

# Local Artist Continues To Share Talents, Gifts With Community

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Despite being technically retired, local musician T. Wilson King still finds plenty of projects to keep busy.

"I have so many irons in the fire right now, I am not sure sometimes if I am coming or going," King said.

The Iowa native became interested in music at "a very young age" when his mother played piano for dances. Then, as a teenager, King began playing in garage bands during the 1960's before getting drafted into the Army for two years and was discharged in Santa Cruz, California.

"I got out, bought a guitar and practiced relentlessly until I was confident enough to play on the street for tips which I did for a couple of years," he said.

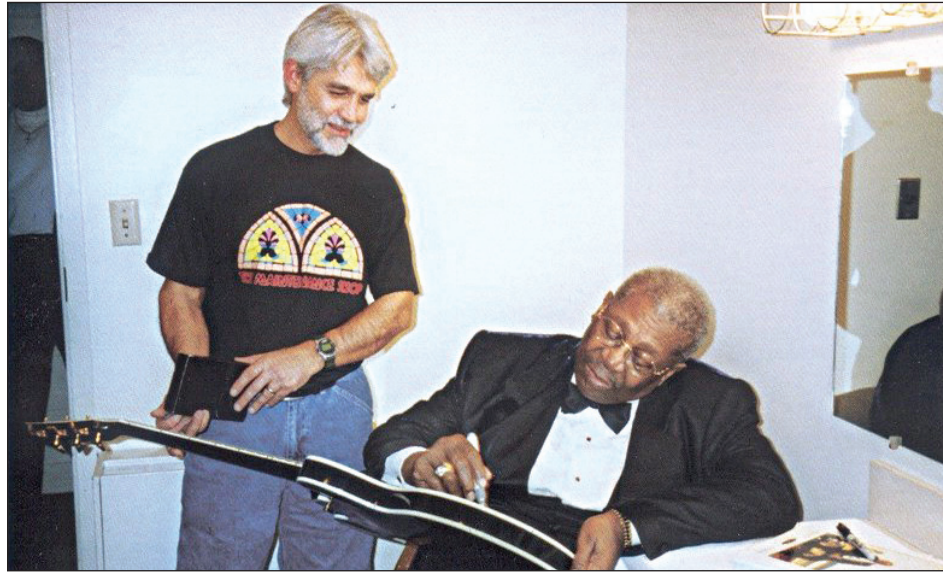
He worked his way around California playing in bars, restaurants and hotels and eventually onto small festivals and outdoor concerts. He's played with artist such as B.B. King, Santana, The Allman Brothers, Leo Kottke and Lacey J. Dalton, to name a few.

He's also responsible for obtaining a signed B.B. King guitar that is on display at the National Music Museum.

He eventually landed in Vermillion while touring.

"It was while I was touring that I came to Vermillion when a few friends opened a place called Pressmasters which is where the former Riquerdos was on Main Street," King said.

Today, King still plays various shows as well as



COURTESY PHOTOS  
**Local Musician T. Wilson King recently donated a guitar signed by the late B.B. King to the National Music Museum. Pictured above is when it was signed. Right: T. Wilson King performs at an outdoor festival.**

writing some short stories, including one that takes place in Vermillion.

"I have a short story that I am going to do as radio theater later this summer or early fall. It is a bowling thriller called Harry's 300 set here in Vermillion centering around Harry's quest for a perfect game of bowling," he said.

King also owns a studio just outside of town where he works and records his own music. Currently, he is producing the music and video for a spoken word piece for Jolita Kelias, a



Lithuanian writer and journalist who lives in London.

King still performs locally and recently performed original pieces at the Vermillion Public Library for a group of 3-7 year olds.

"I took my dog, Buster, and he was a smash hit doing his tricks for them," King said. "Actually, I think they liked him more than me."

He says being a musician is not for the faint of heart

with the ups and downs of the profession, but his drive and love for music have pushed him to keep making music through all the years.

"Being a musician or any type of artist is tough anywhere," King said. "You just have to keep working on your art and be open to possibilities as well as forge your own path and try to develop your own thing."

