

# EQIP, Vermillion River project form partnership

NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Vermillion River Basin 319 Implementation Project have formed a partnership where persons in the Vermillion River Watershed can receive both technical and financial assistance from both programs after acceptance into EQIP. Some of the practices included are Riparian Area Management, Rotational Grazing Systems including Rural Water hook-ups,

Pipelines, Tanks, and Cross Fencing; Grass Seedings including Filter Strips and Grassed Waterways; and Animal Waste Systems. Several of these practices are tied in with CRP so as soon as the new farm bill allows us we will be available to assist producers with CRP. Interested landowners should contact their local NRCS/Conservation District office or Elmer Ward the Vermillion River Basin project coordinator at (605) 280-8518.

# 2012 fire driving up landfill expenses

**By Travis Gulbrandson**  
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The city's financial report for 2013 reflects continued expenses resulting from the 2012 baler building fire at the Vermillion Landfill. City finance officer Mike Carlson discussed the issue Monday night during a presentation to the Vermillion City Council. "Without the baler, they've been open-burying garbage," Carlson said. "They've been operating the dozer more to serve as a compactor for that, they've been having to haul more dirt for daily cover, they've incurred some additional expenses in trying to operate as an area fill versus a bale fill." Carlson said a larger compactor would cost approximately \$500,000, but

probably only be used for a year, until the new baler building is finished. "Then we've got a compactor that we've got to try to sell, when there's only a half-dozen landfills in the state that would want to buy it," he said. The landfill has made do with the equipment it has, Carlson said. "I know fuel costs have been a lot higher, some of the repairs and maintenance because they're putting more hours on the equipment," he said. "That dozer was mainly for moving material and leveling material. It has been a daily operating piece of equipment. "When they were baling before, they didn't have to do the six inches of daily cover. ... They did acquire a machine that would spray a papier-mâché on it to help do that, but that was acquired

later in the year," he said. There will continue to be additional operating costs until reconstruction work at the landfill is finished, he said. According to a previous city council memo, the new baler building is scheduled to be completed in July. The city council took no action with the financial report itself, apart from acknowledging its receipt. The report is unaudited and contains only the financial section. For the annual audit, the introductory, management discussion and analysis, footnotes and statistical sections contained in the comprehensive annual report will be included in the audited report. The audit of the financial statements will be done by Williams & Company, P.C., in either May or June, Carlson said.

## CODE From Page 01

Rental properties will have to replace egress windows that are not up to code, but will be given two years to do so. Dan Siefken of the South Dakota Multi-Housing Association thanked the council Monday for allowing his group to participate in the process of establishing changes to the code. However, he said windows remain their "big sticking issue." "The International Code Council has struggled with this for years and years, and they could not come up with what we were trying to do in three weeks," Siefken said. "The signal that I think you don't want to send is that if you build it today, we may not honor that it's legally built tomorrow. To me, that's very problematic. ... "Your housing stock does need some attention, both owner-occupied and multi-family," he said. "I think we

can do that by putting our heads together and trying to figure out how other communities have solved this problem." Siefken added that he often hears the argument of how Vermillion is different because it is a college town. "I'm to the point where I just want to shake when I hear that, because there are a lot of college towns in this country. There are a lot of them in the state, and we can learn from what they did in order to improve their housing stock," he said. Earlier in the meeting Christensen said rental housing units have always been held to a different standard than owner-occupied units. "I think it's one thing for a homeowner to look at his family and their safety and make his own decision," Christensen said. "It's another thing for you to try to make as a property owner a decision for somebody else's son or daughter." Council member Howard Willson said he has received comments regarding the egress windows, and asked

Christensen for some background on how often standards have been updated. "The perception of some people ... (is that) we just willy-nilly change our requirements, especially on the windows. I don't think that's true at all," Willson said. Christensen said minimum standards for rental housing were adopted in 1975, with further changes adopted in 1988 and in the 1990s. "It's always used (the International Code Council standards) as a guide for windows that are established for both homeowners and rental (properties)," Christensen said. "But in homeowner situations, it was done just for new construction." The code adopted in 1975 was "very discretionary," Christensen said. "I think it said something to the effect that the windows should be of adequate size and open fully to provide for the exit," he said. "So ... we had the first inspectors in the City of

Vermillion approving windows based on their thoughts. Then, later on, in '88, they put a number to it, and later on in the '90s they put another number to it." In 2011 the city adopted the International Property Maintenance Code. "The confusion in windows, I think, happened between '75 and '88, when the enforcement was subjective, and subsequent inspectors were reluctant to step on previous inspectors' toes and say that a window was too small when it was found to be good by the other inspector," Christensen said. "This would eliminate that. We would establish standards based for every year of construction and type of occupancy. "We've designed it in such a way that the minimum size in the code is a safe minimum size, and it works for ... the vast majority of homes in our group. We tried to do it in such a way that openings

would be able to remain the same, and only windows would need to be changed, and only then when it was really necessary," he said. When investigating the new potential standards, the city spoke with a number of local contractors, which John Walker or Walker Construction called "a great thing." "An open line of communication goes a long way, and we gave a little, (Christensen) gave a little on some things, and I think we all kind of came together," Walker said. Christensen said he thinks potential future problems with the ordinance have been fixed by taking into account the time at which buildings were constructed, and the codes that were in place at

that time. "We think we're pretty much right on target with that in adopting windows that were appropriate to the home," he said. "We do have some exceptions. Historic buildings (have) always been an exception to the code. We recognize that, and our downtown structures that have a limited access to exterior openings, we allow most of those to gain their exit through one adjoining room or fire raid corridor that leads directly to the outside." Christensen added that while he doesn't think the city is in 100 percent agreement with the multi-story housing association or some of the rental property owners, the ordinances have "a good appeal process, and I think this is the best way to go."

## CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S PRESS BRIEFING

02/24/14 15:52 – The school resource officer was notified by a student that another driver had struck his vehicle in an intersection in Vermillion. An accident investigation was conducted and the other driver was located and cited for no valid driver's license. 02/24/14 19:28 – Deputies responded to a non-injury two-vehicle accident on the Highway 50 Bypass at Crawford Road. An accident investigation was completed. 02/25/14 04:36 – A deputy responded to a report that a vehicle had overheated on Highway 50 and the driver was having a panic attack. The man then left prior to the deputy's arrival. Arrangements were made for the vehicle to be moved at a later time since it was not a hazard. 02/25/14 09:40 – While attending court, a deputy located a wanted person who had appeared in court on another matter. The man was arrested for the outstanding warrant and booked into jail. 02/25/14 13:47 – Deputies investigated opposing protection order violations between two men who have protection orders against each other. Each complained the other violated their order. 02/25/14 17:38 – A deputy responded along with fire units to the scene of a structure fire north of

Vermillion. 02/26/14 09:15 – A rural Wakonda resident reported a neighbor's dog had strayed to his residence and was acting aggressively. The dog's owner was contacted and informed of the problem. The dog owner agreed to contain the dog in the future. 02/26/14 17:48 – A wanted person was located at his residence in Vermillion and was arrested on the warrant. The man was transported to jail. 02/26/14 18:26 – A patient was transported from the Sanford Hospital to the Human Services Center in Yankton for an involuntary mental health committal. 02/26/14 19:40 – A deputy investigated a non-injury rollover crash northeast of Vermillion. 02/26/14 22:58 – A caller reported an intoxicated man walking on Highway 50 near Vermillion. A deputy and Vermillion Police Officers responded but the man was not located. 02/27/14 15:02 – A vehicle was stopped and the driver was cited for speeding at 77 mph in the 55 mph zone on 306th Street. 02/27/14 15:33 – A deputy responded to a medical emergency in Wakonda. 02/27/14 17:33 – Deputies received a report of one juvenile displaying a photo of

a sexual nature to another juvenile on the school bus. The matter is under investigation. 02/27/14 21:44 – A deputy assisted with a landlord/tenant dispute in Irene. 02/27/14 23:22 – A deputy responded to a medical emergency at a rural Wakonda residence. 03/01/14 01:07 – Deputies were dispatched to a residence in Vermillion to assist Vermillion police officers involved in a domestic assault investigation where one person was being combative with officers. The combative woman was arrested. 03/01/14 01:55 – A deputy investigated a report from a caller who stated a drink was thrown on her in a bar. The incident was not found to be criminal and no enforcement action was taken. 03/01/14 09:14 – A deputy responded to a one-car accident with minor injuries north of Vermillion. 03/01/14 17:03 – A vehicle was stopped and the driver was cited for driving 80 mph in the 65 mph zone on Highway 46. 03/01/14 21:53 – A deputy assisted Vermillion police officers with locating a vehicle involved in a hit and run crash in Vermillion. **Total Records: 21**

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The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in February 2014:

AMELIA	COLBY	JAXTON	MARKUS	ROBERT
ARAMINA	CONNER	JHETT	MOSES	ROSALYN
BLAKE	ELIJAH	KARTER	NATALIE	RYKR
BRANDON	ELLA	LILLIAN	OAKLEE	RYLEE
BRAYLYN	GRIFFIN	LILLY	OPHELIA	SAMUEL
BRIELLE	HAYSLEY	LOLA	OWEN	SHAE
BROOKLYN	HARPER	LUKE	PAUL	TATUM
CALEB	IRELYNN	MADDIE	RAYNA	TIMOTHY
CHLOE	JAMES	MARIA	ROBERT	TREYNOR

## VERMILLION FIRE EMS CALLS FOR SERVICE

02/24/2014 02:23:49 – EMS/Medical  
02/25/2014 14:04:32 – EMS/Medical  
02/25/2014 17:40:51 – Fire/EMS 1914 DePaul Ave. Working structure fire.  
02/25/2014 18:46:53 – EMS/Medical  
02/25/2014 21:53:39 – EMS/Medical  
02/26/2014 19:57:03 – Fire/EMS Intersection of 465th Avenue and 316th Street. Vehicle accident.  
02/26/2014 21:15:30 – EMS/Medical Transfer  
02/27/2014 17:59:38 – EMS/Medical Transfer  
02/27/2014 18:20:44 – EMS/Medical Transfer  
02/27/2014 21:14:45 – EMS/Medical Transfer  
02/28/2014 21:30:00 – 208 Spruce St #101,

Vermillion. Carbon monoxide detector going off in #101.  
03/01/2014 01:21:08 – EMS/Medical  
03/01/2014 09:21:55 – Fire/EMS Intersection of University Road and 308th Street. Vehicle accident.  
03/01/2014 10:42:53 – EMS/Medical

03/01/2014 14:13:09 – EMS/Medical  
03/01/2014 15:42:27 – EMS/Medical Transfer  
03/02/2014 12:06:44 – Fire/EMS 202 Anderson St. Reported car fire.  
03/02/2014 14:20:03 – EMS/Medical  
03/02/2014 21:02:50 – EMS/Medical

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