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Grant Moves Greening Vermillion's Vision Forward

By Shauna Marlette
shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

Greening Vermillion, a new nonprofit organization in Vermillion, is in the beginning stages of organizing, and thanks to a South Dakota Community Foundation Grant they are one step closer to hiring a staff that will help path Vermillion's future.

Greening Vermillion was notified last week that they are the recipient of a \$9,250 grant that will allow them to embark on a one-year process to develop a vision for a sustainable and desirable city.

"What this grant looks at addressing is visioning a sustainable and desirable Vermillion," said Meghann Jarchow, chair of Greening Vermillion. "The idea is to do visioning work. Visioning is an idea of creating a more utopian type vision where you ask, 'What would you really like to see?'"

The South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF) awarded \$137,250 to 14 South Dakota nonprofits through its Community Innovation Grant program. Offered in partnership with the Bush Foundation, the Community Innovation Grant program supports efforts to find breakthrough solutions to community challenges across the state. These Community Innovation Grant recipients were selected during the first grant round of 2015.

"Nonprofits have creative ideas to address the complex challenges South Dakota communities are facing," says Ginger Niemann, SDCF program officer. "Community Innovation Grants provide the funding needed to spark change and implement inclusive, collaborative and resourceful solutions in communities."

Jarchow said it will be important to have input from all aspects of the Vermillion community on not what they

VISION | PAGE 15

Crashing Into Spring



THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The Clay County Fair Board kicked off summer with its first ever demolition derby held in May at the Clay County Fairgrounds Saturday. It was the first demolition derby in South Dakota for the year. The Clay County Fair will still host its annual derby in August as part of the Clay County Fair.

Treatment Plant Earns State Award

By Shauna Marlette
shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced earlier this week that the City of Vermillion wastewater treatment system is the recipient of the 2014 Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment Award.

This award is for outstanding operation of the wastewater system and environmental compliance with its state surface water discharge permit during the past year.

The award was presented during the 2015 South Dakota Water and Wastewater Association Wastewater Operators Seminar held April 29-30, in Pierre.

"The purpose of the award is to complement our department for having zero permit violations, passing all of their inspections and filing reports correctly," said Jason Anderson, assistant city engineer for Vermillion. "We had a good year. It is a nice award to receive. It is a



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The City of Vermillion wastewater treatment system is the recipient of the 2014 Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment Award. Pictured: Michael Heine, Rob Pickens, Fred Balleweg and Jason Anderson. Not pictured: Cory Moore, John Walker and former superintendent Paul Brunick.

way to say the guys did a great job and we didn't have any issues. We had no violations, we are compliant and we are doing a good job."

Anderson said the award has been received in the past and it is

because of the staff that runs the plant.

"We have received this in the past and that is directly associated with the fact that we have good people," he said.

Qualifications for the Operation and Maintenance Wastewater Treatment Award are based on a system's compliance with state environmental requirements, the quality of the treated and discharged wastewater, monitoring reports, state inspections, and proper operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facility.

"Wastewater treatment systems are essential services that we all use every day, but are taken for granted unless there is a malfunction," said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. "These award winners are the certified wastewater operation specialists who went the extra mile last year to ensure there were no malfunctions."

Vermillion wastewater treatment system employees include: recently retired wastewater department superintendent Paul Brunick, Michael Heine, Rob Pickens, Fred Balleweg, Cory Moore, John Walker and Anderson, who is acting superintendent.

Center For Children And Families Facelift Could Earn Them \$5,000



COURTESY PHOTO

The Center for Children and Families child care center hosted a group of more than 20 volunteers from Alleviant this past weekend. The volunteers scrubbed and deep cleaned the kitchen, dining area, bathrooms, hallways, walls and floor boards; cleaned all the carpets; and spackled and painted some walls. Outside they helped with weeding the front flower beds; planted a tree, bushes, tulips, and laid wood chips. Also outdoors, they helped prepare an area for the Center's future Outdoor Nature Classroom.

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

After a day of service giving Vermillion's Center For Children and Families (CFCF) a facelift inside and out, Vermillion Alleviant employees look to help the nonprofit daycare and preschool center even further.

"Our 2015 all employee service day was a huge success," said Alleviant representative Samantha Haakinson. "As part

of our Community Connections Day, Navigant will make a \$5,000 donation to five participating organizations. Recognizing that each of the charities we supported is a worthy recipient, we are engaging our employees as well as the public to vote for the five winners."

Alleviant employees nationwide have participated in various community projects. The larger company, Navigant, has posted all the projects at <http://bit.ly/1F3Tako> where anyone can view and

vote for their favorite.

"The contest is company-wide," Haakinson said. "The whole company went out and helped different organizations. Whoever has the most votes gets an extra amount that goes towards the charity that you helped. You can only vote once per device. You can vote with your phone, your computer, you can go to the library and vote on those computers. Hopefully, we'll win and they can use it to get extra things for that project."

Voting began Tuesday and will continue until 5 p.m. on Friday, May 15. Winners will be announced the following Tuesday.

Voters are encouraged to share the link utilizing social media to spread the word.

The project at CFCF is considered a success by all whether or not they win the contest.

"I was very impressed by the group of people that came," said Sarah Sherlock, director of CFCF. "There were more than 20 of them and some of them brought their kids to help out. They all came with the best attitude, a smile on their face and ready to work. Some of them found that tilling the outdoor space was very difficult with the hand tiller so they went to Ace Hardware and rented a tiller with their own money. This just speaks volumes as to who they are and what their purpose was here to help with the community."

"We're not just here to provide jobs,"

CHILDREN | PAGE 15

Vermillion Hy-Vee Store Not Affected By Pasta Recall

By Jordynne Hart
jordynne.hart@yankton.net

The Vermillion and Yankton Hy-Vee stores did not carry the Summer Fresh Pasta that Hy-Vee, Inc. recalled in fear of *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination.

Yankton store director Tonya Graff said the last time they ordered the product was June of 2013. "We primarily make hand made salads in our kitchen," Graff noted. "We follow up on every recall and work hard to provide the safest possible food available. We take all recalls very seriously, whether they are voluntary or not."

Vermillion Hy-Vee store director Josh Suing confirmed the Vermillion store did not carry the product.

According to a press release, Hy-Vee issued a recall for the company product that was sold in its stores' kitchen department's cold cases and salad bars after the company was notified the frozen vegetables used to make the ready-to-eat pasta potentially could be contaminated with the bacteria.

The frozen vegetable were produced by Inventure Foods out of Jefferson, Georgia.

Hy-Vee has since pulled the pasta salad from its distribution to stores in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Hy-Vee stores in Sioux City, Iowa; Norfolk, Nebraska; and Sioux Falls were affected by the recall.

For a list of stores that received the pasta salad go to <http://tinyurl.com/hyveepastarecall>.

HYVEE | PAGE 8