

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

• The 30th Annual Dakota Farm Show is Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 8-10 at the DakotaDome. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday. Free admission and free parking. For more information please go to www.farmshowusa.com. For vendor information, please call Penny Swank at 507-437-7969.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

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• Cancer Support Group meeting at 2:30 p.m., Sletwold Room in Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark St. For more information, call Marcy at 624-8706.

PLANNING AHEAD:

• JAN. 11 — Brown Bag Lunch program, "Rich Blues and More," featuring Rich Patton on guitar, harmonica and tenor sax at 12:05 p.m. at the National Music Museum located on the USD campus, corner of Clark and Yale streets. Free and open to the public.

• JAN. 12 — 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. Overeaters Anonymous is a 12-step program for people with eating disorders and struggles.

• JAN. 19 — Vermillion Area Farmers Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the 4-H Building, 515 High St.

• JAN. 21 — Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service: The University of South Dakota will be honoring Dr. King's legacy by taking part in a national day of service. All members of the USD and Vermillion community are invited to register and participate in this wonderful event. Volunteers will meet at noon in the Muenster University Center for a brief orientation before heading out to various organizations in the community to perform service. The day's events conclude at 4 p.m. with reflection and re-orientation at the Muenster University Center. To register, visit <https://www.psychdata.com/s.asp?SID=147660>. For more information contact AWOL@coyotes.usd.edu or call (605) 677-6338.

• JAN. 23 — The Department of Labor and Regulation will be hosting a Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP) from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1024 West Cherry St. 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, cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. Parties interested in attending should register by calling (605) 677-6900 before 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22.

• FEB. 20 — "Shrek the Musical," at the Orpheum in Sioux City. Call (712) 224-6423 or e-mail mianqourakis@sioux-city.org for ticket information.

• MARCH 15-16 & 22-23 — 2013 Schmeckfest in Freeman. Meal served from 4-7 p.m. "Fiddler on the Roof," performance at 8 p.m. For ticket information, call 605-925-4542 or visit: www.schmeckfest.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.

Heroes Behind the Badges drive is Jan. 14

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

A local rivalry continues.

In less than two weeks, local law enforcement officers and firefighters will have a friendly competition in which they will find out who can donate the most blood.

The sixth annual Heroes Behind the Badges Blood Drive will take place from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2:30-6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan 14 at the Sanford Vermillion Medical Center.

"This time of the year, blood supplies tend to get very low," said Layne Stewart, director of Clay County Emergency Management.

"Donations tend to drop, but also ... accidents and people in need of blood products usually increases, as well. You kind of get hit with a double-edged sword there."

To help ease this burden, local law enforcement and firefighters try to recruit as many donors as possible.

Last year, there were 104 participants, who donated 78 units of blood.

This year, they hope to come away with 100 units of blood.

"As far as taking part, there's a great response by the local law enforcement agencies," said Detective Robin Hower of the Vermillion Police Department.

"The firefighters have supported it pretty well, too," Stewart added. "A lot of them work in places during the day where they're not able to donate, but I have run into parents and grandparents of firefighters who are there because the firefighter asked them donated in their name."

Other members of the community have done their part as well by making donations on behalf of the department of their choice, Hower said.

"We try to contact people, get it out through fellow officers," he said. "We have fliers that we post, we try to get it out through the local papers. ..."

"We try and get it out through the community so they are aware of it

when the date arrives," he said.

To reach the goal of 100 units, both men said approximately 125-130 donors would be needed.

"Historically, we have a very high refusal rate," Stewart said. "We've been running about 25 percent denial."

Hower said that while this may sound strange, a number of potential donors are turned away because they recently were sick, while others are refused for other reasons, such as having recently acquired a tattoo.

"There are certain requirements that prohibit them from donating," he said.

The drive started six years ago when Community Blood Bank of Sioux Falls contacted Stewart and Detective Lowell Oswald.

"They had done (similar competitions) in other places, and decided to do it here as well," Stewart said. "Just a lighthearted competition between law enforcement and fire, just a way to create a little excitement and try and help get more and more people to donate blood."

In that time, Heroes Behind the Badges has become the biggest single blood drive in Vermillion.

It's an important drive, Hower said, because Community Blood Bank is the solve provider of blood and blood products to Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

"The blood that is donated actually stays here in Vermillion," he said. "When you have an accident where a person is injured and they need blood, it could take up to several units. So it's important we have this supply on-hand."

For the record, the local police have won the competition the most.

However, Stewart said that's not the important thing.

"In the whole scheme of things, it doesn't really matter who wins as long as we get people out and donating," he said. "This year, I hope we have a very large turnout and make it the biggest one ever."

CHAMBER CHAT

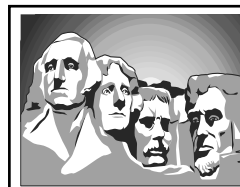
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Chamber Business:

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Board Election Update:
At the beginning of December a slate of three nominees for the three open seats on the 2013 VCDC Board of Directors was sent to the membership. Members were given the opportunity to submit additional nominees if they chose. With no additional nominees offered, a formal election was not necessary.

On Jan. 31, the following slate of candidates will be presented to the VCDC Board of Directors for formal approval:
Jon Robertson – Second three-year term
Randy Houska – Second three-year term
Scott Munger – First three-year term

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.



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- 2009 Case-IH Puma 180-Full PS-165HP-42"
- New Holland TS130 MFD-105 HP w/loader
- CIH Magnum 7240 MFD-195 HP-1995
- CIH Magnum 7220 MFD-165 HP-clean
- CIH MAXXUM 5240 MFD-95 HP-PS/shuttle

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