

■ USD

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"It was really exciting to see," McCloud said. "It was a little motivation to work extra hard to get to that step; to help the program move forward."

McCloud is one of five incoming recruits for the Coyotes in 2012-13, joining Heidi Hoff (Brandon Valley) and Tia Hemiller (Watertown), as well as transfers Mika Rodewald (Iowa Central CC) and Polly Harrington (Johnson County CC). Madison's Bailey Milne also committed as a walk-on.

In the case of Lavin, a 2011 inductee into the USD Sports Hall of Fame, his decision to join Williams at Colorado State was a surprise in some ways, but not others, Youngberg said.

"I told him, 'I had such a great time playing for both of you, you guys will do amazing,'" Youngberg said. "It's a great fit,

having them working together. It surprises me that he'd get back into coaching like that, but it doesn't surprise me they would work together."

The Press & Dakotan was unable to reach Lavin on Sunday afternoon.

Youngberg said Williams and Lavin, who coached two stints at USD from 1982-86 and from 1998-2008, were in constant contact; always talking on the phone and watching game film together.

Lavin's final season as a head coach in 2007-08 was also his best. He guided the Coyotes to a 33-2 record and a berth in the Division II national championship game — though USD lost.

Since his retirement in 2008, Lavin has been conducting private camps and lessons for area players, and has had former USD women's and men's players serve as assistants — including Youngberg.

"It's such a wonderful job, and he gets to work with Lavin," she said. "I couldn't be happier

for both of them."

Colorado State, which graduates just two players from last season's roster, has already established a pipeline from South Dakota.

Among the five women's basketball recruits signed to CSU is Caitlin Duffy, a 5-foot-11 guard from Rapid City and former standout at St. Thomas More.

Yankton native Colton Iverson is a member of the CSU men's basketball team, after transferring from Minnesota.

As far as who should take over for Williams at USD, which is NCAA post-season eligible next season, Youngberg said the bar has already been set high.

"I obviously feel like we should have standards; they've got some big shoes to fill," she said. "It's a great place to get a job right now, because it's growing and a lot is happening."

"They should be enthusiastic about coaching, and be ready to be part of a great Coyote family."

Memorial Day observance planned in Vermillion May 28

VFW Post 3061 will host a Memorial Day observance in Vermillion on Monday, May 28 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the Clay County Veterans Memorial at the Clay County Courthouse. This year's speaker will be Leighann Dunn, Iraq veteran and SD/ND outreach coordinator for Student Veterans of America. The singers this year will be Paul Granaas and Daniel Bellis.

The Avenue of Flags will be displayed to honor our war dead at the BluffView Cemetery Saturday, May 26 through Tuesday, May 29.

The VFW encourages our community to honor those that have given their lives to ensure the way of life we are accustomed to, and to take a moment out of their day to remember our fallen soldiers.

Clay-Union Foundation seeks mentors for youth

The Clay-Union Foundation is in urgent need of volunteers to serve as mentors for area youth. There are two girls in Elk Point, one boy in Jefferson, and one girl

and one boy in Vermillion, all seeking an adult to spend time with them.

Please contact John Gille at 605-421-5050 or email jgille60@yahoo.com to learn

more about the program. The website is www.clay-unionfoundation.org and the program is supported in part by the United Way of Vermillion.

■ POLLS

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The ballot that will be presented to county Democrats residing outside of the Vermillion School District will include only one race — the Democratic primary election between Jeff Barth and Matt Varilek which also will be held statewide that day.

All voters residing within the Vermillion city limits will be asked to choose two of three school board candidates seeking a three-year term. The candidates in that non-political race are incumbents Mark Bottolfson and Dave Stammer, and challenger Tim Schwasinger.

In addition, voters in only Vermillion's Central Ward will participate in the local city council

election between incumbent Jenny French and challenger Kelsey Collier-Wise. The winner of this race will serve a four-year term on the city council.

Central Ward Republicans will be given a ballot that includes the city race, the school board race and the presidential primary.

The ballot that will be issued to Central Ward Democrats will have the city race, the school board race and the Democratic U.S. House primary race. Independents in the Central Ward may participate in the Democratic primary if they wish. Central Ward independent voters also have the option to be issued a nonpolitical primary ballot that includes only the school district and city council races.

Republicans living in the Northwest, Southeast and Northeast wards in the city of Vermillion, and in the Vermillion School District outside of

the city limits, will be issued ballots that contain the Republican presidential primary races and the nonpolitical Vermillion School Board race.

Democrats who reside in Vermillion's Northwest, Southeast and Northeast wards, or within the Vermillion School District outside of the city limits, will be issued ballots that contain the statewide Democratic U.S. House primary race, and the local nonpolitical Vermillion School Board race. Independent voters residing in this particular area may also participate in the Democratic U.S. House primary race.

Independents who live in Vermillion's Northwest, Southeast and Northeast wards, or within the Vermillion School District outside of the city limits, will be issued a ballot that only includes the Vermillion

School Board race.

