

## ‘Greek Week’ set for Sept. 15-19

By Alan Dale  
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It is about community and togetherness.

Well, it’s also about a little one upmanship too.

The annual University of South Dakota ‘Greek Week’ is set to take off on Monday and run through Friday, Sept. 19 as members of the eight fraternities and four sororities take part in a yearly rite of passage.

What comes from it – philanthropy and togetherness – overrides the typical stereotypes of out for blood, Greeks wanting to take the other out.

This is more about the reality of what they stand for and hope to achieve avoiding many of the fairy tales depicted in film or television.

“It’s a very strong tradition on this campus,” Laura Roof, Coordinator of Sorority/Fraternity Life and Leadership, said. “A few years ago we moved it from the spring to the fall with the intention that new members could feel really engaged in the community.

“We focus on what Greeks do best and our core values, and then try to have activities that run across those lines in some way.”

There are a handful of competitions that the houses will do battle in, highlighted by Thursday’s blood drive. The blood bank cars will be placed in front of the Muenster University Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is open for everyone to take part in and Greeks will use the drive as one of their competitions to see who has the higher percentage of donors get involved.

It is the highlight of the week as one of the bigger philanthropies of the season.

So far the fall Greek Week has been scheduled for a few weeks into the school year. It gives officers enough time to plan and allow for the event to have its ‘own time,’ according to Roof.

“The students really enjoy coming to it, it’s just about making sure the students can get it on their calendar,” Roof said. “It’s a great way for students to come together where they might not normally have that opportunity.

“We have about 800 students in the community so these events are for the entirety of it.”

Shelby Beer, USD’s president of Panhellenic, says it is a highly anticipated time for the sorority members.

“It’s a really exciting time actually and it’s friendly competition,” Beer said.

“Everyone gets together with friends from the other sororities and get to grow as a chapter themselves. They bond with the new members who just joined so it’s a really good experience for everyone all the way around.

“I know our Greek Week chair is really excited and working night and day to get things ready to go.”

Yes, the guys get into the one-on-one competition between houses, but it’s kept in perspective.

“Guys get excited over the competition element,” Pi Kappa Alpha and Interfraternity President Brent Ohlinger said. “The community has grown a lot during my time here. I have seen it become a more healthy competition as well. We don’t take it too seriously where if we lose it’s not the end of the world. We may razz the other team jokingly, but it’s not cut throat.

“It’s more about the philanthropy and getting to know others in the community,”

Because of the closeness in proximity to the houses and their relatively small number, the USD Greeks realize they need the other houses sometimes as much as they need their own.

“Our campus is smaller and we do really rely on each other and have grown toward that the past four years,” Ohlinger said. “We might have disagreements over the years, but we remind ourselves we all have one purpose. At the end of the day we are all Greek and have mostly the same values.”

2014 USD Greek Week Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 16 — 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Presidents Dunk Tank; 5 – 7 p.m. Chalking of the Crest

Wednesday, Sept. 17 — 6 – 7 p.m. Sand Volleyball (at Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Beta Theta Pi houses); 8 – 9 p.m. Power Puff Football (at DakotaDome)

Thursday, Sept. 18 — 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Blood Drive; 8 p.m. Greek God and Goddess

Friday, Sept. 19 — 5 p.m. All Greek dinner at Prentiss

For more information contact 605-677-5666 or greek@usd.edu

# School District gains 27 students over 2013-14

By Randy Dockendorf  
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The Vermillion school district currently enrolls 1,236 students, up 27 from last year.

Superintendent Mark Froke presented the information during Monday night’s school board meeting.

The 1,236 figure was recorded Aug. 29, Froke said. The number could fluctuate before the Sept. 26 count date – the last Friday in September -- used for determining state aid, based on enrollment.

“We have 1,236 students on our unofficial count. Let’s hope the numbers hold true,” he said. “Last year, the number we had on our count date was 1,209, so we’re up 27 students.”

If the current enrollment increase holds up, the Vermillion school district stands to gain more state aid than last year.

