

VIEWPOINTS

Getting To Know You

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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It is hard to believe, but I have been the editor of the Plain Talk now for four months. During that time I have, I believe, experienced the two of the three faces of Vermillion – the closing of a year at USD and summertime in Vermillion.

One thing is clear; they are two very different paces.

The educational opportunities in Vermillion from primary schools to high schools and the university keep the community hopping for close to 10 months out of the year. When the end of May, June and July rolled around it was amazing how much the community changed.

I am not saying one timeframe is better than the other, just different.

The community of Vermillion during the summer is vibrant, if at a slower pace. The entertainment opportunities from Thursdays on the Platz to community gardens and farmer's markets or summer camps for kids, if you chose to get involved, you will find amazing opportunities.

The camps at USD, which there seemed to be one every week from music camp, to national conventions, Girls State, elite sports camps, team camps and more, presented an opportunity to showcase the community to the youth of the state and the nation on a quieter level, allowing them to fall in love, and hopefully as they grow older choose this wonderful community for their future. Yet those quiet interludes are ending and it is time for the regular season to start.

I guess I would say summer in Vermillion is a time of relaxation, exploration and calmness.

As we start rolling back into school time (yes, I am sorry to admit, back-to-school is coming up quickly) the town seems to be not so much coming alive, as

transitioning into the busy season.

Starting this weekend, you will see dorms opening for athletes, students returning, rentals filling, the community growing exponentially, and likewise, the events occurring speeding up in their regularity.

Children from the youngest of ages will walk through the doors of school for the first time, likewise teens will be moving away from home for the first time.

Both experiences are life changing.

I am excited to see what this next faze brings to the community.

A few things I am most excited about quickly come to mind.

I love the Missouri Valley Football Conference and the teams that it will bring to Vermillion. I am a huge fan of the Summit League and the sporting events that will be available on a nearly daily basis.

There are not many communities across the country that will have the unlimited access to Division 1 sports that Vermillion can boast.

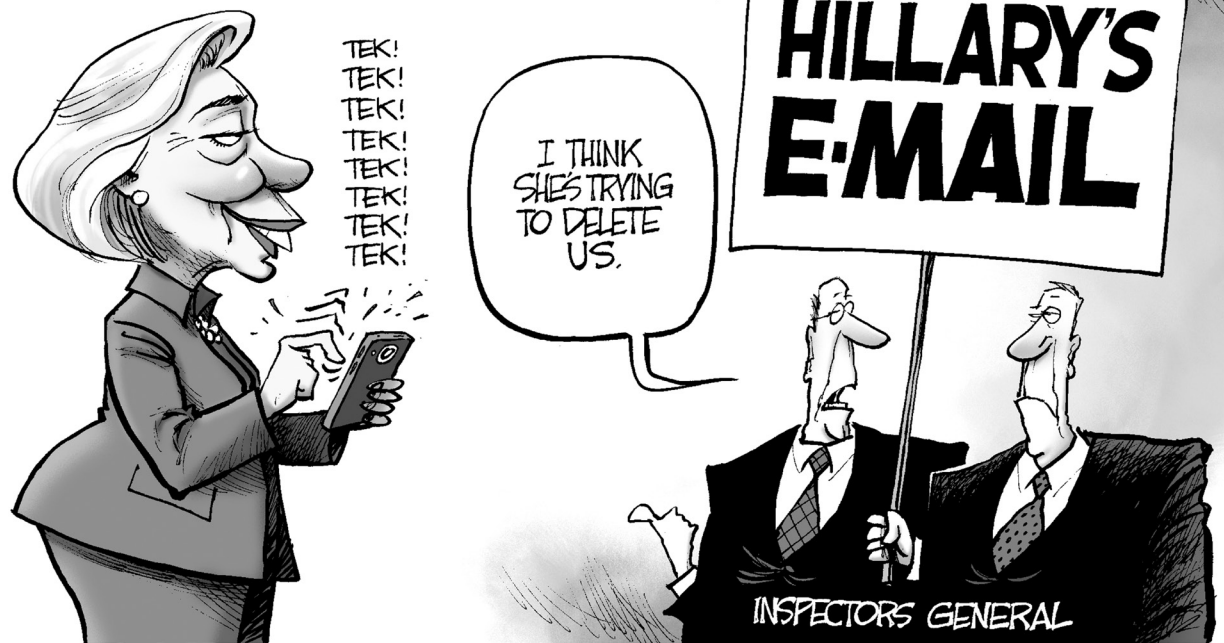
The talented musicians and thespians, the brilliant minds and artists that we will be exposed to are vast and varied. I can't wait to see what happens next and to meet the students at every level that make Vermillion shine.

I look at the opportunities presented at the K-12 level and I can't wait to see the concerts, the plays, the dancers, the athletes, the writers and so much more.

I appreciate all that I have been exposed to in the last four months, but I feel like I am honestly on the cusp of seeing something amazing at every level – Vermillion at its most vibrant.

