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Governor Helps Celebrate Polaris Past, Future

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

Community members and leaders gathered at the Polaris Industries Inc. building Tuesday afternoon to celebrate recent and future upgrades.

Governor Dennis Daugaard spoke at the ribbon cutting of the new conveyor belt system.

"We always appreciate our state local representatives taking time to spend with us," Polaris representative Paul Eickhoff said. "It's great to be recognized by the governor for our accomplishments and appreciate the partnership we have with South Dakota and the city of Vermillion."

"This is a wonderful facility that Polaris has created here in Vermillion and especially the new addition that was created recently," Daugaard said. "We're here to celebrate the completion of the very sophisticated conveyor system and racks and shelves that will make Polaris even more efficient and productive than they were before."

"We're also here to celebrate Polaris' decision to expand their facility once again," Daugaard continued. "Originally the building was roughly 250,000 square feet and they added maybe another 130,000 square feet at a later date and now they're looking at adding another 225,000



Polaris representative Paul Eickhoff (right), Governor Dennis Daugaard (left) and VCDC Executive Nate Welch addressed gathered community members and leaders at the Polaris building in Vermillion to celebrate the new upgrades and a future addition to the building.

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

square feet to the south. You can see the flags in the field immediately south of this building where they're going to be drilling and

compacting piers that will support the great weight a building like this must bear

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Some people in Vermillion believe chickens should be allowed as pets within the city limits. Others do not.

AMBER MARGHEIM / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

An Egg-ceptionally Cheep Pet!?

By Amber Margheim
For the Plain Talk

One-hundred dollars or less.

That is how little Christine Ahmed estimates a homeowner could invest in a chicken coop and 4'x8' pen using reclaimed lumber.

"My newest dog Ruby cost \$675 between her purchase price, shots and vet bill" says Ahmed. A hundred dollars is not bad for a pet, especially one that can offset the family food budget in more ways than one.

In recent years more and more cities have been adopting pro-chicken ordinances. With rising food prices and fears over food safety, GMOs, sustainability and the treatment

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Vermillion Mayor Jack Powell (center) presents the Mayor's Community Service Award to Senator Tim Johnson (right) and his wife Barbara at Tuesday night's VCDC Banquet.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Celebrate Vermillion, 'You'

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

It was about food, community, and special guests Tuesday evening at the Vermillion Technology Center (VTC) as the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Center (VCDC) held its annual banquet as it was "Celebrating the YOU in Community."

Taking part in the festivities was Governor Dennis Daugaard who spent much of the day in Clay County

taking part in the banquet but also a special presentation at Polaris Industries Inc. for a ribbon cutting earlier that afternoon.

Daugaard, spoke in front of 240 banquet guests and was introduced by University of South Dakota president Jim Abbott who was proud to talk about one of his school's most well-known alumni.

"(Daugaard) was reelected in 2014 by the largest margin in the history of South Dakota," Abbott said.

"Governor Daugaard relentlessly and tirelessly promotes South Dakota as a great place to expand existing businesses and to start new ones. Under his leadership South Dakota has enjoyed strong economic growth and employments currently exceeds pre-recession levels."

Daugaard started off the evening showing his fun side producing some early laughs with a joke and an attempt at an Irish accent on St.

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Daycare Registration Ordinance Moves Forward

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

The Vermillion city council approved the first reading of Ordinance 1326 – Daycare Registration with the city for in-home daycare providers – 7-2 on Monday night at the city council meeting at City Hall.

Councilman Parker Erickson and Councilwoman Holly Meins voted against the ordinance.

"This move does not include a need to register with the state."

Vermillion resident Brandon Weimars voiced his disapproval with the proposed ordinance.

"Why is the city trying to overstep the state's bounds if the state doesn't require it?" Weimars asked the council. "It's more government and more involvement. To me it sounds like you don't think parents can choose proper daycare. I don't know why this can't

go to a free market. This seems like a huge overstep of government."

"People should choose if they want to go to a registered day-care provider or not. I don't know what the benefit of all this will entail."

Weimars said that he believes many of the current in-home providers don't advertise and use "word-of-mouth" to get their services known to the public and believes that their reputations are known within the community.

"If you want to have a city licensing program make it voluntary," Weimar said noting that the parents should be trusted to know who their providers are and who they are leaving their child with. "You make it sound like all kids are safe now because we have day care ordinances."

Erickson questioned the role of the city in needing

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God's Green Earth in Clay County

By Sonia Hernandez
For the Plain Talk

Sharing their passion for living sustainable, healthy lives with the local community has become a priority for the local Wright family.

Alafia and Marije moved to the community in July of 2011, and have since dedicated their time to creating toxic free products for the home and body.

"We make pretty much anything you can find in any store," says Marije.

Their products include bath and shave soaps, moisturizers, vegan soaps, and products for facial and hair care. In addition to the body products, God's Green Earth also provides home cleaning products and scented wax melts. "We will even make



God's Green Earth's non-toxic creations range from body products like body wash, bar soap, lip balm, conditioner and moisturizer, to home cleaning products.

SONIA HERNANDEZ / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Sebastian, has it the worst," says Alafia. "He would scratch and would become open to infections."

Sebastian is five, and his younger sisters Olivia and Simonne are four and

compounds in products, and decided to make our stuff," the Wrights say. "We only use raw ingredients – we don't use bases with additives like a lot of other products."

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are chemicals found in many commonly used household products. VOCs easily enter the air as gases from solids or liquids, and can have negative health effect when breathed in.

"The doctors prescribed Sebastian steroids for a few years, but nothing has helped as much as using our homemade products," recalls Alafia. "The kids are 100 percent better."

After their first year in production, the couple made a large surplus of soap.

"We made about nine years' worth of soap," says Alafia. "We just started giving it out and got positive feedback, so we decided to

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ANIMAL LOVER SUPPORT ONLINE, SOCIAL MEDIA

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series looking into how well Clay County takes care of its animals, pets or otherwise.

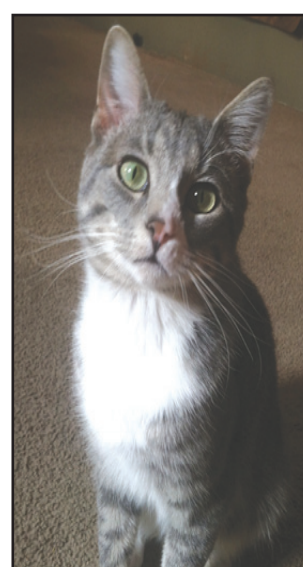
By Katie Clausen
For the Plain Talk

Humans are what they are because they suffer.

They feel loss and sadness. Often it is loss and sadness that is felt because of a non-human companion; a pet.

"He is a Pekinese, he is adorable," said Tonia Moore Dugan of her dog, Reid. "I love him so much."

Dugan is a Vermillion resident who recently experienced firsthand the sadness that is felt when ones pet goes missing, and



Laura Learning's cat, Oscar, went missing for a week. Within hours of posting about the family's assumed loss on social media, the cat was found and returned.

COURTESY PHOTO

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