

# Area Arts Council Gives Back

BY SARAH WETZEL  
For the Plain Talk

The Vermillion Area Arts Council held its annual meeting last Friday which included a free concert by folk artist Jami Lynn.

As part of the business conducted, YoungAe Kim, Terry Hill and Phyllis Packard were elected to the VAAC board.

Before the elections Michele Mechling, Art Education board member, gave a presentation of the VAAC's activities in the past year as well as a preview of current plans for the upcoming year.

"It's been an exciting year so far," Mechling said. "It took us awhile to get our legs on and we did."

Part of the activities of the past year included renovation of the Washington Street Arts Center itself which is still in need of work.

"If you'd like to take a few minutes go downstairs and check our progress," Mechling said. "The classrooms were very old and unattended to but we had an anonymous donor this winter. He donated a lot of time to the basement and did some beautiful things with the classrooms with the funds that we had. We're just really proud of how it's going but if you'd like to donate more to finish the ceiling, we would take your dollar. If you could donate your time to help us paint and add to that construction we would take that as well."

Earlier in September the VAAC held the Art of Sustainability which was an evening designed for community members to share actions they are taking to green up the community.

Coming up on the calendar is the annual Chili Blues event which includes a chili making contest and a blues concert.

According to Mechling the Chili Blues event was a success last year due to the change in date.

"The date now will always be the second week in November on a Saturday," Mechling said. "Every year we will have a Chili Blues contest where you come and bring your favorite chili and we have prizes and everything. It's wonderful. This year we're going to have bowls by USD potters. We'll have 40 bowls you can buy. We'll have 12 people bringing chili. We'll have a bar



SARAH WETZEL/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
**Folk artist Jami Lynn performed a free concert as part of the Vermillion Area Arts Council's annual meeting. After business was conducted the audience was treated to both traditional and original music by Jami Lynn on banjo, guitar and harmonica along with vocals.**

and music that you'll really love."

The VAAC also takes measures to educate Elementary School children about Martin Luther King Jr. for the holiday.

"People in the schools teach children about Martin Luther King Jr. and make art projects," Mechling said. "Then there's an art exhibit right here. We have little stations for all the children to learn about Martin Luther

King. It is a very beautiful celebration. Every January we have that."

The VAAC is working continuously with the schools by sending in volunteers to teach art as well as conducting the Beyond School Adventures, an after-school art program led by Beth Knedler.

Looking even farther forward, one sees the VAAC's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration.

"What that is a beautiful baked corned beef briskets with cabbage, carrots, potatoes and a bar of all of your Irish beers," Mechling said. "It's very fun."

Of course the VAAC boasts the Messy Hands Art camp during the summers which saw a very successful run this year.

"Our Jewel is the Messy Hands summer art camp where children come together for an intense two week art camp where they learn drawing, painting, public art, sculpture, and clay," Mechling said. "If you have something to teach, come talk to us. We're always open to new teachers. VAAC is just getting better and better."

Other events both held this past year and on the calendar for the upcoming one are art exhibits, all-ages music shows, and community art classes

The VAAC is always open to new ideas, members and volunteers.

"We accept contributions of any kind from anyone," said VAAC President Jim Wilson. "If you have an art project that you want to do, come and talk to us. If it's a good project we will do what any normal administrator would do and say 'make it so.' Just remember if you suggest it, you run it."

As Mechling pointed out in her presentation the VAAC does not simply collect donations from the community, but also gives it back in multiple ways.

Ways the VAAC gives back according to Mechling include funding things like the Sculpture Walk, the downtown mural renovation, the newly-organized Children's Choir, the Vermillion Community Garden, and various projects with the Vermillion Area Dance Organization.

For more information on the VAAC, volunteer opportunities, classes, donations or becoming a member visit [www.vermillionareaartscouncil.com](http://www.vermillionareaartscouncil.com).

## Police Ask For Public's Assistance In Search For Missing Vermillion Man



The Vermillion Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in locating a subject missing under suspicious circumstances. Evan Stajduhar left his residence in Vermillion between 10pm on Wednesday night and 8:30am Thursday morning, and police are trying to locate him to verify his well being. It is out of Evan's character to leave without telling family and he did not take many personal items or medication with him. The family believes that Evan left the residence on foot. Evan is 31 years old. He is 5'11" and about 150lbs. He could possibly be wearing a short sleeved striped polo shirt, and cargo shorts. Anyone with information regarding Evan's whereabouts is asked to contact the Vermillion Police Department at 605-677-7070.

## Enrollment Grows In New Freshmen

The number of first-time, full-time freshmen at the University of South Dakota is up about 4 percent this fall compared to last year, President James W. Abbott said Tuesday, but overall enrollment is flat.

USD has a headcount of 9,971 students this fall, compared to 10,061 in Fall 2014, a change of less than 1 percent. Despite having slightly fewer students, the number of credit hours being taught is up.

