

CHAMBER CHAT

Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce
& Development Company
116 Market Street, Suite 103
Vermillion, SD 57069
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vcdc@vermillionchamber.com
www.vermillionchamber.com

Chamber Business:

The Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company office has relocated to the Market Street Professional Building at 116 Market Street in Suite 103. Please stop by and see us at our new location. Look for us under the water tower!

This Weeks Happenings!

- Vermillion Public Schools Early Dismissal, Friday, Jan. 15 at 12:30 p.m. for Teacher In-Service.
- High School Boy's Basketball vs. Lennox Friday, Jan. 15 at 4:45 p.m. (T).
- Chamber Night with the Musketeers Friday and Saturday, Jan. 15 and 16. The Sioux City Musketeers will recognize all Siouxland area Chambers & their communities that are at the game on Jan. 15 and 16.

For more information or to purchase your tickets contact Rhonda Johnson at 712-251-1587.

- USD Women's/Men's Indoor Track & Field Friday and Saturday, Jan. 15 and 16 at the Holiday Inn Invite in Lincoln, NE (all day) (T).
- Brown Bag Lunch Program at the National Music Museum on The Living Roots of Music featuring Lauren Pelon from Red Wing, MN on Friday, Jan. 15 from 12:05 to 12:55 p.m. The story of music and musical instruments from diverse cultural heritages will be explored through Pelon's singing and virtuosic playing on more than 25 ancient and modern instruments.

- High School Wrestling: Harrisburg Invitational, Saturday, Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. (T).
- High School Show Choir Saturday, Jan. 16 at Lincoln, NE – all day (T).

- USD Women's/Men's Swimming & Diving against SDSU and St. Louis University, Saturday, Jan. 16 in Brookings, from 1 to 4 p.m. (T)
- USD Women's Basketball vs. University of North Dakota Saturday, Jan. 16 in DakotaDome at 6 p.m.
- USD Men's Basketball vs. University of North Dakota Saturday, Jan. 16 in DakotaDome at 8 p.m.

Next Weeks Happenings!

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Monday, Jan. 18. Registration has begun for the 2010 MLK Day of Service. Volunteers, groups, or individuals as well as site leaders to help facilitate the projects are needed. Pre-register at <http://sites.google.com/site/mlkday2010/> to volunteer and email sdmlkday@gmail.com if you are interested in being a site leader or have a project idea. For information, call 605-677-6338.

- Vermillion Area Arts Council (VAAC) hosts Art for Peace Exhibit and a Bargain Basement Sale Monday, Jan. 18 at the Washington Street Arts Center to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Students from USD's Center for Academic Engagement will assist VAAC volunteers with both events. The Art for Peace Exhibit in the Gallery from 1 to 6 p.m. will feature works by artists of all ages. Visual artists are invited to display original works addressing the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights issues, social issues, or peace in any art form. All work must be hand-delivered to Washington Street Arts Center on Friday, Jan. 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. or between 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16 or Sunday, Jan. 17. Refreshments will be served and the exhibit is free and open to the public.
- The Bargain Basement Sale will be from 3 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 18. Donated items for the sale can be brought to the Arts Center basement on Friday, Jan. 15 from 4 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 16 from 1 to 5 p.m.; or Monday, Jan. 18 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, contact the VAAC, vaacboard@yahoo.com, or 605-675-9053.

- USD Women's Basketball at SIU-Edwardsville in Edwardsville, IL Monday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. (T)
- Film: Meeting David Wilson: A Conversation about Race in America at USD Freedom Forum Conference Room in the Al Neuharth Center, Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m.
- Preservation Wednesdays – The Clay County Historic Preservation Commission and the Clay County Historical Society are presenting the second annual series of historic presentations. A pres-

entation by Will Schweinle entitled "Vintage Tools" will be at 7 p.m. at the Public Library on Wednesday, Jan. 20. The presentations are free and open to the public.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program Welcome Reception Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. followed by keynote speaker: David A. Wilson at 7 p.m. in Muenster University Center Grand Ballroom.

- Book Blab at the Vermillion Public Library will be held in the Community Room on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. Adult readers will share favorite authors and books and discover some new ones with other book lovers. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

- USD Women's Basketball vs. Utah Valley Wednesday, Jan. 21 in Orem, UT at 5:30 p.m. (T)

- USD Men's Basketball vs. Utah Valley Wednesday, Jan. 21 in Orem UT at 8:05 p.m. (T)

- USD Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. David Holdhusen will be performing for the Convention of the SD Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, Friday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Public is invited to this event at the First Lutheran Church, corner of 12th & Minnesota, Sioux Falls.

- USD Track & Field Alumni Meet Saturday, Jan. 23 at DakotaDome – all day.

- USD Women's Tennis Saturday, Jan. 23 at University of Seattle & Air Force Academy – all day (T).

