



# Vermillion Voters Speak



While the voter turnout on Tuesday didn't set records, it was universally agreed to have been very good. 1,206 voters cast a ballot in the election for nearly 24 percent turnout. Pictured are voters at the Vermillion National Guard Armoury on Tuesday.

SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

## Malt Beverage Ordinance Approval Means Prentis Park Project To Get Back On Track

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

As 1,206 Vermillion voters made their way to the voting booth on Tuesday, nobody was sure how the vote would turn out.

While the bonds for the Prentis Park Pool Project were overwhelmingly approved by voters last November, there was no guarantee that they would choose to keep the ordinance allowing the city to collect an extra 5 percent on the wholesale costs of malt beverages sold in the community on the books.

In the end, the voters' decision was to keep the ordinance with 63 percent of the vote, 445-761.

The following is how the Wards voting broke down.

Northeast Ward: 37-Yes, 71-No

Central Ward: 57-Yes, 145-No

Northwest Ward: 165-Yes, 137-No

Southeast Ward: 186-Yes, 408-No

Steve Ward, who represents the Southeast Ward on the

Vermillion City Council, said he was very pleased by Tuesday's turnout.

"I think the turnout was the most surprising thing to me," he said. "I think that the people were engaged in the process. When I started city council one of the things I was concerned about was that we were not having community discussions on the big issues in front of us. I really think that the community that was here this summer really was very engaged in the process about the merits of the ordinances."

Mayor Jack Powell echoed Ward's statement.

"I am quite pleased with the turnout," Powell said. "Often-times, in off-term elections like a school board election, you will be lucky get 15 percent. I think that we got 24 percent is a really good turnout. I appreciate how the voters voted. I think it speaks well for progressing with our pool and park project and I hope now we can get back on track with it. I take it as an affirmation that they support what we are trying to do in trying to progress the city. I just can't say enough about the people

## Residents Hope For Bright Daycare Future

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

At 10 p.m. on the dot Tuesday night, results were finally posted after hours of counting thousands of votes from the ballots of the Vermillion City special elections and both measures were upheld.

According to the staff around 24 percent of voters turned out for this election, an unusually high number for a summer special election.

The Daycare ordinance was adopted in a close race winning by only 62 votes, 629-567.

The following is how the Wards voting broke down.

Northeast Ward: 47-Yes, 61-No

Central Ward: 126-Yes, 72- No

Northwest Ward: 120-Yes, 179-No

Southeast Ward: 336-Yes, 255-No

Total Votes: 1196

Daycare providers had mixed feelings regarding the adoption of the day care registration ordinance.

"I am really happy that so many people got out to vote," said Laurie Kruse, an in-home daycare operator. "The citizens decided. It was close. We got the message out there and I think that our community leadership are ready to take on some of the responsibilities of regulating the daycares. This is an important issue. I think they did their homework and are ready to take on the task."

Karen Hansen also runs a daycare out of her home. "We thought we did really good," she said. "We were a little disappointed. We just wish we could have gotten more providers on board."

Hansen operates one of the two in-home daycares in Vermillion which are already registered, so the passing of the ordinance will have no effect on her daycare.

Hansen opposed the ordinance because she felt it was simply not needed.

"We'll just have to see what happens in the next year," she said. "Hopefully now they aren't going to start changing things on it."

Sarah Sherlock, director of the Center for Children and Families, said she is very happy

BEVERAGE | PAGE 11

DAYCARE | PAGE 11



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Chris Ferdig, Yankton City commissioner, and Parker Erickson, Vermillion City Council member, listen to a report from Bob Iverson, Vermillion Landfill manager, on the Joint Powers which oversees the Yankton Transfer Station and the Vermillion Landfill and Recycling Center managed by both communities.

## Vermillion, Yankton Boards Meet

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

A unique joint Yankton City Commission and Vermillion City Council meeting took place on Monday night, bringing members of both boards to the same meeting table.

The joint meeting, held at the Technical Education Center in Yankton, saw members of both

boards discuss how they could potentially work together in the future.

Yankton mayor Dave Carda said the idea for the meeting was born out of the 1 Million Cups meetings held earlier in both communities.

"When I was at that meeting, one of the Vermillion councilors

MEETING | PAGE 3

## Local Feelings Mixed On Supreme Court Ruling

BY SARAH WETZEL

For the Plain Talk

With the ruling of the Supreme Court last week to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide comes a variety of opinions in Vermillion though there seems to be more supporters of the decision.

"This is a surreal moment," Vermillion resident Susan Heggstad said. "While I, and many that I know, believed marriage equality to be inevitable and imminent, it still seemed like the prejudices of society were too deep to surpass. I'm grateful and proud of my country today, and thankful that many of my friends will now be able to have a freedom that I took for granted."

Not everyone is as pleased.

"The news made me sad," said Vermillion resident Amber Margheim. "I wasn't surprised but I was holding on to the hope that it would go the other way. Due to the way religious organizations are linked to performing marriages, I am greatly concerned over what this decision will mean for religious freedom."

"The consequences of this ruling have the potential to impact so much more than marriage, regardless of how it is defined," she continued. "I fear that the ruling will be used as a tool to target and attack religious groups that favor the traditional definition of marriage. That their free speech and even freedom of thought will eventually be under attack. It may not happen today, tomorrow, or even a year from now, but it will happen and one group's rights will be sacrificed for another's in the name of equality and that saddens me greatly."

On the same day of the decision, Barb Buhler,



IMAGE: METRO GRAPHICS

Public Information Officer, issued a press release stating that as of 1 p.m. that day, South Dakota was prepared to comply with the ruling.

"Couples can request marriage licenses at any county register of deeds office in the state," the release reads. "The electronic system will now show two 'spouse' fields, rather than 'bride' and 'groom.' The state's system is also able to issue certified copies that can be used for legal purposes, such as driver's licenses."

The press release also stated that ceremonial copies of marriage licenses with gender-neutral language will be available as well as of this week.

"I'm thrilled," said Tiffany Graham, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of South Dakota law school. "If you have been studying the doctrine you can see where this opinion

RULING | PAGE 8

JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> - 2 DAY SALE

**HyVee**  
Vermillion

525 West Cherry Street • 605.624.5574

EARN 20¢ PER GALLON

ON YOUR ENTIRE MEAT, SEAFOOD, LUNCHMEAT, CHEESE AND DELICATESSEN PURCHASE

**FUEL SAVER**  
EARN  
**20¢**  
OFF PER GALLON  
WHEN YOU BUY \$25

**FUEL SAVER**  
EARN  
**40¢**  
OFF PER GALLON  
WHEN YOU BUY \$50

**FUEL SAVER**  
EARN  
**60¢**  
OFF PER GALLON  
WHEN YOU BUY \$75

**FUEL SAVER**  
EARN  
**80¢**  
OFF PER GALLON  
WHEN YOU BUY \$100

Minimum \$25 purchase required. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Please see store for details.