

# Construction Rolls On At USD

BY JEREMY HOECK

jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION – Though he and his family live near the Twin Cities, Brian Boe calls Vermillion his home during the week.

As superintendent for Mortenson Construction, Boe is in charge of the ongoing work on the arena and track/soccer complex, as well as the science laboratory, at the University of South Dakota.

“I’ve been a South Dakota resident for three years now,” he joked during an interview Wednesday from a construction trailer.

Prior to his crew beginning work last fall in Vermillion, Boe had previously worked on five other athletic arena projects across the country: Facilities at the University of Minnesota, University of Louisville, Southwest Minnesota State, Iowa State University, and most recently the Denny Sanford PREMIER Center in Sioux Falls.

As he provided an update on the \$73 million projects at USD, Boe said he was proud that his staff has remained on schedule for the 3-part project: The 6,000-seat basketball/volleyball arena, an outdoor track/soccer complex and a Science, Health & Research Laboratory.

“We’re tracking right where we want to be,” Boe said.

As winter turned into spring and spring into summer, work has rapidly progressed on the projects in and around the DakotaDome. Progress, though, may have seemed slow from the outside, Boe said, as the general public wouldn’t have seen the foundation work as they drove by.

“For those seven or eight months, it was nothing,” Boe said. “The questions were, ‘What’s going on?’

“I needed the precast walls there, so that was the first thing the public saw. Ever since then, there’s been a lot of interest and a lot of hype.”

And for the Mortenson staff, a lot of milestones.

\* The most recent was work Wednesday to close the hole on the west end of the arena ‘bowl’ (the court and seating structure).

\* Then would come work to cut holes into the south walls of the DakotaDome next week

\* Then would work on the arena and laboratory roof, starting on June 29.

As work begins in two weeks on the roof, that will start perhaps the most



JEREMY HOECK/PT

Construction work continues Thursday on the arena next to the DakotaDome at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

intriguing benchmark in the project. That phase should be completed by Nov. 1, which would next mean staff can begin painting walls and laying carpet inside the facilities, Boe said – “pretty stuff,” as he calls it.

“Usually on arenas, getting the roof started is a huge milestone,” Boe said. “Then we’re that much closer to being able to put a roof on to start our next phase.”

In order to connect the academic laboratory (with a price tag of \$15.2 million) with the DakotaDome, construction crews first had to build a steel support structure inside the dome, to stabilize that foundation – so that the top sections wouldn’t fall down and the bottoms wouldn’t tip over.

With that stage complete, Mortenson crews will begin cutting holes into the south walls of the DakotaDome next week, to begin connecting the two structures and creating ‘portals’ – walkways between the facilities.

The trick there was to coordinate with the spring football and indoor track seasons at USD, and then to complete that interior work before football begins fall practices in August.

“We cannot impact what sports events they have,” Boe said.

The arena project is still on schedule for an early summer 2016 completion, Boe said Wednesday – which has been the target date all along.

Meanwhile, the track and soccer complex will be completed first. Mortenson will have all of its concrete

asphalt work and the track surface down in time so sod can be laid down this fall, so it establishes through the spring, Boe said – again, the same initial target date.

Other than a slight rise in total cost (from \$53 million to \$58 million on the Sports Performance Enhancement Facility, and from \$12.5 million to \$15.2 million on the laboratory), the projects haven’t seen any significant design changes, Boe said.

“They spent the better part of two years getting the design completed, so when we started, it was really good,” he said. “There have been a few little things here and there, but nothing out of the ordinary.”

In short: Nothing Boe hasn’t experienced in his previous athletic facility projects. The USD facilities, though smaller in scale, are about what Boe has seen elsewhere.

“As far as the structure goes, they’re all pretty much the same,” he said. “How we build them and how we sequence out the work is about the same.”

“Other than the size, it’s smaller than the other arenas.”

Small in size, but large in vision, as Boe acknowledged.

“But it’s a good-sized project for this region and for this college,” he said. “Six thousand seats, that’s a lot of seats.”

“But I know they’re going to fill it.” Follow @jhoeck on Twitter

# Packard Wins National Advertising Award

BY JAMES COOPER

For The Plain Talk

South Dakota has no shortage of natural beauty.

Capturing that beauty without sacrificing any of its essence can be a tricky business, especially if the job requires using photographic techniques that have not been widely used for more than 100 years.

Aaron Packard, Vermillion resident and owner of Aaron Packard Photography has recently revived the dwindling art of the Tintype for his work with Black Hills Ammunition through Jackalope, a communications firm based in Rapid City.

Earlier this year, Packard announced his winning of the 2015 American Advertising Federation District 8 competition, but recently he was also awarded the 2015 National American Advertising Awards Silver in Elements of Advertising Visual for his photography campaign for Black Hills



Packard

arts communities of South Dakota.

This year, the project that Packard shared in was the only South Dakotan entry into these competitions. Having gold and silver awards shows the country that there is more to South Dakota than just our fine agricultural communities and parks.

