

CHAMBER CHAT

Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company
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 www.vermillionchamber.com

Chamber Business:

Cracker barrel sessions with our legislators will be Saturday, Feb. 2 and Saturday, March 2. Both sessions will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the City Hall Council Chambers at 25 Center St. join District 17 legislators, Sen. Tom Jones and House representatives Nancy Rasmussen and Ray Ring for an update on the 88th Legislative Session.

Open to the public and everyone is encouraged to 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 and ribbon-cutting celebration at HeartPrint Home Care, 2610 E. SD Highway 50 (across the Highway from New 2 You), is Wednesday, Feb. 13. Business After Hours will be from 5-7 p.m. with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 5:30 p.m. join us to help HeartPrint Home Care celebrate their new location, make new contacts, socialize, and find out what they have to offer.

Appetizers and refreshments will be served, plus a take-home gift for everyone.

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:

The City of Vermillion is hosting a Citizens Academy in spring 2013 for citizens 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. Applications are available at City Hall or online at www.vermillion.us. Vermillion residents are given first consideration. Class size is limited to 20 participants.

The Clay-Union Foundation is offering a \$500 community service scholarship to graduating seniors from Vermillion or Elk Point-Jefferson High School. Applications are available at http://www.clay-unionfoundation.org/ under the events tab. Students will be able to fill out the application online,

and e-mail it directly for consideration. Applications will be accepted until March 1, and then reviewed by the board. Awards will be announced at their school awards night, with the scholarship given in January of their second semester. For further information, call John Gille at (605) 421-5050 or e-mail jgillerrsd60@yahoo.com.

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, contact Carly at

Carly.Heard@usd.edu.

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 end of January.

DavidArtCompany Presents: Detroit Anthology, an exhibition of prints by Jay Wallace now through Feb. 22. Hosted by Cafe Brule, 24 W. Main St. For more information, contact michele4csg@yahoo.com or visit meruscreative.com to see more artwork by Jay Wallace.

One in a VerMillion

Meet Ryan Munes

By David Lias

David.lias@plaintalk.net

It doesn't take a stretch of the imagination to realize why Ryan Munes has become involved with the recently formed Red Earth Cooperative in Vermillion.

"I studied wildlife ecology, and I've returned to school - I'm going to school here at USD, getting my graduate degree in biology, and I've always had a passion for the environment," he said. "As being part of a co-op, I'm able to select food items that I support based on the way that they're made - if they're more sustainable, or items that are organic, or grass-fed beef.

"I feel this (the cooperative) is a unique way to use your purchasing power," he said. "By being part of a co-op, you're able to use your purchasing power to make decisions on items that you buy," he said.

Red Earth Cooperative has been developed with the goal of becoming a member-owned, one-stop grocery. It has been formed to be a source of local, healthy food in southeast

South Dakota.

Its members work mainly on a volunteer basis, and have developed a business plan. Red Earth will consist of retail store offering a "one-stop shop" grocery experience with attention to local foods and sustainability.

The members and the cooperative's board of directors are working on the grass-roots level to build membership. To be successful, those involved with Red Earth have determined they need 250 members. The members help the co-op financially by paying a \$40 annual fee. They also will provide volunteer labor when needed to help sustain the business.

Munes, who serves as secretary on the Red Earth Cooperative's board of directors, helped organize an membership drive event Jan. 24 at the Red Earth's store location at 108 E. Main Street in downtown Vermillion.

Musicians Jami Lynn and Dylan James, of Rapid City, gave a free concert to a packed audience at the cooperative that evening to



help raise awareness in the community of the cooperative's mission and goals.

Lynn is well known in Vermillion, having studied music at USD before launching her career as a regional folk singer. Lynn

and James recently began recording their first duo album together at the Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead. "Cluck & Croon" will include old-time tunes mixed with

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THANK YOU
 The family of Don Bensen would like to thank those who gave us support and understanding on the loss of Don Bensen.
 Roberta Bensen
 Carol Bensen
 Alan and Susan Ruedebusch

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
Farm Mutual Insurance Company of Clay County
 The Annual Meeting of the Farm Mutual Insurance Company of Clay County will be held at the Vermillion City Hall, 25 Center St., in Vermillion, SD, at 1:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 13, 2013**
 Hearing of reports, director elections, changes in the by-laws will be discussed, and any other business that may come properly before the assembly.
 By the order of the Board of Directors dated the 26th day of January, 2012.
 - John Aden, President
 - Mark Donnelly, Secretary
Cookies & Coffee will be served. Door prizes given.