

City council approves future move by Swiftel

By Alan Dale
The Plain Talk

The Vermillion City Council approved a motion on Monday, Nov. 3 to lease land in Lions Park to Brookings Municipal Utilities (Swiftel Communications) for the purposes of constructing a wireless communications tower.

The council, at its scheduled first meeting of every Monday, was informed of Swiftel's intention to leave its current establishment at

the Market Street Water Tower. Andy Colvin, assistant to the Vermillion City Manager, said that city staff worked with members of Swiftel to find a new location.

Swiftel had obtained a variance and conditional use permit from the city in July for the location of a proposed tower in Lions Park, which is home to the Clay County Fairgrounds, near the demolition derby arena.

The city owns that land. Both sides would agree to initial terms

of using that space for five years, with renewals of five years each beginning at the end of March when the current option period concludes. However, Swiftel could pick up the option prior to April 1 and the new lease would begin at that time.

In other council items:

- The council approved a participation agreement with Sioux Falls Sculpture Walk for August. Four public sculptures would

be brought down to downtown Vermillion and the city would contribute funding for the initiative and cover the insurance for the sculptures.

The estimated cost would be approximately \$1,000 for a yearly premium through 2017.

- The council approved a request from the Food Pantry for funding of \$2,500. The monies were allocated from the 2015 General Fund Budget.
- Morgan Appley, a member of

Dakota Rural Action, told the council that her group is reviewing alternative energy options for southeastern South Dakota.

She invited the council and community to a public information meeting to be held Monday at 7 p.m. at the Vermillion Public Library.

- The council approved a daily malt beverage and wine license for Saturday's Vermillion Arts Council 'Chilli Blues' event on 202 Washington Street.

MORE VETERAN'S DAY RECOGNITION



Top: (left to right) Clinton Meadows (US Army), Andy Martinez (US Marines), and Alex Sherlock (US Navy). The Center for Children and Families presented our tattered, retired flag that can no longer be flown to Mr. Meadows and Mr. Martinez of the local American Legion organization, to take care of it with respect in a special ceremony for retired flags.

Bottom: The preschoolers at the Center for Children and Families with their "Thank You Hero" cards they made and gave to Mr. Meadows, Mr. Martinez, and Mr. Sherlock (left to right) to be passed along to the veterans attending the Veteran's Day program at Vermillion High School.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SANDY SHERLOCK

Celebrating veterans in Gayville is full of feeling

By Randy Dockendorf
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GAYVILLE — As he delivered his Veterans Day message, SSG Jeff Heier was hit with a powerful realization.

Few, if any, of the Gayville-Volin elementary students were born yet when the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks occurred. Most of the high school students weren't yet in school.

"Even the older students probably only know the later parts of our time in Iraq and Afghanistan," Heier told the Press & Dakotan.

That fact made Heier even more intent on teaching another generation an important lesson: the need to fight for freedoms unknown in many parts of the world.

Heier, a Gayville-Volin graduate, has served combat missions in Iraq and Kuwait with Bravo Battery of the 1/147th Field Artillery in Yankton. He still holds vivid memories of the images surrounding the 9/11 attacks.

"On 9/11, I was in high school. I was driving to school when a plane had crashed into one tower (of the World Trade Center)," he said. "I didn't think too much of it because planes crash every day. But after I reached school, a second plane hit the other tower. We ended up having a half-day of school, and everyone just sat in the cafeteria and watched the news on TV."

The United States has since lived in a whole new world with no turning back, Heier said.

Heier spoke Tuesday at the Gayville-Volin school gymnasium about the importance of Veterans Day to himself. He recalled the sacrifices of all veterans. In addition, he expressed his gratitude toward support back home, including the care packages sent by Gayville-Volin students while he was deployed.

"I would like to thank all those in the audience who have served," he said. "And

mostly, I know this isn't said enough, but thank you all for the support you give to the men and women out there serving every day."

Heier said he remains uncomfortable with the label "hero" for serving in the military and just doing his mission.

"I don't feel like a hero one bit and would be willing to bet most veterans feel similarly," he said.

Heier said he associates characteristics such as bravery, strength and courage to heroes.

"I've been scared (in combat). I've wanted to turn and run before. This doesn't sound like a hero to me," he said. "But I can redeem myself by saying I am not a coward. I stayed vigilant through every situation. This made me realize the correlation between veterans and heroes."

