

CHAMBER CHAT

Chamber Business:
Wednesday, Sept. 10
We're happy to welcome Dr. Mitch Driscoll to Siouxland Dental Health. He is an experienced dentist committed to offering quality dental care. Please join us for an Open House and Business After Hours at 117 E. Cherry, on Wed., Sept. 10 from 5pm-7pm. Enjoy appetizers and beverages as you tour our office. Everyone is welcome to stop by and meet Dr. Driscoll and his dental team!

Thursday, Oct. 9
Please join us for a Ribbon Cutting, Open House and 2nd Anniversary Celebration at the Old Lumber Company Grill and Bar, 15 Court St., on Thurs., Oct. 9. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be at 5:15 pm and the Open House celebration will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to stop by and help them celebrate! Refreshments will be served.

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 5:00-7:00 pm on a weeknight and the hosting business provides hors d'oeuvres and refreshments

Announcements:
*Volunteers needed for Ribs, Rods, & Rock 'n Roll, Fri. & Sat., Sept. 5 & 6 to assist in following areas: Set-up & Tear Down, Registering Cars, Information Booth/Peopl's Choice, Kids Area, Garbage, Security, Carder/Wristband/Beer Tokens. Contact Kathy Peckham at: Kathy.Peckham@usd.edu

*Tanager Volunteer Day: Hello Vermillion Community! I am writing today to offer the services of Vermillion High school students to volunteer in/for your organizations/business/groups on September 17. Our students look forward to this day all year. This year marks the 6th Annual Tanager Volunteer day. Thus far, our plans include a full day of work starting around 8:45 am and ending around 3:00 pm. Again this year, we will work in groups of 12-15 students. We can make the groups bigger or divide them if needed. Please dare to challenge our students. We can accomplish many things in a short time. Tanager students enjoy cleaning, painting, vacuuming, planting trees, scrapping paint, or almost any task you need completed. Also, please spread the word to other groups you might be affiliated with that need assistance. We will bus students to and from your location. We also provide a lunch for the students around the noon hour, but will return them to you as needed for work. Please let me know how many volunteers you need, the time you need them, and an idea of the work students will complete. This activity is a kick off to our Tanager Homecoming week. Thank you for all you do for Vermillion schools. Let us give back to you in service!

This year we are also looking for a few more sponsors for our Volunteer Day t-shirts.
Please let me know if you would be interested in donating any amount for the big day. Lenni Billberg
*Volunteer opportunities for Red Earth Food Coop members & Vermillion community members: Ribs, Rods, & Rock 'n Roll (Sept. 5-6) and Red Earth Harvest Fest (Sept. 20). To sign up, visit: <http://vols.pt/1T8oh7> or email: info@redearthcoop.com
*Vermillion Area Community Foundation (VACF) updated grant application information: Beginning this year, there are only two grant periods: The second Thursday in April and the second Thursday in October. Grant applications for the second session are due by Sept. 15. Grant guidelines can be found at: <http://vermillion.sdcommunityfoundation.org> or applications can be picked up at the VCDC, 116 Market Street.
*Shakespeare exhibition:

"And There's the Humor of It"-Shakespeare and the Four Humors, a National Library of Medicine (NLM) traveling exhibit hosted by The University Libraries at USD, now through Sat., Sept. 13. Exhibit on display on the second floor in L.D. Weeks library & is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Danielle Loftus, 605-677-5123 or email: dloftus@usd.edu.

*The Clay-Union Foundation is actively seeking board members — 3 adults in Clay county, as well as 3 USD student reps who are at least sophomores. Open county also needs 2 board members in southern Union County. Meetings alternate between Elk Point and Vermillion, and meet 5-6 times per year. The board members provide input on youth mentoring and how to help youth. The program is supported by local donations from businesses, organizations and individuals. Youth age 5-17 and adult members are also being sought throughout both counties for matches. For more information contact John Gille at 605-421-5050, or email jgillersd60@yahoo.com

*Game on Tanager Fans: now through Homecoming on Fri., Sept. 19 the Vermillion Athletic Booster Club (BC) is hosting a TANAGER SPIRIT COMPETITION for local businesses.

