

# One in a *Ver* Million Meet the Brunicks

By David Lias

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The torch, one could say, has been passed to Dave Brunick and his family.

Dave, his wife, Shelly, and their kids, Ashley, Michael and Ryan are the recipients of 2012 Vermillion Excellence in Family Business Award.

They represent the third generation of Brunicks in Vermillion that strives to meet customers' needs at their family business, Brunick Service.

The award, co-sponsored by CorTrust Bank, was presented to the Brunicks by the Prairie Family Business Association at the 2012 Annual Vermillion Area Chamber & Community Awards Banquet held earlier this spring.

This family business was started in 1932 by Nels Brunick Sr. and his wife, Lucy in a modest 10-foot by 14-foot building.

A six-stall shop was added several years later.

The Brunick family had to overcome several adversities in those early years. Nels was killed in an accident in 1945. Lucy and her hired men managed the business until 1950 when Nels Jr. decided he was up to the challenges of managing the family business.

He was soon put to the test, as a fire in 1951 destroyed most of the building. He serviced vehicles outside with a makeshift pit dug into the ground, and for 38 years, he and Shirley worked hard at building the business before passing on the responsibilities of operating Brunick Service to the third generation, Dave, and his wife, Michelle.

While not busy at Brunick Service, the couple stays active with various community services. It's another important tradition the family has upheld over

the years.

Dave and Nels were both involved with the Vermillion Volunteer Fire Department; and Nels served on the city council. Today, Dave and Shelly are active parents in the Vermillion School District, supporting their children and others in athletic and extra-curricular activities and booster club events. Brunick Service can be counted to contribute to many worthwhile organizations in Vermillion.

"We have tried to be fair and honest with our customers," Dave said. "As a result, we have had to advertise very little. Our customers do that for us. We still offer full service fill ups at self service prices, along with a full range of automotive mechanical service, tires, batteries and propane."

Only time will tell if a fourth generation of the Brunick family, which includes Dave and Shelly's



The Brunick family – Ryan, Michael, Shelly, Dave and Ashley – are presented the 2012 Vermillion Excellence in Family Business Award by Jennifer Steele (in back) of CorTrust Bank. (Photo by David Lias)

children, Ashley, Michael and Ryan, will eventually take over the family business.

The Prairie Family Business Association has been presenting a Vermillion Excellence in Family Business Award for 12 years. Vermillion was the first city that offered a "local" family business award.

There are now 18 communities in South Dakota that present this award. The Brunick family is now in the

running to compete for the 2013 Regional Family Business Award, to be

presented at the annual Prairie Family Business Conference.

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## DAKOTA SENIOR MEALS

Served at the Main Street Center and Town Square, "Meals on Wheels." Please call before 9 a.m. to schedule or cancel a meal at 624-7868. Menus listed below are for the week of May 22-28.

Menus are subject to change without notice. All menus are served with whole grain bread and 1% milk, unless otherwise noted.

**Tuesday** - Chicken Fried Stea, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Peas, Apricots

**Wednesday** - BBQ Pork Rib, Potato Salad, Corn, Seasoned Greens, Fruit

**Thursday** - Liver & Onions or Sub Meat, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Crunch Cranberry Salad

**Friday** - Sausage Potato Omelet, Green Beans, Cinnamon Roll, Fruit

**Monday** - Memorial Day

## SCHOOL MENUS

Menus listed below are for the week of May 22-28. Menus are subject to change without notice.

**Vermillion Austin & Jolley Schools and VMS BREAKFAST**

**Tuesday** - Breakfast Pizza, Fruit, Milk Choices

**Vermillion Austin & Jolley Schools LUNCH**

**Tuesday** - Sack Lunch, Turkey and Cheese Sub, Baby Carrots, Chips, Chocolate Chip Cookie, Apple, Milk

**Vermillion Middle/HS Tuesday** - Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Chips

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