

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 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.

• Debate at Sioux Falls Lincoln at 2 p.m. (T)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 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.

• Music Recital: Zach Rohlwing presents a masters piano recital at 7 p.m. at Colton Recital Hall located in Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

• Former U.S. Senator James Abouezk to speak at noon on "Issues Affecting the United States in the Middle East today," at Farber Hall located in Old Main on the USD campus.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

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

• Lecture: 2013 Dean's Lecture Series at Beacom School of Business presents Paul Ellingstad, "People, Planet, Profit ... What Matters?" at 4 p.m. Beacom Hall.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

• Vermillion Lions Club meeting at the W.H. Over Museum in Sletwold Hall at 6 p.m.

PLANNING AHEAD:

• JAN. 18 — Brown Bag Lunch program, "Rawlins Trio," with Rodger Kelly on harpsichord at 12:05 p.m. at the National Music Museum located on USD campus, corner of Clark and Yale streets. Free and open to the public.

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

• JAN. 19 — 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. 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.psydata.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.

• JAN. 24 — Free concert at 7 p.m. Red Earth Co-op will be hosting local folk/bluegrass/jazz favorite Jami Lynn. Enjoy live music and learn about the new co-op coming to Vermillion. Event will be at the store, 108 E. Main St. More details at www.redearthcoop.com.

• FEB. 20 — "Shrek the Musical," at the Orpheum in Sioux City. Call (712) 224-6423 or e-mail mlanourakis@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.

Goal of league, parents is sanctioned high school soccer in Vermillion

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

It's been less than two months since a state organization made a decision to no longer sponsor high school soccer activities after the end of the 2014 season.

Local high school soccer enthusiasts wasted no time in making sure that the Vermillion School Board is aware of that change.

A standing-room-only crowd was in the audience for the beginning of Monday, Dec. 10 board meeting in the Al Neuharth Media Center, making a pitch for Tanager boys and girls soccer to be elevated from its present club sport status to that of an activity formally sanctioned by the Vermillion School District.

"Although I do not have children in high school at this point in time, I am a Vermillion resident with three young kids who I hope will someday have the opportunity to be able to decide what sport or activity they will participate in while in Vermillion High School, including soccer," said Pat Cross, the new president of the Vermillion Youth Soccer League.

On behalf of the league, he made a formal request to the school board to sanction both girls' and boys' soccer. The league also presented a petition signed by over 600 registered voters in Vermillion requesting soccer be a sanctioned sport at VHS.

"We understand the complexity of the budget at this point in time, but we believe with collaboration as well as creative financing and fundraising, this goal can become a reality," Cross said.

He noted that for years, the Vermillion Soccer League in collaboration with the South Dakota State Soccer Association has run Vermillion's high school soccer teams.

The state association, in late November 2012, agreed to end its sponsorship of high school soccer activities after the 2014 season ends. At that point, the only high school soccer available in South Dakota will be that sanctioned by the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

"In 2011, South Dakota became the last state in the United States to sanction high school soccer," Cross said. "But time was allowed to determine whether soccer was going to be sanctioned at the high school level or not. So what you had last year were some teams that went sanctioned, and some teams that didn't.

Approximately half of the Class A schools in South Dakota — a total of nine — sanctioned their high school soccer teams last year, he said.

"This led to an interesting situation where there were two championships per gender and per class," Cross said, referring to separate tournaments for non-sanctioned and sanctioned teams.

"I'm proud to say that this year, our boys' soccer team won our first state championship title as a non-sanctioned team," he said.

After the fall 2014 season, high school soccer players in Vermillion will no longer have the opportunity to represent their towns and high schools or win a state championship if soccer is not sanctioned by the high school.

"There will no longer be a non-sanctioned soccer league option after the fall of 2014," Cross said. "The number of sanctioned South Dakota high school Class A soccer teams looks to be increasing next year."

That means Vermillion soccer will face a growing number of issues if it remains in its non-sanctioned status during that same time period, he said.

"One of the most profound issues is the majority of non-sanctioned teams that Vermillion will be playing against will be in the west side of the state," Cross said. "Most of the east side schools have become sanctioned."

Under this scenario, parents of Vermillion soccer players would have to pay larger sums of money out-of-pocket to support the players' travel, lodging and other expenses, he said.

Cross said it isn't known, with certainty, whether Vermillion High School athletes can continue to play soccer if the sport isn't sanctioned by 2014.

"Parents, if they have the financial resources to be able to allow their kids to play club soccer, could go to South Sioux City to play club soccer. This takes a lot of money and time to do that, plus they're going to require a specific level of skill," he said. "Without the appropriate skill, time and transportation, and/or financial resources, freshmen who played high school soccer this year will not have a soccer team to play come their senior year."

