

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY, JULY 8

- Vermillion Community Theatre presents Broadway Musical, "My Fair Lady," 7:30 p.m. at the Vermillion High School Theatre. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$7 for K-12. Tickets are on sale at Nook n' Cranny and Davis Pharmacy and will be available at the door.
- The Yankton Tri-State Old Iron Association and WNAX are holding their fifth annual two-day tractor ride. There are about 180-200 tractors in the ride and they will travel in groups of 15 at 10 minute intervals along the following routes: July 8 tractors will travel from Yankton to Scotland and return to Yankton to finish the day with a parade downtown at 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

- Vermillion Community Theatre presents Broadway Musical, "My Fair Lady," 7:30 p.m. at the Vermillion High School Theatre. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$7 for K-12. Tickets are on sale at Nook n' Cranny and Davis Pharmacy and will be available at the door.
- The Yankton Tri-State Old Iron Association and WNAX are holding their fifth annual two-day tractor ride. There are about 180-200 tractors in the ride and they will travel in groups of 15 at 10 minute intervals along the following routes: Saturday they will travel from Yankton to Vermillion. The first group will arrive at Pump 'N Pak around 10 a.m. and then every 10 minutes thereafter until approximately noon. They will travel south on Stanford St. to Main St., east on Main through the downtown area to Dakota St. and then south on Dakota St. past the airport to Highway 19 and into Nebraska. Tractors will stop in Maskell, Neb., and St. Helena, Neb. and return to Yankton. The Vermillion community is invited to come out and view these impressive tractors, many of which are very valuable and some contain double seats and two riders!
- Vermillion Area Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-noon, downtown Vermillion at Ratingen Platz, Market & Main St.
- The Buckwheat Open Golf Tournament starting at 1 p.m. at The Bluffs Golf Course.

SUNDAY, JULY 10

- Vermillion Community Theatre presents Broadway Musical, "My Fair Lady," 2:30 p.m. at the Vermillion High School Theatre. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$7 for K-12. Tickets are on sale at Nook n' Cranny and Davis Pharmacy and will be available at the door.
- Pancake Sunday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Main Street Center, 320 W. Main St.

MONDAY, JULY 11

- Al-anon meeting, 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of Main & Linden. For more information, call 624-9764.
- Vermillion Community Theatre presents Broadway Musical, "My Fair Lady," 7:30 p.m. at the Vermillion High School Theatre. Performances are 7:30 p.m. July 8, 9 & 11 and 2:30 p.m. July 10. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$7 for K-12. Tickets are on sale at Nook n' Cranny and Davis Pharmacy and will be available at the door.

TUESDAY, JULY 12

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

- Weekly Wine Hour (every Wednesday), 6-7 p.m. in the RED Steakhouse vault. For more information, call 624-0079.
- Ice Cream Social, 5-7 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church, 7 S. Univesity Street. The community is welcome.
- Ice Cream Social, 5-7:30 p.m. at Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, located north on Hwy. 19 at 308th St. The community is welcome.
- Vermillion Eagle Riders Supper Ride departing from the Eagles Club. Kickstands up at 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 14

- Cancer Support Group meeting, 2:30 p.m. in the Sletwold Room at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark St. For additional information, call 624-8706.
- Vermillion Area Farmer's Market, 3-7 p.m. at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Event includes education session for customers on "Backyard Farmer: Keepin' Bees!" from 6:30-7 p.m. with Grace Freeman.

PLANNING AHEAD:

- JULY 16 — Vermillion Area Farmer's Market, 9 a.m.-noon, downtown Vermillion at Ratingen Platz, Market & Main St.
- JULY 18 — Sixth annual Sheri Ellis Memorial Golf Social sponsored by Dakota Hospital Foundation at The Bluffs Golf Course. Registration/team photos at 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.; 1 p.m. shotgun start; 6:30 p.m. dinner/program. \$50/person paid in advance; \$60/person day of event. Registration due Monday, July 11. For questions, call 605-638-8465.
- JULY 19 — Ice Cream Social, 5-7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark St. The community is welcome.
- JULY 21 — Thursdays on the Platz, 6-8 p.m., corner of Market & Main streets. Live music outdoors on Ratingen Platz. Bring the family, have some food and enjoy some local music.
- AUG. 4 — Thursdays on the Platz, 6-8 p.m., corner of Market & Main streets. Live music outdoors on Ratingen Platz. Bring the family, have some food and enjoy some local music.
- AUG. 7 — Pancake Fly-In Breakfast, 8 a.m.-Noon at the Vermillion Airport. Sponsored by The Main Street Center and served by Vermillion Lions Club.
- AUG. 15 — Hy-Vee's Fourth Annual Scramble for SEDDAC, Four-Person Scramble, Noon registration, 1 p.m. shotgun start, prime rib dinner following golf at The Bluffs. Sign up at The Bluffs 677-7058. All proceeds raised go to benefit SEDDAC Foundation.
- AUG. 25 — Thursdays on the Platz, 6-8 p.m., corner of Market & Main streets. Live music outdoors on Ratingen Platz. Bring the family, have some food and enjoy some local music.
- SEPT. 1 — Thursdays on the Platz, 6-8 p.m., corner of Market & Main streets. Live music outdoors on Ratingen Platz. Bring the family, have some food and enjoy some local music.

