

CHAMBER CHAT

Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company
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ANN BREITAG

Chamber Business:

The Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 22-23.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony, Business After Hours and Open House Celebration at Cedar County Veterinary Services, 906 E. Cherry St., Thursday, Nov. 29. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be at 2 p.m. and the Business After Hours and Open House Celebration will be from 1-8 p.m. Please join us to make new contacts and meet the Doctors and staff! Cookies and refreshments will be served, along with a Scavenger Hunt Quiz, a "Reindeer" visit, Santa pet pictures, Heartland Humane Society Gift Tree, decorate stockings and ornaments for your pet, demonstrations and door prizes.

Business After Hours hosted by USD Alumni Association at

Carey's, 18 W. Main St., Thursday, Dec. 6, from 5:30-7 p.m. Please join us to make new contacts, socialize, find out what the USD Alumni Association is all about, and view "Pride, Persistence and Progress" the 150-year history of the University of South Dakota by Ann Grauvogl. Cold refreshments and a slice of R-Pizza will be served. Please RSVP at www.usdalumni.com or call 677-6734 by Nov. 30. 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 Web site, 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 Court House 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 Court House 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, December 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, 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.

Dakota Hospital Foundation (DHF) Wreath Decorating Contest. Participants may submit a live or artificial wreath up to 26-inch in diameter decorated to your personal style or theme of choice. Vermillion Bucks prizes for Individual, Business and Best of Show. Decorated wreaths with completed Wreath Contest registration form must be submitted on Wednesday, Dec. 5, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (If earlier drop-off is needed, please call ahead for arrangements). All wreaths entered will be auctioned at the DHF Tree of Lights Open House and Wreath Auction on Thursday, Dec. 6. Social hour at 5 p.m.; auction at 6 p.m. at the Al Neuharth Media Center on USD campus. Registration form and other details can be found at sanfordvermillion.org. All proceeds will assist in funding the new Sanford Arts program at Sanford Vermillion.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 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.

• The AWOL student organization will be holding a Soup Feed Fundraiser event at the Vermillion Armory from 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 pre-sale and \$7 at the door. For more information about his event contact awol@coyotes.usd.edu or call (605) 677-6338. For more information about AWOL visit <http://orgs.usd.edu/awol>.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

• USD Theatre presents "Brigadoon" at 7:30 p.m. at the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. For ticket information, call 677-5400 or visit www.usd.edu/theatre.

PLANNING AHEAD:

• NOV. 30-DEC. 1 — USD Theatre presents "Brigadoon" at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 30 and Dec.1 and 2 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts on USD campus. For ticket information, call 677-5400 or visit www.usd.edu/theatre.

'Counterinsurgency' program planned

The W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership at the University of South Dakota will present the program, "Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan: A Rifle Company in Imam Sahib," by Capt. Christopher L. Mercado, a 2004 distinguished military graduate of USD, at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at Farber Hall inside Old Main.

Mercado has served three years in combat, recently returning from north Afghanistan where he served as a rifle company commander. He led counterinsurgency operations in Imam Sahib and Dast-e Archi Districts of Kunduz Province.

HHS launches BeTobaccoFree.gov

Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced the launch of BeTobaccoFree.gov, a comprehensive website providing one-stop access to the best and most up-to-date tobacco-related information from across its agencies.

This consolidated resource includes general information on tobacco, federal and state laws and policies, health statistics, and evidence-based methods on how to quit.

"Tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of premature and preventable death in the United States," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "BeTobaccoFree.gov builds upon the Obama administration's commitment to help tobacco users quit and prevent children from starting to use tobacco products."

BeTobaccoFree.gov

uses responsive design, making information accessible anywhere, anytime on any platform, from smart phone to tablet to desktop. The Web site's unique social media dashboard, "Say it - Share it," constantly provides real time updates from HHS tobacco-related social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Infographics, Podcasts and Tumblr.

"HHS is committed to using technology to help Americans lead longer healthier lives," said Assistant Secretary for Health Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H. "Today, as we commemorate the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout, the launch of BeTobaccoFree.gov demonstrates our dedication to reducing the harms from tobacco use. Regardless of age, those who stop smoking

and using tobacco can substantially reduce their risk for disease."

During the last three years, HHS increased efforts to reduce tobacco use by coordinating across its agencies, to provide Americans with access to available cessation and education tools. A few key accomplishments include:

- As a result of the Affordable Care Act, most private health insurance plans must now cover

without cost-sharing tobacco use screening and cessation interventions for tobacco users.


- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched "Tips From Former Smokers," a national education campaign that featured former smokers living with smoking-related diseases and disabilities.

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Holiday Early Deadlines
 December 25th Edition
 Deadline is
Thurs., Dec. 20th at 11 a.m.
 The Broadcaster/Plain Talk offices will be closing at noon on Monday, Dec. 24th and closed all day Tuesday, Dec. 25th.

 Happy Holidays from all of us at the...
Broadcaster Press