



Kronaizl earns Eagle Scout
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There goes the neighborhood

Cypress Court, Redwood Court fall to wrecking crew

By David Lias
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A couple of modest brick buildings that for decades provided cheap and cozy housing to married students at the University of South Dakota have fallen to a wrecking ball.

Or, to be more accurate, large backhoes, bulldozers and trucks that have been busily hauling away what's left of Cypress Court and Redwood Court.

The two buildings on USD's campus, located on Pine Street, have been easy to miss in recent years, even though they are located only about a block south of Cherry Street, which carries the brunt of Vermillion's traffic. A tall stand of evergreen trees along the housing units' north edge obscured the buildings.

According to a description of a photo of one of the Cypress Court apartments, on file in the Digital Library of South Dakota web page, Cypress Court was constructed in 1958.

"The University of South Dakota received a substantial loan to build Cypress Court and an addition to Julian Hall," according to the photo description. "Cypress Court consisted of 40 small apartments and was inhabited by married students. Redwood Court joined the neighborhood two years later."

Cypress and Redwood Courts were also featured prominently on a page of the 1967 "Coyote," USD's yearbook. Among several photos of the buildings' exteriors and a young university family enjoying the

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MAIN PHOTO: Workers use large backhoes and bulldozers to reduce Cypress Court and Redwood Court on the University of South Dakota campus to rubble last week. The two buildings were constructed over 50 years ago to serve as housing for married students.

(Photo by David Lias)

ABOVE PHOTO: Cypress Court and Redwood Court each featured 40 small, modest apartments, as shown in this photo taken shortly after Cypress Court was constructed in 1958. The two buildings served the housing needs of married students as recently as 2008.

(Archives and Special Collections, University Libraries, USD)

Study supports small conference center

Cost/benefit analysis may follow to determine if idea has potential

By Travis Gulbrandson
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While it would not be feasible financially to build a hotel headquarter facility in Vermillion to host events for more than 250 people, there does appear to be support for a smaller conference center.

Those are the findings of a recent study performed by Conventions, Sports & Leisure, a Minneapolis advisory firm.

"The study (showed) that there was a significant need for local banquet, reception and meeting space," said Steve Howe, executive director of the Vermillion Area Chamber

& Development Company, which commissioned the study. "It was estimated that we were missing out on about 50 percent of that business. ...

"Single-day events are what we have a strong market for. Multi-day events we just couldn't support," he said.

Paid for with \$25,000 of Vermillion NOW! campaign funds, the study found that Vermillion would be unable to support a larger facility in part because of its location.

This finding was based in part on conversations with representatives of larger conferences and events.

"Conventions, Sports & Leisure went in and

interviewed over 100 of these organizations, and it was identified that they would likely not choose Vermillion due to its location in the state, our close proximity to Sioux Falls and Sioux City, and also out proximity in the southeast corner," Howe said. "It's difficult to get people from Rapid City to come to Sioux Falls, much less an extra-hour trip to come to Vermillion."

Another factor is lack of hotel space, which Howe said currently stands at "about 200 rooms."

"To bring in a conference of 250 people, we just don't have the inventory rooms to support that, and they don't

"Single-day events are what we have a strong market for. Multi-day events we just couldn't support."

STEVE HOWE

anticipate that a conference center would bring in enough new business to justify a hotel adding rooms," he said.

The type of events the conference center would most

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Alderman approve 2.75 pay increase for city employees

By David Lias
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A wage freeze – a practice that levels of local government from the Vermillion School District to the University of South Dakota has had to administer because of budget constraints – will not be experienced by employees of the city of Vermillion.

The pay received by Mayor Jack Powell and aldermen who serve on the city council will remain at 2011 levels, however.

The Vermillion City Council approved its 2012 payroll resolution at its regular meeting Tuesday night. City employees who are members of the AFSCME and Teamster unions will get a 2.75 percent cost of living pay increase this year. The pay increase is part of a three-year agreement forged between the city and the unions that became effective Jan. 1, 2010.

The resolution approved Tuesday night also includes a 2.75 percent pay increase for non-union, professional and management employees of the city.

"This is the final year of those union agreements that provides for this cost of living adjustment, and I anticipate that

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