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.

River provides scenic backdrop for special wedding ceremony

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

The Missouri River has taken a great deal from South Dakotans this year.

Sunday, however, it served a role that was always intended for the people who have chosen to live in the Ponderosa housing development along the river's banks in southeastern Clay County.

That morning, with the Missouri providing a unique scenic element, Ram Ramakrishnan and Janet Brown exchanged marriage vows in a traditional Hindu wedding ceremony held outdoors near the home of Ram's parents, Malathy and Kumoli Ramakrishnan.

The ceremony in such a setting wouldn't have been possible if homeowners in the Ponderosa development hadn't taken action when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was forced to discharge record amounts of water from South Dakota's mainstem dams beginning in late May.

Some who dwell at Ponderosa speculate that the entire development could have been lost — including the Ramakrishnan home and surrounding property along the river bank, had the river dwellers not banded together to hire a barge and a backhoe to secure the banks on their side of the river with tons of rock last month.

All was peaceful Sunday morning as the ceremony began. Guests and family members were seated under a large tent placed on the Ramakrishnan's property that protected them from a light shower that began falling right at about the time the ceremony was scheduled to begin.

Next to the tent was a mandapa, a small canopy, under which Janet and Ram sat as a Hindu priest officiated.

In the background, one couldn't help but observe the Missouri River flowing by. Its record high currents made the channel very visible, and it served as a fitting, beautiful backdrop to Sunday's celebration.

Ram, who was born in India, and Janet, who originally is from Sydney, Australia, met about three years ago at a Harvard Business School function in London, England. Both have their MBA degrees; she attended Harvard Business School and he attended



A Hindu priest officiates at the wedding ceremony of Ram Ramakrishnan and Janet Brown Sunday. The Missouri River, which is in flood stage throughout much of the Midwest, serves as a fitting scenic element in the background.

(Photo by David Lias)

Northwestern Business School.

At a reception held the night before the ceremony at the Buffalo Run Winery near Vermillion, both Janet and Ram expressed deep appreciation to the homeowners and their efforts to hold back nature's fury earlier this month — efforts that ultimately provided a beautiful setting for their wedding.

Both Janet and Ram are especially thankful to be able to exchange vows in the United States, particularly in South Dakota.

"It's always been associated as this amazing place," Ram said. "It's an America where people know each other by name, where you can leave your car door unlocked, where people are really good people."

"It's a place that's close to my heart, and it's where your family is. Wherever I go, this is home," he said.

The day's festivities concluded with a Scottish reception that reflects Janet's ethnic background.

"Both of my parents have died, and my father was Scottish

and my mother was English," she said.

The evening reception included a quail, a traditional Scottish toast. "And my family in Scotland had a special silver quail made engraved for us for this wedding."

To say that the ceremony included a bit of international flair would be an understatement. People traveled to Vermillion from over a dozen countries — from Australia, where Janet's stepmother, Diane Brown, resides, to England, France, Wales and Ireland. People also traveled from India, South Africa, Mexico, the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Turkey, Canada and Columbia.

Sunday morning, Ram wore a kurta and Janet was dressed in a traditional red and gold sari.

"In the evening, to represent the joining of the two cultures," Janet said the night before the wedding, "I will be wearing another sari and Ram will be wearing a suit but with a lamooet tartan, which is my father's clan's tartan in Scotland."

Flood Relief Soccer Camp July 13

The city of Yankton is proud to partner with Chris Houser, of Rethink Soccer, who is a former MLS and National Team player, and Kelly Bass, of Four Directions Counseling Inc., to bring the Flood Relief Soccer Camp to Yankton on Wednesday, July 13, from 9 a.m. to noon at Memorial Park. Chris will be providing soccer skills' training for all ages and skill levels. There is no pre-registration needed and the participants are asked to meet at the large wood shelter on the south side of the park prior to 9 a.m.

Chris Houser, the only professional soccer player to come out of South Dakota, will instruct this free soccer clinic for all ages but will ask for free will donations to be allocated toward the flood relief crisis affecting Yankton County. He will ask that participants make a free will donation, which can be passed on to the flood relief efforts in Yankton County.

Kelly Bass, the founder of Four Directions Counseling, Inc., will donate sessions and services to the communities where children and families have been impacted by the natural disaster, matching the amount that is donated by camp participants.

The city of Yankton will provide all clinic participants with a free

pass to Memorial Park Pool following the soccer clinic on July 13.

Participants are asked to come dressed in soccer gear, bring a soccer ball that is labeled with the player's name and swim gear to change into after the camp.

For more information, call 668-5234.

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116 Market Street, Suite 103
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-5571
vcdc@vermillionchamber.com
www.vermillionchamber.com

Chamber Business:

- Flood Volunteers Still Needed:
 - to help with meals for the National Guard troops. Shifts are available 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. (call 677-5899 to volunteer).
 - for information and updates, visit www.usd.edu/emergency and www.claycountyoeom.org or for additional information, contact the VCDC at 624-5571.
- 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 funds available 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.

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