

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY, MAY 6

- Vermillion Public Library Used Book Sale at Vermillion Public Library, 18 Church St.
- Brown Bag Lunch Program, "All in the Family - Lunch at the Opera," with Jennifer Hendrickson, Tracelyn Gesteland, Thor Gesteland, Brandon Hendrickson & Susan Keith Gray, 12:05 p.m. at the National Music Museum on the USD campus on the corner of Clark & Yale streets.
- Hospital Auxiliary Meeting, 2 p.m. at Care Center Dining Room, 125 Walker St.
- VHS Spring Play Performance, 7:30 p.m. at Vermillion High School.
- Native Graduate Honoring Ceremony, 5-7 p.m. at Al Neuharth Media Center. Recognizing and honoring Native American students and their accomplishments.
- Hooding Ceremony, 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Slagle Hall. Keynote speaker for the USD School of Law 2011 Hooding Ceremony will be Thomas J. Erickson, VP, Government and Industry Affairs for Bunge North America. A reception for the Law Class of 2011 will be held in the Grand Ballroom of Muenster University Center.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

- Vermillion Public Library Used Book Sale at Vermillion Public Library, 18 Church St.
- VHS Spring Play Performance, 7:30 p.m. at Vermillion High School.
- USD Spring Commencement, 9:30 a.m. in the DakotaDome.
- Salad & Sandwich Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the St. Agnes Gym. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. Open to the public. Sponsored by the Friends of St. Agnes and members of the Main Street Center with proceeds to benefit the Center.
- Toby's 40th Anniversary Party, 2 p.m. at Toby's Lounge, 31364 Meckling Rd., Meckling. Fun for all ages - kids games, horseshoes, door prizes and live music.

SUNDAY, MAY 8

- Vermillion Public Library Used Book Sale at Vermillion Public Library, 18 Church St.
- VHS Spring Play Performance, 2:30 p.m. at Vermillion High School.

MONDAY, MAY 9

- Athletic Awards Night, 7 p.m. at Vermillion High School.
- Al-anon meeting, 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner of Main & Linden streets. For more information, call 624-9764.

TUESDAY, MAY 10

- American Legion Auxiliary Wallace Unit #1 meeting, 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizen Center, Vermillion.
- Vermillion Rotary Club, Noon-1 p.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room of the Al Neuharth Media Center.
- Vermillion High School Final Concert, 7:30 p.m. at Vermillion High School.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

- Eagle Riders Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Eagles.
- Spring Fling Dinner fundraiser, 5:30-7 p.m. in the fellowship rooms at the First United Methodist Church of Vermillion, 16 N. Dakota St. Menu: Roast beef, potatoes, vegetables and desserts. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 years and under. The public is invited.

THURSDAY, MAY 12

- Cancer Support Group Meeting, 2:30 p.m. in the Sletwold Room at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark St. Call Marcy at 624-8706 for more information.
- Vermillion Middle School Concert, 6:30 p.m. at Vermillion High School.

PLANNING AHEAD:

- MAY 13 — Brown Bag Lunch Program: "Product Endorsement by Early-American Cornet & Trumpet Soloists, 1900-1950," 12:05 p.m. at the National Music Museum, located on the USD campus, corner of Clark & Yale St. Open to the public at no charge.
- MAY 14 — Clay County Historical Rummage, 7:30 p.m. at the Austin Whittemore House, 15 Austin St. To donate items, stop by the Austin Whittemore House. Mattresses and large furniture cannot be accepted.
- MAY 14-15 — South Dakota Quilt Documentation Project, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 14 and from 1-4:30 p.m. May 15 at the W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion. This is a statewide effort to record quilts in South Dakota that were completed before 1970 and will be available for future research that involves the history of women in South Dakota and Dakota Territory. Quilt owners can bring up to three quilts to be recorded. For further information, contact Mary Fitzgerald at 428-5629. To participate as a Vermillion evaluator, call the museum at 677-5228 or Maxine Johnson at 624-4166 to schedule a time.
- MAY 15 — Vermillion High School Graduation, 2:30 p.m. at the DakotaDome.
- MAY 19 — Vermillion Area Farmers Market, 3-7 p.m. at the Clay County Fairgrounds.
- JUNE 23-25 — 2011 Vermillion Annual Citywide Rummage Sale. Watch your Plain Talk and Broadcaster Press for more details.
- JUNE 27-JULY 1 — Sharing the Dream June Trip to Guatemala: Limit of seven people. Visit cooperatives, schools, the Elder Center, and share with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala. \$1,100 per person (includes everything in Guatemala). Airfare extra. Contact Diane at diane@sharingthedream.org for more information.
- Historic Vermillion Walk hosted by Prairie Wanderers Volkssport Club, Start times: 9 a.m.-Noon; Finish by 3 p.m. Distance: 5K/10K. Start at W.H. Over Museum - trail to go through historic downtown, bike path along Vermillion River and through the USD campus. Pets not permitted at the start point. No "A" award for this event. IVV Credit \$3; Fun Walkers \$2. For more information, contact Duane Neugebauer at 605-734-0115.

