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INSIDE TODAY: TANAGERS AT STATE



PAGE 6

Special Election Day

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Officials Ask For Public's Help

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Attorney General Marty Jackley and Clay County Sheriff Andy Howe are continuing to ask for the public assistance in the homicide investigation of Alicia Hummel.

Hummel, 29, of Sioux City, Iowa, was found in the water of the Missouri River near the boat dock at Myron Grove, also known as the Highline Area of Clay County, in the late afternoon of June 1.

According to Howe, preliminary autopsy findings indicate blunt force trauma to the head and incision wounds to the neck, which lead the investigators to believe Hummel's death is a homicide.

"We are still investigating this as a homicide; all indications point to it being a homicide," Howe told the Vermillion Plain Talk. "Based on the injuries we see, I am fairly certain we won't rule out homicide. But if information were to come forward that change our position on that, then obviously we would change that. But I would say, based on the injuries, we see it is a homicide."

Howe said investigators are not focusing on any one person as a suspect at this time.

He noted that the investigation is ongoing and officers are asking for the public's help in locating information.

"I am looking for any information," Howe said. "There was a dark sedan

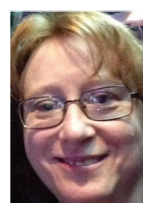
DEATH | PAGE 3

DAYCARE ORDINANCE OPPONENTS

Extra Rules Not Needed For Daycares

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

The upcoming vote for the daycare ordinance has caused some heated debate in the Vermillion community.



Pietrzak

Though daycare centers may not have a problem with it, those who run in-home daycares have another song to sing.

Nancy Pietrzak ran an in-home daycare in her home for many years in Vermillion and only closed down recently because of an upcoming move.

Pietrzak said the ordinance has weighed heavily on her mind.

"I am absolutely against the way it has come about," she said. "There are things that as a provider you do just common-sense wise. They were concerned that if there was a fire and we weren't registered they wouldn't know how many kids were in the house. For one thing you're awake the entire time you're with these kids. If something comes up you take appropriate measures like you would do with your own kids."

RULES | PAGE 8

MALT LIQUOR TAX

Funds Planned For Park Project

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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City officials say that if ordinance 112.24 through 112.31 of the City Code imposing a 5 percent charge upon malt beverage purchases pursuant to SDCL 35-4-60.2 is rejected by votes during a special election on June 30, the plans for the Prentis Park improvement and a new pool will have to be revisited.

"It has a huge impact on our park and pool projects," said Vermillion mayor Jack Powell. "That is why we put the pool project on hold for now. Until we know how the voters are going to come on that we can't move forward with the project."

As part of the Nov. 4 general election, Vermillion residents decidedly passed a \$3.1 million bond issue for Prentis Park improvements. The project carries an estimated \$5.25 million price tag, with the lion's share — an estimated \$4 million — for constructing a new swimming pool with modern features. The new pool will replace the current structure which is nearly 50 years old.

The new amenities include a lazy river, water slides, floatable water walk, basketball hoop, one-meter diving tower, shade structures and zero-depth entry, water features, bench and shade.

PLAN | PAGE 8

DAYCARE ORDINANCE

Reason For New Regulations: Child Safety

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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Safety is the name of the game when it comes to the City Council's proposed daycare ordinance.

"I think safety trumps everything," said Vermillion Mayor Jack Powell.

Voters will decide on June 30 during the special elections whether daycares within Vermillion will be required to register with the city and meet certain requirements to remain in business.

Questions arose during the city's budget meeting



Powell

last August and council members researched the state and other cities requirements for daycares. The council looked at Brookings, Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Rapid City, among others, and borrowed ideas to put together their own potential ordinance.

"We didn't mimic any one city specifically," said

City Manager John Prescott.

The proposed requirements in the ordinance include fire safety inspections, fencing or barriers no less than 42 inches high — unless parents sign a waiver recognizing there is no barrier — age requirements on employees, CPR certification requirements for employees and no daycare employee's name can appear on a registered list of sex offenders or for abuse and neglect.

"Technically right now, the city doesn't have daycare registrations," Prescott

SAFETY | PAGE 11

SPLASHING SUMMER FUN



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Summer fun for youth often includes frequent trips to the local swimming pool. Last November, voters in Vermillion approved a \$5.25 million project to renovate Prentis Park and including a new pool in the project. With the Malt Liquor Tax referred to public vote on June 30, the project is now on hold by the city.

MALT LIQUOR TAX OPPONENTS

Tax Targets Small Group Of Individuals

BY JAMES COOPER
For The Plain Talk

A controversy that is currently gripping Vermillion community members is that of the Malt Liquor Tax Increase. Originally approved by the city council as part of the Prentis Park Pool Improvement Plan, the tax has been referred to a special election on June 30.

The ordinance raises the price of malt liquor 5 percent, the maximum allowed by the state. The profits would be used to help cover the cost of the estimated \$5.25 million project to renovate Prentis Park and install new pool facilities.

While this tax increase has been met with largely positive public approval, there are many business owners in Vermillion that oppose the ordi-

nance with the general feeling that this is a form of indirect targeting that requires a small group of individuals to pay more in taxes, in addition to their



Schoellerman

regular taxes, for no other reason than that they own a business that sells malt liquor.

"The biggest thing that we want portrayed is that we aren't against the pool," said Blaine Schoellerman, owner of Bunyans

and one of the most ardent opponents to the ordinance. "We're pro-pool, we're all about it. We just think that if it's a public pool, it should be paid for by the public."

He went on to describe that he and the other licensed sellers in town already have a 1 percent higher tax imposed upon them, which the City of Vermillion refers to as the Second Penny Fund.

BEVERAGE | PAGE 1