

## Group/ from page 1

having the same problems.”

Lund admitted that sharing her concerns and learning more about chemotherapy's side effects helped her better cope with her daughter's ordeal. “And my niece said, ‘Marcy, we need to get a support group started.’”

This fall, Lund and people associated with the American Cancer Society contacted Merrigan. “So really, we’ve just taken baby steps with this idea,” Lund said.

“It really started with Marcy having the revelation that are probably other people in this community that can benefit from having some meetings where you can just sit around the table and share,” Merrigan said. “From our perspective as a medical center, we would be more than willing to help to provide speakers, presenters and educators for different topics

that might be brought up in a support group setting.”

It was decided that a good starting point, Merrigan said, would be to conduct the survey in the community to learn the interest level in such a support group.

“These types of things appeal to some people, but don’t appeal to others,” she said. “Of course, to me it would be an ever-changing crowd. People have different needs at certain times, and those needs may not necessarily always stay as strong. People may get better, or, once they receive needed information, they may decide they don’t need to be part of the group. So it will probably be an ever-changing crowd.”

Merrigan has sent the survey electronically throughout the community. It has also been spread via Web pages of local churches, and Lund

has helped inform through members of the Vermillion Ministerial Association.

“That’s a real good way to get the word out – through churches,” Merrigan said. “And I’ve sent it out to our employee base, but I also tacked on a few other groups that I’m involved with.”

“Anything we can do to get more feedback on this survey will be helpful,” she added. “And we really don’t have a timeline yet. We want to see what we can find from this first step, and then go from there.”

“We want to let these families and caretakers know that we care about them,” Lund said. “And we want to provide an avenue for them to vent their feelings, and concerns and anxieties.”

“And this will also be for learning – learning from other people’s similar experi-

ences, or different experiences,” Merrigan said.

“There isn’t anything like this in Vermillion, that we know of,” Lund said, “and I know the help that Linda has received from her support group in Yankton has been very beneficial.”

“And we want to make sure to emphasize that we are talking about cancer in general with this survey and this idea,” Merrigan said. “We know there are many different types of cancer, and we want this group to include anyone – be they patients, survivors or family members who are affected by any type of cancer. We’re not trying to be specific; we’re trying to provide general cancer support.”

People may get information about the survey by contacting Lund at 624-8706, or Merrigan at 638-8461.

## Transportation department undergoes federal audit

South Dakota Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist says the department recently underwent an audit by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provisions.

In early October, FHWA officials traveled to South Dakota to conduct in depth audits of the state’s transportation stimulus programs, specifically looking at the areas of Contract Administration, Financial Management and Quality Assurance on South Dakota’s stimulus funded highway construction projects.

The review team praised the professionalism and high level of service the department provides with a limited number of people and resources available as compared to other states.

The FHWA review team also determined the depart-

ment’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program was one of the best they had seen in the country.

Since receiving the stimulus money, the Department of Transportation has contracted for 16 projects worth \$89 million, worked with local governments to use \$7.5 million to purchase transit vehicles and build or add on to bus barns in several communities, and contracted for 4 airport projects totaling \$12.7 million.

The department has also identified needs across the state for the remainder of the full \$183 million in stimulus funds for the 2010 construction season.

For detailed information on highway projects, contact Ben Orsbon at 605-773-3265. For more information on transit and airport projects, contact Bruce Lindholm at 605-773-3574.

## Planning For Vermillion’s Future by Investing In



### VERMILLION NOW! A Commitment To Our Future

Vermillion NOW! is a five-year economic development initiative designed to give the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company the resources to actively promote the city and county to encourage new diversified, industrial growth. So far we have raised over \$1.6 million and invite you to join this effort.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

We are proud to recognize and would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who have generously invested in Vermillion’s future as of November 1, 2009.

#### Founders: \$100,000 & Up

City of Vermillion  
First Bank & Trust  
Sanford Vermillion Medical Center,  
Dakota Hospital Foundation and  
Sanford Health

#### Leadership: \$50,000-\$99,000

Avery Outdoor  
Brady Companies  
Clay County  
Culhane Communications  
(KVHT106.3FM, KVTK AM1570)  
First Dakota National Bank  
Jerad and Peggy Higman  
Midcontinent Communications  
Polaris Foundation  
The University of South Dakota and  
The University of South Dakota  
Foundation

#### Major: \$25,000-\$49,999

Bank of the West  
Clay Union Electric Coop  
CorTrust Bank  
KYNT 1450 KK93 Radio  
MidAmerican Energy  
Plain Talk, Broadcaster Press and  
Press & Dakotan  
Gary R. and Frances L. Rasmussen  
dba Rasmussen Motors, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