When asked to comment on whether the impact that these awards may have on the future perception of the arts in South Dakota is a good thing, Packard said, “One can hope!”

Beyond the recent awards, there is a man behind the camera that has

Ammunition.

These awards shed some very well deserved and necessary positive light on the

arts communities of South Dakota.

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Beyond the recent awards, there is a man behind the camera that has

put twenty years of time and energy into perfecting his art and staying current; even when staying current means resurrecting outdated styles of photography.

It may surprise you to learn that prior to his project in the Black Hills, Packard had to learn the tintype method.

Personally, Packard considers his style, “an amalgamation of new media and classic processes, of image making, and artistic presentation; a search for balance in contemporary technology based image creation and the traditional craft of photography.”

In an attempt to find out what his favorite style is in his vast photographic toolkit, Packard only said, “It’s kind of a hard question.” Regardless, whatever he is doing, it remains fresh and clearly works for him.

With artists such as Packard in the Vermillion community, the question rises as to whether a suc-

cessful artist plans to stay in a small community or move where the opportunities might better suit the artist’s needs. Packard thought about this question and replied, “[Vermillion] is a great place to base out of, so if I could make it work, then yeah.”

It certainly seems to be working currently, so hopefully we will not be losing Packard anytime soon.

Finally, in an area of the country that often struggles to keep interest in the arts, the game to maintain high standards and get recognized is an ever-changing one that Aaron Packard is playing fairly well.

His advice to other photographers who are either just starting or looking to improve is, “just keep working and always keep it fresh.”

Short, sweet, and to the point, Packard knows that just getting down to business and staying in the center of your art is the best way to succeed.

## NEW ROTARY MEMBERS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Vermillion Rotary Club inducted 14 new members on Tuesday. They were: Front/sitting: Jesús Treviño, John Davidson, Ted Muenster, Jeff Chatham, Rich Abild Back/standing: Jim Moran, Rand Wergin, Brent Clark, Jackie Williams, Steve Walters Not pictured: Mike Keller, Jim Perry, and Scott Pohlon and Nate Welch

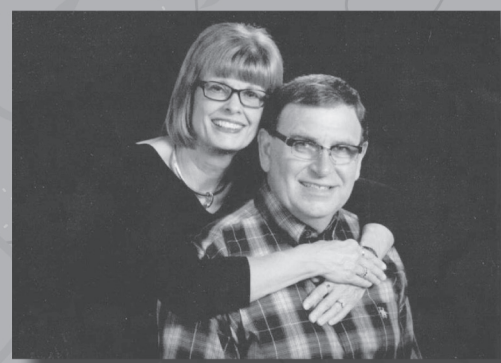
## Meckling Class Reunion Planned

The 1965 Meckling High School class will have their 50th reunion on Saturday, July 4th beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the old lumber company in Vermillion and will have lunch and visit into the afternoon.

This was the last class to graduate from Meckling and the other underclassmen transferred to either Vermillion or Wakonda.

Other high school underclassmen are welcome to stop in after lunch and visit as well.

Wishing Scott and Glenda Schempp a Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on June 28<sup>th</sup>!



With love, Chris, Nicole, Taylor & Lucas, Dustin, Amanda & Hadley

GOT NEWS?

CALL THE PLAIN TALK AT 605-624-4429

## Girard's Auto Auction This Weekend

WAKONDA – Girard Auction & Land Brokers, Inc. will be hosting their 17th Annual Classic Car, Hot Rod, Truck, Motorcycle & Advertising Auction this coming weekend in Wakonda. This auction has become South Dakota’s largest annual car auction and also one of the largest car auctions held in the Midwest every year. This year’s line-up will boast more than 170 collector cars and 75 motorcycles.

Friday’s event will begin at 10 a.m. in the American Legion Hall with more than 220 lots of High End Advertising Signs from Gas/Oil signs; Coke & Soda; Beer; Ag; Porcelain signs; lighted signs & clocks; motion signs and more. This is a great auction for someone to help will the wall space in their garage or “Man-Cave.”

After the signs we will step outside and sell the Motorcycle & Scooter Collection of Bob & Sharon Weber of Strandburg. The Weber’s are life-long collectors and mechanics. They have decided to sell a portion of their unique collection to the highest bidder this Friday evening starting at 2:30 p.m. There will be everything from ready to ride Harleys and Hondas to fixer upper dirt bikes. Along with the more than 50 bikes from the Weber collection; several consignments have also been taken in.

