

# Vermillion Area Arts Council celebrates the holiday with Sharing the Dream

Vermillion Area Arts Council will host a holiday party featuring photographs by Denny Pearson and crafts from Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. The gala is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Washington Street Arts Center. Photographs by Sioux Falls artist Denny Pearson will be on display and for sale, along with a variety of arts and crafts from Sharing the Dream in Guatemala, a non-profit organization that promotes fair trade with cooperatives and small businesses in Guatemala.

Dianne Nesselhuf and Denny Pearson will speak at 7 p.m. Nesselhuf founded the organization in 1996 in order to help Guatemalan women find a market for their products. Pearson first visited Guatemala in 2003 in order to photograph some of the 40 projects Sharing the Dream supports. These include a school, an orphanage and an elder center.

In 2008, Sharing the Dream in Guatemala asked Laura Wilson, a bi-lingual writer, to interview the elders to record their many stories. Pearson traveled again to Guatemala to photograph elders for the book that resulted from the interviews, "Stories of Survival: Mayan Elders Share their Memories." The book will be for sale at the event.

The evening will also feature Latin jazz by saxophone and piano duo, C.J. Kocher and Brad Richardson. There will also be a variety of hors d'oeuvres, desserts and drinks. The event is free and open to the public.



Photos from TOP, CLOCKWISE: Maria Coche Pospoy and Christobal Tacaxoy; Concepción Mendoza Ixtin; and Juana Chicom.



## MATCHING FUNDS



The Vermillion Area Community Foundation (VACF) awards \$1,500 to the Dakota Hospital Foundation (DHF) for the purchase of an automated external defibrillator unit to be matched by the DHF. Pictured are John Storm and Young Moore, both of the VACF, Susan Tuve, DHF president, Jon Christensen, AED project coordinator, and Tom Stogsdill of the VACF.

(Photo by David Lias)

## S.D. students make significant gains on AP exams

More South Dakota students are taking Advanced Placement exams and are performing better on those exams, according to a report recently released by the College Board.

Participation in Advanced Placement exams has risen steadily in South Dakota since 2006-2007, when 1,948 students took at least one AP exam. Last year, 2,481 students took at least one AP exam, an increase of more than 27 percent in five years' time. Those 2,481 students took a total of 4,207 AP exams.

"What's even more impressive is that the number of exams on which students scored a

3 or better increased by 15 percent over the previous year," said Sarah Carter, who oversees Advanced Placement for the state.

Students who receive a score of 3 or better on an AP exam can receive college credit.

The pass percentage for all students in South Dakota was 67.9 percent in 2011, 10 percentage points higher than the national average of 57.9 percent.

"Increasing the rigor of the high school experience and making sure that our students are properly prepared for education beyond high school are extremely important," said South Dakota Secretary of Education Melody

Schopp. "AP is one concrete way we can ramp up the rigor for our students. So, we're excited to see these results."

Schopp credits the increase in the number of AP exam test takers, in part, to the South Dakota Virtual School. Since its introduction during school year 2007-2008, the South Dakota Virtual School has expanded to include a more robust menu of Advanced Placement courses, including a number of AP courses offered to students and districts for free. That allows students in remote areas of the state to access AP resources not available before to them.

## Conservation Stewardship Program offers 'try something new'

Ag producers wishing to improve their conservation management on working lands are encouraged to check into the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The CSP is designed to help producers "step up" management activities addressing natural resource concerns.

Application signup for the Conservation Stewardship Program is ongoing at local USDA Service Centers. CSP

Program Manager, Rod Voss, Huron says, "With CSP, participants select the activities in which they are interested and agree to undertake additional activities that will enhance the environmental performance of their land." Contracts offered run for five years with participants receiving annual payments for conservation performance. "Contracts may include actions such as using GPS technology; increased management of grazing lands or haylands; managing calving dates, or using cover

crops. We have enhancements for controlled release fertilizer, various irrigation-based enhancements, and improved pesticide application management, to name a few," says Voss.

More than 800 CSP contracts are currently in force in South

Dakota and stepping up conservation activities on over two million acres. Contact a local NRCS office for details or visit [www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/](http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/).

## Sharing the Dream in Guatemala enters Chase Community grant competition

Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala invites friends and supporters to join in their quest to win a grant from the 2011 Chase Community Giving program to help the non-profit organization assist an elder center for poor Guatemalans.

Through Nov. 22, Facebook users can go to the Chase Community Giving Page and search for their favorite non-profit organizations. To vote for Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala, simply search for "Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala" and click "like" for Chase Community Giving, then press vote and share. After doing so, the Facebook user can suggest to their friends that they should also help this great organization.

