

**INSIDE:****Highlights**

Learn about Vermillion's past ■ p. 2

**Men's Hoops**

USD rolls past Mayville in home opener ■ p. 8

**Welcome Table to meet Nov. 30**

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, Nov. 30 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota. The Nov. 30 meal will be sponsored and served by the USD's Social Work Club.

Thanks to the Vermillion Ministerial Association for sponsoring and serving the Community Thanksgiving meal last Monday.

**Blood drive at USD is Dec. 8-9**

A blood drive will be held at the Muenster University Center on the USD campus in Vermillion from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 8-9.

The Siouxland Community Blood Bank was founded in 1967 and is the sole provider of blood and blood products to 37 Siouxland area hospitals.

To be eligible to donate blood individuals must be at least 16 years of age; however there is no upper age limit as long as the donor is in good health. Donors under the age of 17 require parental consent. In addition, donors need to weigh at least 110 pounds and have not donated whole blood in the past 56 days. A photo I.D. is required at the time of registration.

For more information about the Siouxland Community Blood Bank or blood drives in your area, call 712-252-4208 or 800-798-4208, in the Mitchell area call 996-3896 or visit the Siouxland Community Blood Bank's Web site at [www.siuoxlandbloodbank.org](http://www.siuoxlandbloodbank.org)

**Volunteers needed for basketball tournament**

Volunteers are needed to help with the 2009 Midwest Youth Basketball Championships held at the DakotaDome Dec. 4-5 and Dec. 11-12. Times are 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday and 8 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday for both weekends. Volunteers will be working the ticket counter and t-shirt sales in two hour increments giving you the opportunity to help a little or a lot.

This event brings in hundreds of basketball players and their parents to Vermillion over the weekend. The Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company will set up a visitor table to provide information on area businesses as well.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Nancy at the VDCD offices by calling 624-5571 or emailing [vcdd@vermillionchamber.com](mailto:vcdd@vermillionchamber.com).

**Plain Talk poll results****Poll results 11-19-09**

Will needed cuts to South Dakota's budget have an impact on your and your family?

Yes (25 Votes)  
No (19 Votes)  
Undecided (1 Vote)

To participate in the *Plain Talk* Internet poll, log on to [www.plaintalk.net](http://www.plaintalk.net).

**City celebrates completion of Cherry Street project**By David Lias  
[david.lias@plaintalk.net](mailto:david.lias@plaintalk.net)

A celebratory snip of a bright red ribbon marked the completion of a new ribbon of highway — mainly Cherry Street — in Vermillion late last week.

The ceremony, held by members of the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, Vermillion elected officials and city staff, and construction crew members, also symbolized the end of two years worth of work in which the old Cherry Street surface was removed, new water and sewer lines were put into place, and additional turning lanes and other improvements were added to what has become Ver-

million's leading east-west thoroughfare.

The first phase of Cherry Street reconstruction began in the spring of 2008. The final goal, when all of the work is complete this year, is to replace approximately three miles of Cherry Street and all infrastructures during the two construction phases last year and this year. This included replacing the pavement as well as installing new signals, curb and gutter, driveways, lighting, and greenery.

The primary reasons for the upgrade are safety and improved access management. Phase one of the project, completed in 2008, extends from Plum Street to the east where

Turn to **CHERRY** on Page 9

Ron Avery, chairman of the Cherry Street Task Force Committee and Mayor Dan Christoperson cut a red ribbon to symbolize the completion of the Cherry Street project Friday, Nov. 20. They are joined by members of the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, Vermillion elected officials and city staff, and construction crew members. (Photo by David Lias)

**GLOBAL ECONOMICS**

Panelists Dr. Kaiya Liu, Dr. Lucy Dai, and Dr. Xuejun Wang listen as Dr. Randall Waldron speaks at Monday's International Forum held in Old Main on the University of South Dakota campus. The forum participants discussed the growing economic and global influence of China. (Photo by David Lias)

**Panel: China's Influence Rising**By Travis Gulbrandson  
[travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net](mailto:travis.gulbrandson@yankton.net)

VERMILLION — Formerly the premier world power, China is on its way to regaining that title.

That's what a group of professors said at a forum held in Farber Hall on the University of South Dakota's campus Monday.

Dr. Randall Waldron, an associate professor of economics, has been to China several times, most recently as a Fulbright Scholar during the 2006-2007 academic year.

"If I were to make a single major point relating to Chinese economic growth and the relative position of China in the world, it would be this: Approximately 120 years of American (dominance) of the global economy are almost over," Waldron said.

The last time China held this position was 1870,

before it was unseated by a combination of rapid growth and industrialization in the United States, as well as political strife within its own borders.

"China is rapidly closing the gap once again, and in the very near future, the Chinese economy will once again be the largest in the world," Waldron said. "I don't think that's a matter of if. In fact, I'm very confident it's simply a matter of when. I think it will be much sooner than most Americans realize."

"We're not talking within our lifetime — we're talking within a decade or so," he said.

