



**Cowboy Up!
Bull-A-Rama is
Aug. 26-27**

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Vermillion

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Having a ball

Fall sports season has quickly descended on Vermillion, although the 90-degree temperature at Cotton Park during the Vermillion Tangers boys soccer match with Freeman Academy Tuesday evening certainly made it feel as if autumn is still a long time in coming. VHS teams that have already begun competing include girls tennis, boys golf and boys and girls soccer. A full report of those competitions can be found on the sports pages of today's Plain Talk. Friday will mark the first Vermillion cross country meet and the beginning of the VHS football season, as the Tangers meet West Central on the gridiron in the DakotaDome at 7 p.m.

(Photo by David Lias)

City population prompts ward boundary change

By David Lias

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The combination of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the results of the 2010 U.S. Census means a slight redrawing of Vermillion's ward boundaries must take place.

The Census determined that the 2010 population of Vermillion is 10,571. That places the ideal population for each of Vermillion's four wards at 2,643.

Currently, the population distribution among the city's wards is less than ideal. The number of residents has grown in all areas of Vermillion with the exception of the Central Ward, which, according to Census figures, has 316 fewer people than in 2000.

"The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees equality of voting powers," City Finance Officer Mike Carlson told the Vermillion City Council at its Aug. 15 meeting. "The courts have interpreted this as an honest and good faith effort to create districts or, in our case, wards, as equal in population as practical."

Carlson told aldermen that court decisions have determined that a deviation of greater than 10 percent (in a ward or district) would be improper apportionment. "We need to look at this after each census," he said.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the Northeast Ward has grown by 2.23 percent in the last decade, from 2,592 in 2000, to 2,702 in 2010.

The Northeast Ward has seen a 2.12 percent growth in population, from 2,466 in 2000 to 2,699 in 2010.

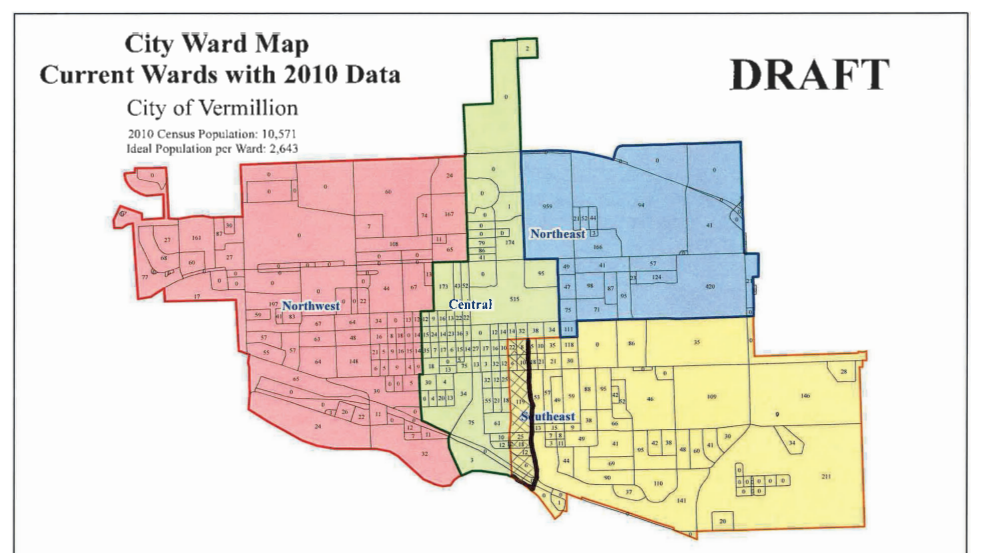
The greatest population increase in the last 10 years has occurred in the Southeast Ward. Its 2000 population was 2,532. That number has grown by 5.94 percent over the last decade, with a 2010 Census count of 2,800 people.

The latest population data is not nearly as positive for the Central Ward. Ten years ago, the U.S. Census recorded 2,686 residents in that ward. The 2010 Census has revealed that there are 316 fewer residents living in that area of the city; its 2010 population stands at 2,370, a decrease of 10.33 percent over the past 10 years.

"If the wards were equal, we'd have 2,600 people in each ward," Carlson said. "Looking at the ward boundaries as we have them right now, it shows a total deviation of 16 percent, with the largest negative being the Central Ward at 10 percent and the largest positive being the Southeast Ward at just under 6 percent."

