

INSIDE:

Highlights

Learn about
Vermillion's past ■ p. 2

Welcome Table will meet Jan. 25

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Jan. 25, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

The Jan 25 meal will be sponsored and served by Sanford Vermillion.

Thank you to The Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service Group for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

Grant will create USD scholarship

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation is pleased to announce a grant award in the amount of \$70,000 to The University of South Dakota Foundation to create the "Judge Lawrence Piersol Scholarship" at The University of South Dakota because of Judge Piersol's long standing friendship and guidance to John Vucurevich and his foundation. The scholarship will be awarded to two outstanding USD Law School students, each receiving \$7,000 per semester. Special consideration for the scholarship will be given to members of a federally recognized Indian tribe or students who are willing to perform one year of public service.

"The Law School is honored to be able to give a scholarship in the name of Judge Piersol," said Barry R. Vickrey, School of Law dean and professor. "His career as an exceptional trial lawyer and then as a leader among the federal judiciary provides a model of excellence for our current and future students. The purposes for which the scholarship will be used — to support the legal education of American Indian students and to encourage practice in the public sector — are two of the foremost objectives of the Law School."

Judge Piersol received a B.A. degree in 1962 and a J.D. degree in 1965, summa cum laude, from The University of South Dakota. While in Law School he was editor-in-chief of the South Dakota Law Review. He spent three years as an Army Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps. From 1968 to 1993, he was a trial lawyer with the law firm of Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith in Sioux Falls. In 1993, he was appointed by President Clinton with the consent of the Senate as a United States District Court judge for the District of South Dakota, serving as chief judge from 1999 to 2006. Judge Piersol has been actively involved in a wide variety of service roles, receiving honors along the way. He was presented the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Association 2006 Fred J. Nichol Award for Outstanding Jurist.

Judge Piersol is a past president of the Federal Judges Association. He also served as an advocate for the American Board of Trial Advocates (inactive) and has been a member of the American Bar Association and Federal Bar Association. He has served as Chair of the Native American Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the United States Sentencing Commission, and has been a member of the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council Committee on Gender Fairness Implementation Committee. He has also served on the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council, including as chair of the Tribal Court Committee and has chaired the Court Security Committee. Judge Piersol has frequently spoken and testified on Native American and judicial independence issues.

Future DakotaDome use comes with steep price tag

School district exploring options

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

It's going to take money — more than \$80,000 annually, it appears — for the Vermillion Tanagers to continue to play football in the DakotaDome.

It's money that the Vermillion School District remains reluctant to part with, because it can invest it into more worthwhile projects — including improvements to its own outdoor football field located near the high school.

A DakotaDome cooperative use advisory committee, made up of representatives from the Vermillion community, the school district, and USD, held five meetings beginning in early November. The final committee meeting was held Dec. 15.

The group's mission was simply to explore the options available to the community for continued use of the DakotaDome facility. No recommendation came out of the meetings, and the ideas that were kicked around weren't necessarily good news, in a financial sense, to the school district.

"The committee was well aware that any recommendations it made weren't binding; it was just a recommendation," said Vermillion School Board member Chris Girard at the school board's Jan. 11 meeting. Girard also served on the advisory committee. "We on the school board ultimately have to decide anything that we decide to do."

Turn to DOME on Page 7

School board hears costs of building outdoor stadium

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

Steve Snyder knows so much about building seating for sporting facilities that he includes the word "Stadium" in his moniker.

"Stadium" Steve Snyder, representing Seating and Athletic Facility Enterprises of Ellendale, MN, shared information with the Vermillion School Board Jan. 11 concerning the estimated costs of an outdoor football stadium, should the board decide to invest in its own outdoor track and football field.

"The cost of bleachers — an elevated angle-frame bleacher — you can figure about \$100 a gross seat. That would be something that you would typically see on the visitors' side," Snyder told the board. "The I-beam grand-

Turn to COSTS on Page 7



Vermillion street crews, perhaps sensing that additional bad weather could be on its way, were busy Monday taking extra steps to remove snow that had accumulated on some of Vermillion's busier streets. (Photo by David Lias)

Freezing rain hits three-state area

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dozens of schools in southeastern South Dakota delayed or canceled classes and police in the Sioux Falls area dealt with numerous vehicle accidents as freezing rain hit the area Wednesday.

National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Heitkamp said Wednesday that treacherous driving conditions existed in southeast South Dakota, northeast Nebraska and northwest Iowa.

Sioux Falls Police Sgt. David Erickson

described the situation as "crash after crash," and said even though crews were out sanding streets motorists should still allow themselves extra time to get where they're going.

No travel was advised on parts of Interstates 29 and 90 in the region.

