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Meet Clay County' choices: Carri Crum, County Auditor

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

The votes are all counted and Clay County has chosen to re-elect Carri Crum as its auditor.

Crum graduated from Bellevue University with a degree in business administration of technical studies.

According to her, it was a degree fitting for the things that happen around the county auditor's office.

"It would depend on what time of year it is because each time of year brings different tasks," Crum said. "In our office we handle the accounts payable for the county and the

payroll of course. There are certain parts of the month where we're paying bills or handling payroll. Other parts of the year we're working on calculating the tax levies for the county and certain parts of the month we handle the disbursements to the townships, school districts, municipalities and so on."

Crum and her staff also play a large role in developing the yearly budget.

"When it comes time for the budget I'm working with the commissioners to give them the information that they need to develop the budget for the year and also to set the payroll for the



Recently re-elected county Auditor, Carri Crum strives daily to serve the public.

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coming year," she said. "Then of course during election year we're handling

cancellations, things like that."

According to Crum, her position serves less of a leadership role and more clerical support.

"A lot of the decisions fall on the county commissioners," she said. "My role would be to make sure they have the information that they need to make the decisions."

This does not mean Crum never has the opportunity to be decisive. "As far as the office itself I have two staff members that I oversee and there is a certain level of decisions to be made as far as employee

■ **CRUM, Page 3A**

No court date set on suit against Eagle Creek

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

The lawsuit between the Vermillion Chamber & Development Company and Eagle Creek Software Services Inc. is currently at a standstill with no upcoming court date set as of press time.

However, despite Eagle Creek representatives being unwilling to address questions regarding their current operations at 1215 West Cherry Street, the company does have some people who could vouch for its ability to maintain a solid relationship.

Pierre's Economic Development Chief Operating Officer Jim Protexter said that his city's ability to work well with the local Eagle Creek office has been solid from day one. "We've had a really good relationship with Eagle Creek for seven years and their contributions to Pierre have been exemplary," Protexter said. "They've helped to drive our community issues such as bringing in a younger workforce."

Protexter added that community development has been enhanced with Eagle Creek's presence in Pierre as it has aided with more workers moving in,

■ **SUIT, Page 3A**

Weather or not, cold here to stay

The immense cold front that has swept most of the nation and in particular Vermillion has no plans of leaving anytime soon.

According to weather.com, the frigid evenings and not-much-better daytime temperatures will continue on for the better part of the next week or more.

Highs are projected to hover in the 20s with a possibility of the occasional balmy 30-plus degree day expected. Evening temperatures should continue to range in the low teens to as cold as the single digits. The wind chill should also play a part in keeping things frigid so people are advised to bundle up or stay indoors if possible.

Snow is projected for Saturday, but the rest of the forecast through the week calls mainly for cold days and clear skies.

- *The Plain Talk*

In recognition of honor

By Scott Bormann
For the Plain Talk

Major Erica Iverson, of the United States Army's Corps of Engineers, traveled home to Vermillion from her current assignment at Fort Eustis, Virginia to give local residents and students a history lesson about Clay County military veterans on Tuesday in the Vermillion High School gymnasium.

"This is my home and it's great to be home," Iverson said. "I planned my wedding Saturday around this event, it means so much to me. My husband teased me that I spent more time writing this speech than my vows."

The Veteran's Day Ceremony was hosted by the American Legion Post 1 and Vermillion High School. The Vermillion Middle School, elementary schools, and the University of South Dakota ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) honor guard also had major roles to play.

I was honored to join a large number of veterans who were allowed to enter to a standing ovation at the very beginning of the program. The number of veterans overflowed the reserved seating.

"I had a son in the Marines, and a great uncle in World War One that we heard stories of," Vermillion resident Dorothy Blair said.

"I've been to veteran programs before. I worked in the school, and we always had a program, but it's nice to see something really put together like this. But how many people can have a speaker like Erica come?"

American Legion Post 1 Commander, Clinton Meadows, introduced each group of veteran by which era they served in, from World War Two to the current War on Terror. The families of veterans and the three Tanager who have committed to joining the military after graduating this spring were also introduced.

Austin Elementary presented a Veterans video, while the Vermillion Middle School presented a video regaling the audience on what Veterans Day means to them, and who they know that have served our country. St. Agnes' fourth and fifth grade classes performed "The Heart of America," while the VHS choir let everyone in the National Anthem, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "God Bless America."

Avery Iverson & Gage Whitaker each read their essays entitled, "What Veterans Day Means." They were the two winners out of the entire fifth-grade class.

"This is absolutely amaz-

■ **HONOR, Page 2A**



The United States Army's Erica Iverson speaks at Tuesday's Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Vermillion High School gymnasium. Iverson is a Vermillion native.

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The Art of Success Series:

Nook 'n Cranny: A Vermillion staple, brings tradition home

By Katie Clausen
For the Plain Talk

Throughout the years, the downtown business district has seen firsthand the ebb and flow of Vermillion businesses. But one has remained a stronghold for the local consumer and for the business community; the Nook 'n Cranny.

On a chilly evening, the warm storefront is welcoming and soothing. Many patrons have been coming here for years; some are setting foot in the store for the first time. On this night, they're hosting a small class where attendees can learn about Christmas

tree decorating and table settings for the holiday season. Although there are some trendy ideas and items for the class, tradition still runs deep.

"The history of Nook 'n Cranny began Oct. 17 1974," owner Gloria Christopherson said. "That is when we opened our doors."

The walls are lined with seasonal items such as Thanksgiving-themed dishes and Christmas ornaments, but the Nook 'n Cranny's secret to success, and serving the customer,

■ **NOOK, Page 6A**



Erin Burrow puts on a decoration demonstration at Nook 'n Cranny this past Monday. The store has been a fixture in Vermillion for four decades.

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