

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

• National Music Museum (NMM) Brown Bag Lunch Program "The Autonomous Autoharpist," featuring Bryan Bowers, autoharp master, singer/songwriter and storyteller from Sedro Woolley, Wash., at 12:05 p.m. January program sponsor: City of Vermillion. Location: Arne B. Larson Concert Hall at the NMM located on USD campus, corner of Clark and Yale St. Free and open to the public.

• Music Concert: USD professor of music Nolan Stolz will present a concert of chamber music at 5 p.m. in John A. Day Gallery at Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on USD campus.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

• 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.

• Show Choir, 11:20 a.m. in Omaha.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

• Vermillion Rotary Club Meeting, noon-1 p.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room of the Al Neuharth Media Center.

PLANNING AHEAD:

• FEB. 3 — Hospital Auxiliary Meeting, 2 p.m. at Sanford Vermillion Care Center Dining Room, 125 Walker St.

• FEB. 4 — Cracker Barrel session, 10 a.m.-noon at City Hall Council Chambers at 25 Center Street, Vermillion.

• FEB. 4 — 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.

• FEB. 4 — Heartland Humane Society Meet and Greet, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Alcoa 4-H Center and Ice Arena located at 902 Whiting Drive in Yankton. The community is invited to meet dogs for adoption. The shelter at 601 1/2 Burleigh St. in Yankton will also be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to view or adopt cats and kittens.

• 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!

• FEB. 13 — South Dakota Shakespeare Festival Auditions, 6-9 p.m. at USD Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts, Arena Theatre. The festival is seeking professional actors, actor/musicians and teaching artists from the Great Plains region to form an ensemble-based Shakespeare company for a four-week contract in Vermillion. Performances: June 8-10. All positions are paid. To schedule an appointment, call 605-622-0423 or visit: www.sdshakespearefestival.org.

• FEB. 14 — South Dakota Shakespeare Festival Auditions, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Augustana College Theater, Sioux Falls. The festival is seeking professional actors, actor/musicians and teaching artists from the Great Plains region to form an ensemble-based Shakespeare company for a four-week contract in Vermillion. Performances: June 8-10. All positions are paid. To schedule an appointment, call 605-274-5065, e-mail dworkman@blackhillstheatre.com or visit: www.sdshakespearefestival.org.

• FEB. 14 — American Legion Wallace Post & Auxiliary meeting at 7 p.m. at the Main Street Center at 320 W. Main St.

• FEB. 18 — Vermillion Area Farmer's Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Clay County Extension Building, 515 High St.

• FEB. 22-26 — USD Theatre presents, "Top Girls," 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22-5 and 7 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Knutson Theatre at the USD Fine Arts Building. Ticket information: www.usd.edu/theatre or call 677-5400.

• FEB. 25 — Cracker Barrel Session, 10 a.m.-noon at the City Hall Council Chambers at 25 Center Street, Vermillion.

• FEB. 29 — Celebrity Chef Robert Hesse (as seen on "Hell's Kitchen") and Café Brulé serve a world-class six-course dinner with wine at Café Brulé. Two seatings at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Proceeds go to benefit Domestic Violence Safe Options Services. Call 605-659-4933 for tickets.

• 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.

• JUNE 8-10 — First annual Shakespeare Festival in Prentiss Park, Vermillion. Event sponsored by Coyoteopoly and is free and open to the public.

• 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 Lenni Billberg at lenni.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.

• AUG. 25-26 — The Great Dakota Wine Fest at Valian Vineyards, 1500 W. Main St. Cooking with wine demonstrations, live music and more. Visit www.greatdakotawinefest.com.

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

Chamber Business:

Cracker Barrel sessions with our legislators will be:

• Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon at the City Hall Council Chambers at 25 Center Street

• Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to noon at the City Hall Council Chambers at 25 Center Street

Please join us for some great discussion.

Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary, Clay County Democrats, Clay County Republicans and the VCDC Legislative Affairs Committee.

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 5:00-7:00 pm 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.

Report: Stronger diversity efforts needed at USD

By Travis Gulbrandson

travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

For any campus diversity plan to succeed, there needs to be substantial involvement at all levels – from the students to the upper administration.

That was the consensus Thursday, Jan. 19, at the first in a series of "Courageous Conversations," which will seek to engage everyone at the University of South Dakota in defining diversity-related campus issues.