"We're down in part-time students and up in full-time," Abbott said. "We'd like all the part-time students we can get, but the reality is we have more full-time students this year, and we're very happy about it."

The new freshman class also contributed to a 16 percent growth in the USD honors program, he said.

USD, which has South Dakota's largest Graduate School, saw a 17 percent increase in the number of students graduating with master's and doctor's degrees last school year, resulting in a slightly smaller graduate population this year. Growth was noted in the Beacom School of Business, Health Sciences, Law School and the USD Sanford School of Medicine.

## NMM To Present 'Shine' Saturday

"Geoffrey Rush's Oscar-winning portrayal of pianist David Helfgott in the movie Shine is genius, but whether David Helfgott's piano playing, in reality was genius, or possibly our fascination with mental illness, is a question that has been asked. In any case, Shine is a brilliant film, and you shouldn't miss the chance to see it on the big screen," says Patricia Bornhofen, National Music Museum spokesperson.

That opportunity will be this Saturday morning, September 26, at 10:00 a.m., at the Coyote Twin Theater, in downtown Vermillion, as the Museum continues its 2015 film series. General-public admission is \$5.00. Admission for USD students and NMM members-with-benefits is compliments of the National Music Museum.

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Asia-Pacific rebalance by maintaining training and operational readiness.

"It's been very helpful both personally and professionally," said Capt. Blake Schneider, 175th EFS F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot and assistant director of weapons and tactics. "For instance, we had another three fighter squadrons at Kunsan, Osan and the Republic of Korea air force we weren't used to working with. Working on that kind of scale and dealing with the challenge of working into that schedule is unique for us because we're accustomed to owning the airspace back home."

The 175th EFS bolstered the Wolf Pack's mission by generating 675 sorties and 911 flight hours. They also conducted three generation exercises, one large force exercise and maintainers and pilots to support Exercise Beverly Midnight 15-4 in July. Through these sorties and flight hours, they were able to partake in unique opportunities to integrate into joint, coalition and bilateral training across diverse environments.

"I think our Airmen hit a home run," said Maj. Kelly Petterson, 175th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge.

"They took it as a challenge to showcase their talents."

Older, more experienced guardsmen were also able to pass down their knowledge to younger active duty Airmen.

"Guardsmen are kind of looked at as weekend warriors, but most of us, myself included, were prior active duty Airmen," Petterson

said. "We pass that experience and kind of nurture the younger folks. I think that's the biggest benefit the ANG brings to the table."

Maintainers from the 175th EFS also provided support to aircraft in both the 8th FW and the 175th EFS.

"My goal, from a maintenance perspective, was to successfully integrate, yet continue the upgrade training of our Airmen to 5-levels and 7-levels," Petterson said. "We did a good job of pushing training, while simultaneously being ready to go and fight tonight."

In fact, many of the guardsmen in the 175th EFS that were previously active duty have been working on the equipment and aircraft for more than 25 years. They were able to provide assistance in the electronic countermeasures, aircraft armament systems and avionics intermediate shops.

"When we integrated into the shops, we were able to help a lot of the younger active duty folks improve their areas," Petterson said. "Our guys went in there and helped out with a lot of their training so that when we leave here, the equipment will be in a lot better shape than it was when we got here. Our legacy for taking the fight north will go on after we leave."

One of the challenges that the unit overcame was understanding what the "fight tonight" posture really was and providing a contribution. Rotational deployments to host-nation allies build cooperation and bolster regional security interests and goals.

"You don't really get the full spectrum of what the Wolf Pack is all about until you get here and you see how the base is set up," Pet-

tersson said. "This is the real deal. They weren't kidding. We weren't expecting that type of air expeditionary force environment to the level that it truly is."

Being told about the mission and living through the mission are on opposite ends of the spectrum, Petterson said.

"Adapting to the environment, the facilities and the airspace was also a learning curve," Sheridan said. "It's been amazing to work with our 8th Fighter Wing and ROKAF counterparts. Above and beyond tactical execution and practice is learning about airmanship and making decisions on the fly with airspace and weather conditions that they might not be used to. The airspace was also more busy than what we were used to."

The 175th EFS is also the only unit in the ANG that flies the block 40 F-16, which is the same model F-16 that the 8th FW flies.

"We're the only ANG fighter wing that's able to integrate to the level that we did here at Kunsan," Petterson said. "Every other unit either flies block 30's, block 42's or block 52's. Our F-16's are exact carbon copies of the 8th Fighter Wing aircraft."

The 175th ANG had more than 230 maintainers and support personnel to help pilots and keep the planes flying.

"It's usually important both from an operations piece and a maintenance piece to have that right mix of people," Sheridan said. "I had 25 pilots rotating in and out due to our alert commitment at home for homeland defense. We had a great team of maintainers, administrators, a command senior staff, an aircrew flight equipment flight and

an intelligence flight who supported the mission on a daily basis. We couldn't have done it without them."

