

Transient vendors: Get facts before you buy

Transient vendor season is underway in South Dakota, a time when out-of-state vendors roll into the state to sell their products and services. While many of the vendors are legitimate, the South Dakota Department of Revenue advises people to take common-sense steps to ensure vendors are reputable before doing business with them.

If you're considering hiring a person to provide repair or construction services, the department advises you to:

- Ask for a price quote, in advance, in writing.
- Question the contractor about a permanent address and telephone number, and don't assume that if the information they provide is local, they're a local business. Transient vendors often have business cards printed with local mailing services or motel addresses and telephone numbers.
- Ask for a list of local references and check them before making a decision.
- Ask if the contractor has worker's compensation and general liability insurance. If vendors are not properly insured, homeowners may be liable for accidents that occur on their property.
- Be careful about paying for work in advance; before making final payments, make sure

transient vendors have paid their local suppliers or you may be held liable for unpaid materials.

• Make sure you're completely satisfied with the work before paying the bill, and don't pay more for the job than originally quoted unless you've given written approval for the additional work or cost.

Out-of-state vendors often travel to South Dakota to sell items like fruit, seafood, meat packages, paintings, magazine subscriptions, rugs, T-shirts, sunglasses, household cleaners, furniture, stuffed animals, and asphalt and roofing services.

Asking the right questions when approached by those vendors can help you avoid making a purchase you may regret:

- Question the salesperson about the product, warranties, guarantees, etc.
- Get something in writing with the company's name, address and phone number.
- Ask to see their current South Dakota tax license. State law requires everyone selling products or services to have a current South Dakota sales or contractors' excise tax license.
- To verify if the license is valid, call the Department's toll-free helpline at (800) 829-9188.
- All sellers must provide you with a contract or receipt at the time of sale showing the date,

merchant's name and address, and a statement informing you of your right to cancel the contract within three days.

After proper cancellation, the seller has 10 days to refund your money.

If you have doubts about the vendor or think you may have been the victim of a scam, call your local police department or county sheriff's office immediately.

You can also contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Office at (800) 300-1986 or by e-mail at consumerhelp@state.sd.us.

Be prepared to give as much information as you can about the vendor, including the name of the company and salesperson; company address and telephone number; and make, model and license number (if possible) of the vehicle the vendor was driving.

Without tips from the public, law enforcement officials may not be able to catch illegal vendors before they move on to the next community.

For more information on transient vendors, contact the South Dakota Department of Revenue's toll-free helpline at (800) 829-9188, press "1" for the Business Tax Division.

VPD seeks grant to provide additional school officer

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Vermillion police chief Matt Betzen is applying for a grant that could net the community another School Resource Officer (SRO).

The Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) grants are focused on supporting the hiring of SROs and pay approximately 75 percent of a new position for the first three years of its existence.

"The bottom line is, putting a visible officer in the schools makes the staff, the parents, the kids all feel safer," Betzen told the Vermillion City Council during a presentation last week.

Even before the grant became available, Betzen said he was looking into getting another SRO for the Vermillion School District.

The Clay County Sheriff's Department currently has an SRO stationed in the local schools.

"I talked to the sheriff when I first got here, and we agreed that there is plenty of room for two SRO officers," Betzen said. "One would be stationed for the most part in the high school, one would be stationed for the most part in the middle school, but both of them would then have more opportunity to do walk-throughs in the elementary schools and expand the DARE program to include both middle school and the elementary schools."

In addition, the SRO would become part of emergency planning, have daily meetings with school administrators, and improve communication with the police department, giving officers a better grasp of what's going on at the school, he said.

"You're going to improve the safety of your schools overall – not just with active shooters," he said.

The COPS grant is competitive, would provide approximately \$40,000 for three years.

Betzen said if the grant is received, he hopes to select the SRO in June and send them to training in July so that they would be prepared for the upcoming school year.

"My intent is to try and sell you on getting one no matter what," Betzen told the council.

He added that a district safety assessment was completed after the Newtown school massacre last year, and that law enforcement and the district are working on additional programs apart from the COPS grant:

- In July an intensified training on active shooters will be performed that will include visiting all of the schools;
 - an ALICE – Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate – training session will be held, instructing city employees and others how to respond to active shooter situations;
 - Betzen is working on a proposal asking for second-penny funds to expand the police department's tactical gear and equip all of its officers on the same level; and
 - all the schools' emergency plans will be improved.
- "I think we already do a lot of things," Betzen said. "Shooter events in the past have already prodded us to do a lot of things better than most agencies in our size bracket do, but when you see something like Newtown, you say, 'What else can we do?'"
- The COPS grant applications are being accepted until May 22.

