

# One in a *Ver* Million Meet Mark Pier

By David Lias  
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Mark Pier, the career and technical education teacher at Vermillion High School, is putting in some extra hours these days.

Besides his duties as an instructor for the Vermillion School District, Mark is also teaching the second round a night course titled "Welding in Industry."

The class is designed to help fill a growing demand in the Vermillion area for workers with welding skills.

The welding program itself was implemented earlier this year, with its first section concluding Feb. 28.

Another round of the course began April 10, and is tentatively scheduled to meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. twice a week through May 24 at Vermillion High School.

"This is my 18th year at

Vermillion High School," Mark said. "Welding is an elective course (at the high school) and we are state certified – in other words, we do have a state-approved program for our welding.

"The interest in welding at the high school level has grown over the last four or five years compared to what it used to be," he said. "There's just more interest in it, and so we've expanded."

While many people tend to focus on enrolling in a college or university as the next logical step to continue their learning after high school, there is a growing focus in South Dakota on the importance of technical education at the high school level.

Mark's role in the Vermillion School District has subsequently become more vital as the needs of both students and local industries change.

"Every one of my students that comes

through any one of my classes, any one of my programs, can go from high school right into the workforce," Mark said. "Should they not decide to go to a tech school, they can go right into the workforce. They're employable when they graduate from our high school."

The technical curriculum offered by the Vermillion School District with the help of Mark's expertise is extensive.

"Not only do we have welding, we also have automotive technology which is also a state-certified program," he said. "We also offer building trades, computer-aided drafting, and architectural drafting.

"We do have a basic automotive course," Mark said, "and we have a small gas engines course. We cover a lot of different areas."

There are a number of young women and young



Mark Pier (second from right) demonstrates proper welding techniques to adults enrolled in the community's "Welding in Industry" class.

(Photo by David Lias)

men attending VHS who are naturally attracted, year after year, to the courses that he teaches.

"I'll have students who will come in as freshmen, and they'll take every one of my classes. They'll spend a lot of time in my room in the next four years," Mark said. "I can see this year's sophomores ... some of them spend a lot of time

here, and I've got seniors who have grown up down here.

"We have male and female students attending these classes," he said. "We don't tailor specifically to the male student; we tailor to the female student as well."

The high school technical curriculum's diversity and popularity

keep Mark busy.

"I don't know what else we could offer," he said. "With just one person here, between my work at the school and this night class and being in the National Guard, my days are pretty stretched.

"That's what keeps me young ... working around young people all day," Mark said.

## Auction Auction Auction

12:30 Sunday April 29, 2012 Vermillion, SD  
National Guard Armory (603 Princeton St.) Lunch will be served  
Tractor with loader, Guns, Beer signs, Tools, Pickup and Antiques

### Owner Mike Long

1968-686 IH tractor with cab-gas- 7000 hours, wide front with M-12 miller loader, Nice acreage tractor- great tires, SQ720- 3 pt Giro mower, outdoor patio set, portable hunting blind, 3D hunting targets for bow(turkey, badger, leopard), fertilizer spreader, 7-post, new fencing wire, flower pots, craftsman-air compressor, 4400 watt generator, 3x6 Husky pull behind from cart, craftsman gas blower, craftsman shop vac, yard sweeper, craftsman 21" Lawn mower, Ryobi saw, craftsman drill, skill saw, sander, 2-portable dog kennels, set of tail gate ramps, canoe trailer hitch attachment, craftsman weed eater, tractor tire chains to fit I6.9 34 tires, Brinkman smoker, Weber charcoal grill, schwin bike, craftsman table saw, Kenmore 5000 BTU air conditioner, Nordic track GRT 500 set, Post hole digger, Weerner fiber glass extension ladder, 5-drawer dresser, recliner, coffee tables, 2-TVs, TV stand, VCRs, end tables, antique dresser, desk, kitchen table with 4 chairs, Kenmore chest freezer, antique kitchen table with chairs and lamps, 2-white wicker tables, oak liberty table, antique secretarian desk with glass side, 5-shelf book case, large oak liberty table, 3-piece antique bed room set full bed, black wicker chair, 3 fans, large vacuum, fax machine, 17 inch Sony monitor, 2 dehumidifiers, hand sander, few-ton with two mattress, 3 lamps and a sewing machine.

**Ronald Hexamer Estate**- sofa with love seat, entertainment center, recliner, GE refrigerator & freezer, pictures, computers, end tables, recliner rocker, microwaves, Kirby vacuum cleaner, kitchen table, chairs, book shelves, filing cabinets, office chairs, plant stands, desks, bed room dresser, 5-piece wicker set, cream cans, shop vac, MTD snow blower, Husky air compressor, work bench, 2 wheel carts, wheel barrow, electric pole saw, golf clubs, bike, grills. 1998 Nissan Frontier, 4WD, pick up 61000 miles, clean with new tires, 5 speed.

