



Bingquan Lu, president and chief researcher of Beijing Bo Zhi Hang Research Institute of Commercial Real Estate in China, presents Gov. Dennis Daugaard with a gift of a beautifully embroidered scroll depicting a river scene as a way of showing appreciation for USD hosting an entrepreneurial institute for Chinese students.

(Photo by David Lias)



Female owners/operators of businesses in downtown Vermillion include Emily Sudbeck, Willson Florist; Shawn Johnson, Infinite Variety; Peggy Higman, RED Steakhouse; Rita Houska, Rita's Pursue-o-nalities; Amy McComsey-Nelson, Amy's Whoopi-Do; Jessi Wilharm, Chae's Oriental Dining; Judy Nygren, Nygren's True Value; Laura Brady, Body in Balance Massage; Diane Wirth, The Varsity Pub; Margaret Crew, Clay County Title & Abstract; Sara Bye, Farmers Insurance; Bekki Engquist-Schroeder, The Spa at Wynie Mae's; Tabatha Odens, Pets Paw; Lisa Johnson, Vermillion Beauty Shop; Gloria Christopherson, Nook n Cranny; and Crystal Solomon, The Front Porch. Not pictured are Amber Groh, The Varsity Pub; Trish Durham, The Mane Attraction; Marla David, Meridian Title Company; Caitlin Collier, Collier Law Office; Karen Muenster; Monica Iverson, Cakes by Monica; Phyllis Packard, LumoStudios; Lois Hazen, Massage for Health; Dorothy Neuhaus, Ot 'n Dot's Arts, Antiques & Collectables; Paulette Wipf, Pressing Matters; Bonnie Rowland, Razieli's; Kelly Saunders, Scoops; Marie Oulette, Total Flooring; Clarene Meins, University Cleaners; Amy Christensen, Vermillion Vision Clinic; and Linda Vogel, Vogel Law.

(Photo by David Lias)

seriously ill for several months now. He was a great friend and colleague. ...

"It's a sad day for the college and, I think, for the fine arts community of South Dakota because he was so well-connected to arts organizations across the state," he said.

Professional of the Year

A local recreation supervisor has been named one of the best in his field.

Last week, Ryan Baedke was named Young Professional of the Year by the South Dakota Parks & Recreation Association (SDRPA) during a conference in Pierre.

"I was honored to win it," Baedke said this week. "It was kind of unexpected. I knew I was nominated for it, but I really wasn't expecting to win, given the fact that we're not one of the larger communities that attend the banquet."

Baedke was nominated for the award by Vermillion Parks & Recreation director Jim Goblirsch.

Landlords Call New Ordinance a "Double Standard"

At least five local landlords decried what some of them called a "double standard" regarding egress window requirements during the regular city council meeting Monday night.

The ordinance they spoke against has been on the books for two years.

The council members were voting to give rental property owners an extension to get the proper egress windows installed — a plan they passed unanimously.

USD Eliminates ROTC Program

The University of South Dakota's ROTC program is being eliminated.

University officials were informed Wednesday by the U.S. Army Cadet Command that the school will be among 13 in the nation that will no longer have a Reserve Officers Training

Corps program.

The programs are being eliminated due to downsizing and "other fiscal developments," said LTC Ross Nelson, professor of military science at USD.

Local reactions are those of "shock and disappointment," Nelson said.

USD Professor Studies Dust in China

While most Americans might not think of China as being a country where dust storms take place, the storms do raise a number of health and environment concerns there.

Because of research performed in part by a professor from the University of South Dakota, more is being learned about some of China's biggest potential dust-emitters.

Mark Sweeney, associate professor of earth sciences at USD, spent two and a half weeks doing research in China this past summer.

Car of Missing Teens was in High Gear

Tests done on the 1960 Studebaker Lark discovered in Brule Creek near a gravel pit in Union County indicate the vehicle was in high gear when it entered the channel. The automobile was last seen 42 years ago, being driven by two 17-year-old Vermillion girls, Cheryl Miller and Pamela Jackson the night they went missing in May 1971.

The car was discovered Sept. 23, thanks to low water levels in the creek. It was recovered the next day, and skeletal remains were found in and near the vehicle.

"It (the Studebaker) has three gears, and we've been able to determine that it was in the third, or the highest, gear," said South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley in a telephone interview with the Plain Talk Tuesday. "That item, standing alone — that one piece of potential evidence — would not be consistent with foul play.

to an invitation she received from Bekki Engquist-Schroeder, owner-operator of The Spa at Wynie Mae's, located downtown at 120 West Main.

Naeve said she followed up with a call to the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company, who also noted that a good portion of community's downtown business sector is owned or operated by women.

"They (the Chamber) also said that while that is one factor, a second factor is that downtown is thriving," Naeve said. "So many downtowns have empty businesses or empty buildings, and Vermillion's downtown is thriving."

"Not only are the women owning their businesses or getting involved in the community, they are also serving on the city council, they are active on various boards, and in the Chamber," Naeve said, "and I think, as a woman who graduated from USD and who loves Vermillion, that that is a great story."

Vermillion Now!

Since it began in 2009, the Vermillion Now! campaign has helped bring several high-profile businesses to town, and with them, hundreds of new jobs and millions of dollars in new payroll funds.

The Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company (VCDC) hopes to continue this trend with a second Vermillion Now! campaign, which is poised to begin when the first one concludes next year.

Man Escapes Fire

Officials are crediting hardwired smoke detectors with saving the life of a Vermillion man when a fire consumed most of his trailer Oct. 31.

The elderly man awoke shortly before 8 a.m. that day when the hardwired smoke detector in his bedroom went off.

"That's a key thing, because if it wasn't hardwired, it would not have woken him up," said Vermillion fire chief Shannon Draper.

November, 2013

Vermillion's Women Entrepreneurs

The growing influence of women entrepreneurs in downtown Vermillion was noticed immediately by Nancy Naeve of Sioux Falls television station KSFY as she and a cameraman visited the community Monday.

Naeve was responding

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