

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- Brown Bag lunch program, "The Ambassador of Bluegrass," featuring Dick Kimmel from New Ulm, Minn., 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. Support for November's "Free Fridays" admission to the museum is made possible by Bank of the West.
- Debate: McGovern Forensics Tournament at Mitchell (TBA).
- Vermillion High School Fall Show at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 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.
- Oral Interp: Cougar Classic at the University of Sioux Falls (TBA).
- Debate: McGovern Forensics Tournament at Mitchell (TBA).
- Vermillion High School Fall Show at 7 p.m.
- Music Show at Gayville Hall, 502 Washington St., Gayville, "A Celebration of Johnny Cash," featuring John and Susan McNeill, Nick Schwabach and Owen DeJong at 8 p.m. For ticket information, call (605) 267-2859.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- Craft Fair at the Eagles, 114 W. Main St., from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- 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.
- Yankton Honor Band Festival at 7 p.m. (T).
- The Sound of USD's Year End Spectacular featuring USD's marching band at 7:30 p.m. in Slagle Hall AalFs Auditorium on USD campus. Open to the public at no charge.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- Vermillion Rotary Club Meeting from noon-1 p.m. in the Freedom Forum Conference Room of the Al Neuharth Media Center.
- Silver Threads Health and Product Fair from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Area businesses and organizations display and share information with individuals on health, eye and hearing care, physical therapy, home care, senior living, insurances, outreach services, and other topics related to senior aging, planning and retirement. There will be several mini-programs scheduled as well as vendor tables of crafts and other items. Business and vendor space still available. Soups, sandwiches and desserts will be served plus bake sale items. Sponsored by the Main Street Center, 320 W. Main St.

PLANNING AHEAD:

- NOV. 24 — 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.
- NOV. 26-29 — Christmas shopping with the Shepherd Roegiers at USD's Muenster University Center (The "MUC") from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sheepskins, slippers, gloves and more.
- NOV. 28 — The Department of Labor and Regulation will be holding a Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP) at 1024 W. Cherry St. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The JSAP is designed to assist and train job-seekers on how to find and secure employment. Some of the topics included are job search and retention skills, networking, the hidden job market, resumes, applications and proper interview techniques. It is provided at no charge and open to the public. Parties interested in attending should register by calling (605) 677-6900, by Monday, Nov. 26, before 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.sdjobs.org.
- DEC. 2 — Christmas Festival at W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion. For information, call (605) 677-5228 (TBA).
- DEC. 4 — "Beauty and the Beast," will be at the Orpheum at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, call Melissa at (712) 224-6423 or mianpourakis@sioux-city.org.
- DEC. 7 — Parade of Lights, Downtown Vermillion at 6:30 p.m.
- DEC. 8 — 35th annual Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, at 3 p.m. Located north of Vermillion at 30595 University Rd.
- DEC. 12 — The Department of Labor and Regulation will be hosting a Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP) from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 504 River Dr., N. Sioux City. The JSAP is a free workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on moder-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered are: résumé and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. Parties interested in attending should register by calling (605) 242-5445 before 5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10.

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.

School board asked to reinstate tennis program

By David Lias
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The ball is in the Vermillion School Board's court, after hearing public support at its meeting Monday night to reinstate the district's tennis program.

The meeting began with a full house, with nearly every student athlete involved in tennis and their parents sitting in the audience.

The school board, in a budget-trimming move, decided two years ago to no longer fund the sport. It has survived during the last two seasons thanks mainly to private donations and funding.

"Almost two years ago, when the board made the decision to cut the funding for the girls and boys tennis program at the high school, it was more than a 50-year tradition that was threatened. We as parents and players didn't want that to go down easily, so we came to the board and asked if we raised the funds to put back into the budget if you would allow the tennis program to continue, and for the last two seasons, that's what we've done — we've raised the funds," Steve Ford said. "We are coming tonight to begin the process of formally requesting that you add tennis back into the budget."

Ford noted that the Vermillion High School tennis program enjoys widespread local support.

"When we first were made aware of the cut, we began the process of getting the word out. We formed a parents' organization and we decided to put together a local tennis tournament. When we did, we got way more support than we really expected," he said. "Schools across the state that we compete against came to our rescue — some of them raised money at their schools and brought it with them to

the tournament. Locally, we got a lot of support — we've received phone calls from alumni of the tennis program and some who are just concerned citizens.

"That just encouraged us that the tennis program is something significant here at Vermillion High School," he said.

This year, members of the informal parents' organization held a petition drive, gathering signatures of eligible voters in the school district. The petitions ask that the school board reinstate the tennis program.