"No matter how scared we are and no matter how much we don't want to continue, we do -- and not for ourselves, but for the men and women standing with us."

Heier lost fellow soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in battle.

"I would gladly trade places with any of the friends that I have lost so they could live," he said. "Veterans put the lives of most everyone before their own. This is a very noble characteristic, and this willingness to sacrifice everything for not only their friends but (also) anyone wearing this uniform as well as the innocent bystanders deserves the title of a hero."

Heier said he treasures the people who have fought alongside him.

"I have had the opportunity to serve with the most amazing and selfless people I have ever met," he said. "I am very proud of our military, our society as a whole, and especially this great nation ... the land of the free."

"God bless America, and don't forget to thank a hero today," he advised the audience.

HONOR

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ing, especially with having Vietnam vets in the audience. I think the credit goes to the Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), the VFW, the Legion and the Auxiliaries.

"They are the ones that went through it and they know what it is like to come home. Especially the guys who went to Vietnam and came back and got spit on. So what do they do? They come back and join these VSO's to make sure that

doesn't happen to us."

Vietnam veteran and grandfather of Whitaker, Roger Delaney, had a more pleasant homecoming than most.

"At Travis Air Force Base, myself and three officers went into the restroom and changed cloths," Delaney said. "I flew into Sioux Falls that night and there was nobody to come up to get me, so I spent the night at a friend's house."

"When I was waiting for him to show up I was having a cup of coffee at the restaurant at Joe Foss Field. They closed up at eleven o'clock and I went outside

was standing around waiting this buddy of mine to come pick me up and one of the waitresses came out and gave me a big hug and a kiss."

Iverson focused on the veterans of Clay County. She told the story of several from all branches of service.

"Every veteran remembers something different," Iverson said. "Marine Corporal James Kronasle, a Vermillion native, served in the Solomon Islands in the Pacific in World War II. He remembered the heat & humidity."

"And I can also say, for



Jolley Elementary School students show respect during the Veteran's Day Ceremony in the Vermillion High School gymnasium on Tuesday.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

those of you that have been to Iraq, whether in the 90's or more recently, I explain to people that serving in Iraq is like getting wrapped in an electric blanket on high, going to sit in the sauna, then having a fan blow sand on you, trying to eat meals and sleep in that."

Meadows was very pleased with the turnout and the reception from the crowd.

"She (Iverson) did an excellent job showing that really the soldier or service member hasn't changed much since World War II," Meadows said. "We are still facing the same obstacles."

Iverson remembers how she was able to stay grounded during her many

deployments.

"My grandma was religious (about sending mail)," Iverson said. "I got *The Plain Talk*, she gave me a subscription in Iraq and Afghanistan. That was my little semblance of home. So *The Plain Talk* was amazing."

"This community has been phenomenal," Iverson said afterwards. "I have gotten care packages, and they go out to everyone so Vermillion, South Dakota is on the map."

"These kids who have done the packages, and the churches, Vermillion is on the map. The outpouring of

support I've gotten on my deployments, I've done eight of my fourteen years already overseas. To come home to something like this..."

Iverson shows her pride in origins as a Tanager and in her chosen profession as an Army officer.

"America remains the land of the free because of the brave," Iverson said. "To honor them is to honor the spirit that is the United States of America."

"The spirit that says: duty, honor and country. And they are ideals that are still worth fighting for."



Korean War veterans stand to be recognized at the Veteran Day's Ceremony at the Vermillion High School gymnasium that was held on Tuesday.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

USD Jazz Ensembles Concert
Monday, Nov. 17, 7:30 PM
Colton Recital Hall, Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts
Free Admission
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

JULIE HEINE'S BIRTHDAY Bash
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Shifty, nifty, LOOK WHO'S 50 WE ALL KNOW THAT SHIRT WAS RISKY
CELEBRATE, REMINISCE, AND EMBRACE THE "Bliss"
MAYA JANE'S 7:00, YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

1st Annual Vermillion Armory Holiday Kick Off Vendor/Craft Show
Saturday, November 22nd
9am - 3pm
Over 30 local vendors and crafters to shop from!
List available on Facebook by searching "Holiday Kick Off" Activities for the kids!
Lunch and Goodies will be available!
Vermillion National Guard Armory (kitty corner from Hy-Vee)
603 Princeton Ave., Vermillion, SD
FREE ADMISSION!
All proceeds from raffle will be donated to the Theta Omega Chapter of ESA in Vermillion to assist with gifts for the Giving Tree