Show your support for student athletes by decorating your store front-window paints, flags, banners, etc. are all encouraged. The only limit is your own creativity. BC officers will judge & prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places with winners announced at BC Homecoming Pregame Party.

This Week's Happenings:
Friday, September 5
• Don't miss the 10th annual Ribs, Rods, and Rock 'n Roll, Fri., Sept. 5th & Sat., Sept. 6th in downtown Vermillion. Rib fest food court, sidewalk vendors, car show, family fun area and more. For more information, visit: www.sdbbq.us

• Google to visit the National Music Museum (NMM), Fri., Sept. 5 to officially launch NMM's new 'digital gallery' on the Google Cultural Institute. Google will host a public presentation of NMM's online exhibit & demonstration of the Google Cultural Institute platform @ 10:00 am, with remarks from SD Secretary of Tourism James Hagen.

• Girls Soccer: West Central, Fri., Sept. 5 @ 5:00 pm (T)
• Football: Chamberlain, Fri., Sept. 5 @ 7:00 pm (T)

Saturday, September 6
• Eagle Riders 7th Annual Charity Poker Run, Sat., Sept. 6-rain or shine! Driver: \$25; Rider: \$10 (includes t-shirt). Prizes for top poker hands-\$5/additional card. Breakfast/registration @ 8:30 am; kickstands up @ 10:30 am; prizes, music, & ribs @ 4:00 pm. Sponsored by Vermillion Eagle Riders, E.O.E. #2421, 114 W. Main St. For more information: 624-9934; www.eaglesclub.us

• Volleyball: Luverne, MN, Sat., Sept. 6 @ 9:00 am (T)
• Vermillion Area Farmers Market, Sat., Sept. 6, 9:00-12:00 pm at Ratingen Platz, downtown Vermillion, corner of Market & Main St. For more information, call 605-659-3399 or e-mail: VAFarmersMarket@gmail.com

• Overeaters Anonymous: Sat., Sept. 6 @ 9:00 am. Location: Newman Center - USD Campus, 320 East Cherry - across from the MUC at the corner of Rose & Cherry Streets. (West Door - straight through double glass doors on left & first door on left; North Door- down hall to left & first door on left). Description: Overeaters Anonymous is a 12 step program for people with eating disorders and struggles.

• Student Tailgate: USD vs William Penn-PAW POINTS, Sat., Sept. 6, 10 am-1 pm @ Dakotadome. Game time @ 2:00 pm
• Boys Soccer: Chamberlain & Custer at Chamberlain, Sat., Sept. 6 @ 2:00 & 4:00 pm

Diversions program spreads it's influence of second chance

By Alan Dale
alan.dale@plaintalk.net

Last spring the Vermillion Police and the Clay County Sheriff's Departments teamed up and decided to give some underage drinkers a chance to fix a problem.

They decided that University of South Dakota college students whose sole offense is a minor in possession or consumption had a "second chance" opportunity to rectify his/her name after making one bad decision.

Thus began the Underage Alcohol Violation Diversion Program last spring.

"The program was an effort between local law enforcement and USD student government to bring forward a good Samaritan type bill that would give those who are ticketed a second chance."

Only those who have been convicted with any other offense – DWI, assault, vandalism, etc. – are not eligible for the program.

At first the concern was an abuse of these types of good will movements and yet Vermillion Chief of Police Matt Betzen and the sheriff's office had a chance to model a program after the 24/7 Sobriety Program used for diversion studies.

That program has one main goal for each DWI defendant and that is sobriety 24 hours per day and seven days per week. It started as a pilot program in January 2005.

So for USD students it became a different version of the 24/7.

Betzen said students who had something to lose – effecting

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VERMILLION POLICE CHIEF MATT BETZEN

potential job placement or advanced certification in a career field – would be more inclined to enter following a police pick up for an underage, alcohol offense.

To enter the program, a ticketed person has to pay \$120 for the two-month period.

For 60 days, these offenders would have to check in twice a day – between 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m. – and if they can complete the program successfully, the ticket is not filed.

Fail and the ticket goes down on permanent record.

"What we see with underage drinking is that they get their ticket for \$114 fine and 30-day license suspension and they still are reoffending again," Betzen said. "There is a culture within our culture where they are told they can not drink until they turn 21 and it is a rite of passage to drink with a lot of the peer pressure out there to participate.