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.lia@plaintalk.net.

Dam road closed for extended period

Beginning May 9, the road that crosses Gavins Point Dam, also known as the Crest Road or the spillway, will be closed for extended periods during May and June to allow workers to complete rehabilitation on the powerplant intake crane.

During the rehabilitation process, the road will be closed Monday at 7 a.m. through Friday at 5 p.m. The road will reopen each weekend on Friday afternoon and remain open until Monday morning. This cycle will continue May 9 - 27. The road will be open through the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The closure cycle will begin again on Tuesday, May 31 and continue through the expected completion of the project on June 24.

During the construction period, parks in the downstream area of Gavins Point Dam may be accessed as follows:

Parks South of the Missouri River, including Nebraska Tailwaters and Nebraska's Lewis and Clark State Recreation area (including Weigand and Burbach) - Highway 81 to highway 121 West.

Parks North of the Missouri River including Cottonwood Campground and Day Use areas, Training Dike Recreation area, Pierson Ranch, Chief White Crane and South Dakota's Lewis and Clark Recreation Area (including

Yankton, Gavins Point and Midway units) - Highway 52 West from Yankton.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers appreciates your patience during this construction period.

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Agronomy Operations Newcastle NE

We have seasonal positions open (now to August). Primary duties include delivering fertilizer in single or double axle trucks (5 or 10 speed) and aiding in the day-to-day operations. We offer competitive pay and flexible hours. Must be 18 and have or able to obtain a seasonal CDL permit, or Class B CDL with tank endorsement. A pre-employment drug test is required.

For more information or to apply for these positions contact:
Erik Haglund, Newcastle NE, 402-355-2275



Honoring & Remembering:

Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class James Dwyer

By **Donna Schafer**
VFW Auxiliary President
Clay County Post 3061

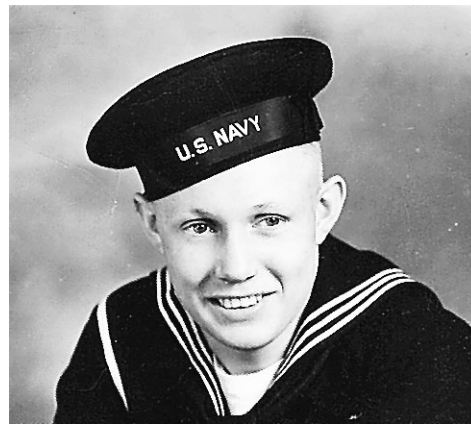
Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class James H. Dwyer was born in Sully County, Onida, on Oct. 1, 1923 to Thomas and Johanna Dwyer.

James (Jim) H. Dwyer was attending Southern Normal College in Springfield when Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941. He left school to take over farming for his brother who had been drafted into the Army. His dad asked him about continuing farming but Jim really wanted to get away, so, his dad rented out the land and Jim went to Omaha, NE and enlisted in the Navy November of 1943.

He went through boot camp at Farragut, ID. When that was finished he was sent to the South Pacific by troop ship to the Island of New Caledonia in the New Hebrides. New Caledonia was formally occupied by the French and a Leper Colony was there.

Jim was assigned along with about 150 other enlisted men and 25 officers and pilots to the Scouting Squadron #57. He was the lone one from South Dakota.

"When we arrived in New Caledonia there were sunken ships in the Harbor. My squadron's job was to look for enemy submarines. There was one that had just been sunk before we arrived, but we were never able to find any submarines ourselves," he said.



JAMES DWYER

Jim was also involved in working on line hanging bombs on SBD Dive Bombers and re-calibrating 30 and 50 caliber machine guns. Each one had to be able to shoot between the propellers without hitting the blades.

"The Armed Services were segregated at that time and I remember that the officers had seven African American Stewards that cooked and served them.

"We heard about President Roosevelt's death on April 12, 1945 while on the island," he said. "Communications were far different than now; no satellites, internet, cell phones and the like. Mail was very slow arriving and of course 'mail call' was a highlight if you got a letter even if it had been censored. You never wanted to mess

with the guy who just got a letter from his wife or girl. Unfortunately many received 'Dear John' letters.

"As the war progressed the Unit was retired and I was shipped out by troop ship to Sand Point, WA. We left everything, equipment, supplies, buildings to the natives," Jim said. "They were very happy to have whatever we would leave. While on the way to the United States we received notice that the atomic bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945. I was a brig guard on this ship."