The weather service said Wednesday morning that up to a half inch of ice could accumulate in some areas. Heitkamp said the freezing rain was expected to change to sleet and snow Wednesday afternoon.

Saturday fire guts Volin home

By Nathan Johnson
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

A fire in Volin Saturday night, Jan. 16, destroyed a family home.

Volin firefighters were called to the scene a half-block from Mac's around 8:21 p.m. Eventually, firefighters from Gayville, Wakonda and Yankton were called to assist with the blaze.

"We got the page out, and by the time we got there, the place was already engulfed in flames," said Volin Fire Chief Corey Logan. He said the structure was a total loss.

The man and three children who resided there were not home at the time of the fire, according to Logan. Their identities were not released to the media.

A home next door also had smoke damage and lost power.

One member of the Volin Fire Department had to be taken to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital for a minor case of smoke inhalation. Logan said the individual was released in good condition.

A unit from the Lesterville Fire Department was also on scene to help firefighters who might need to warm up after being exposed to the cold temperatures.

Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles said there was little that could be done by the time his units arrived.

"We dumped one load of water," he said. "It went pretty fast."

Nickles said the home had balloon framing, just as the Meckling and Scotland homes that were consumed by fire in recent months. Buildings with that framing typically don't have fire stops, which makes it easy for flames to travel within the walls and burn for some time without anyone noticing.

All the firefighters involved in battling the blaze did an outstanding job, Logan said.

"They did everything they could do," he stated. "There wasn't one minute that we didn't have water spraying out of one hose, at least. I have to thank all the departments that helped us out."

Turn to FIRE on Page 2

Vermillion honors King's legacy with artistic touch

By David Lias
david.lias@plaintalk.net

Norma Wilson paused for a moment, viewed her surroundings at the Washington Street Art Center Monday afternoon, and smiled.

She was surrounded by art, brought in my artists and school children and photographers, all to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by participating in the center's first Art for Peace exhibit.

"We just issued a call for artists, and we contacted as many teachers as we could,

and as many artists as we could, to bring their art, and as it turned out, some poets brought their poems — I brought a poem — and a couple other poets brought poems, and then we got a variety of different kinds of art, photographs, oils and watercolors," said Wilson, who serves as president of the Vermillion Area Arts Council.

Monday's Art of Peace exhibit, she added, was particularly fitting for the day, not only to recognize King's legacy, but also to serve as a reminder that the nation is

involved in war.

"I thought it would be good, particularly at this time that we're living in, to have an Art for Peace exhibit, because our nation is at war, and part of King's legacy has to do with nonviolence, and he opposed the Vietnam War, particularly towards the end of his life," Wilson said. "I think we have to keep in mind the importance of thinking of ourselves as part of the world community, and valuing our diversity rather than having our eth-

Turn to EXHIBIT on Page 7



People stop to view a large watercolor painting that was part of Monday's Art of Peace exhibit at the Washington Street Arts Center in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. This art work was created by Miss Fink's first grade class at Austin Elementary School. After painting the word 'peace' in large letters, students filled those letters with artistically drawn expressions of that same word in 17 different languages. (Photo by David Lias)

Schimelfening to assume command of Civil Air Patrol's South Dakota Wing

Vermillion resident Major Teresa Schimelfening will accept command of Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) South Dakota Wing (SDWG) at the Wing's 2010 Conference January 23rd. She will take the reins from Colonel Mike Beason of Rapid City, who has held the wing commander position for four years and six months. Upon assuming command Major Schimelfening will be promoted to Colonel which is temporary until completion of her four year term as wing commander.

Joining Civil Air Patrol in February 2004 with the Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron based in Yankton, starting out as the unit's personnel officer, she took command of the unit six months later and command-


ed the squadron from September 2004 to April 2008. While still squadron commander she also served as Deputy Commander for CAP's North Central Region's 2007 Cadet Leadership Encampment and appointed Director of Logistics for SDWG in October 2007, the position she currently holds.

This past year, SDWG's 2009 Officer of the Year Award and North Central Region's 2009 Senior Officer of the Year Award were presented to Major Schimelfening. She was also one of eight nominated for the Senior Officer of the Year Award at the national level. Her awards also include the Meritorious Service Award, Commander's Commendation Award, Com-

mand Service Ribbon, and others. Major Schimelfening holds Master Ratings in CAP's Cadet Programs and Logistics specialties, and a Technician rating in the Personnel specialty track. She also holds various qualifications in CAP's Emergency Services.

Major Schimelfening is a U.S. Army veteran who served on active duty from May 1976 until February 1985 beginning her service in the Women's Army Corps. Her military specialties were first a food service specialist then an Air Traffic Control RADAR specialist upon her second enlistment. Her various assignments included the U.S. Army Aviation School and


Turn to AIR PATROL on Page 11



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