**Donna Vorngaen**- 3 sets 8 piece dishes, 1 couch(hide-a-bed), couch, computer desk, ice cream freezer, beer lights, Misc. records(10in.), kids organ & bench, trolling motor (12v), 2 fans, golf clubs, glassware, wooden gun rock, fishing poles(& ice fishing poles), kids water skis, vintage snow sled, toys, Barbie case doll house/play house, inflatable snowman, garden tools, boat oars, log chain, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, 33 speed records, hunting gloves, fruit jars, 5-drawer dresser, 4-drawer dresser, shovels, wooden tables, 5 wooden plaid chairs, 9-drawer cabinet, 4 kid bikes, leaf blower, lantern, coolers, ladder, potty chair, kid car ramps, sled, drawer cabinet, 6-drawer cabinet, autograph nascar hats, propane tank, weed wacker, ropes, golf ball scooper, walking cane, shotgun & rifle shells, recliner, binoculars, old camera, china hutch, antique drills, cabinet sewing machine, long bamboo sticks, yard table, tarps, lawn chairs, sheets, table clothes, table with leaf, 3-piece bedroom set, 4 swivel chairs.

**Joyce Fredricksen**- whirlpool washer, Kenmore dryer, Redyner, dishes, pots and pans, dining room table with 6 chairs, end tables, hide-a-bed couch, patio chairs, plant stand, clocks, books, fine china pieces, sewing machine with wooden cabinet and bench, bed with 3-piece dresser. Iver Johnson- 8 shot revolver, H&R 38 cal, H&R cal, cast iron waffle iron, 2 metal trucks, mid '70's comic books, Hummel plates, old books & maps(1930's-1950's), 2 deer skulls with horns, oak cabinets with class doors, double bed box spring and mattress, dresser with mirror, rechargeable hedge trimmer, Honda lawn mower, Browning gun case with key.

**Guest consigner- ANTIQUE FURNITURE & MISC.** - Quarter-Sawn Oak Roll-Top Cabinet; Mission Style Oak Library Table; Mission Style Oak Gun Cabinet; & Tricycle.

**ADVERTISING** - Vermillion Stoneware; Paullina, IA Stoneware; Centerville Livestock; Ivan A. Tufty Co, Yankton; McDonalds; Dyson's Pickles Wax Seal Jar; Misc. Local Items.

**COLLECTIBLES** - Pink Depression Glassware; Hull Pottery; Old Union County School Picture; 1800's Salt Crock; Red Wing & Watt Commemoratives; Ironstone Pitcher; & Painted Bowls/ Plates Beers signs, beer mirrors, pool table light, bar stools, 2 wheel trailer, bike rack, 7' Stately ladder, stile weed eater, grinder wheel w/ motor, craftsman tool box w/ tools, folding chairs, etc. Motor craftsman fertilizer spreader, 2 wheel barrows, Sanborn 20 gallon oil compressor. Elle winch, battery charger, antique radio, drill and drill bits, fishing poles, coin operated dryer w/ key, bamboo fishing poles, ele. start self propelled mower, brand new fire proof door frame, many more item not listed, 4 ford general grabbers Lt 245-75 R 17 tires on ford 8 hole rims.

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<p>2007 Country Club Drive - \$164,900 Top to walk out lower level finish! 1909 sq ft, 3 bed, 3 bath, April 2012 new carpet, fireplace, fenced yard w/ garden shed. Kitchen appliances stay, heated garage w/ G.D. Shingles 2010. Close to school bus stop.</p>	<p>111 Green Court Drive - \$229,900 OPEN • SUN. 4/22 • 1-2PM Ranch 2724sf finished, 3 bed 3 bath, main floor laundry, New ceramic tile in kitchen, New lower level finish includes huge family/game room, 4th bedroom (NO egress)</p>
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### OIF/OEF VETERANS AND SOLDIERS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH "Neural and Behavioral Correlates of PTSD and Alcohol Use"

If you have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, are right-handed, and are between the ages of 18 and 45, and are not currently pregnant, you are being invited to participate in a research project about past experiences with stress and current behaviors. This study is being conducted by Drs. Gina Forster, Jeffrey Simons and Raluca Gaher at The University of South Dakota.

Participation in this study involves completing an interview and questionnaire with a research team member, which should take 3 hours or less. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and your responses will be confidential.

You will be given \$100 for completing the initial interview and eligible participants will be invited to participate in a second study using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in which you will receive \$300. If you are active duty military, you will only be compensated for research participation if you are off duty.

If you are interested in this study, please contact Dawne Olson at 605-677-5170 or neurostudies@usd.edu for more information.