

New Director Finding Her Footing At Center For Children And Families

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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The Center for Children and Families has a new director and she says she is really enjoying the challenge of her new position.

Amanda Peters took over on September 18. Now a little more than a month into her new role, she says the change has been a great one.

"There has been lots of stuff to learn, but I am starting to get it down now," she said. "I am feeling pretty good about it."

Peters who, along with her husband, has lived in Vermillion for more than four years said she had been working as an accountant at a local firm but didn't feel like it was the right fit for her.

"I enjoyed working there, but it just didn't fit quite right," she said. "So, I decided to look around and see what else was out there. I had applied for the position a year ago when Sarah Sherlock was hired. She had the education background, so she got the position. When she resigned they contacted me and asked if I was still interested and offered me the job. My husband had just been offered a new job as well, so we both started new jobs within the same week. It was kind of scary, but it was good moves for both of us."

The Peters have two small children, ages 4 and 2, and a third due in December. Both of their jobs required travel, so now, with him working at USD and her at the Center she is excited to be able to stay in Vermillion.

"I still do some financial tasks here, as well, so it isn't like I am not using my training, but there are lots



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Amanda Peters is the new director for The Center For Children and Families, bringing an accounting background and a love of children to work for the community.

of other things going on, too," Peters said. "It's pretty interesting."

When asked what changes are going on at the Center, Peters said the biggest is the process of opening a new toddler room and a preschool room completed by the end of November.

"We are working on getting the toddler room and the preschool room finished, which will be a big exciting change for us," she said. "So, we can get more children coming in, transitioning from other rooms. It is going to be nice to see the center full. It is exciting to see it all unfold. We also have a new opportunity

where we are going to do school pictures. Those rooms have been a big focus. Hopefully we will open them by the end of November. We do have to get them approved by the state."

While Peters said because there is a waiting list for enrollment in the Center, she is excited to see it all full and new children come in.

As for the transition, Peters said it has not been hard.

"It hasn't been too bad," she said. "For me, it was learning to let things go because there is so much in this position you could be focusing on. It is challenging for me to figure out what

needs to be done when, and prioritize. But, I feel I am pretty good at those things. It is nice because you are always moving. There is always someone who needs something from a parent to an employee so the day goes very fast. The variety is kind of nice. There are always surprises and variety.

"My favorite thing so far has been seeing how the staff has responded," she added. "They seem like they are very happy to have me here. The kids are great, but the staff has been so helpful and seeing how they come together and handle the problems that may happen. Just seeing that side of things, seeing how great the staff is, has been nice. The teamwork has been nice to see."

Because her children are enrolled at the center, she said it has added an extra bonus to her day.

"Sometimes it is hard to separate mom from the worker," Peters said. "My older one has handled it very well, my second one needed a little separation. I had to avoid him for a little while, but he is getting used to it now. It is nice that I get to see them or if I walk into a room I get a hug. In a way I have some control over their care, which is nice. I know it would be comforting for me as a parent to have me as a parent in charge, because you know they are going to look out for their child and your child."

Overall, she is very glad she made the decision to accept the position.

"It was a big change for me and a lot to learn. But, I really like it," Peters said. "I feel like I fit and I have a lot of purpose here. That is a good feeling."

'Light Up Vermillion' Planned

The Special Events Committee for the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (VADC) is sponsoring the 7th Annual "Parade of Lights" in Downtown Vermillion on Friday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 pm. Vermillion area merchants, businesses, schools and organizations are encouraged to put together a float or entry for the parade. The theme is "Light Up Vermillion", so get your creativity flowing and enter! First, second and third places will be awarded. The entry form is below and can also be found on the VADC website, www.vermillionchamber.com, or at the Chamber office at 1012 Princeton Street. Deadline to enter is November 30.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Set

The Vermillion High School will be having a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 16 at 5:15 pm in the Commons area to celebrate the completion of the High School's \$5.2 million renovation. They will also be having an Open House from 5-7 p.m. Tours will be given and refreshments and appetizers will be available.

Decorating Contest Announced

Dakota Hospital Foundation (DHF) is pleased to announce the 2015 Wreath and Holiday Decorating Contest. Community members are invited to share your creative side and support an amazing cause!

DHF is pleased to expand our annual wreath contest with the ALL NEW Free Style Category. You are invited to submit a wreath or holiday décor item decorated to your personal style or theme of choice. This new category provides for other fun items to be considered; such as center pieces, sprays, gift items, etc.

Decorated items must be submitted with a completed Contest registration form on Monday, Nov. 16 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Participants may bring their holiday item to the Administration entrance at Sanford Vermillion - 102 S. Plum Street. Special arrangements may be made for an earlier drop off if needed.