"As such, we need to change the boundaries," he said. "The city council looked at this at the July 5 noon

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The Vermillion City Council has approved, on its first reading, an ordinance that moves the boundary shared by the Central and Southeast wards from Yale Street to University Street. The bold line drawn between the two wards signifies the new boundary; the crosshatched area on the map represents the portion of the former Southeast Ward that will shift to the Central Ward. This change will greater equalize population numbers in the city's four wards.

(City of Vermillion Graphic)

Kyte sentenced for dog killing

By Travis Gulbrandson

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A sentencing hearing was held Tuesday morning in the case of Robert Kyte, a Burbank man who allegedly beat his neighbors' dog to death with a hammer.

Earlier this month, Kyte pleaded guilty to Intentional Damage to Property in the Second Degree and Killing or Injuring Animal of Another, both of which are Class 1 misdemeanors.

At the hearing it was announced he must pay a fine of \$300 plus \$84 in court costs for each count.

Kyte also will be required to pay \$2,000 restitution.

In addition, Magistrate Judge Tami Bern gave Kyte a 60-day suspended sentence, which will stand as long as he has no similar offenses and complies

with all protection orders over the next 360 days.

Initially Kyte was charged with Killing or Injuring Animal of Another, as well as Intentional Damage to Property in the First Degree, which is a Class 6 felony.

Had the felony charge been maintained, he could have faced up to two years imprisonment in the state penitentiary, a fine of \$5,000 or both.

Kyte allegedly beat his neighbors' German shorthair pointer - whose name was Shy - to death in its kennel in June.

According to the Associated Press, Shayne and Kim Ludwig said their dog was gentle and barked only if someone was trespassing on their property.

Kyte was not present in the Clay County Courthouse when the sentence was handed down.

— The Associated Press contributed to this report.

City to discuss landfill tipping fees

By Travis Gulbrandson

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The current study of the Joint Vermillion/Yankton Solid Waste System will provide the entity with the necessary tools to make decisions regarding solid waste, recycling facilities, operations, fees and long-term planning, one city official said.

The study is being undertaken by consulting firm HDR, Inc., and encompasses Vermillion's landfill and recycling center, as well as the transfer station in Yankton, city manager John Prescott said.

"They're looking at all those respective facilities, cost of service, are there alternative disposal methods out there that would be more cost-effective, better for us environmentally, all those types of things going forward."

"It's basically the planning document for the recycling center and the transfer station," he said.

The Yankton City Commission was expected to consider an increase in fees at its meeting Monday, although Prescott said the final decision is a joint one between the two communities.

"Ultimately, the council or commission in Yankton only sets the rate for the facility they have employees at. But we try to operate harmoniously so that we have the same rates in place at both facilities," Prescott said.

Rate adjustment will be discussed at a Vermillion City Council meeting set to take place Aug. 29.

On June 28, the Joint Powers Advisory Board - which consists of representatives from both cities and counties - made a recommendation to their respective city councils to raise tipping fees in an effort to address the system's deficit.

A 10-percent increase would amount to approximately \$4 extra per ton, coming to a total of \$40 per ton.

The fees have not been raised since 2002, and the cost to operate per ton has exceeded the current fee. The system has an annual deficit of approximately \$130,000.

Prescott said the adjusted rates will take effect the same day in both communities - Oct. 3.

Further planning will commence when the study concludes some time in September.

Prescott said a public meeting will be announced for the mid- to latter part of the month.

"We started the study and we're gathering information, and once we get that back we should be in a better position to talk about it a little bit," he said.

— Yankton Press & Dakotan reporter Nathan Johnson contributed to this report.

Federal disaster aid available for Union County flood damage

Gov. Dennis Daugaard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have announced that Individual Assistance disaster funds are now available to residents and businesses in Charles Mix, Hughes, Stanley and Union counties for damages caused by flooding March 11 through July 22, 2011.

"This is great news as South Dakota citizens begin the process of recovery from this terribly long and devastating flood," added Gov. Daugaard.

"Individual Assistance is an important asset to help affected families, businesses and communities get back on their feet. We have much work ahead of us, and we are grateful for this additional federal help."

"This allows FEMA to provide assistance to individuals and families faced with damage from flooding along the Missouri River," said Federal

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