#### Builder: \$10,000-\$24,999

Carey’s Bar  
Fernando A. Escobar, MD  
Holiday Inn Express  
Houska Dental Clinic  
Kalins Indoor Comfort  
John (Jack) Powell & Lisa Ketcham

Premier Real Estate, Ltd.,  
Jones’ Food Center and  
Jones’ Ace Hardware  
Douglas and Susan Tuve  
Vermillion Comfort Inn

#### Investor: \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous  
James W. and Colette M. Abbott  
Coyote Mini-Stor-All  
First National Bank South Dakota  
Steve & Mari Howe  
Hy-Vee, Inc.  
Knutson Family Dentistry  
Roger L. and Patricia Kozak  
Robert and Patricia Macy  
Young Moore, III  
Paul and Jessica Preister  
John and Karen Prescott  
Proefrock Electric, Inc.  
Pump ‘N Pak  
Tim and Kathy Tracy  
Williams & Company, P.C.

#### Community: \$2,500-\$4,999

Clay County Abstract & Title Company  
Craig K. Thompson Law Office  
Dakota PC Warehouse  
Dakota Realty  
Paul and Julie Eickhoff  
Mark and Kathy Froke  
Fullerton Building Center  
Herren-Schempp Building Supply  
Mike and Paula Keller  
Louie’s Carpet, Upholstery and Disaster  
Restoration, Inc.  
Gene C. Lunn  
Michelle Maloney and Kevin Murley  
Rick and Valerie Melmer

Anne Cooper Moore  
Senator Ben Nesselhuf  
Farron and Michelle Pratt  
PrintSource Network, Inc.  
Curt and Nancy Robinson  
Sammelson Brothers/The Varsity Pub  
Tom and Susan Stogsdill  
Richard and Kerri Van Den Hul  
Carol and Steve Ward

#### Other Donors: Up to \$2,499

American Family Insurance  
Ken “Andy” Anderson  
Ronald J. Avery  
Michael and Laurie Becvar  
J. Bryan Benchoff  
Mark & Beth Bottolfson  
Ann Breitag  
Ralph & Lynn Brown  
Brunick Furniture and Flooring  
Mike and Kathy Carlson  
Chae’s Oriental Dining  
Dan and Gloria Christopherson  
Don and Jeanne Dahlin  
Bob & Vicki Dehner  
Joe and Mary B. Edelen  
Evergreen Farms  
Family First Chiropractic, PC  
Fast Auto Glass  
Mike Flemming  
Michelle and Kolly Fostvedt  
Rollie and Sue French  
Tom and Jenny French  
Teresa Gilbertson dba Campus  
Cuts Hair Salon  
John A. Gors, P.C.  
Tim and Susan Hanson  
Kevin and Amy Haselhorst

Steve and Tammy Heirigs  
Ray and Pam Hofman  
Chad and Kari Holden  
Vern and Joan Holter  
Andy Howe  
Brendan V. and Jana B. Johnson  
Charles and Fern Kaufman  
Dan and Lori Kenton  
Kurt L. Kuiper  
Art and Greta Mabry  
Larry and Clarene Meins  
Midwest Ready Mix  
Ted Muenster  
Robert A. and Karon J. Nelson  
Jack and Phyllis Noble  
Nook ‘n Cranny  
Nygren’s True Value  
Olson Medical Clinic, Thomas H.  
Olson, M.D.  
Gregg and Nikki Peters  
Raziel’s  
Saunders Chiropractic  
Chuck Staben  
Taco Johns/Steak Escape  
Tom and Peggy Schaack  
Vermillion Veterinary  
Vermillion Vision Clinic  
Wagner Knutz & Grabouski, PC  
Rich and Brenda Walker  
Terry J. Weber  
Willson Florist

[www.vermillionnow.com](http://www.vermillionnow.com)

As an investor-owned economic development organization, we need a broad base of support to make things happen.

### Invest in the Vermillion of Tomorrow by investing in Vermillion NOW!

Please make checks payable to:

Vermillion NOW!,  
116 Market St., Ste. 103., Vermillion, SD 57069

Phone: 605.624.5571  
Fax 605.624.0094

I hereby authorize a total pledge in *Vermillion Now!* of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Entire Amount Now or  Installment Payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

First Payment with Pledge or  Beginning Date of \_\_\_\_\_

Annual  Semi-Annual  Quarterly  Other

Investor Company \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_