In the 2012 fall season, approximately 20 boys and 40 girls participated in Vermillion's high school club soccer programs, and it appears the number of

female participants could grow to 60 in two years, he said.

"The question I raise is whether or not the school board is willing to tell this many voting parents and athletes that they will not be able to play soccer for Vermillion High School after the 2014 season," Cross said.

He noted that many schools have used creative means, within the confines of South Dakota law, to make sanctioning of high school teams possible.

"We are willing to discuss various models to make high school soccer in Vermillion feasible," Cross said, "but please note we do not want to have to raise \$20,000 per team for gender for the next 10-plus years in order for Vermillion to have both boys and girls soccer teams."

Soccer provides a unique opportunity for high school students, he said. "Numerous high school soccer players are not participating in other high school sports. As you probably are aware, there is a high correlation between being active in high school sports and a positive performance in the classroom as well as social development."

By sanctioning high school soccer, Cross said the school board would help the district attract qualified coaches and limit parents' expenses, time and liability. It would also allow health care professionals to be on hand at games in case athletes are injured. He noted that the sport's cost is relatively inexpensive compared to other high school sports.

"We are not asking to replace current activities with soccer, but we feel that the relatively inexpensive costs should be part of the consideration process," he said.

East River schools that have sanctioned high school soccer are Mitchell, Groton, Aberdeen, Sioux Falls Christian, Sioux Falls O'Gorman, Freeman Academy, James Valley Christian and Mitchell Christian. School districts that are currently discussing whether or not to sanction the sport include Tea, Harrisburg and Garretson.

The school board made no decision following the presentation.

"Obviously, we are not prepared tonight to make a decision," said Vermillion School Board President Chris Esping. "We will take all of this information into account when we're looking at the budget for next year. We will start that process soon, and we will see what we can do."

VHS presents original one act parody, 'Midwest Side Story'

Vermillion High School students will be presenting the one-act play, "Midwest Side Story," written and directed by Mary Begley on Friday, Jan. 18 at the VHS Performing Arts Center.

This humorous spoof of the popular 1950s musical "West Side Story" substitutes inner-city Puerto Rican and Polish-American gangs with South Dakotan east-side farmers and west-side ranchers.

This 45-minute production will be performed at 7:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

After Friday's performance, the students will take the show on the road to the Region IA South Dakota High School

Activities Association's one-act play contest held at Yankton's Mount Marty College theatre on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 11 a.m.

Cast: William Card, Nathan Presho, Natalie Swanson, Jacob Ford, Meghan Cameron,

Savannah Kirsch, Marris Brady, Ruth Murphy, Dustin Fischer, Sam Pearson, Rachel Axtell, Allison Howe, Jim Yao, Katie Zimmerman, Leah Geis, Adam Ahmed, Morgan Fuller, Audi Colmenero, William Getzin, Ellen Hanson, Jakari Knight, Elly Miller, Jayce Whipple

Crew: Jessica Brady, Abby Weiss, Dylan Pritchett, Anjie Ge, Rali Sykes, Sara Marker, Lucas Hodges, Sarah Johnson.



The cast and crew of "Midwest Side Story" have been busy in rehearsals this past week. The one-act play will be presented in the Vermillion High School's Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18.

(Photo by David Lias)

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:

The Vermillion Area Community Foundation is accepting proposals for projects to improve our community. Forms for submitting proposals by groups or organizations are available at the Chamber of Commerce office. While available funds are limited we can fully fund small one time requests or partially fund larger projects. Your annual donations to our foundation will provide us with increasing funds each year for worthwhile projects.

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.

Announcements:

Are you interested in an intern for your business? USD students are eager to gain real-world work experience with you. Internships can be paid or unpaid and students can gain college credit for their experience with you. If you are interested in accepting interns at your business, please contact Carly at Carly.Heard@usd.edu.

Sharing the Dream, 10 W. Main St., is having two months of sales on current inventory. Beginning the week of Jan. 14 all jewelry will be 25 percent

off; the week of Jan. 21 all scarves will be 25 percent off; the week of Jan. 28 all purses/bags will be 25 percent off; week of Feb. 4 all kitchen/glass items will be 25 percent off; week of Feb. 11 all wood items will be 25 percent off and the week of Feb. 18 all children's items will be 25 percent off. Our products are handmade by Mayan artisans using many traditional techniques. Purchasing these products not only provides

work for these artisans, but the profits go to support community development projects in Guatemala.

Exhibition: "Picturing Native: Photographs from Edward Curtis, Horace Poolaw and Zig Jackson" at John A. Day Gallery located in Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. On display through Jan. 29.



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Bob & Mary Millage 50th Wedding Anniversary January 13, 2013

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Bob & Mary Millage wish to
congratulate them on 50 years
of marriage. Please help us
celebrate with a card shower.

Send cards to:
535 W. Cedar
Vermillion, SD 57069