Districts with more than 600 students, such as Vermillion, will receive \$4,781 per student in state aid for 2014-15, according to the South Dakota Department of Education website.

The 1,236 students would represent state aid of \$5,909,316. Of that figure, the additional 27 students would present a \$129,087 increase in state aid.

In his report, Froke offered the school board a breakdown of the various grade levels and attendance centers.

The enrollment figures appear

promising in future years, he said.

“We have 23 in pre-school, and we have 24 capacity,” he said. “Those numbers aren’t used for state aid, and the parents pay tuition for it.”

The trend continues in the lower grades, he said.

“The numbers through elementary (grades) are quite positive,” he said. “We have 18 and 20 at the kindergarten level, and first grade has 22 and 23 students. It’s a little higher (for classroom size) than I prefer to see, but it’s still manageable.”

The figures take a slight dip at Vermillion Middle School, he reported.

“The middle school has 290, which is a little down from last year,” he said. “That includes the 12 from St. Agnes who made the transition from fifth grade to sixth grade.”

School board member Dave Stammer noted enrollment differences among the Vermillion Middle School classes.

“At the middle school, the eighth grade compared to the sixth grade,



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there’s a difference of 15 or 16 students,” he said.

Vermillion High School enrolls 377 students, Froke said. VHS graduated 75 seniors last spring while welcoming 105 freshmen this fall.

“It’s always nice to report enrollment that’s increasing,” the superintendent said. “I hope we can maintain those numbers.”

## Beef industry is the minority in Clay County

By Katie Clausen  
For the Plain Talk

Strolling towards the deli case at the grocery store often induces a yearning for a juicy steak, or the relief of a quick and trusted ground beef dish.

Now it seems there is a new emotion that can be found haunting the beef aisle at the supermarket: sticker shock. The cause of the dramatic increase in prices is the reduction of livestock numbers across the U.S., and while Clay County is no stranger to this event, there could be different reasons why local livestock production is down.

Nationally, beef herd cutbacks in 2012 and 2013 were due to drought.

Because droughty conditions damaged pasture lands and reduced feed availability, producers sold their herds. With fewer animals in production, prices have become higher for beef. However, the landscape around the Vermillion area has been

morphing into less fence lines of cattle since before livestock numbers started decreasing nationally.

Burbank native Becca Hawley was able to give more insight into the reasons why local beef production is down, citing that young producers are out of the loop when it comes to livestock production.

“I noticed at SDSU that a lot of students who grew up on the farm were taking farm electives, but majoring in other areas such as accounting.” Hawley noted. “Moving to town is probably a lot of it. For example: I knew I wanted to come home to the farm, but it was a big risk.”

Hawley is a Clay County native who returned after completing her coursework at South Dakota State University last December. Her focus is on cow-calf pairs.

When Hawley was asked about how agriculture and livestock production could be improved upon, Hawley

had two points.

“Education-wise, I wish we had more programs such as FFA,” she said. “Other students in other areas of South Dakota have early agriculture education. There are also not a lot of programs for young producers.”

Unique to the Vermillion area, as well as among other agriculture circles, Hawley returned from college with the intent on returning to the livestock business. She has been able to do so and now is managing her own livestock herd.

According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, Clay County livestock sales dropped 2 percent from 2007. In a ranking of the 66 counties that make up South Dakota, Clay County ranked 66th in cattle and calf production in 2012.

While Clay County’s beef production declines, the state of South Dakota has seen an increase in beef production since 2008. Currently, South Dakota

ranks 8th in the nation for beef on feed, according to the USDA.

A healthy livestock market can and does contribute to the economy. The diversity of cropping and livestock systems in Clay County brings in diverse revenue, and attracts different types of spending in the economic environment as well. On a greater scale, the National Dairy Development Board estimates that livestock production contributes to almost 4% of the national GDP.

Although beef prices at the super market are not directly reflective of local production, Vermillion and surrounding communities may be impacted financially by these changes. As the back-bone structure of local farms change, the economic contribution of local agribusiness will change as well. There are roughly 461 farms in Clay County alone. As they change, so will the public.