So, as in my mind, Vermillion ramps up the pace in the next month, look for me taking it all in and enjoying what this community is offering – an awakening of a new year, full of opportunity and endless opportunities. I can't wait.

BLAIR THE COLUMBIAN DISPATCH
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Little Bit Of This And That...

BY PAULA DAMON

Holacracy. Ever heard of it? Neither had I. When I first learned about this peer-to-peer structure that replaces traditional "da boss is da boss" workplace, my ears perked up.

Holacracy eliminates the top-down management style by empowering workers to make their own decisions and be accountable to one another – all on their own.

Just think about it... No one to harp you. No one to micromanage you. No one waiting to write you up either.

For all intents and purposes, Halocracy turns things upside down by putting employees in charge and distributing power equally across all roles.

Authority is bestowed at the team level, where decisions are made and job descriptions are updated.

A workplace filled with empowered employees – what a novel idea! Meanwhile, I've always known we humans often fall short when it comes to protecting wildlife.

Sturgeon poaching on the Pacific Northwest's Columbia River is proof of that.

Evidently, our appetite for caviar [fish eggs] is so great we're destroying this ancient family of fish, which includes 25 species, just because we can't get enough.

These besieged fish, ranging in

length from 12 to 18 feet, lay thousands of pounds of eggs during their lifespan of 55 to 150 years.

According to a recent National Public Radio report, "Top-shelf sturgeon caviar can sell for up to \$200 an ounce....The biggest female sturgeon can carry up to 100 pounds of eggs. The eggs from one sturgeon ultimately could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Wouldn't it be something if sturgeons functioned in a Holacracy autonomous from humans?

Just think; they could donate eggs according to their own needs, not ours, and maybe everyone would be happy.

Speaking of generations, after being a grandparent for 12 years, I have finally learned the most important lesson in life. Acquire a lot of toys and play to your hearts content.

Observing the children's exuberance and pride over the smallest and biggest new, used and homemade play things, I think that's the way God intended us to be – joyful.

Could it be that simple?

Simple. I'll tell you what's simple. Our two seasons in the Upper Midwest: winter and road construction. You don't have to look any further than I-29.

Slowing down for orange cones narrowing the highway to a single lane, you can hear, see and feel the destruction of the old road.

Massive machine-powered jackhammers make pulverizing concrete look simple. What was once unshakable quickly turns into a fractured, frazzled

and forgotten mess.

In a matter of months, road construction destroys the reliable thoroughfares we journeyed for years to and from appointments, jobs and vacations into piles waiting to be hauled away.

The road to where I live today has been a long one. A city kid since birth, I first found country life a foreign land when I got married and settled down on an acreage.

It's like living off the grid compared to residing in town. Refreshingly different on almost every level: geography, environment, culture, community, language, values.

Took me awhile to get used to life here.

The wide open spaces. The aromas, sometimes pleasant, sometimes offensive. Cottonwoods, fresh cut alfalfa, livestock, river mud.

Pastoral views reaching beyond one's imagination, thatched and knotted with grass and crops, gravel roads tying it all together.

And as always, peaceably ordered fence rows draw clean lines among generations.

The place I love when I'm home and long for when I'm away.

SOURCES: <http://www.holacracy.org/how-it-works/>; <http://www.npr.org/As-Caviar-Prices-Skyrocket-Sturgeon-Poachers-Invade-Pacific-Northwest/>; <http://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org/history.php>

CHAMBER CHAT

CHAMBER CHAT CHAMBER BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nate Welch has been selected to participate in the 2nd class of the "Leadership South Dakota" program. Nate is one of only 43 participants to join this special program, whose mission is "... to attract engaged citizens from across the state, then provide them with the background, unique experiences and insights necessary to assume leadership positions at the community, state and national levels."

Coming this fall: Welding Boot Camp-introductory course for basic welding skills. Tentative start date: Oct. 1, 2015. Classes meet Tues. & Thurs. evenings (approximately 2 hours per class) for a total of 35 hours at the Vermillion High

School. Tuition is \$250. Tuition reimbursement is available for those who obtain a welding job with a Clay County employer. Register early to save your spot – class size limited to first 10 applicants. Call the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Co. at 605-624-5571 or email: vcdd@vermillionchamber.com. Sponsored by VCDC, in partnership with Masaba and the Vermillion School District.

Business after Hours: Are you looking for an opportunity to showcase your business and network with your peers? Sign up to host a Business After Hours event! These events generally run from 5:00-7:00 pm on a weeknight and the hosting business provides hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. If interested, please contact Ann at: annb@vermillionchamber.com or at 624-5571.

THIS WEEKS HAPPENINGS FRIDAY, JULY 31

The Vermillion Lions Club is again sponsoring the Biker/Traveler Breakfast at the I-29 rest area on July 31-August 2 from 8:00-on each of those days. Proceeds will benefit the W. H. Over Museum. This is the 10th year the Lions are sponsoring this fundraiser and this is the 75th anniversary for the Sturgis Bike Rally. Free will donation - everyone welcome!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Vermillion Area Farmers Market, Sat., Aug. 1 at Ratingen Platz in downtown Vermillion from 9:00-noon. Call 605-659-3399 or email VAFarmersMarket@gmail.com for more information.