The panel consisted of members of the Campus Diversity Enhancement Group's (CDEG) diversity committee.

"Leadership is key," said panelist and psychology professor Barb Yutzenka. "We've often had the conversation that, we can run our tails off trying to do grassroots diversity activities, but if... it's not also being embraced by the high political leadership where a lot of very significant decisions are being made on the campus, we can only go so far."

For some, the first "conversation" should have gone farther.

"I think the fact that you don't have the president of the university... to help launch the discussion tells people of color that you're not very serious about it," said audience member Edward Valandra.

Valandra is the former chair of USD's Department of American Indian Studies, who said he knew "a lot about racism at this institution" and that it led to his resignation.

"The institutional message you're giving people right now is that (the administration) doesn't care," he said.

Tom Sorensen, panelist and associate dean of the USD School of Law, said that when the event was being planned, input from university higher-ups was a part of the agenda.

"We started with, 'Let's have a panel, and let's include the

president and the provost,'" Sorensen said. "We talked more and more about it, and we decided, 'Let's get this started first, and we're going to see where things go.' I think that at some point that is in the plan for a future panel."

Sorensen added that there will be a renewed emphasis on diversity issues as they relate to USD President Jim Abbott.

"In the search for the new chief diversity officer, it's been determined... that that person should report directly to the president of the university," Sorensen said.

Panelist and psychology professor Beth Boyd said Valandra raised a good point.

"I don't know how as an institution we can go forward if we don't have leadership that says, 'This is important,'" she said. "What we know about diversity science at this point in time is that we need to have leadership at the very top in order to give that push to institutions, to put ourselves outside of our comfort zones and do those things that really, truly make an environment inclusive and welcoming to everyone."

Last week's event was held in part due to the findings noted in the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) accreditation report, which was finalized this past fall.

CDEG chair Jerry Yutzenka explained, "Part of it was how we do on diversity, and they kind of came back and said, 'Not too well.' There are pockets of activity, but not the whole university. It's just not really there yet."

"In every area, diversity is a hugely important part of the accreditation process, and we get held to that. There are times when we do some things well, but not across the whole university," he said.

Kurt Hackemer, panelist and history professor, said the report found little evidence for a "rigorous, systematic and effective

approach" to addressing institutional diversity.

Hackemer quoted the report as saying, "Although many people at USD are engaged in ad hoc and meaningful efforts to serve and learn from diverse communities, and although those highly-localized efforts serve the community's needs in important ways, USD does not have an overarching plan to increase diversity."

"Discussions with faculty and staff reveal that USD has the expertise, interest and passion to engage in powerful and distinctive ways with diverse communities, yet leadership's attention is essential to resolve the ongoing and challenging absence of ethnic and racial diversity in the curriculum, the student body and employees," he read.

Two concerns outlined in the report was a lack of planning in regard to recruiting, the curriculum and the staff, and "little evidence the students truly understood the need for and importance of a diversity mission."

"There seems to be silent mentality that diversity occurs in a specific or designated office, course or person," Hackemer read.

The university needs to give the HLC an update in 2014, he added.

Approximately 10 years ago, the previous HLC report led to the formation of a diversity plan and committee, Barb Yutzenka said.

Boyd added that the Office of Diversity also was created, and a diversity officer was hired, along with outlining a list of goals.

"I think the only thing that really was realized out of that plan was the creation of an office of diversity. I think the rest of the plan kind of got lost after that,"

Boyd said.

Sorensen pointed out that there have been a lot of individual efforts over the years with organizations, committees and groups that started through the students, as opposed to the school.

From the audience, English professor Emily Haddad said the efforts could not start and stop with the students, that the university faculty was the "missing link in the equation."

"Students graduate, that's the point," Haddad said. "They come and then they go."

Some audience members said all kinds of student groups – social and ethnic – might not feel as welcome as they should, and hence stay in their own groups.

Other members of the audience said they want to see the university play a more active role in encouraging these various groups to interact with each other.

