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PLAIN TALK

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The Vermillion High School class of 2012 mingles on the floor of the DakotaDome following their graduation ceremony Saturday afternoon.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

Miller: Approach goals 'one bite at a time'

By Travis Gulbrandson

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Just before they received their diplomas, the Rev. Steve Miller of the United Church of Christ told the Vermillion High School class of 2012 to approach their goals as if they were eating an elephant.

"One small bite at a time."

Miller said the African proverb usually is offered at the beginning of a big project, rather than the end, as it was Saturday afternoon during the graduation ceremony in the

DakotaDome.

"Sometimes the great things we do in life look so big that we're so overwhelmed by them that we don't even know how to start," he said. "But this proverb reminds us that any big project can only be done in tiny little bites."

In order for the graduates to really understand what they had accomplished, Miller told them they would have to look back to their first day of kindergarten.

"I'm guessing the little kid in you ... wouldn't have understood the proverb,

and if you would have, you might have stopped right then and said, 'Too much work ahead of me. I quit already,'" he said.

Instead, they went to school, and continued going for more than 2,000 mornings, he said.

"That's a lot of small bites," Miller said. "How many homework assignments turned in, how many bells did you hear, how many Web sites, how many tests, how many games did you participate in? All of those small bites in order to get you to this moment."

Miller invited the audience to give

the graduates a standing ovation, telling the students, "I want you to take that in."

"Pride is sometimes an emotion that makes people nervous, but this is one of those days where you have the right and the privilege to be proud, to feel the sense of accomplishment for all those small bites you've taken for 13 years that have gotten you to this moment," he said. "I want you to feel accomplishment because there are more elephants for you to eat, and in order to do the next great thing, you need to feel what it feels like to have

accomplished this great thing."

Above all, Miller said he wanted the graduates to remember three things.

First, nobody "eats an elephant" alone.

"When you think back to all of those small bites over the last 13 years ... there were bus drivers and custodians and teachers and principals who didn't want to get up either," Miller said. "But they got up to help you continue your education."

"Besides being proud today I'd like

■ GRADS, Page 05

Vermillion voters will go to the polls June 5

By David Lias

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Four distinct elections will be held in Clay County on Tuesday, June 5, making it necessary to print eight separate ballots to meet all of the variables that will arise when polls open that day.

The mix of city, school and statewide primary elections all occurring on the same day will certainly keep local election workers on their toes. Not all local voters will participate in all four elections. The races that a voter in Clay County will be asked to decide will depend on the voter's political affiliation and place of residence.

Republicans residing in Clay County outside of the Vermillion School District will be given a ballot to vote for presidential delegates in the Republican presidential primary election that will be held statewide that day.

■ POLLS, Page 09

Central Ward citizens to decide alderman race

Vermillion voters will go to the polls to elect a Central Ward alderman on the Vermillion City Council and two members to the Vermillion School Board in local elections scheduled June 5. The Plain Talk asked the city council candidates about their views on local issues and what has prompted them to seek office.

VERMILLION CITY COUNCIL - CENTRAL WARD ALDERMAN

Kelsey Collier-Wise Family: Husband Royce, daughter Aurora (2 years)
Education/Occupation: BA, University of Minnesota; JD, University of South Dakota School of

■ WARD, Page 09

Williams leaving USD for Colorado State

■ Former USD Coach Lavin Also Headed To Fort Collins

By Jeremy Hoeck

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In one grab, Colorado State University appears to have landed not only University of South Dakota head women's basketball coach Ryun Williams but also former coach Chad Lavin.

The news of Williams' departure was confirmed this weekend by an incoming recruit and the news of Lavin's decision to be an assistant was confirmed by Yankton native Maggie Youngberg, a 2-year graduate assistant for Williams.

Williams leaves USD after compiling a 76-47 record in four seasons, all during the Division I transition, including back-to-back 20-win seasons and two straight post-season appearances.

The 43-year-old Williams, who still has family in his native Wyoming, plans to fly to Fort Collins, Colo., today, according to Youngberg.

"He always said there were only a couple jobs he would've left USD for, because he loves USD so much," Youngberg said Sunday. "Anybody who played for him or worked with him would say it's sad to lose him."

Williams, who previously spent three seasons at Sheridan College (Wyo.) and 10 seasons at Wayne State (Neb.), guided the Coyote women to a 23-8 record this past season and a berth in the WNIT — where

USD beat Drake in the first round.

He will take over a program that was 13-17, third in the Mountain West Conference, last season under former coach Kristen Holt. The Rams haven't had a winning season since 2004-05.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for him," Youngberg said. "People at Colorado State should be super excited to have him. He was a joy to work with him, and I'm happy for him and his family."

"He'll do great things there." News of Williams' departure began to circulate Saturday, and eventually word reached incoming recruit, Margaret McCloud of Rapid City Stevens.

"He's probably doing what's best," McCloud said Sunday. "It's a good opportunity for him. I'm just thankful that I got the chance to get to know him, because he's a great guy and a good coach."

"I wish I could play for him, but I know he's doing what he thinks is right," she added.

Williams took over for Lavin in 2008 and guided the Coyotes to an 18-11 record that first season, in 08-09. USD was 15-16 the following season and 20-12 in 2010-11, when the Coyotes qualified for the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI).

This past season, Williams guided USD to a 23-8 record and 12-6 mark in the Summit League as conference newcomers.

Watching along with the rest of the




Ryun Williams, shown here questioning a referee's call during the South Dakota women's basketball game with South Dakota State University at the DakotaDome Feb. 13, will leave USD for Colorado State University, according to reports.

(Plain Talk file photo)

incoming class was McCloud, who averaged 16.5 points and 14.5 rebounds for the Raiders — who finished seventh at the state AA tournament.

■ USD, Page 09



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