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# PLAIN TALK



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## First Week of Intersection Trial Run a Success

By Sarah Wetzel  
For the Plain Talk

Since the lights have been covered up on Main St. at the intersection of Court and Center Streets, there has been a lot of positive feedback from both business owners, citizens and police.

"I like it," said Marty Nygren, owner of Nygren's True Value hardware store. "It seems to be going along smooth and a lot of customers come and say they like it better as well."

"This would be my

preferred option as long as it stays safe."

Nygren said he hopes the rest of the trial run goes as well as the first week.

"We used to avoid that intersection leaving work every day. I use it all the time now and I like it."

Erin Byers from Infinite Variety agrees.

"I think they made a great choice," she said "I've been right here and I have not heard one honk or one brake. I think they did the best thing. It's cost-effective."

Byers' opinion does not

come without reservations.

"I was doing a right and it's hard to see because there's a blind spot," she said. "You have to inch out but then again they go so slow it doesn't even matter."

Byers said her only other concern is cars speeding up without the light to stop them but other than that she is in favor of the change.

Chad Passick, police captain, said he saw no negative indications of the change in the first week of the trial.

"I don't think we've had any reported accidents that have occurred at that intersection," he said. "Our role is to monitor that for any safety hazards or concerns that would arise and right now we're not noticing anything that causes any concerns and haven't investigated any accidents."

Though Passick does not foresee any problems, he said that does not mean none will be seen.

■ TRIAL, Page 7A



The lights at the intersection of Main and Court/Center Streets has been covered up and stop signs in place beginning a three-month trial run which, so far, has yielded positive results.

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

## THE LIL' BITS SERIES: VERMILLION'S CHILDREN



Jolley Elementary top readers stand in front of the board displaying their goal of 1 million minutes for the school year. Top row, left to right: Bodie, Hannah, Breanna, Kara, Anna, and Basmala; Bottom row, left to right: Mckenzie, Rolie, and Bella. Last names were left out for privacy purposes.

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

## Reading is Jolley Good Time

By Sarah Wetzel  
For the Plain Talk

Students at Jolley Elementary are in the middle of a reading program that will put them on the map.

"We have the kids read a bunch of minutes every day," said Mackenzie, fifth-grader, school cheerleader

and book-lover. "Our goal is 20 every day. What we want to do is work together and get a million minutes and make history."

Even if a million minutes is not reached, Mackenzie said the program will still have benefited them.

"We just really want kids to read," she said. Why read?

A group of star readers at Jolley shared why they know reading is important.

"You get to learn about stuff that is really important from books," said Bella, grade three. "You can learn how volcanoes work or how to make stuff."

"There's a couple of reasons why reading is important," said Bodie,

grade five. "One of the reasons is it really boosts my vocabulary. Sometimes I'll experience new words and I don't know it but I'm actually learning that word."

"Before I started reading there were some words I came across that I didn't know their definition but

■ JOLLEY, Page 6A

### The Art of Success Series:

## First Dakota National Bank: All in the Family

By Alan Dale  
The Plain Talk

**Editor's Note:** It has been quite the adventure working on this, The Art of Success, series here for the Plain Talk. For four months we have highlighted some of the bigger trend setters, best standard bearers, and shining examples of what success in all forms looks like

The goal was simple: Present those who are successful at what they do so not only would Vermillion know about these wonderful stories, but also to provide motivation.

If any one person were to read this series and they themselves had a dream to begin a journey of their

own, maybe they could glean some great points of reference to further their desires of becoming great at what they hope to do. We wanted to provide those within our readership who have a dream of their own, something tangible they could hold on to and say: "Hey if they did it this way, maybe I can too."

If even just one were to become a success because of this series than the Art of Success indeed was successful.

We wrap up the series with the oldest business entity known to Vermillion: First Dakota National Bank. It is truly a story of a long-term presence here that has never wavered in doing



First Dakota National Bank in Vermillion has had a longstanding place in the city.

ALAN DALE / THE PLAIN TALK

what's best for the people here.

We know this series was a huge success and very popular with our readers, but don't fret, this is only the beginning (see related

column on Page 4). The Plain Talk has plenty other series like these planned, but just with varying, new angles.

■ SUCCESS, Page 7A



An decision to enforce an ordinance that would put a 5 percent markup on malt liquor in Vermillion was tabled after concerned citizens met at the City of Vermillion council meeting on Monday.

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## Malt Liquor Markup Move Tabled For More Talks

By Alan Dale  
The Plain Talk

It's time for a little more talk.

That's what a number of representatives of local bars and places that serve beer had to say at Monday night's City of Vermillion Council meeting at city hall and their request was heard.

The council voted to table a move to implement Ordinance 1325 which would lead to a 5 percent malt beverage markup on wholesale cost and freight of malt beverages beginning July 1.

However, after hearing the concerns of a half-dozen citizens, the council unanimously approved a new reading for the Tuesday, Feb. 17 council meeting and also announced its intention to have further discussion with anyone who could be effected by the ordinance or anyone else who has an opinion on the subject.

The state mandates a maximum 5 percent markup to be allowable.

The ordinance specifies that the proceeds of the markup would only be used to retire the general obligation bond for Prentis Park improvements and/or maintenance, operation, capital improvements or expansion to the parks and park facilities within the city. The funds can be used for park improvements whether they are bonded or not.

Those who spoke all felt that there is a need to help improve Prentis Park, but felt the council should find a better way to do so.

Some comments focused on the city not informing particular vendors or making better known the enactment of the ordinance.

"I didn't receive a letter," Chad Grunewaldt from the Old Lumber Company said. "When you talk about a hearing, I did go to a liquor license meeting a year ago. We were basically told this was one thing you were considering, but nothing (then) was coming about of it. I found out 2 p.m. today that this was on the agenda. This affects my

■ MALT, Page 3A

## High School HVAC project takes next, big step

By Sarah Wetzel  
For the Plain Talk

Mike Hubbard of the Johnson Controls company addressed the school board at their last meeting and broke down the progress of the district HVAC project and high school remodel that's set to take place this summer.

The primary purpose of Hubbard's presentation was to present a bid packet for approval.

"We have invited local as well as contractors outside of Vermillion to come take

a look at this project," Hubbard said. "Their bids will be due by the end of the month so we will be prepared to present the final project as a whole for the first meeting in February. If needed for further deliberations we could also have a special board meeting the week of February 22."

Sometime after the final project is presented, the individual items will be prioritized.

Hubbard also presented

■ HVAC, Page 2A