While he was on leave to South Dakota, Japan surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

"I remember the troop trains. They were something else. Many times when we would stop the townspeople would come with treats for us all. The state of Utah treated us the best," Jim said. "I returned to Sand Point, WA and then was sent to Minneapolis, MN for separation on Dec. 20, 1945 with the rank of Aviation Ordnance Man 2/c."

After his discharge, Jim worked for Northwestern Rail Road for two years. He also worked for Bell Telephone Company. While working for Craig and Jensen Contractors they were building Rural Electric Lines in Eastern South Dakota. In 1949 Jim was employed by Clay-Union Electric as a lineman. He retired in 1984.

Jim and his wife Ardiss have been married for 61 years. They have seven children and 18 grandchildren.

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:

"Business After Hours" hosted by Great Plains Therapy, 1407 East Cherry St., is Tuesday, May 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. Please join us to make new contacts, socialize, and find out what Great Plains Therapy has to offer!

Vermillion Area Job Fair, Tuesday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Armory/Community Center, 603 Princeton St. Businesses are invited to host a booth and meet prospective hires up close and personal. The cost to host a booth is just \$25. Please contact the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company at 624-5571 or at annb@vermillionchamber.com. Reserve your spot by Wednesday, May 4 to be included in the promotional announcements.

Vermillion NOW! Luncheon: We will be holding a Vermillion NOW! update luncheon at Valiant Vineyards Winery on Wednesday, May 18 at noon. The luncheon is open to Vermillion NOW! investors as well as the general public for the purpose of providing an update on progress in the Vermillion NOW! campaign. In addition, we will introduce Mark Gerhardt and John Heemstra from Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) and Josh Svatos from the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) to present information about our next initiative on the need for workforce development to support our target industries. Cost for the luncheon is \$10. Please call the VCDC office at (605) 624-5571 for further details and to RSVP. We look forward to seeing you there!

Food and Fun! Tour de Kota is just over a month away on Thursday, June 9 and we've got fun plans in store for both the

riders and the Vermillion community! Tour de Kota campsite will be located at the USD tailgate grounds, where a variety of food vendors will be set up beginning the morning of June 9 and continuing through the evening. "Poker Alice" will entertain the crowd with live music in the evening. Spread the word, bring your friends and family, and join us for a fun day of great food, entertainment, and socializing. What a great way to kick off the summer!

How to Become More Active in the Community: Are you interested in becoming more active in the community? Join one of the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company's (VCDC) rewarding committees! If you enjoy event planning, the Special Events Committee is for you. This committee works to plan and promote events that the VCDC hosts such as the Annual 4th of July Celebration, the Annual Christmas Celebration and the VCDC Annual Banquet. If you are interested in the legislative issues that affect Clay County and the local businesses the Legislative Affairs Committee would be a perfect fit for you. If you would

like to serve as the goodwill and public relations representative by participating in and attending ribbon cuttings, new business openings, community events, socials, parades and festivals the Ambassador Committee would be an excellent choice. If you are interested in joining or would like more information on one or all of these committees, please contact Ann at annb@vermillionchamber.com or call 624-5571.

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 to 7 p.m. 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.

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.

Announcements:

• "Books for Budding Brains" Drive is running now at Dakota PC Warehouse, 1216 E. Cherry St. through May 15. Books are collected for disadvantaged children with a portion of the books going to families affected by the recent tornado in Mapleton, IA. For more information, contact Liz Roscovius at 605-232-4170 or liz.roscovius@d2ww.com or visit: www.d2worldwide.com.

• The Cafe' Brule' (now open since April 7) located at 24 West Main Street proudly presents an exhibition of artwork by Michele David Mechling, Nancy Losacker and Susan M. Heggstad, now through June 4. Stop by the brand new Cafe' Brule' and view this show by three Vermillion artists. For inquiries about the artists and their artwork, please contact gallery coordinator, Michele Mechling at michele4csg@yahoo.com.

The Vermillion Chamber & Development Company invites Vermillion NOW! investors and the public to the

Vermillion NOW! Update Luncheon

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Valiant Vineyards Winery
1500 W. Main St., Vermillion

Please join us for lunch and an informative update of Vermillion NOW! progress and future initiatives

Program: Workforce Development Needs and Opportunities
Presenters: Mark Gerhardt & John Heemstra, Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) and Josh Svatos, Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC)
Discussing the MTI/RTEC Workforce Recruitment Program and how it can help achieve the goals of Vermillion NOW!

\$10 per person at the door
Please RSVP by May 11 by calling the VCDC at 624-5571