"In a sexual offense or felony assault in a college town we usually find that someone involved is drinking."

The hope is to collect numbers from the program and see if there is general reduction in recidivism than those not in the program. At that point the program could set

the tone for a look at a statewide program using this method of rehabilitation.

"After talking with USD student government we wanted something where we could have a program that if you hadn't been convicted of underage consumption or violation, then we would be willing to entertain not filing that charge if they could remain sober for 60 days," Betzen said.

Last spring semester four people signed up with two passing and two withdrawing.

"Part of the issue with the first couple of months was that our rollout came in April with school ending the first full week of May," Betzen said. "Sixty days meant they had to stay in Vermillion-area. We could only do it in Vermillion at this point since it's a pilot program. Some have to go home for jobs or personal commitments.

In the early goings of this new semester five people have enrolled and "numerous people have called in about the program," according to Betzen.

"Now, I am guessing, there are more people that feel it's more doable because people are here for the next 60, 90, 120 days going to school anyway," he said.

Spirit time for Tanager fans

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

It's game time for the Tanagers and the Vermillion High School Athletic Booster club has some fresh new ideas to get the community involved.

For the first time ever they are holding a Tanager spirit competition from now until Homecoming which is set for Sept. 19.

Local businesses are encouraged to decorate their store fronts in support of Tanager student athletes and Jim Peterson, President of the Booster Club, is helping bring this idea to light.

"We've never done this before, we just said hey, let's do a competition," Peterson said. "We sent [information] out to the chamber who sent it out to the chamber members. We sent it to select businesses.

"We'll give out prizes, first second and third once we come up with the criteria."

Specific criteria for judging wasn't determined but Peterson said they are refining the process as they go along.

Flags, window paint, banners and BBQ's are only some things locals may look out for during this competition.

"Depending on the way a business chooses to do an event they may get more exposure," Peterson said. "They may want to do a cookout or something special or they might want to do something for people to come look at like a window display.

"The [businesses] we've talked to seem to think it's a good idea. Will they be supportive? Yes. Usually you just need to ask."

Winners will be

announced at the Homecoming pregame party which will take place at Howler's Bar and Grill, 912 N Dakota St., on Sept. 19 from 5-6:30pm.

"We're going to do more," Peterson said. "The spirit week was an idea other communities do and we thought we'd involve businesses and the community more to show their support. We'll see how it engages and hopefully make it an annual event and then expand on that."

As there is no limit to creativity in this contest, there is also no limit in the Booster Club's desire to 'do more' for their student athletes.

"The boosters have really picked up and run with the ball so to speak," Shannon Fairholm, also a member of the Booster club, said. "They are on

fire. They have come up with some real cool and exciting stuff to raise money."

Fairholm, whose son is a member of the Tanager football team, said that part of the money raised by the Booster Club is currently being used to put up an electronic sign in front of the school.

"We ask what they need most and then prioritize," Peterson said.

Peterson's own son no longer attends Vermillion High School but that never stopped him from remaining a Tanager supporter.

"Even though he graduated I stayed involved," Peterson said. "I had fun and also I'm trying to make a difference."

Anyone interested in joining the Booster club or for more information can visit gotanagers.com.

Homecoming going off with a bang

By Randy Dockendorf
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Even before the opening kick-off, Vermillion High School's homecoming celebration will find plenty of fireworks.

The City Council unanimously approved Tuesday night a fireworks public display permit after the Sept. 18 coronation ceremonies.

State law requires approval from the governing body of the municipality where the public display is to be fired.

VHS principal Curt Cameron requested the permit in a letter to the city council. Plans call for a fireworks display during Tanager Week.

Tom and James Taylor will conduct the 10-15 minute show, which will be held between 8-9 p.m. in the practice field south of the high school.

Fire Chief Richard (Shannon) Draper reviewed the site for the proposed fireworks display. City Manager John Prescott will contact local veterans' groups to make them aware of the display time and date.

The coronation is set for 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18 at Vermillion High School.

The football game against Tea Area is set for 7 p.m. Sept. 19.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.plaintalk.net



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