- USD Men's Swimming/Diving Saturday, Jan. 23 at Morningside College, Sioux City, IA at 1 p.m. (T)

- USD Women's Swimming/Diving at University of Kansas/Northern Iowa Saturday, Jan. 23 at Lawrence, KS at 3 p.m. (T)

- USD Women's Basketball vs. University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND Saturday, Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. (T)

- USD Men's Basketball vs. University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND Saturday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. (T)

- Fun & Games at the Vermillion Public Library will be held in the Community Room on Saturday, Jan. 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. Adults and youth ages 12 and up will play board games and put jigsaw puzzles together. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

- Clay County ACS Relay for Life, Sunday, Jan. 31 from noon to 6 p.m. at the DakotaDome. Sponsored by the Clay County ACS and the USD Campus Against Cancer organization. For more information, contact Wess Pravecek @ 624-5352.

Citizens Academy

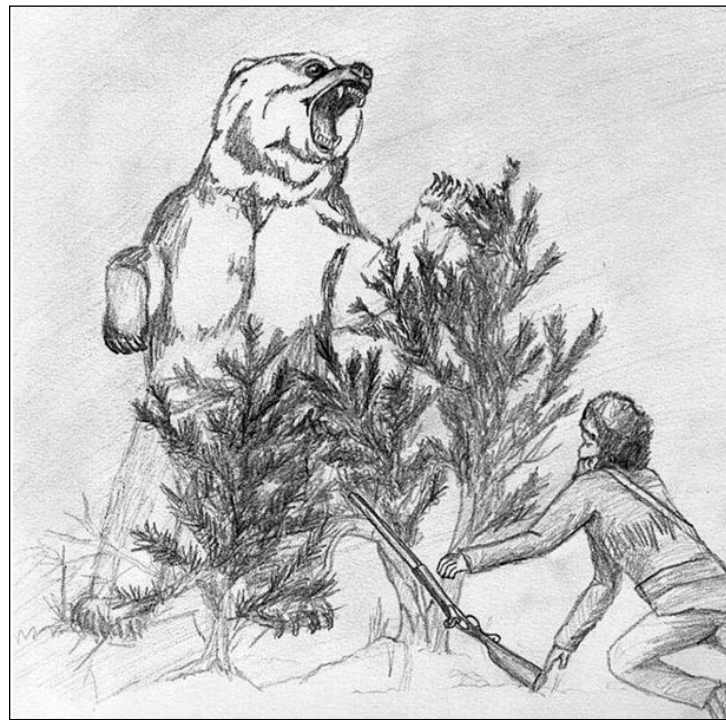
The city of Vermillion is starting a Citizens Academy for all Vermillion residents over the age of 18. The Citizens Academy is a free, hands-on, interactive public information program that allows citizens an insight into city services and the functions of city departments.

The purpose of the Citizens Academy is to familiarize citizens in the community with the city of Vermillion's government. The program will include the function of city departments, explain the relationship between the city council, planning commission and city administration, allow an overview of the budgetary process and it will provide an outlet for citizen input.

All participants interested in the Citizens Academy are encouraged to attend all of the sessions in order to get the most from the program. All sessions, unless otherwise noted, start at 5 p.m. and will meet at City Hall on Feb. 16, Feb. 23, March 2, March 16, March 23, and March 29. During the course, several sessions will meet away from City Hall at different department sites.

The Citizens Academy is a hands-on experience that will allow Vermillion residents to get a behind the scenes look of how your city government operates. The class will graduate with a certificate in "Governmentology" and a key to the city at the end of the last session. If you or someone you know is interested in this program, please contact Evie Johnson, public relations and education coordinator at 605-677-7159 or eviej@cityofvermillion.com

Does your business or organization have an event you would like included in the Chamber Chat? If you do, please call us at 624-5571 or email us at vcdc@vermillionchamber.com.



Anne Ellingson illustrated LaDue's book on the adventures of Hugh Glass.

Our Greatest Survival Story

A perk of being an editor for South Dakota Magazine is that we receive new books almost daily. Last week the mailman delivered *Crawl Into the Night: A Story About Hugh Glass* by Margie LaDue. Hugh Glass's remarkable 200-mile crawl after being attacked by a grizzly is one of my favorite South Dakota stories. But there was something else about LaDue's book that made me take notice. It was labeled "young adults"; there aren't many regional books written for adolescents.

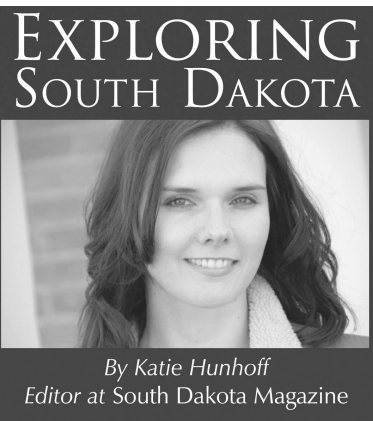
LaDue, a retired teacher, became familiar with Glass's story while growing up in Bison, near the area Glass was attacked. When LaDue was 23, John Neihardt, author of the epic poem *The Song of Hugh Glass*, visited the school and helped place two monuments in the area honoring the legendary mountain man.

