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Let's Celebrate Vermillion National Night Out Events A Fun Success

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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With countless hours of preparation behind them, organizers of Vermillion's National Night Out events say the day was a big success.

Vermillion Police Officer Crystal Brady said this year's new format was something they will look to continue in the future.

"We used to have something where we had events in the park and had carnival games for the kids," she said. "I think changing it to the block parties, scavenger hunt and movie kind of helped us bring in different age groups. I think this definitely works a lot better."

Brady said there were six block parties held across town.

"We had a lot of people turn out for all of them I was told," she said. "We didn't have as many people as we wanted for the scavenger hunt, but those that did attend had a great time. We had some clues that were like picture clues that they had to take a picture of. One of those things was the Coyote sculpture at the corner of Cherry and University Street. They had to find the clock on City Hall and take a picture, the middle school and then we had some clues where they had to figure out the riddle and take a picture of it. The first teams that came back won gift certificates to WalMart. We have a budget that we do for National Night Out and we purchased those."

But before the scavenger hunt could begin, it was time to celebrate with neighbors.

"The block parties were spread out all over town, a lot of them put on by our Vermillion Police officers and their neighbors," Brady said. "A lot of people mentioned that



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

As a part of the final event for the 2015 National Night Out party in Yankton Cassie Waage bags up popcorn at the movie party held in Prentiss Park Tuesday Night. The day's activities included block parties, a city-wide scavenger hunt and the movie. Organizers said the events were well received.

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City To Decide Legal Newspaper

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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The Vermillion City Council received request for proposals (RFP) from the Vermillion Plain Talk and the Equalizer during its Monday noon meeting in order to determine which paper will receive the city's designation of legal newspaper of Vermillion.

The designation of the paper will include the printing of all legal notices from the city.

During the presentation, the publishers of both locally owned and operated newspapers – Gary Wood of the Plain Talk and Scott Munger of the Equalizer – spoke on why they believe their respective paper deserves the designation.

Munger addressed the council first saying that it was just more than a year ago that he decided to transition the Equalizer to a subscription-based newspaper.

"We have met all the state requirements to be considered a legal newspaper," he said.

While Munger said there are many factors that influence the decision on which paper should get the designation, he believes the main one is the Equalizer cares more about the community.

He provided information showing the body of work that he is proud of – something he says they have accomplished in spite of not being the legal newspaper of Vermillion.

"There are three things I want to point out," Munger said. "Circulation ... the laws of the state say you need 200 bona fide subscribers. We had that on day one of our publishing of a newspaper. ... After one year, our circulation number is 450-475 depending on when the paper falls in the cycle."

Neither in their RFP nor at this meeting did the Equalizer present any notarized or verified



GARY WOOD

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COURTESY PHOTO

Former Congressman Tom Tancredo and Denver Post reporter Lynn Bartels in 2014 when Tancredo was running for governor. "I think we talked on the phone 20 times a day," she recalled.

Bartels Career Heading In A New Direction

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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To say Vermillion native Lynn Bartels has had an illustrious career in journalism would be selling her short.

For just two days shy of a 35 year career in journalism she has reported on stories from the smallest of children, to the biggest of political discussions, all while letting the foundation she gained here guide her.

On July 25, she announced that she was leaving the Denver Post to take a position at the state of Colorado's Secretary of State office. The outpouring of accolades she has received say just how influential and respected she was as a journalist.

"The day it was announced it was trending on

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HIGH SCHOOL REMODEL UPDATE

Bringing VHS Into The 21st Century

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

It's more than just a facelift that the Vermillion High School has been getting this summer. It's an upgrade according to Vermillion School District Superintendent Mark Froke.

"The outcome is to upgrade all the classrooms and the restroom areas to provide an attractive, comfortable atmosphere for the students and staff," he said. "The environment will be more comfortable from the standpoint of heating and ventilation, and also the system will be much more efficient from the standpoint of having the latest equipment installed versus equipment that was installed 50 years

ago. You look down in the boiler room now and you see a completely different picture than you did three months ago. We had a couple big boilers in there before. Now we have three smaller units. One of them will probably handle most of the heating needed throughout the season. We're bringing the classrooms into 21st century standards."

New equipment also includes a brand new fire alarm system to replace the original one installed 50 years ago.

Though not all the work will be completed by the time school starts, Froke said it should not make an impact on the high school students.

"The construction work in the academic area will be virtu-

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ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

VHS renovations are moving along, but back to school is coming just as quickly. Pictured the VHS library is still under wraps.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT STURGIS

Stewart Working At The Rally's ROC

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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It's isn't just motorcycle enthusiasts making their way to the 75th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

It is also police, fire and rescue, emergency medical staff and ambulances, emergency management and so much more.

For Layne Stewart, director of Clay County Emergency Management (EMO), this will be the third year he has made the journey west to help be-



hind the scenes of the rally, but his first time actually in Sturgis – ever. The last two years were spent in Belle Fourche and Rapid City.

"I am going out as part of the South Dakota Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)," he said. "There is a thing called the ROC – Rally Operations Center – so, I will be part of that. It is the headquarters for different entities to report to for situational stuff."

While he will be reporting to the ROC, he will be working out of the Meade County Emergency Operations Center, a block off Main Street Sturgis.

"The job is not necessarily working for Meade County; rather it is working for

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