Overeaters Anonymous: Sat., Aug. 1 @ 9:00 am. Lo-

cation: Newman Center-USD Campus, 320 E. Cherry across from the MUC at the corner of Rose & Cherry St. (West Door-straight through double glass doors on left & first door on left; North Door-down hall to left & first door on left). Description: Overeaters Anonymous is a 12 step program for people with eating disorders & struggles

AWARD WINNING CSA HEIKES FAMILY FARM, 1408 317th St., open Sat., Aug. 1, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for fresh local produce.

NEXT WEEKS HAPPENINGS MONDAY, AUGUST 3

Welcome Table serves a free meal on Mondays at the First United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota St. Public is invited to enjoy fellowship & food prepared & served by volunteer groups, Mon., Aug. 3, 5:30-7:00

pm. Groups interested in volunteering to serve at the Welcome Table can contact John Lushbough at 605-670-0958 or email: jlushbough@gmail.com. For more information, visit: www.welcometable.org

Al-anon meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mon., Aug. 3 @ 7:30 pm. For more information, call 624-9764

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

Vermillion Rotary Club meeting, Tues., Aug. 4 @ 12:00 pm in the Al Neuharth Media Center conference room. For more information, visit: www.vermillionrotaryclub.org

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Award winning CSA Heikes Family Farm, 1408 317th St., open 4:00-7:00 pm, Wed., Aug. 5 and Sat. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm for fresh local produce.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

Clay County Fair, Thurs.-Sat., Aug. 6-8. View schedule of events at: www.claycountyfair.net/schedule.html

Vermillion Area Farmers Market, Thurs., Aug. 6, 3:00-7:00 pm at Clay County Fairgrounds. Call 605-659-3399 or email VAFarmersMarket@gmail.com for more information.

Thursdays on the Platz in downtown Vermillion, Ratingen Platz (corner of Market & Main St.), Thurs., Aug. 6, 6-8:00 pm. Musicians Nick & Owen on behalf of the Heartland Humane Society; sponsored by Vermillion community financial institutions (First Dakota National Bank, CorTrust, 1st Bank & Trust and Bank of the West, and Vermillion Federal Credit Union.) Food provided by Heck's BBQ.

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

The Plain Talk encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the Plain Talk will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses. Specific individuals or

entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters to the Editor, 201 W. Cherry St., Vermillion, SD 57069, drop off at 201 W. Cherry in Vermillion, fax to 624-4696 or e-mail to shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net.

In an earlier Letter to the Editor, I requested a copy of the cost/benefit analysis regarding egress windows. It was, to no one's surprise, not answered. The following are a string of my opinions formed while attempting to work with the city.

The city has created an atmosphere of confrontation/conflict with various groups in the community, rather than the cooperative atmosphere that would be more appropriate among groups focused on the mutual goal of community improvement. The city usually advances the mantra of "There will be no compromise on public health or safety," regardless of its appropriateness. The city appears to be particularly concerned if a group appears to have a profit motive, since it is apparently assumed that corners will be cut to save

money. It's pretty basic, but this would not be much of a city if no one, I'll include present salaried workers, made money.

There have been no injuries attributed to egress windows since Vermillion has been founded. That means private ownership has a perfect record on this issue. Should I thank the city for the time spent to determine I needed to waste \$15,000 for them to rectify this non problem? The money could have doubled the 529 fund I have for my grandchildren.

Now the "no compromise" city's safety record is a little more spotty. They have a business that affects everything from the accidental creation of life to the accidental cessation of live, and everything in between. You can read about their record weekly in this paper under

SHERIFF'S REPORT or POLICE REPORT or CLAY COUNTY COURTS, and on really bad days OBITUARIES. Many tragedies, divorces, lost job opportunities, etc., are not even reported here. Ask the city's local bar owners, if a little added tax profit isn't being sought by the city.

Just to add a little insult to injury, if a person accurately assess their condition and leaves their car down town overnight, that an added profit, sorry, I meant to type ticket. Does the city provide public transportation to get people home? Is the safety, both drinker and general, "compromised," by not providing safe transportation.

Vermillion is a green city; we recycle at \$3.30 a month. Can you calculate how many cans of beer I need to consume, and Plain Talks read, to cover the \$15,000 cost

of wasting perfectly good windows?

"Grandfathering in" is simply honoring the agreement on which the city and owner originally agreed. Vermillion appears to be the only municipality in South Dakota that doesn't honor past agreements.

In my opinion, it would be a compliment to this decision to say it is total stupidity.

"Of the people I know trying to improve their property, not one has experienced anything but extreme levels of frustration. One Guy asked the inspector, 'Why are you doing this?' The Inspector smirked and said, 'Just to prove we can.'" The Island Sandpaper, April 17, 2015

Harlowe Hatle
Vermillion

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LETTER TO EDITOR



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