"I was deeply moved by Neihardt's *The Song of Hugh Glass*," she wrote. "I felt as though I'd been a witness to the crawl. That book, along with the enthusiasm that the school children had for the story, moved me to write my book." She began *Crawl Into the Night* in 2004, fleshing out facts about Glass for her historical fiction.

Hugh Glass's life already reads like fiction. He was a mariner who narrowly escaped death by the notorious pirate Jean Lafitte. Later, he was captured by a band of Pawnee Indians and held as a slave for years before he escaped and made his way to St. Louis. And then he began his life as a mountain man. Eventually he answered an advertisement to travel up the Grand River with General Ashley, a fur trader.

Just days into the expedition, Glass was attacked by a grizzly. The other trappers heard his screams and rushed to kill the bear. Glass was so badly mauled that his companions assumed the wounds were fatal. They fashioned a hand litter and carried him for several days, waiting for him to die.

Glass was still alive days later, so Andrew Henry asked



for volunteers to stay with him until he died so the others could continue their journey at a regular pace. John S. Fitzgerald and James Bridger agreed to stay. But when more days passed with Glass still breathing, the two volunteers — who were concerned about hostile Indians in the area — packed up Glass's belongings, including his knife, and abandoned him.

Although nearly paralyzed with fever and infection, Glass eventually regained the strength to crawl and so he started toward Fort Kiowa on the Missouri, over 200 miles away. After six weeks of agonizing travel, surviving on berries, grubs, small animals and rotting buffalo meat, Glass reached Fort Kiowa. It surely ranks as South Dakota's greatest survival story. Neihardt imagined the mountain man's return to civilization in *The Song of Hugh Glass*:

"Well,
Is this the sort of welcome that I get?
'Twas not my time to feed the kiotes yet!
Put on the pot and stew a chunk of meat.
And you shall see how much a ghost can eat!"

Katie Hunhoff is an assistant editor at South Dakota Magazine, published in Yankton. For more history, travel and culture visit www.southdakotamagazine.com.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Pratt addresses Vermillion Rotary

The Vermillion Rotary Club held its weekly luncheon meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the Neuharth Media Center on the campus of USD. President David Lorenz opened the meeting and led us in the invocation and recitation of the Rotary 4-Way Test. This was followed by a round of singing, introduction of guests including three Vermillion High School seniors, and announcements.

Rotarian Greg Huckabee introduced Dustin Pratt as our speaker for the day. Dustin is the former CEO of Coyoteopoly, and one of the first Innovation Fellows in South Dakota currently pursuing an MBA.

Mr. Pratt presented a report on the activities of the Coyoteopoly team as it raised funds and collected food items for the Vermillion Food Pantry. Coyoteopoly was started by Professor Greg Huckabee, a faculty member of the Beacom School of Business, to give students practi-

cal experience of forming a corporation and taking on activities in support of a client; in this case, the Vermillion Food Pantry.

Mr. Pratt showed a video of the activities on Nov. 11, 2009, as they collected and organized the food items and collected funds. He reported that Coyoteopoly collected \$12,033 and 14,000 food items for the Food Pantry. A note of interest is that this corresponds to about 50 percent of the annual budget of the Food Pantry.

In the interest of full disclosure, the Vermillion Rotary Club currently sponsors Coyoteopoly.

Congratulations to the entire Coyoteopoly team for its contribution to our community.

The members were then shown a video entitled "Women in Rotary." This brief history showed how Rotary started as a businessmen's club in 1905 and voted to allow women to participate fully in 1989. Rotary is now stronger than ever, thanks to this occurrence.

Winter fun and games at library

If you're looking for some exciting entertainment this winter, there will be afternoons of fun and games in the Community Room of the Vermillion Public Library from 1 to 4 p.m. on the following Saturdays: Jan. 23 and Feb. 20. Engage in mental stimulation with other individuals by playing board games and putting jigsaw puzzles together.

Adults and youth ages 12 and up are invited to attend this activity. There will be a wide variety of challenging and interesting games and puzzles available. Extra games and puzzles are welcome. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

For more information about this enjoyable event, call the library at 677-7060 or e-mail vpl@sdln.net.

Great books shared at library

During Book Blab, great books will be shared in the Community Room of the Vermillion Public Library on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. Adults are invited to come and let other people know about books that they can't stop talking about or learn about books that others have enjoyed. Great books need to be shared with others!

Book lovers will be sharing favorite authors and books and discovering some new ones to add to their list of books that they would like to read.

Refreshments will be provided. For more information about this event, call the library at 677-7060 or e-mail vpl@sdln.net.

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