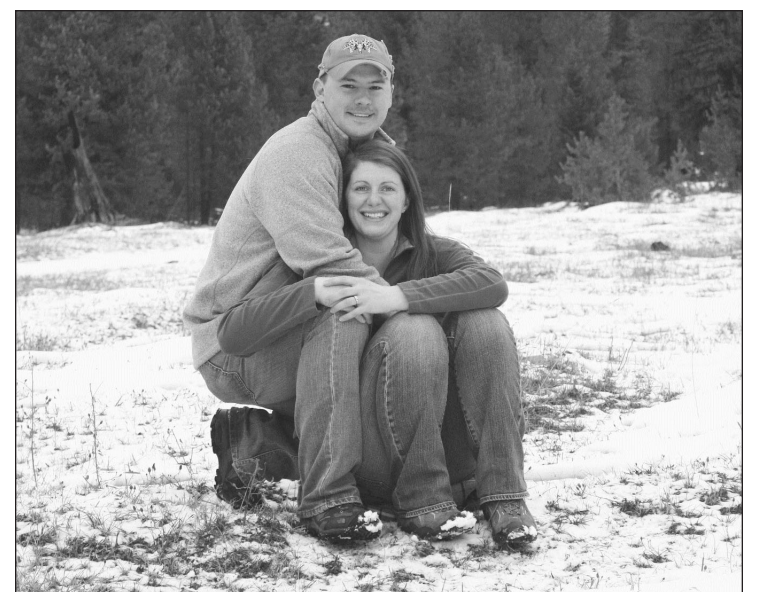
Boyd said she hoped last week's conversation would be a starting point for that kind of activity.

"We need to become allies for each other. We need to work together," she said. "I know looking at it from an ethnic minority perspective, there's not enough of any one minority group on this campus that can stand up and make something happen. And there's not enough of any of the other groups on campus that have a shared interest even to say, 'We're going to make things happen.' ...

"We have to join forces, to lend our energy to each other, to come to a shared, unified idea and expectation," she said.

Courageous Conversations was sponsored by the USD Office of Diversity and hosted by the Campus Diversity Enhancement Group.

ENGAGEMENTS



McDonald-Brumwell

Katherine McDonald and Christopher Brumwell have announced their engagement.

The bride-to-be resides in Bozeman, MT, where she is a full-time student. She has an AAS in Communications Information Technology and is working on a bachelor of science degree in Management Studies. She is the daughter of Andy and Susan

McDonald of Vermillion.

The future groom currently resides in Landstuhl, Germany. He has an AAS in Electronics Engineering, and is employed as a satellite communications technician with the United States Army. He is the son of J. Michael and Sandra Brumwell, Columbia Falls, MT.

The couple are planning a June 30, 2012, wedding at Swan Lake,

PUC: Protect wireless accounts

PIERRE – The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission has learned of incidents involving fraudulent access of private wireless phone accounts and urges consumers to apply additional security measures to protect their accounts.

Consumers have relayed to the PUC incidents of their wireless phone accounts being accessed by unauthorized persons from outside of South Dakota who have fraudulently used the accounts to acquire new devices. The cost of the devices is shown as a charge to the rightful account owner. These consumers have worked with their wireless phone provider to report the incidents, correct the billing charges and change personal identification numbers associated with accounts.

The fraudulent activity is occurring predominantly on accounts that use the last four digits of the owner's Social

Security number as identification. In several cases discussed with the PUC, the consumer was not aware their Social Security number was stored with their wireless phone account.

The PUC encourages all consumers to closely monitor their personal wireless accounts and immediately report any unusual activity to their wireless provider. Additionally, consumers should request their Social Security number not be used to identify their account and request a new personal identification number or password if it is.

Consumers can contact their wireless provider online, visit their provider's local retail store or activate password protection from their wireless device.

Consumers may request assistance from the PUC by calling (800) 332-1782 or e-mailing PUC@state.sd.gov.

Thank You

The family of Donald M. Ahrendt would like to express their sincere gratitude to their friends and families who extended their sympathy through cards, gifts, and prayers in his memory.

Your thoughtfulness means a great deal to our family.

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

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Lynn Lawensen
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South Dakota

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- > Enter data about insured/claimant vehicles into CCC's system

Vehicle Valuation Specialist:

- > Research the appraisal value of vehicles (e.g. cars, trucks, SUVs, antique or specialized cars, recreational vehicles, boats and motorcycles) utilizing CCC proprietary data sources, internet searches and some outbound calling.
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COMPENSATION & BENEFITS PLAN

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