

Dakota Hospital Farewell And Tree of Lights Open House Set For Tuesday

Dakota Hospital Foundation and Sanford Vermillion are hosting a Farewell Ceremony for the historic Dakota Hospital building and celebrating the future of health care in our community with our annual Tree of Lights event at Sanford Vermillion on Tuesday, December 1st from 5 - 7 p.m. All are encouraged to come celebrate and remember, join in the fellowship and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

The Tree of Lights program provides community members with the opportunity to purchase a light in memory of, in honor of or as special holiday greetings to friends, co-workers or loved ones. The 9-1/2 foot Christmas tree located in the Main Lobby at Sanford Vermillion has been designated for the touching display.

With the excitement of the \$14.2 million dollar facility upgrade in progress at Sanford Vermillion, comes too, the time to bid farewell to the historic 3-story original Dakota Hospital building. The project, initiated in May of this year, is approaching the close of phase one which includes new construction on the east side of the medical center campus. New facilities near completion include a drive-through ambulance bay and upgrades in the hospital emergency department as well as new, centrally located, pharmacy and laundry facilities; both previously housed in the original hospital building.

Phase two will involve separation and demolition of the original building and phase three is expected to begin in the summer of 2016. The project will renovate 10,634 square feet of the current space and will add approximately 17,276 square feet of new construction.

A state-of-the-art outpatient facility with centralized registration and expansion at Sanford Clinic Vermillion will round out the remainder of the construction project.

"The Farewell Ceremony, along with plans for a sculpture and video to memorialize personal experiences, sacrifices and community contributions, is a time for all of us to remember fondly the many life events that have taken place over the past 80 years. It was 85 years ago when the health care pioneers of our community perceived a need for a local hospital staffed by professional health care workers and changed the health care landscape in Vermillion. We need to remember those efforts and carry on the tradition of excellence in providing the Vermillion area the finest available care in new and innovative ways," said Tim Tracy, CEO, Sanford Vermillion

"The Dakota Hospital Foundation board of directors is, of course, very excited about all the upcoming improvements and upgrades happening on the medical center campus. It's been a project that we knew was crucial for the community to move forward. With the changes, we also want to make a special effort to reflect and recognize the people (and structure) that served so importantly in the care and lives of so many of our community," said Kevin Myron, president, Dakota Hospital Foundation.

"We have been so pleased to have so many people share their memories and stories related to the old Dakota Hospital. I look forward to the additional stories we will hear at the farewell and celebration ceremony! I hope everyone takes this opportunity to come and share their memories with us," concluded Myron.

For more information on the Tree of Lights project or to purchase lights visit sanfordvermillion.org/foundation.

4-H RECOGNITION AWARDS



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are current Clay County 4-H Leaders – the ones who make the 4-H Program work! Front left to right: Liz DeVelder, Margaret Williams, Connie Lovett, Pam Hanson, Mike Rolfes, Matt Knutson. Second left to right: Brad Waage, Jerami West, Liv West, Sharron Jensen, Shelly Hauck, Sheree Christensen, Kim Nelson. Back left to right: Chad Passick, Craig DeVelder. Not pictured Kathy Heles, Patty Waage, Jen Hauger, Andrew Jensen, April Noteboom, Harrison Hawley and Cheryl Havermann.



COURTESY PHOTO

The 4-H Meritorious Service Award is presented to individuals or businesses that have continually given outstanding support and dedication to the Clay County 4-H Program. Julie Fallan, Vermillion and Ron Johnson, Centerville were presented their awards at the 2015 4-H Recognition Event on November 15.



COURTESY PHOTO

Blaine Schoellerman and Beth and Mark Bottolfson received the Friends of 4-H Award at the 2015 4-H Recognition Event.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Alumni Award is presented to former Clay County 4-H members who have given back to the 4-H Program. Recipients were Nick Heine, Stacy Hubert and Donny Stewart (not pictured).