The mission of Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala is to help poor Guatemalans, both young and old alike, by selling hand-crafted fair-trade products made by Guatemalan artisans to customers throughout the United States via sales hosted by individuals and organizations, sales from Sharing the Dream's online store, and sales at the organization's physical location in Vermillion.

Over the years, Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala has been very fortunate to have the support of Vermillion residents in helping those whom the organization serves. Any questions can be directed to Diane Nesselhuf via email at [diane@sharingthedream.org](mailto:diane@sharingthedream.org) or by calling (605) 624-6895.

## OBITUARIES

### Ellen Kessler

Ellen (Adams) Kessler, age 83, of Yankton, formerly of Vermillion, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011 at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton. Mass of Christian Burial was 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011 at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Vermillion, with Rev. John Fischer officiating. Burial was in the Calvary Cemetery, Vermillion. Visitations was one hour prior to the Mass at the church. The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, was in charge of arrangements.

Ellen Kessler was born on May 30, 1928 in Gedesby, Denmark. She married Sigmund Adamczewski on Sept. 10, 1950. In 1959 they immigrated to the United States, settling in rural Vermillion. In 1967 they became U.S. citizens, changing their name to Adams.

Ellen spent her time at home



KESSLER

on the farm. She loved her flowers and garden. Sigmund died in 1987. On June 22, 1991 she married Al Kessler and moved to Yankton. They spent

most of their time traveling to all parts of the U.S. Al died in May 2008.

Ellen is survived by her three children; Helena (Tom) Rezac of Omaha, NE, Steve (Rose) Adams of Elk Point, and Gloria Larson of Tucson, AZ; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, one sister and an infant daughter.

### Sharon Orr

Sharon Rae Orr of Oklahoma City, OK passed away at her home Thursday, Nov. 4, 2011 with her family at their side after a long courageous battle with breast cancer.

Services were held Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011 at 10 a.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 12915 S Santa Fe Ave, Oklahoma City.

Sharon Rae Orr was born on Oct. 12, 1937, daughter of Lowell M and Lois (Gregg) Goodburn at Vermillion. She attended country schools in the Westerville and Gayville area until her mother passed away in 1948 and then moved to Cushing, IA with her father and brother Gary Goodburn. She graduated from Cushing High School.

She married Glenn R Orr on Sept 1, 1957 in South Sioux City, NE. During the 54 years they were married they worked side by side in various businesses and in 2004 they opened the Orr Family Farm where children could come and play. Sharon would say her greatest work was what she

accomplished with her children and her church accomplishments.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints she served as the Primary President and as the President of the Young Women's Organization. In her spare time she enjoyed crocheting and being with her family.

She is survived by her husband Glenn, of the home; her brother, Gary Goodburn of Cushing, Iowa; her children, Lita (Dorian) Jared, Gilbert, AZ; Tom (Debbie) Orr and Terry (Jessica) Orr of Oklahoma City; 14 grandchildren and 3.2 great grandchildren; aunts, Elsie Stibral, Brookings, Bonnie (Duane) Pearson, Sioux Falls; an uncle, Donald (Grace) Gregg of Vermillion, and Delores Gregg, Vermillion.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and one son, Tim Orr. Services were under the direction of John Ireland Funeral Home and Chapel, Oklahoma City. Memorials may be made to the Susan G Komen Foundation, 115 Park Ave. Oklahoma City, "In memory of Sharon Rae Orr."

### Joan "Jane" Stroup


Joan "Jane" Marie Stroup, 80, of Vermillion passed away on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011, at Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

Service will be on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011 at United Church of Christ, Congregational with Rev. Elaine Miller officiating in Vermillion at 11 a.m., with a visitation one hour prior at 10 a.m. Burial will be at a later date.

Following the service, the family would like to extend an invitation to everyone for a time of fellowship at the church.

Visitation will be held at Kober Funeral Home on Friday, Nov. 25, 2011 from 6 to 7 p.m., with a prayer service and video tribute to begin at 7 p.m.

Condolences may be posted online at [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com).



## Early Deadlines

Plain Talk deadline for the November 25th issue will be **Monday, November 21 at 4pm** for all display, classifieds ads & news articles

*Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 24th to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.*

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## FALL CONCERT

**Monday, November 21, 2011**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Aalfs Auditorium in Slagle Hall**  
**FREE ADMISSION!**



This event is partially sponsored by a generous donation from the First Bank & Trust.

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