Waldron predicted that within a generation, China's economy will be more than twice the size of the U.S. economy, thanks in part to a new emphasis on growth.

Turn to **FORUM** on Page 9**USD Opera to present 'Amahl and the Night Visitors'**

Vermillion community members get in on the act

By David Lias  
[david.lias@plaintalk.net](mailto:david.lias@plaintalk.net)

The University of South Dakota Music Department will present the classic Menotti opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," with two performances in December, including Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Akron Opera House in Akron, IA, and on Friday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at USD's Colton Recital Hall.

More than musicians from the university are getting in on the act of this musical production. Several members of the Vermillion community have joined forces with USD students to help with the performance of the opera.

"This is a fictional tale of the three kings' journey to see the Christ child," said Tracelyn Gesteland, an assistant professor of voice at USD who serves as stage and music director and also performs in the opera. "Along

the way, they make a stop at the house of Amahl and his mother to rest a little while, and the neighborhood brings them gifts and food. There's a dance, and all kinds of wonderful things, and before they leave, a miracle happens and I don't think we want to give away what that is. It is the story of a Christmas miracle."

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" has been performed widely throughout the U.S. and the world during the Christmas season since its premier in 1951. The USD production is an hour long, one-act opera performed in English.

Community members auditioned to perform as chorus members in the opera. "The chorus parts are very suitable for people who are used to singing in church choirs and that sort of thing," Gesteland said, "so it was a perfect opportunity to open up our production to people outside the university. The music in this piece is very accessible."

She said the addition of community members to the opera's cast has

Turn to **OPERA** on Page 12**'State of Wonder' celebrated at exhibit**By David Lias  
[david.lias@plaintalk.net](mailto:david.lias@plaintalk.net)

As friends of Paul Schiller dined in the Al Neuharth Media Center Thursday night, a variety of photos, each depicting a breathtaking landscape, flashed on the large screen in the meeting room.

The photos would turn from deep gold, to sharp blue, and then to a rich green. The subjects varied from ripe wheat fields, to a freshly mown acreage of alfalfa, dotted with large, round bales of hay, to the South Dakota badlands at dusk.

The images included the bold scene of a buffalo herd running wild across the prairie at Custer State Park, and a delicate blossom of the pasque, South Dakota's flower.

Schiller and his camera captured these images, and Thursday, both the photographer and his subject — the beautiful state of South Dakota — were celebrated.

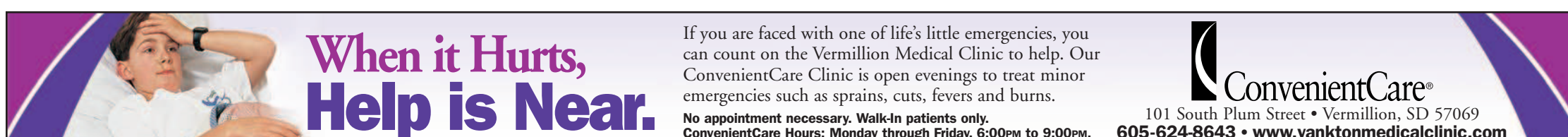
Thursday night marked the official opening of Schiller's "State of Wonder" photography exhibition, which now has a permanent home as it graces the halls of the second floor of the Al Neuharth Media Center on the USD campus.

Schiller, best known as a founding partner of Lawrence & Schiller, a Sioux Falls marketing firm he launched in 1976 with fellow USD alumnus Craig Lawrence, contributed 42 pieces of his extensive photography collection for "State of Wonder."

The artwork was installed at the end of August, just in time for the start of USD's fall semester. "I don't think Paul Schiller has ever gotten the recognition that he deserves," said Jack Marsh, executive director of the Freedom Forum's Al Neuharth Media Center, a program held that evening. "We do that by celebrating the opening of this exhibit, but we're really celebrating and salut-

Turn to **EXHIBIT** on Page 12**Fall show**

The Vermillion Music Department presented its Fall Show Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20-21, at the VHS Performing Arts Center. Musical numbers were presented by the Princeton Street Swingers, Music in Motion, and Rhythm in Red. There were several solo performances during both evening shows, and nearly all of the group selections included fast-paced choreography. Mrs. Trisha Fisher is director of Rhythm in Red. The director of Music in Motion and the Princeton Street Swingers is Mrs. Kristin Schmeling. Pictured are (front) Michael Nelson and Kristen Schwasinger, (center) Tayler Tigert and Heidi Kronaizl, and (back) Megan Chickering, Ellen Hanson and Meghan Cameron. (Photo by David Lias)



**When it Hurts, Help is Near.**

If you are faced with one of life's little emergencies, you can count on the Vermillion Medical Clinic to help. Our ConvenientCare Clinic is open evenings to treat minor emergencies such as sprains, cuts, fevers and burns.

No appointment necessary. Walk-in patients only.  
ConvenientCare Hours: Monday through Friday, 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

**ConvenientCare®**  
101 South Plum Street • Vermillion, SD 57069  
605-624-8643 • [www.yanktonmedicalclinic.com](http://www.yanktonmedicalclinic.com)