VCDC Announces New Chamber Manager

On Tuesday, November 24th, the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company announced that Lindsey Peterson was hired as the new Chamber Manager. Lindsey moved to Vermillion last year with her husband and children after her husband was hired as an assistant Men's Basketball Coach under Craig Smith. She has experience being a head volleyball coach at Williston State College, in Williston, ND. She has also been the manager of a brand new 250,000 sq. ft. community recreation and aquatic center in North Dakota.

Nate Welch, VCDC Executive Director said, "We were very lucky to have a number of qualified and capable applicants in this important position, but Lindsey's resume and personality kept rising to the top of the list as we look at what we want the Chamber to be. She is extremely talented and capable of helping us raise the Chamber to the next level."

Lindsey will replace Ann Breitag, who announced her retirement from the position earlier this fall, after the Vermillion Area Chamber recorded its highest growth in membership in more

than ten years.

Peterson says, "My family and I have loved moving to Vermillion and getting involved in the community. I can see many similarities in the experiences I have had with engaging communities and a community as special as Vermillion. I am so excited to be working for an organization like the VCDC."

Lindsey will officially begin her duties at the VCDC offices on December 7.

For more information please call the VCDC office at 605-624-5571.

Veterans

From Page 1

problems such as substance abuse," Simunek said. "Also they can do the single item donations or donate what we call the buddy baskets. It's essentially a laundry basket full of household items and goods that people are in need of that you wouldn't necessarily think of every day but those little numbers add up. They donate in different ways. Some Legions do a combination. They'll do buddy baskets, single item donations and gift cards depending on what works for them. I know we have done a combination for all four years."

The variety of ways to donate is especially helpful in Simunek and Ben's opinions because people can donate in whichever manner is easiest for them.

"A lot of people who it's harder for them to move around, some of the elderly people, they usually donate a check by mailing that in because it's quicker for them," Simunek said. "They know they're doing something to give back but they don't have to get up and do a lot in order to contribute. Something that's great about this particular drive is there's a lot of ways to give back to our Veterans and none of them are any less credible than another."

"Last year we had a community member who were downsizing their house and called me," Ben remembered. "They said they had a lot of items that were given to them over the years that were either new or gently used and quite usable. I enlisted a friend of mine who had a truck. They had it all in an area in their house. We picked it up and took it to the Broadcaster's."

A desirable aspect of this drive is the funds and goods stay local.

"Anything that is not kept at the legion for long-term use or the VSO office such as these gift cards will go to the Berakhah house," Simunek said. "It's the Sioux Falls drop-off location. That is a great facility because



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

(L-R) Autumn Simunek, Miss South Dakota; and Marie Anne Ben, Immediate Past President, American Legion Auxiliary, Wallace Unit #1; presenting gift cards for veterans to Cynthia Aden, Veterans' service officer; and Teddi Gertsma, American Legion Auxiliary member.

Veterans from all of the surrounding area pass through there."

The initiative has seen much success so far.

"It's something that I've worked very hard on to build up and it's in communities all throughout South Dakota," Simunek

said. "Just three days ago I was in Spearfish and we put together tons of buddy baskets and we took them to the mission where the

Veteran's military members were staying who are currently homeless or passing through into transition housing. All this is for them. Thus far going into our fourth year we've been able to raise over \$45,500 for military men and women and their families in need. It's successful I'd say."

To contribute a "Buddy Basket" to the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive, you can follow the following recipe:

Assemble a laundry basket/waste basket filled with paper towels, laundry detergent, household cleaners, rubber gloves light bulbs, dust pan w/hand brush, flashlight/batteries, shower curtain w/rings, bath towel set, bathroom tissue, dishes, eating utensils, dish soap, dish towel set-frosted with clear wrap/bow and greeting tag

Substitute or single household and essential

items include bed sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, small appliances, alarm clock, hygiene products, warm apparel, socks and gift cards.

For monetary donations make checks payable and mailed to: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1, Attn: Vets Relief Drive, c/o Marie Anne Ben, 16 E. Bloomingdale St., Vermillion, SD 57069.

For more information: autumn.simunek@misssd.org; 605-890-3093.

Vermillion drop-off locations include the Broadcaster/Plain Talk, 201 W. Cherry St.; Main Street Center, 320 W. Main St.



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