically.

Open your wallet on Feb. 20. You don't need to go overboard. The sum of \$20 certainly isn't huge, but collectively it will make a difference in Vermillion. It will give a boost to local retailers, and that boost will only lead to more local purchases, and that will make our economy stronger.

"I think this event might be a nice way for people to discover what's in Vermillion," said Rick Haught of Dakota PC Warehouse, located on Cherry Street. "I think there are people who just instinctively go to Sioux Falls or Sioux City, and don't even know that there are a lot of things available in Vermillion that are very competitively priced."

"If you factor in travel and gas and all of that, Vermillion starts to look like a pretty good bargain," he said.

So just how much impact can citizens make if they spend \$20 on Feb. 20 in Vermillion?

Well, if every one of the 11,400 residents of Clay County age 18 and over, according to 2000 U.S. Census figures, spent \$20 in the city that day, it would pump \$228,000 into the local economy.

Those dollars multiply as they spread to pay salaries, buy supplies, pay bills and advertise to attract new business. It gives more people money so they can buy homes and cars and clothes which give more people more jobs.

The "multiplier effect" — in other words, the economic impact of a locally spent dollar — varies from community to community. Randy Stuefen, professor emeritus of the economics department at USD, said a dollar spent locally in Vermillion likely will have nearly a 1.5 positive effect.

In other words, every \$20 bill spent on Feb. 20 will produce nearly \$30.

"When you stop to think what a multiplier is, it's how many times money is spent before it leaves town," he

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USD student-athletes sport high achievements in classrooms

By Justin Rust
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Even though student-athletes at the University of South Dakota have had to spend more time outside of the classroom because of increased travel with Division I schedules, they still are able to excel in the classroom.

This past fall semester, University of South Dakota's student-athletes obtained a collective 3.148 GPA.

"This is another reflection of our coaching staff to find athletes who can compete on the court and in the classroom," USD Athletic Director Joel Nielsen said. "Also, it's a credit to the athletes for putting in the time and effort in the classroom and to stay dedicated and study on the road."

Ten of USD's 15 teams attained GPAs of 3.1 or higher for the fall semester, led by the men's cross country team at 3.514.

There were 42 student-athletes who attained a perfect 4.0 GPA for the fall semester.

"I think it was a very positive fall semester across the board," USD Coordinator of Athletic Academic Advising David Lorenz said. "It reflects well on how the students manage their time and their coaches for understanding the academic side."

USD also placed 20 student-athletes on the Great West Fall Academic All-Conference Team.

Nielsen said Lorenz and his staff is one of the reasons all of the teams have been doing well in the classroom.

"Dave and Becky (Flynn-Jensen) put in many hours assisting in working on scheduling and setting up study tables and tutors," he said. "Just the day-to-day operations those two handle are to be commended."

Student athletes on two of the teams from the fall semester — volleyball and soccer — missed some of the most class time, but were still able to sustain a high GPAs of 3.288 and 3.179, respectively.

"Both of those programs missed about 15 days of class and for what they achieved, it says a lot about their priorities," Lorenz said.

Part of the reason the student-athletes are able to keep up with their school work despite missed class time is because of the cooperation of the many professors at USD.

"The faculty and staff have been wonderful to work with and they have done a great job working with our student-athletes," Nielsen said. "It's great to see the cooperation between coaches and the faculty as well."

Another reason for the student-athletes' success is the responsibility the coaches take on in making sure their players are studying on road trips.

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Plain Talk poll results

Poll results 2-11-10
Would you vote to allow embryonic stem cell research in SD?

Yes 59 votes
No 24 votes
Undecided 3 votes

To participate in the Plain Talk Internet poll, log on to www.plaintalk.net.

Local educators team up, co-author second book

Expect a third book in the near future from the two teachers

By David Lias
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Gera Jacobs, a professor of early childhood at the University of South Dakota, and Kathy Crowley, a kindergarten teacher at St. Agnes School, had so much fun penning their first book together that they've teamed up again and finished a sequel, of sorts.

Educators and their students around the globe are the direct beneficiaries.

They recently completed their second book, "Reaching Standards and Beyond in Kindergarten: Nurturing Children's Sense of Wonder and Joy in Learning."

The book was co-published by Corwin Press and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

NAEYC chose the book as one of its comprehensive member benefits and sent 25,000 copies to its comprehen-

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Gera Jacobs (left) and Kathy Crowley watch as St. Agnes kindergarten students Ava Higman and Kaleb Preister examine the leaves of a plant with magnifying glasses. Such learning activities are included in the two books the local educators have co-authored. (Photo by David Lias)



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