



Vermillion School Board members Tim Schwasinger and Dave Stammer take the oath of office from Business Manager Sheila Beermann. (Courtesy photo)

Vermillion School Board reorganizes

The Vermillion School Board reorganized the district at their meeting at their July 9 meeting. Numerous motions were made to designate positions of authority and responsibility to operate the school district.

Eight year-school board member Chris Girard was elected president, and Dave Stammer was elected vice-president as he enters his seventh year of service on the school board. Girard replaces Mark Bottolfson as president who served on the board for fifteen years.

Other individuals were designated with various authority and responsibility at the annual meeting. Jim McCulloch was appointed school attorney and Sheila Beermann was appointed business manager and custodian of all accounts. Superintendent Mark Froke was identified as authorized representative of all Federal Title programs. The Plain Talk was designated the official school newspaper. The annual budget hearing was held with the school board approving the 2012-13 school district budget.

MATT

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2004, and began working for Sen. Tim Johnson in early 2005.

“I was with him (Sen. Johnson) until I got into the race in December 2011,” he said. “While working for the senator, I mainly focused on job creation and small business issues – trying to help find resources for infrastructure in communities, like sewer systems and water systems. I worked a little bit on the funding for the medical school here at USD, daycare centers, and business incubators.

“I worked on a lot of small business issues trying to promote job creation wherever we could,” Varilek said. “Always, it meant working in partnership with local leaders, with county commissioners, sometimes with the governor’s office and sometimes with other members of the Congressional delegation.”

Those experiences taught him the value of cooperation for the sake of progress.

“That’s one of the big contrasts with Kristi, once again,” Varilek said. “As someone who rode that Tea

Party wave into office, we don’t see any evidence of her being willing to compromise and work together when it’s in the interest of the country or in the interest of the state.

“I think it all starts with the attitude that you bring to the office, and I’m someone who has said from day one that we do need more of that willingness to work together to try to find solutions to the issues that we all care about, whether you’re a Republican, Democrat or independent,” he said. “From Kristi, the contrast is that we very often see very little evidence of a willingness to work together and Kristi is very often at the center of threats to shut down the government because of a lack of a willingness to compromise.”

Varilek noted that Noem seems willing to follow rather than the wishes of her constituents.

“Grover Norquist is not a South Dakotan, and his pledge says that she would never, under any circumstances, raises taxes on anyone including Donald Trump or Warren Buffet. Even Mike Rounds, former Republican governor of South Dakota, has said he would not sign that kind of pledge if he ever runs again, because he thinks that rigidity is one reason

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“The plan that you see here is designated as a starting point,” Howe said. “It provides manageable and attainable goals for the community, and the hope is that it will serve as a launching pad for new housing development efforts as well as guide the planning for future job growth and amenities and to keep Vermillion a viable, attractive place to move and stay.”

The CHLab study and the Vermillion Now! plan were designed to work together.

“The (CHLab) study provider was asked to customize the proposal based on the

strategic plan that was provided,” Howe said.

Council member Steve Ward of the Southeast Ward moved in favor of funding the study through BBB funds.

“I think we need to take a serious look at what our situation is,” Ward said. “We all have stories about what’s available and what isn’t ... but we haven’t really sat down and done a good study of what Vermillion needs for its housing. We haven’t really even determined how big we want Vermillion to be. We all want growth, but how much growth?”

“So, I think this study might be able to tell us a little bit about how much we would be able to sustain reasonably and maintain the character that we all love about Vermillion,” he said.

John Grayson of the Central

Emergency octane rules in effect

Emergency rules allowing the sale of 85 octane gasoline with mandatory cautionary labels are in effect as of Monday, and a public hearing is scheduled July 20 on permanent rules governing the sale of that product.

At the direction of Gov. Dennis Daugaard, the State Department of Public Safety implemented the emergency rules after a review of state laws by the Office of Weights and measures within DPS concluded that the sale of 85 octane gasoline is illegal anywhere in South Dakota. The governor also requested and received an official opinion from Attorney General Marty Jackley confirming the Office of Weights and Measures conclusion.

Because of concerns raised by petroleum marketers about possible fuel shortages, the emergency rules were written to allow sale of 85 octane temporarily while the public has an opportunity to comment on permanent rules that clarify the status of 85 octane in the state. Several Rocky Mountain states allow the sale of 85 octane fuel, and it has been a commonly sold product in western South Dakota for many years.

Until permanent rules have been finalized, those in the industry who sell 85 octane are required to classify the fuel as “sub-regular” and post a cautionary label that reads: “Sub-regular octane. Refer to owner’s manual before fueling.”

we can’t get anything done in Washington,” he said.

Varilek said he has witnessed Sen. Johnson working with members of Congress from “both sides of the aisle. I’ve seen the ability he has to work well with others, and I intend to be the same kind of representative when it comes to my approach.”

Varilek said the growing national budget deficit has been an issue he has talked about since day one of his U.S. House campaign.

“The day I announced my candidacy, I talked about it,” he said, “and the fact that I think we need to be serious about fiscal responsibility, which means shrinking the deficit. I don’t think that we can afford to renew the Bush tax cuts for those at the top of the economic spectrum. As someone who wants to stand up for the middle class, I do think we should keep those tax cuts in place for those in the middle and lower end of the economic spectrum.”

It is another issue, Varilek noted, where his views differ from those of Noem.

“Kristi thinks we should keep them all (tax cuts), and even worse than that, she thinks we should give huge new tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires.”

Ward agreed, saying, “Policy is often made based on ideology, anecdote and research, and this gives us an opportunity to do good third-party, unbiased research. It will enable us to contribute meaningful information to the city’s over-arching strategic plan that will help us understand what our competitive advantages or disadvantages may be.”