"We tried to find out how much support there is in the community, and tonight we have 526 signatures that we would like to give you," Ford said.

He said that number is comparable to the total number of people who voted in the last school board election.

"I think it's a pretty good display of public support for the program," Ford said.

"There are a lot of kids on the tennis team that are out for tennis, and that's their only sport," Curt Robinson said. "So, when you cut their sport, you really cut their opportunity. They are not runners — they aren't built like a runner; it would be hard for them to win the 100-yard dash.

"Our goal, I think, in high school athletics is to help participation within our school district," he said, adding that when the school board cuts a sport, it is "choosing which kids don't get to play, which kids don't get the opportunity."

Robinson suggested that the board consider cutting a small bit of funding from other existing sports and using that money to reinstate the tennis program.

"It certainly makes sense to me to cut a little bit from the athletic budget, and keep all of our kids happy," he said, "because they are part of our family, they are part of our school district, and we've found very wide

support. A lot of people wonder why in the world it (tennis) was cut. I think it really comes down to how we support our kids, and there are a lot of kids who would like to continue with the program. I would encourage you to find solutions to keep this in the budget for the school district. I think it's very important."

Vermillion sophomore Jacob Ford spoke on behalf of his tennis teammates.

"I am home-schooled, and four years ago, I didn't really know that many people. I began playing tennis three years ago, and during that time, through tennis, I have gotten to know so many people in such a great way that it's just really blessed me," he said.

Jacob Ford noted that he and his teammates play four to five days a week during the summer, and two to three days a week during the fall.

"I just value those relationships with people with that mutual love of tennis that we all share," he said, "and if that was taken away, I don't know what I'd do. It is just a very important part of my life, and I want to keep that going for the rest of my high school career."

"We basically are just asking that in the upcoming budget for the 2013-2014 school year that you consider putting tennis back into the budget, funded again by the school district," Steve Ford said. "We all understand that you all have a very difficult job ... and that you all care deeply. We understand that you have some hard decisions to make."

The board took no formal action following the presentation.

"Thank you all for showing your support of tennis," School Board President Chris Girard said. "We will certainly take your comments into consideration when we look at the budget for next year."

CHAMBER CHAT

Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company
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Vermillion, SD 57069
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vcdc@vermillionchamber.com
www.vermillionchamber.com

Chamber Business:

Please join Vermillion Ace Hardware for a Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the completion of their expansion and renovation on Thursday, Nov. 15, at 812 Cottage Ave. The celebration with live jazz music, treats and beverages, and a special appearance by Santa Claus will be from 4-7 p.m. and the ribbon-cutting ceremony will be at 5 p.m.

The Special Events Committee for the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (VCDC) is sponsoring the Fourth Annual "Parade of Lights" in Downtown Vermillion on Friday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Vermillion area merchants, businesses, schools and organizations are encouraged to put together a float for the parade. The theme is "The Spirit of Christmas," so get your creativity flowing and enter. Entry forms can be found on the VCDC website, www.vermillionchamber.com, or at the Chamber office at 116 Market St. A trophy and \$25 in Vermillion Bucks will be awarded to the winner. Deadline to enter is

Dec. 3. Inverters to plug lights into your vehicles are available at Dakota PC Warehouse.

At the end of the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus will light the community Christmas tree at Ratingen Platz on Market and Main streets. After the tree lighting, children and parents are invited to the Clay County Courthouse basement for "Stockings for Soldiers," an opportunity to make a free ornament to take home, and to decorate a stocking for a soldier serving overseas, sponsored by the Vermillion Public Library. (Due to the library renovation, the craft will be held in the Courthouse basement.)

Children up to the age of 12 are encouraged to enter a coloring

contest for a chance to have "Lunch with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. at HyVee and meet him before Christmas. Coloring pages will be available at the public schools, HyVee and the VCDC office at 116 Market St. The coloring entries must be received by Nov. 20.

Also on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 12:30-2:30 p.m., free pictures with Santa will be available at HyVee.

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, please contact Ann at:

annb@vermillionchamber.com or at 624-5571.

Announcements:

• Volunteers are needed to help deliver meals for Dakota Senior Meals on an ongoing basis. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you are with a community organization that might be interested in supplying volunteers, call Verna at Dakota Senior Meals at 624-7868.

• Heartland Humane Society's (HHS) Nine Dollars for Nine Lives — help a cat find a home this holiday season by adopting a kitten or cat through Nov. 17 for \$9 at HHS, 601 1/2 Burleigh St. in Yankton. View available animals at www.heartlandhumanesociety.net

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