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 5/3-9/2013

Steven Harold Hurley, 1204 South Aberdeen, Sioux Falls; Speeding on other roadways, dismissed

Jordan J. Nothdurft, 219 S. Pine Street, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Sarah V. Jost-Wilch, 721 W. Chestnut St., Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Jenifer James, 117 W. Clark St., Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Joey L. Guy, 101 Jackson, Volin; Operator assure passengers 5-18 wear seat belts, \$25.00

Joey L. Guy, 101 Jackson, Volin; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Tina M. Beach, 372 Lakeshore Drive, N. Sioux City, SD; County speeding, \$59.00 plus costs

Gregg D. Knutson, 615 Main Street, Centerville; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Michele Larson, 948 Eastgate Dr., Vermillion; speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Paige Louise Durham, 1305 Overlook Drive, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Samantha Harvey, 901 Rose Street, #245 D, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Kristopher Vollmer, 703 E. 19th St., Yankton; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Kelsey Lynn Anderson, PO Box 246, Gayville; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Jessica Marie Ward, 514 N. Plum, Vermillion; Municipal speeding, \$59.00 plus costs

Charles Jon Carlson II, 416 N. Pine #313, Mitchell; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$54.00 plus costs

Jason Allen Fikse, 1368 180th Ave., Woodstock, MN; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Ross N. Bacon, 707 Lakeshore Drive, McCook Lake; Municipal speeding, \$59.00 plus costs

Tanner Carlson, 729 Cedar #306, Cherokee, IA; Urinating in public, \$104.00 plus costs

Sawyer Joel Hoffman, 525 N. 6th, Mankato, MN; Litter ordinance violation, \$54.00 plus costs

Hannah Elizabeth Rojas, 10104 S. 179th Street, Omaha; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Harrison S. Kobombo, 910 W. Clark Street, Vermillion; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$39.00 plus costs

Harrison S. Kobombo, 910 W. Clark Street, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Angela Marie McCloud, 1005 Cedar Street #6, Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Ethan David Cleaver, 1510 East Lewis Street, Vermillion; Speed on four-lane in rural areas, \$154.00 plus costs

Judge Tami Bern presiding
Amanda Lee Bradshaw, 202 ½ Prospect Street, Vermillion; Driving under influence-2nd offense, \$500.00 plus costs, thirty days county jail, twenty days suspended based on the conditions of the court; Driving under influence-2nd offense, recharged

Jasper V. Washington, 901 Rose #419, Vermillion; Ingest intoxicant other than alcoholic beverage, \$621.00 plus costs; Possess two ounces of marijuana or less, dismissed; Use or possession of drug paraphernalia, dismissed

Justin Paul Scheetz, 605 6th St., Springfield; Ingest intoxicant other than alcoholic beverage, \$371.00 plus costs

Danielle Lee Stevenson, 813 W. Main Street, Vermillion; Fail to stop – accident causing property damage, \$300.00 plus costs, conditions of the court; Fail to stop – accident causing property damage, recharged

Hannah Marie Logue, 44342 307th St., Mission Hill; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs

Jordan D. Plath, 856 Madison Street, Vermillion; Intentional damage to property - \$400-\$1,000-2nd degree, \$300.00 plus costs, thirty days jail suspended based on the conditions of the court; Illegal possession of official signs, court costs; Petty theft-1st degree-more \$400, dismissed

Jessica Ann Arnold, 901 Rose Street #305D, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs

Richard A. Gonzalez, 417 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN; Ingest intoxicant other than alcoholic beverage, \$371.00 plus costs; Possess two ounces of marijuana or less, dismissed

Alexander John McNeill, 800 N. Plum, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs; Fail to obey lawful order, dismissed

Chad Michael Peterson, 445

Alejandra Berenice Rios, 2402 Southeast 13th Street, Oklahoma City, OK; Ingest intoxicant other than alcoholic beverage, \$371.00 plus costs; Possess two ounces of marijuana or less, dismissed; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, dismissed

Ricky Darnell Reeves, 901 Rose #207, Vermillion; Ingest intoxicant other than alcoholic beverage, \$371.00 plus costs; Possess two ounces of marijuana or less, dismissed; Use or possession of drug paraphernalia, dismissed

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N. Pine, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs

Ryan Richard Steenholdt, 927 Ash St., Vermillion; Reckless driving, \$300.00 plus costs; Fail to stop after accident with unattended vehicle, court costs; Fail to stop – accident causing property damage, dismissed

Austin Joseph Michels, 856 Madison Street, Vermillion; Intentional damage to property - \$400-\$1,000-2nd degree, \$300.00 plus costs, thirty days county jail

Christopher Barta, 1037 Kim Lane, Vermillion; Ingest intoxicant other than alcoholic beverage, \$371.00 plus costs, five days county jail suspended based on the conditions of the court; Under twenty-one driver, dismissed; Use or possession of drug paraphernalia, dismissed; Possess two ounces of marijuana or less, dismissed;

Christopher Barta, 1037 Kim Lane, Vermillion; Domestic abuse – violation of protection order, \$300.00 plus costs, thirty days county jail suspended based on the conditions of the court; Domestic abuse – violation of protection order, recharged

Jeffrey J. Schulte, 705 Autumn St., Orient, SD; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs

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Welcome to the World

The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in April 2013:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| ADRIAN | COMILLIONYIA | FARON | KOLTON | REMINGTON |
| AMARI | CRUZ | GRANT | LAINY | RHETT |
| AMIAH | CYVER | HATTIE | LIAM | RYDER |
| ASHTON | DESMOND | HENRY | MACKENZIE | RYKER |
| CAMI | EDEN | HUDSON | MAKENNA | SOPHIE |
| CHARLEE | ELEANOR | JAMIE | MICHAEL | STELLA |
| CHELSEA | ELIYAH | JAYA | MILEY | TATUM |
| CHRISTINE | ETHAN | JORDI | NORAH | WYATT |
| CHRISTOPHER | EVAN | KATE | OXFORD | |
| CODY | EVAN | KEIANI | PADDEN | |
| COLT | EZRA | KENDALL | RAELYNN | |

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Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
www.AveraSacredHeart.com