Howe said that the CHLab study and the Vermillion Now! plan won’t provide all the answers, but added that they are “a start.”

“It’s an important first step in a collaborative effort to make Vermillion the best place it can be,” he said.

CHLab can begin the study as early as July 16, and complete it by the end of August, Howe said.

Crime in S.D. publication released

Attorney General Marty Jackley released the Crime in South Dakota 2011 report Monday. This report is compiled by the Attorney General’s Criminal Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). The SAC Unit is the primary clearinghouse for criminal justice statistical data for South Dakota.

“The Criminal Statistical Analysis Center and the participating law enforcement agencies continue to provide important crime reporting information for identifying trends in criminal activity to assist in crime prevention and enforcement efforts across South Dakota,” said Jackley. “Our criminal statistics reflect that South Dakota remains a relatively safe place to live as a result of law enforcement efforts, strong community involvement, and a supportive legislature.”

South Dakota law enforcement agencies reported a total of 33,340 arrests involving 56,272 offenses in 2011.

The more serious offenses included a total of 14,570 arrests and include the following: Homicide/negligent manslaughter – 16, sex offenses – 132, assault – 4,306, larceny/theft –

3104, fraud – 321, drug/narcotic – 3,908, gambling – 5, prostitution – 13, kidnapping – 20, robbery – 38, arson – 30, burglary – 391, motor vehicle theft – 146, counterfeiting – 127, embezzlement – 29, stolen property – 47, destruction of property – 724, pornography/obscene material – 40 and weapon law violations – 158.

Less serious offenses totaled 18,770 arrestees, include the following, but not limited to DUI – 5,775 (5,776 for 2010), liquor law violations – 5,338 and disorderly conduct – 2,149.

Some examples of the South Dakota numbers included an increase in drug arrests of 18 percent, and more than \$17 million worth of property loss reported.

You can obtain a copy of this year’s Crime in South Dakota report from the attorney general’s Web site at <http://dci.sd.gov/Operations/CriminalStatistica1AnalysisCenter/CrimeinSouthDakota.aspx>.

ANNIE

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skills that I have today. And back in the day, I don’t know how they (the Vermillion theatre participants) did it, but it was really an intergenerational group of people. They had a ball; they had so much fun, and so they modeled that.

“They modeled how to have fun in a really healthy way. It was such an amazing learning environment, and I found myself totally immersed in this cultural experience as a 10-year-old, and I didn’t even know it,” she said.

Briseis Schnack, who will take the stage as Annie in next weekend’s performance of the musical, is having a somewhat similar encounter, judging by her assessment of her experiences during this whirlwind summer.

She enjoys the fact that she is one of approximately 40 youth involved in this summer’s musical. Briseis also appreciates having the chance to work with grown-ups from her home community.

A plus is many of those adults have years of experience being involved with Vermillion Community Theatre.

“I think with adults, the experience of being in a play is

you work harder,” Briseis said. “With kids, it’s a lot of work, but you also have fun and you’re able to talk and everything.”

“There is a difference being in a play with adults than in being in one with just kids. With adults, you want to be able to learn more, because they’re older than you and they know about things better that they can teach you. When you’re together with a lot of kids, you’re all learning it together, so it’s not hard,” she said.

Buffie said that even today, when she returns home to Vermillion, she is still referred to by some community members as “Annie.”

“I think that playing that role certainly defined my path,” she said. “Believe me, it completely shaped everything.”

Last year, the Vermillion Community Theatre presented “My Fair Lady,” which unfortunately offered few roles for young people. To make up for that shortcoming, it also sponsored the production of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” to give local youth some summer stage experience.

The stage in the VHS Performing Arts Center will be filled with local youth once again next weekend, participating in the production of “Annie.”

“It really defines Vermillion as a community that invests in its kids,” Buffie said. “If I think of all of the casts I was in during

the past 30 years, and where in the world all of those people are, I think that their base skills in how they understand community and how they communicate happened through community theatre. It’s pretty extraordinary.

“I work in the arts, and in health care, and you find ways to blend aspects of your life together, but I couldn’t do the job that I do without my arts experience,” she said. “What’s so cool about Vermillion Community Theatre is they continue to emphasize that it is a family and community endeavor.”

Most valuable to Buffie was how community theatre in Vermillion brought people of all ages together.

“That blend of generations – it teaches you so much. It’s different from being in an all-kid production. It raises the level of professionalism and experience, because you’re learning from the adults around you,” Buffie said. “It teaches young people how to talk to adults and learn from adults at such a young age.”

This summer’s Vermillion Community Theatre production of “Annie” will be held Friday, July 20, Saturday, July 21 and Monday, July 23 at 7 p.m. along with a matinee on Sunday, July 22 at 2:30 p.m. All performances will be at the Vermillion High School Performing Arts Center.

Welcome to the World

The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in June 2012:

ABRIE	CARSON	HADLEY	LILLITH	SCOTT
ADDISON	CHANCE	HARPER	LILYANA	SETH
ALYSSA	CHASE	JACOB	LUKE	SHANIA
ANTHONY	COLE	JAX	MASON	TIMOTHY
ASHTON	COLTER	JAYDEN	MASON	TY
AUBREE	COOPER	KALEM	MYA	WESLEY
AXCEL	DAKOTAH	KENZY	MYLES	WILL
AYDEN	DERIK	KOBE	NATHAN	WILLOW
BENTLEY	DMITRIY	KUTTER	RAMSESE	ZAYDEN
BENTLEY	ELIJAH	KYLEIGH	RAVEN	
BENTLEY	ELLA	KYLLAN	RIGGIN	
BRADLY	FLORENCE	LAILA	RIVER	
BRAXTYN	GRIFFIN	LAYLA	RYDER	

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