POLLING PLACES

Polls in Clay County will open at 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 5, and close at 7 p.m. Residents of Rural Ward 1, including Pleasant Valley, Garfield, Glenwood and Riverside townships, will vote at the Southeastern

South Dakota Experimental Farm, located at 29974 University Road, Beresford.

Voters in Rural Ward 2, which includes Star and Bethel townships, the town of Wakonda and the town of Irene, will vote at the Senior Citizens Center, 119 Ohio St., Wakonda.

All other voters in Clay County will cast their ballots at the 4-H Center, 515 High St., Vermillion. This includes residents of Rural Ward 3 who reside in Prairie Center, Spirit Mound, Meckling, Norway, Vermillion and Fairview

townships, and the Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast 1 and Southeast 2 wards.

In the municipal election, Northwest Ward Alderman Howard Willson and Northeast Ward Alderman Clarene Meins are unopposed, and will automatically be re-elected to new four-year terms.

No petition was filed for the alderman's office in the Southeast Ward, so incumbent Steve Ward will continue to serve another four-year term.

A public demonstration of the tabulating equipment will be given 10 a.m. Friday June 1, in the county auditor's office in the Clay County Courthouse in Vermillion.

Voters with disabilities may contact the county auditor at (605) 677-7120 for information and special assistance in absentee voting or polling place accessibility.

■ WARD

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Law. I recently became the Executive Director of United Way of Vermillion and have served as an adjunct professor at the USD School of Law for the last two years.

Why do you want to be an alderman on the Vermillion City Council? I grew up in Vermillion and after graduating from college, my husband and I decided to return and make our life here. As a participant in Citizen's Academy, I got an opportunity to learn more about the way our city functions and was incredibly impressed by the work of the staff. Vermillion is a great community and I'd love to be part of setting policy and making it even better.

Identify what you believe are the three biggest challenges facing the city in the next five years, and how you will address those challenges.

Economic development, as a broad category, will continue to be a challenge for many years to come. It's no secret that income levels in Vermillion could be better and some of our citizens really struggle. The City has a part to play in both addressing the needs and facilitating growth, but I believe we need to be deliberate and thoughtful in the policies we make in order to protect the character and quality of life that make our community unique.

To that end, I think we need to have more conversation about the kind of city we are and what we want to be. For some people, growth means large employers and an increased population. For others, it means opportunities for mobility and higher wages for people who already live in Vermillion. Policy

needs to be driven with an end goal in mind, and right now that goal isn't really articulated (and certainly not widely agreed upon). It's really the job of the elected representatives to have those conversations with citizens and bring those ideas back to the city staff.

Finally, I believe a greater focus on sustainability is necessary for both the environmental and economic future of the city. We have seen positive moves in that direction with things like the addition of curbside recycling and the Bright Energy Solutions program, but I get the impression in talking with folks around town that it's an issue on many people's minds. I am especially hopeful that the current discussions about transportation will result in a greater focus on making Vermillion more walkable and bikeable.

What makes you the best person for a seat on the Vermillion City Council? I believe my dedication to the community, my educational background and knowledge of law and policy, and my ability to work well with a variety of people would all be assets as an alderman.

Jennifer Anne French Family: Husband Tom, Daughters: Mikaela, 16, Shantel, 14, Tasia, 11 and son Rollie, 6

Education/Occupation: I am the infant room teacher at USD Children's Center. I have four years experience on Vermillion City Council

Why do you want to be an alderman on the Vermillion City Council? I like being involved and working to continue the high quality of life in Vermillion

Identify what you believe are the three biggest challenges

facing the city in the next five years, and how you will address those challenges.

I feel the biggest challenge facing Vermillion is housing. We have a need for suitable housing for the "local" residents — those who live and work here. I feel that there is an adequate supply of rental housing at the moment. The City is working with the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company to survey the current housing needs. After we get a good sense of the housing needed, we will work with the

VCDC and other interested parties to see how we can fill the need.

The current city pool will soon be 50 years old. We are working with a consulting firm to develop conceptual plans for a new facility — which we hope to begin construction on in 2014.

The downtown water tower is at the end of its life. We are in the process of finding funds to help replace it.

What makes you the best person for a seat on the Vermillion City Council? I was

in the very first Vermillion Leadership program. Upon graduating from that, I became involved in the Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce. I was a board member and then president. I was on the committee that worked to merge the Vermillion Chamber and the Vermillion Development Company. I then served on the Vermillion Planning and Zoning board. Following that, I successfully ran for city council. I guess you could say I "came up thru the ranks." I have been involved in

the many different organizations/committees that work with the city to make our city so great. I am on the board of Ribs, Rods & Rock 'n Roll — Vermillion's Signature event. I am very involved and very visible. I am easy to find and easy to talk to. I truly listen to the people and vote in their best interests.

The responses of the Vermillion School Board candidates will be published in next week's *Plain Talk*.

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