All holiday décor will be judged on several criteria including originality/creativity, arrangement, theme, and "WOW" factor. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: Best Individual entry, Best Business/ Organization entry and Best of Show. Due to the variety and uniqueness of entries as well as the new category, judges will also have the option to award additional prizes.

All contest entries will be auctioned at the Dakota Hospital Foundation Wreath and Holiday Décor Auction on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at the Vermillion Event Center. Join us from 5-7 p.m. for a lovely evening with delectable hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and socializing. The evening will include new ways for participants to purchase holiday creations followed by a live auction at 6 p.m. All proceeds from this event will support the Sanford Arts Program in Vermillion.

"This is a wonderful event for Dakota Hospital Foundation and the community. The new options this year will add another level of creativity and buying opportunities for all those in attendance," comments Linda Kogel, Vice President, DHF Board of Directors. "DHF is committed to continue its support of Sanford Arts Vermillion. This annual contest and auction provides a wonderful setting for us to share the impact of this incredible program."

Visit us at sanfordvermillion.org/foundation.

Annual Luncheon Planned

Vermillion NOW! annual Luncheon will be held Wednesday, Nov. 18 at the Bluffs Golf Course located at 2021 E. Main Street from noon-1 p.m.

Please join us for an update on the Vermillion NOW! progress and the current economic development efforts in and around Vermillion.

A short program and question and answer session will take place at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Please RSVP to annb@vermillionchamber.com or call 624-5571 by today (Friday, Nov. 13).

Rivalry

From Page 1

because of the timing of the games - usually the second-to-last or last regular season game - it was going to come with added significance.

It just took until year No. 4.

* In 2012, USD came into the game with a 1-9 record, and SDSU 7-3. The Jacks would go on to reach the playoffs.

* In 2013, USD came in with a 4-6 record, and SDSU 6-4. The Jacks would reach the playoffs.

* In 2014, USD took a 2-9 record into the game in Brookings, with SDSU 7-4. The Jacks again reached the playoffs.

This year, however, the Coyotes - who scored an upset win at North Dakota State - have turned a corner.

"Everybody knew that would happen with coach (Joe) Glenn there," SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier said Tuesday. "He's a solid guy, he's had success.

"You build football programs, you don't just snap your fingers."

And that's what Glenn has done in Vermillion.

After a winless conference season (0-8) last year, the Coyotes returned a bulk of its talent this season and has matched its best win total since 2011.

South Dakota State, meanwhile, is in search of its fourth straight FCS playoff appearance, and this year has its eyes on a top-8 seed.

"They're obviously in a position where they want to get a seed, and of course we want to be part of that dance too," Glenn said after Tuesday's practice.

"If we win a couple games here at the end, why wouldn't we think we belong?"

It would be unlikely that USD would get a playoff berth if it went 1-1 over its final two games (it travels to Illinois State next week), so the focus prior to last week's home game with Southern Illinois was winning out.

"Coach said it to us last week, every game at this point is a playoff game," junior quarterback Ryan Saeger said. "It's pretty much win or go home."

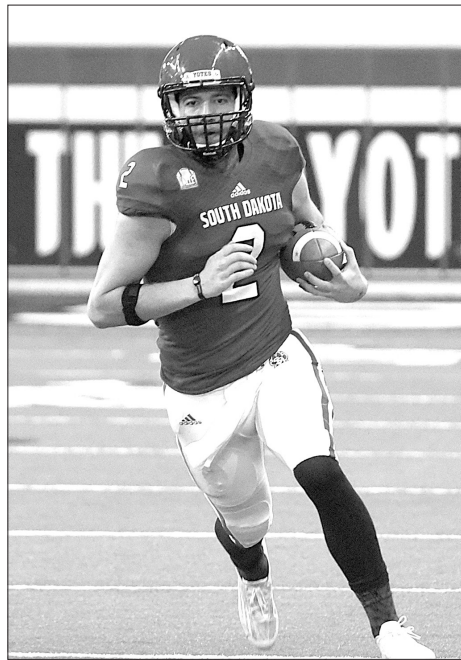
While the Jackrabbits may be favored in Saturday's showdown in Vermillion, they understand that such expectations mean little, according to Stiegelmeier.

"They surely are a better team," he said. "We've been on paper upset by teams that everybody else thinks you're the favorite, and we've been on the other end of that."

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FILE PHOTO

South Dakota quarterback Ryan Saeger hopes to lead the charge Saturday when the Coyotes face their in-state rival South Dakota State. Both teams are fighting for the FCS Playoffs and the game has huge implications for both teams. Kickoff is at 1 p.m. at the DakotaDome.

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Early Deadlines

Plain Talk deadline for the November 27th issue will be **Monday, November 23rd at 4pm** for all display, classified ads and news articles.

Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 26th to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.

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