Saturday’s main event kicks off at 9:30 a.m. and begins with the classic cars. This auction has everything from the Classic’s like 57 Chevy’s and antiques like a rare 1928 DeSoto Model K Roadster. Other highlights include American Muscle cars like a 69’ Chevy Camaro RS/SS 396 that was originally sold new in Brookings. There’s literally something out there for every collector be young or old. The cut-off is 175 entries this year and has consignors listing their cars from all over the Midwest, with even one vehicle shipped in all the way from Washington. Saturday’s auction will take place right down the main streets of Wakonda as we cut-off about 6 city blocks and line the cars right down the street like a car show. From the PA camper, the auctioneer will sell to the highest bidder out of nearly 4,000 people estimated to be in attendance. This auction has grown larger every year and the quality of vehicles has went up. Girard Auction prides themselves on having an extremely high sell rate of more than 80 percent when it comes to the vehicles; which is unheard of in the car auction world.

Everything sold both days will also be LIVE VIA-INTERNET. Girard Auction has had great success with the online bidding aspect of an auction over the years and has sent cars and tractors all over the world including to a 1965 Mustang Convertible & Antique Tow Truck to the Netherlands and several tractors over the years to England. Online bidding and full catalogs can be seen at [www.GirardBid.com](http://www.GirardBid.com).

An Open House Inspection of all the vehicles and motorcycles will be from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Thursday and 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Friday. All the vehicles will be lined on the streets by 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. If you’re planning on attending please come early and find parking wherever you can.

Girard Auction & Land Brokers, Inc. have been specializing in antique farm toys, modern farm toys, farm related memorabilia, antique tractors & collector cars for the past twenty years and have grown into one of the industry’s leading auction companies in these fields.

To learn more about Girard Auction visit us on the web at [www.GirardAuction.com](http://www.GirardAuction.com) or see us on Facebook.

## This Weekend At Newton Hills

It’s certainly warming up around here, and we’ve been having some great days at Good Earth and Newton Hills. Stop out to the parks for some of our fun and educational programming; we look forward to seeing you!

This weekend at Newton Hills we are taking a look at the past. We will start off Friday, June 26th with an 8:30 p.m. movie at the amphitheater.

On Saturday morning at 10 a.m. meet John at the swinging bridge at the Woodland Trailhead for a guided hike with a look into the history and lore of Newton Hills. At 1 p.m. we will be teaching basics of orienteering through a fun treasure hunt around the park. Meet us at the amphitheater at 3 p.m. for some tips and tricks to starting a great fire.

Once we have the fire going, stick around for some outdoor cooking at 4 p.m. We will do a Dutch Oven cooking demonstration as well as ideas for other open fire techniques.

Then at the end of the day you can wind down with a movie, some popcorn, and freeze pops at 8:30 p.m.

On Sunday, June 28th at 9 a.m. there will be a non-denominational worship service held at the amphitheater for all who wish to join.

The good programs keep rolling at Good Earth State Park at Blood Run!

Don’t end June without joining us for a fun weekend program! Learn about the history of this culturally rich site where several thousand American Indians settled between the 12th and 17th centuries at Walking into the Past at 7 p.m. June 26th.

Also on Friday at 9 p.m., join a guest park naturalist for a night by the campfire and view constellations through a telescope! Learn a few constellation, star and planet stories from cultures all over the world at Campfires & Constellations. June 27th at 11 a.m., come run, jump, bound, and search! Come partake in the Wildlife Olympics and see how you compare to the animals at Good Earth State Park, it’s fun the whole family can enjoy at Wildlife Olympics!

Naturalists are nature enthusiasts with a passion for experiencing the natural world. Embark on a journey of nature knowledge and discover the world of a Naturalist Notes on Saturday at 4 p.m. Gentle, majestic, and shy, are few characteristics for the delights of deer. Bring your tike for a journey into the world of this gentle plant eater with a hike and craft with White-Tailed Deer June 28th at 3 pm.

If you have any questions about the park or the programs for this coming weekend, do not hesitate to give us a call at (605) 987-2263 or email [newtonhills@state.sd.us](mailto:newtonhills@state.sd.us).

More info including an event schedule may also be found online at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

If you would like to receive weekly email updates on programming at the park, like us on Facebook, or send an email to [newtonhills@state.sd.us](mailto:newtonhills@state.sd.us).

The staff at Newton Hills and Good Earth look forward to seeing you at the park this summer!

## THANK YOU

Sickness and death has taken our Mom, Grandma, and Great Grandma and she is missed by all of us. But so many of you have helped us through this passage.

We are so grateful for phone calls, hugs, memories shared, home and hospital visits, memorials, cards, prayers, food, flowers and laughter.

Thank you, Dr. Searcy, hospital staff, OT and PT for the great care you provided.

Special thanks to her Westreville friends and neighbors and to her Pleasant Valley Lutheran family – Pastor Anna, ushers, musicians and WELCA.

It has been a true celebration of life and thank you for your being a part of that celebration.

Sylvia Johnson’s Family  
Sandy & Loren Odland and family  
Family of Lynnette Hatch Graber  
Debbie & Rick Peterson and family

## Class Reunion

All VHS alumni are welcome to the Class of ‘85 reunion being held this Friday, 6/26, at 7:30 at OLC downtown Vermillion.