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Welcome Back USD Greet New Students

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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For nearly 1,600 families, Vermillion was the epicenter of big changes in their lives this weekend, as the University of South Dakota freshman class of 2015 moved into the residence halls located in Vermillion.

With the move parents and new students alike stepped out of their comfort zones, as parents had to leave their babies behind and students faced the reality that it is their time to reach for their futures.

The process began early with a finely choreographed move-in plan.

Scott Pohlson, vice president of enrollment and marketing in University relations, said the weekend's events began with registration at the DakotaDome Friday.

"We have a one-stop shop for moving in. They come to the dome and we get them all set to move in. As you look at how it is here, they roll through the line here where they will get their keys. Then they will roll around to their residence halls."

After getting their keys and other information without ever having to leave their cars, the next stop was the residence halls.

"When they get to the residence halls, we will have the athletes, students involved in Greek life and other organizations on campus waiting to help them move all of their belongings into their rooms," Pohlson said. "They literally don't have to touch anything. It is close to 1,600 moving in over the course of the weekend. Just today, it



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
More than 1,600 students moved into USD Residence halls this weekend. Side Photo: During convocation Friday the incoming freshmen and new faculty were welcomed to campus.

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Great Dakota Wine Festival Set For This Weekend

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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COURTESY PHOTO

Eldon Nygaard is pictured with Mike Ballard of the Full Throttle Saloon during the 75th anniversary of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally this August.

To say that Vermillion's Valiant Vineyards has had a busy August, would be a major understatement. From being the official wine of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, a partnership with the famous Full Throttle Saloon and its annual Great Dakota Wine Festival set for this weekend, owners Eldon and Sherry Nygaard and all of their employees have been literally crisscrossing the state, but enjoying every minute of it.

"This was the 16th year that our Merlot has been the official wine of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally," Eldon said during an interview with the Plain Talk on Tuesday. "It is the seventh year

of our partnership with the Full Throttle Saloon and our 12th year hosting the Great Dakota Wine Festival. It has been very busy; I literally just got back from the Hills this afternoon after heading out there Sunday."

Since beginning operations on the east side of Vermillion in 1996 as the first vineyard in the state of South Dakota, Nygaard said the journey to today's success has been built on relationships and hard work. He noted that the association with the 'Rally' began in 2000.

"In 2000 the Sturgis marketing arm decided to name an official wine," he explained. "They did a nationwide search for the official

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Peterson Named To Vermillion School Board

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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The Vermillion School Board held a special meeting on Tuesday night to appoint a new board member to finish out the final year of current board president Chris Esping's term. Esping announced earlier this month that due to her family's upcoming move to Sioux Falls she would not be able to finish out the year.

Esping said four people had indicated they were interested in the position.

Following a short executive session where the current board members discussed the candidates, it was unanimously approved to appoint Jim Peterson as the new board member.

"We had four highly qualified candidates," Esping said. "They all brought great skills and their own personal attributes and convictions and strengths to the board. It was not an easy decision on our part. Jim will bring a business aspect to the board, which we thought was important. He certainly has a very vested interest in doing what is best for kids, based on all of his activities and the time he has spent as booster club chair. So, we will take advantage of his leadership and community interaction."

In an interview with Peterson he said he is thankful for the trust that the board has put in him and he looks forward to serving the community and the students of the Vermillion School District.

Esping said her final meeting serving the Vermillion School District was bitter sweet.

"I am sad, but I am also just very proud of everything I have accomplished on the board," she said. "I am ready. I had figured this would be my last term anyways."

She noted this was her fourth term and had just completed her 11th year on the board, the last three serving as president.

"It was time for someone else," she said. "When I first joined the

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Vermillion Schools Welcome New Resource Officer

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

Kids aren't the only ones off to a new start as the school year begins.

Vermillion Middle School and Austin Elementary School have welcomed Officer Isaac Voss as the resource officer assigned to them.

"I'm responsible for the middle school and Austin," Voss said. "This is my primary school. I'm here just to be available to the students and staff. I've got a great bunch of kids to work with here (at the middle school) and at Austin. I'm really happy to see that. The legal side of my job here in the school, I think, is going to be very minimal this year. It's the teacher role that I'll be playing. My first three days here, that's what's really stood out."

Though Voss represents law enforcement, his job at the schools is far from having to enforce.

"We're not here to discipline the kids," he said. "We're not here to hand out suspensions and things like that. We're just here to help out in the classroom, trying to teach some classes related to law enforcement and then we teach DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)."

Some of what Voss teaches is violence diffusion and avoidance, the dangers of drugs, tobacco and alcohol, internet safety, and other things relevant to the world today.

"And we're here as counselors in some



COURTESY PHOTO

Vermillion Middle School and Austin Elementary School have welcomed Officer Isaac Voss as the resource officer assigned to them.

fashion, as much as we're trained to be anyhow," Voss said. "We want to promote the idea that law enforcement is approachable. We want people to come to us with their issues, problems, questions and we try to

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