## OBITUARIES

### L. Austin Shelton

LAGUNA WOODS, Calif. — Rev. L. Austin Shelton, Laguna Woods, CA, went to be with the Lord in his sleep on August 23, 2014, at age 87.

Louis Austin was born on July 28, 1927 in Shreveport, Louisiana to Benjamin Lee Shelton and Hazel Mae Russell and lived in Hatfield, Arkansas before moving to Weed, California when he was nine years old. After enlisting in the Navy and serving on the USS South Dakota until the end of World War II, Austin attended Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri to prepare for the ministry in Assemblies of God churches. This is where Austin met his future bride, Bonnie Mae Curry from St. James, Minnesota.

They pastored in Vernonia, Oregon before moving to Vermillion, South Dakota, where they raised their family and pastored the Assembly of God Church from 1959 until their retirement in 1994. Austin enjoyed family, friends, gardening, playing sports, and hunting pheasants in the cornfields of Clay County. He also

served on the Vermillion Public School Board of Directors. Earning his Doctorate degree in Educational Psychology in 1968 from the University of South Dakota, Austin worked as a school psychologist in Woodbury County, Sioux City, Iowa in addition to pastoring the congregation.

After retirement, Austin and Bonnie traveled to work in an international school in Istanbul. They valued visiting children and grandchildren in Turkey, Scotland, Iowa, Colorado, Arizona, and Oregon; and traveled to Glasgow and Istanbul as recently as the summer of 2013.

Austin is survived by Bonnie, wife of 62 years, 3 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson: Janice Johnson (Roger & Matthew), Kingman, AZ; Kristel Kennedy (Tom & Caitlin, Lauren), Glasgow, Scotland; Marc (Kelly & Jennifer/Eric/Jack Austin, Ben/Abby, Emily), Newberg, OR; and Camille Lentz (Steven & Jason, Rachel/Jon, Sarah, Nicolas), Istanbul, Turkey.

The funeral service for Rev. L. Austin Shelton was held on Friday, August 29, 2014, at the O’Connor Mortuary Chapel in Laguna Hills. Interment was at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego, CA, on Thursday,

September 4, 2014.

The service for Rev. L. Austin Shelton can be viewed during the next year by linking to the archives on the Event by Wire website: <http://app.eventbywire.com/viewevent?id=036-706> (you will need to install Silverlight to view: <http://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight>). The family invites friends to post comments and photos on the tribute wall on the O’Connor Mortuary website: <http://www.oconnormortuary.com/obituaries/Austin-Shelton/>

### Young Moore III

Young Moore III, 94, of Vermillion died Friday, 5 Sept. 2014 in Sioux Falls, SD.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, Sept. 10,



Moore

2014, at the United Church of Christ Congregational in Vermillion with Rev. Steve Miller officiating. Burial will be in the family plot at Stony Point Cemetery, Clunette, IN.

Mr. Moore was born Feb. 11, 1920, in Indianapolis, IN, to Young and Carrie (Price) Moore. His education included a BGE from the University of Omaha and an MBA from the University of South Dakota. He was inducted into the Army as a Private in April 1943 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in Dec. 1967. After his retirement he spent 13 years in a second career as Facilities Planning Director at the University of South Dakota.

He was active as an adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America for about 40 years, serving Sioux Council as President for three years and over 30 years on their

Board of Directors. He served in a number of positions of responsibility in his local church and the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ. He was involved over the years in a number of community wide activities in Vermillion, including the Vermillion Area Community Foundation and the University of South Dakota Foundation.

He married Gwendolyn McCormick on Nov. 17, 1948, in Indianapolis, IN. They were married for almost

56 years, until her death in Oct. 2004. He is survived by his son Gordon and his wife Marie of Syracuse, IN, and a daughter Susan and her two sons James and Joseph of Fort Worth, TX.

Memorials may be sent to the UCCC Trust Fund in Vermillion.

Kober Funeral Home of Vermillion is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be posted online to [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com)

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