## \$15.7M In Unclaimed Property

PIERRE – State Treasurer Rich Sattgast returned nearly \$16 million in unclaimed funds this fiscal year. That figure is up \$5.6 million from 2014 when the state returned \$10.1 million in unclaimed property.

Unclaimed property refers to accounts in financial institutions, businesses and government agencies that have had no activity for three years or longer. The State of South Dakota acts as the custodian of lost property until it can be returned to the rightful owners.

"This last year we received over 4,000 claims from South Dakotans," said State Treasurer Rich Sattgast. "That's money getting into the hands of our citizens which ultimately makes its way into our economy and that's good for our state."

Unclaimed Property is currently holding \$69.1 million in unclaimed funds, but that amount is ever changing.

"Abandoned and forgotten property is turned over to the state throughout the year, so it's important to check the unclaimed property database regularly," Sattgast said. "Our office participates in numerous events across the state. Come visit us at one of the many fairs we're attending this summer and we'll help you check for unclaimed property in your name as well as assist you in filling out a claim form."

To check for unclaimed property, visit [www.sdtreasurer.gov](http://www.sdtreasurer.gov) or call the unclaimed property hotline at 1-866-357-2547 to talk to an Unclaimed Property representative.

## Creative Writing Workshop Planned

The Dakota Writing Project and the South Dakota Humanities Council are co-sponsoring a day-long creative writing workshop open to the general public, "Making and Meeting Bodies Through Words," to be held on the University of South Dakota-Vermillion campus on July 21st.

Writer Natanya Pulley will guide participants during the workshop as they focus on building sensory experience and lingering on details in writing. The workshop is appropriate for both beginning and advanced writers.

The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 on your own. The workshop location is East Hall 111, University of South Dakota, Vermillion. A light breakfast is provided. Participants should bring writing tools such as a computer laptop and/or paper and pens.

Participants can save \$5 by registering early: pay online at <http://www.coyotestore.usd.edu/> (select the Conference Registrations link) or mail a \$15 check or money order, postmarked no later than July 15, 2015, to: Dakota Writing Project, Dakota Hall 212, University of South Dakota, 414 E. Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069-2390.

For regular registration (after July 15), pay online or bring \$20 to the workshop on the day of the event.

Natanya Ann Pulley is an assistant professor in the English Department at the University of South Dakota and is the fiction editor for South Dakota Review. A writer of primarily fiction and non-fiction, Natanya's publications include Western Humanities Review, The Florida Review, Drunken Boat, The Collagist, and McSweeney's Open Letters (among others). Links to publications can be found on her site: [gappsbasement.com](http://gappsbasement.com). Natanya is half-Navajo, born Kiiyaa'aanii (Towering House Clan).

This event is co-sponsored by the Dakota Writing Project, a non-profit teachers' organization, and the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Power

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1971. There were two main breakers and a bus breaker; those are the breakers that bothered me because if one of the mains went out it would take out part of the town. So, (the City Council) approved putting in a new building with the new breakers."

Yet, Koller barely finished this comment before beginning discussion on future needs for the City.

"Right now we have had a peak of more than 18 megawatts," he said. "Two years ago, our peak was 17 megawatts. We are consistently running at 17 megawatts right now. So, we are at 80 percent of our capacity, because you need to have a complete redundant transformer. The chance of one of our transformers going down is not great, but it does happen and it has happened at peak time in my tenure here."

Koller explained that VLP has two 12mva (Mega Volt Amp) transformers that feed Vermillion, and they cannot increase the output future growth in Vermillion might require.

"The thing we need to look at – for the town to move into the future – is to put another transformer in," he said. "That transformer means we need to put more 115 kV transmission in it. We need to have another substation site remote from (the current) one because we don't want to take any more power out of this particular site because we do have two transformers there. A third at this location is just not the way they build power systems. So, we need a remote site someplace where the town has capacity to grow and the possibility of having commercial load or industrial load. The thing I would like to see is another 12 mva put in, because it stays consistent with what we have now and will actually double our capacity of the town."

He added that he is concerned the limited capacity left in the system could limit future growth in Vermillion.

