



Tuesday's brief blast of wintry weather earlier this week did little to slow construction of the Vermillion Technology Center, located at the southwest corner of Princeton and Bower streets, north of the Pamida building. When completed, the center will house Eagle Creek Software Services. Attracting this firm and the new jobs it brings to the community was made possible, in part, by the Vermillion Now! campaign.

(Photo by David Lias)

City agrees to invest in Vermillion Now! 2

By Travis Gulbrandson
 travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

The City of Vermillion has signed on to become the lead investor in the second Vermillion Now! campaign. The city council pledged to contribute \$100,000 a year for five years beginning in 2014 during their regular meeting Monday night.

The money will be split evenly between the city's Bed, Board and Booze fund and Second Penny funds. Steve Howe, executive director of the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce & Development Company (VCDC) said the goal is to raise \$1.65 million in support of the program, with the overall goal of making Vermillion a

"destination community." "We need to provide fulfilling jobs, we need to provide adequate and affordable housing and top-notch amenities, and we need to invest in making Vermillion a very interesting place," Howe said Monday. "We think that these kinds of areas will grow the community and reverse that trend of diminishing

population base." The first Vermillion Now! campaign helped bring several hundred new jobs and increased the payroll in the community by \$15 million, with \$8 million more scheduled when Eagle Creek is completed. However, Howe said that job growth has outpaced the available workforce, and that Vermillion is too dependent on

commuters. The poverty level has continued to increase, as well, he said. With the city's support, Vermillion Now! 2 could help to reverse some of those trends, Howe said. Monday's decision increases the city's support of the

■ CITY, Page 11

Holocaust researcher visits USD

By Travis Gulbrandson
 travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

When Dr. Geoffrey P. Megargee first arrived to work at the United States Holocaust Museum in January 2000, experts estimated there were approximately 5,000-7,000 concentration camps in Europe during World War II. "I thought those were astounding numbers," he said. "But the more we looked, the more we found. There were some categories that had not been researched properly that are still to be researched. There are some categories that had been researched, but nobody had ever put all the numbers together."

■ USD, Page 08

Man saved by smoke detectors

By Travis Gulbrandson
 travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Officials are crediting hardwired smoke detectors with saving the life of a Vermillion man when a fire consumed most of his trailer Oct. 31. The elderly man awoke shortly before 8 a.m. that day when the hardwired smoke detector in his bedroom went off. "That's a key thing, because if it wasn't hardwired, it would not have woken him up," said Vermillion fire chief Shannon Draper. The man got out of bed in time to see the fire, at which point he was able to escape out a side door with one of his pet cats. "Another few minutes, and he would not have been able to exit that trailer," Draper said. The man is a longtime renter of a trailer on the 400 block of north Plum Street. He has since been assisted by the Red Cross in finding temporary housing. Trailers on both sides of the fire were evacuated because of the possibility of the fire spreading. "On one, I would say the flames were lapping against the structure, but it didn't cause any damage," Draper said. "That was one of the first things the crews did, was to direct the streams (of water) toward the other (trailer) to prevent that."

Firefighters pull insulation out of a trailer after a fire Oct. 31. The fire took more than 75 percent of the structure.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

■ USD, Page 03