While rotating pilots, one of the challenges for Sheridan was tending to missions in theater and back home at the same time.

"Since we have a local mission answering to the governor in South Dakota and a federal mission here, it's a good opportunity for us to use this as training," Petterson said. "Most of our Airmen were traditional guardsmen, which means they do two days a month, two weeks a year of training. To come to Kunsan, a place where we would go to war if called upon, bring them to this environment and work alongside active duty Airmen, they can now take that back and train the guardsmen that didn't come or the guardsmen that are coming."

The four-month deployment gave guardsmen an opportunity to increase their experience to a level that would take years to acquire in their traditional role in South Dakota.

"All the stories and everything we learned here was invaluable," Petterson said. "What we gained in 120 days was something we wouldn't have got in 5 years. It was a very steep, but rewarding learning curve for everybody. I think that's the biggest value - just being here and learning what this is all about."

## Chamber Chat

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- JV Football: Elk Point/Jefferson, Mon., Sept. 28 @ 4:30 pm (T)
- Volleyball: Wagner, Mon., Sept. 28 @ 5:00 pm (H)
- Welcome Table serves a free meal on Mondays at the First United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota St. Public is invited to enjoy fellowship & food prepared & served by volunteer groups, Mon., Sept. 28, 5:30-7:00 pm. Groups interested in volunteering to serve at the Welcome Table can contact John Lushbough at 605-670-0958 or email: [jlushbough@gmail.com](mailto:jlushbough@gmail.com). For more information, visit: [www.welcometable.org](http://www.welcometable.org)
- Code Club for teens at Vermillion Public Library, Mon., Sept. 28 (last Mondays through Nov.), 5:30-7:00 pm, library Tech Center. There is no cost, but computers are limited; bring a laptop & headphones if you have them. Professional programmers will be on hand. Contact [evieclerx@gmail.com](mailto:evieclerx@gmail.com)
- The Alzheimer & Memory Loss Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by the South Dakota Alzheimer's Association, will meet Mon., Sept. 28, 7:00 p.m. at the Vermillion Public Library. All caregivers of memory loss persons are welcome to attend. Contact persons: Fern Kaufman (605 624-4898) or Marilyn Abraham (670-2076)
- Rawlins Piano Trio presents a fall concert, Mon., Sept. 28, 8:00 pm, Colton Recital Hall, Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts. Open to the public at no charge.
- Al-anon meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mon., Sept. 28 @ 7:30 pm. For more information, call 624-9764

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- Movement Storytime for birth-3 yrs. at Vermillion Public Library, Tues., Sept. 29, 10:15 am. Registration required; call 677-7060.
- Technically Speaking: an open lab format on "Microsoft Word Basics", Tues., Sept. 29, 10:30 am-12 pm at Vermillion Public Library. To register, call 677-7060 or stop by the Circulation Desk.
- September 23rd is National Fall Prevention Awareness Day. Great Plains Therapy is partnering with the National Council on Aging to provide free Fall Risk Screenings for area residents. Anyone who has had a fall in the past year, takes blood pressure or cardiac medications, has weakness in their legs or has difficulty walking should attend the screening event. It will be held on Tues., Sept. 29 at Great Plains Therapy, 1407 East Cherry Street from 10:30 to 1:00.
- Technically Speaking: an open lab format on "Microsoft Word Basics", Tues., Sept. 29, 10:30 am-12 pm at Vermillion Public Library. To register, call 677-7060 or stop by the Circulation Desk.
- Join us to learn about Toastmasters. A demonstration meeting is being held on Tues., Sept. 29 at 11:30am in Room 211 Muenster University Center on USD campus. A Vermillion Club is chartering soon. Learn how to improve speaking and leadership skills in a safe, friendly environment. For more information contact Jen Hovland, 624-5900 or [jen.hovland@heartprinthomecare.com](mailto:jen.hovland@heartprinthomecare.com)
- Vermillion Rotary Club meeting, Tues., Sept. 29 @ 12:00 pm in the Al Neuharth Media Center conference room. For more information, visit: [www.vermillionrotaryclub.org](http://www.vermillionrotaryclub.org)

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- Award winning CSA Heikes Family Farm, 1408 317th St., open 4:00-7:00 pm, Wed., Sept. 30 and Sat. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for fresh local produce.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

- Vermillion Area Farmers Market, Thurs., Oct. 1, 3:00-7:00 pm at Clay County Fairgrounds. Call 605-659-3399 or email [VAFarmersMarket@gmail.com](mailto:VAFarmersMarket@gmail.com) for more information.
- Teen Lounge at Vermillion Public Library, Thurs., Oct. 1 @ 6:30 pm in the Teen Room. This weekly social hour includes book clubs, films, crafts, snacks, & much more. Grades 6-12.

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Dr. Dan Johnson	Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
Dr. Adler	Oct. 13, 27
Dr. Jones	Oct. 12, 26
Dr. Watson	Oct. 29

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