"Right now we are running at what I am considering our peak," Koller said. "If we were to get an industrial load in here right now we would be sitting on our laurels, we would be behind time. Because if you are going to get something with an industry you are probably talking 1-3 or 4 megawatts and we do not have the

capacity for that. I would hate to see the city to miss an opportunity to move forward because of a fault in our electric system."

Koller said the potential second Vermillion Substation has an estimated cost of \$4.85 million, which includes transmission, engineering and the substation work, but not the land that would be needed for the location.

"When we have a peak like we have, that is what the day is running at for about a quarter to half of the day at that load," Koller said. "Any engineering firm that I know of is going to tell you that when you get to that point, you better start looking at doing something with your load. If you want to be a town that is not progressive and not promote growth, it is still going to grow."

He noted that right now the system could limit growth.

"If somebody were to walk in here with a 4 megawatt load and they were to ask me can I bring in a 4 megawatt load next year, I would have to tell them no," Koller said. "It would be too much. We have two transformers, so we could make it work. It would just put us at very high risk. You have

to do maintenance on your transformers; it is a vulnerable system that is why we have a redundant system. You need a true redundant, not a partial redundant system."

Koller said it isn't just industrial load that is putting stress on the system.

"We have added quite a few new apartments this year," he said. "The landlords are going all electric with these apartments because they like to see these renters have only one bill. They either have power or they don't. Another thing is they don't like calling up a plumber to light the water heater or furnace because that is extra expense on the landlord. So, we have added a tremendous load just from apartments in the last couple of years."

City manager John Prescott explained that the location that the city is looking at for the new substation is located on property purchased from the Heikes Family Farm and is located on the northeast section of city limits.

We are looking at \$400,000 for engineering during the project, so if the council decides to go ahead I would ask for half of that so we could get going this year, Koller said. Adding,

they would be bringing the formal proposal to the City Council at the July 20 meeting.

"If we do decide to go forward with this, I am sure DGR would be looking at a materials bid next summer, much like we did with this project," said Jason Anderson of VLP. "Since the materials have such large lead times we are looking at 8-10 months from that point to get the materials."

"Even if the council were to go ahead and approve moving forward with the engineering, we are still talking a year for engineering and depending on when the dollars get set up, just to order the transformers because they are so set on what is going on in America – they are built to order," Koller added. "We have seen some of them come in at nine months; we have seen some of them come in at 16 months. So you just don't know if there was another hurricane type problem and you get bumped, you could be looking at a long time, or you could get lucky and be looking at a short time, we just don't know."

Koller said that by being proactive this puts Vermillion in a good place for growth for the next 30 years. However, he said if

the town keeps growing and we don't have enough power, then obviously the lights don't work.

"It does have to go that way, because you need capacity, just like with your car – when you are out of gas, you are out of gas," he said. "When you start overloading your system you start having failures – the equipment starts to fail, the lines start to fail – when you have enough capacity, everything is more at ease if you will and doesn't put as much stress on the system. If we do this right, and it looks like we are on the right path, this could be huge for the capability of the city to grow and expand for the next 30 years."

Nate Welch of the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company (VCD) said any time that there is this kind of forward thinking and prudent thought process on infrastructure, it is always beneficial, especially when considering economic development projects.


"When companies are looking they often look and want to be shovel ready. In other words, ready to walk in and build their building or project or move into a ready building," he said. "Having the infrastructure ready and available for

that type of expansion provides us the chance to be in conversations and opportunities that otherwise we wouldn't be able to be in, if we weren't already set up structurally for that infrastructure. So, when you have that forward thinking of being able to be prepared, to be able to say for us to be ready for that next big thing, we have to have a little bit more capacity, it is a game changer for us."

He said it allows Vermillion to be in conversations for expansions that without the new substation they would be eliminated before discussions could even begin.

"When there are projects like that and we do have the capacity in that infrastructure it allows us to stay in the conversation, where it is easy to get checked off the list if you don't have the infrastructure ready and available," Welch said. "It really is a great thing for us to be forward thinking like that. I think when you have the leaders who recognize the importance of that kind of decision and are prudent with their decisions, it allows them to say we understand and we see the difference between the good and the bad investments and the things we should or should not invest in."



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