

- Corn and Cold Page 2A
- Quilt of Love Page 8A
- Start of USD hoops Page 1B



# PLAIN TALK

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## No decision on property owners' injunction request

By Alan Dale  
The Plain Talk

A long day of testimony between local property owners and managers and the City of Vermillion ended Friday with both sides now having to wait before a decision is made on whether an injunction against the enforcement of city rental building codes

will be put into place. A decision had not been made at press time and both sides could wait until next month for one. Plaintiffs, Aces and Eights, Card Bros LLC, Terry Amundson, Bye Real Estate, East River LLC, Five-Star Cottages LLC, Vermillion Rentals LLC, Hatle Investments LLC, Michael Heles, Timothy T.

Heine, Sioux Empire Real Estate D/B/A M&W Services, Barb Iacino, Glen Lawrensen, Amaze Rental Properties, Ouellette Rentals LLC, and Plum Villa LLC were listed in court papers filed in October as the plaintiffs against "Vermillion City Council and its members," and the City of Vermillion and its individuals. The

plaintiffs filed the suit on the grounds that new city rental building codes did not "grandfather" in previous ones set especially in the case of structures developed prior to 1974. Hon. Judge Steven Jensen heard both sides provide testimony at Friday's hearing at the Clay County Courthouse, but has not made a ruling if an

injunction will be put into place or not. Jensen will consider the testimony, accept briefs by both sides' lawyers, and then may make a ruling as late as December. Despite no injunction being put into place, no date has been given to rental property owners for a need to come into compliance, but they have

been notified of the needed standards. According to the new codes, property owners would be required to have no disabled smoke alarms and that all rental units as of Jan. 1 were to have them hard wired into respective buildings. This is so that if

■ REQUEST, Page 3A



Snow was just a small part of the recent run of cold days in Vermillion. Temperatures have plunged to depths ranging between 18-20 degrees below normal.

THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

## Winter comes early

By Alan Dale  
The Plain Talk

Brrring in the winter even if it's still technically a month away. That's because the current wave of cold weather that hit Vermillion, the state, and a large majority of the United States has made itself at home and may not be gone just yet. "The flow made a turn from going west-east across Canada, it went southeast and it brought the cold air into the lower 48," long-time Sioux Falls weather service representative

Billy Williams said. "We had high spread snow over a large area and it perpetuated the cold air further south." The weather which has seen highs range from the teens to 20s and lows that have hovered in and around zero is not new to the area, but it has come a bit earlier. "Actually it's well below normal," Williams said. "You are probably looking at roughly being 18-20 degrees below normal for the highs and lows." Alas, Williams spread some

warmth with hopes of temperatures climbing in the next few days, albeit to just above freezing temperatures. "There is a prospect of some warming over the weekend with Saturday and Sunday to be above freezing," Williams said. "It will still be below normal, but it will be closer to it. There is some chance for snow or rain, but (projections are) hazy still." This type of weather is not unprecedented even if it has received

■ WINTER, Page 2A

### The Art of Success Series:

## Quality in name, way of doing business

By Sarah Wetzel  
For the Plain Talk

When driving through town on Cherry Street, it's hard to miss Quality Motors, a business that has been there for almost 25 years. In an office where customers and employees alike are on a first-name basis, owner Troy Gregoire said he strives to be of service to the town he has known his whole life. "We work so hard to get some of the nicest pre-owned cars on this lot," he said. "We just want people to know they're getting the best pre-owned car they can possibly get." Gregoire said it was his desire to provide the best possible cars that inspired the business' name.

"When we started this business, we put our name on there, 'Quality Motors' not just 'Joe's used cars,'" Gregoire said. "These cars are all hand-picked by me. I don't have a buyer out buying these cars for me. They're all front-line ready. They're all reconditioned. They're nice cars. People can buy the cars and know they're getting a nice solid car that's going to take care of them for years to come. These are in really good shape." Gregoire said he enjoys the small-town feel of running a business, though he hasn't ever worked in larger cities. "The only thing I can do is compare to other dealers that have the same inventory as us," he said. "They have really quick



Quality Motors, owned by Vermillion native Troy Gregoire, has over two decades of reliable service under its belt. THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK "A lot of students for service but as far as auto sales we're probably at the 25-55 age bracket," he said. And what can a buying customer expect when they

■ QUALITY, Page 6A

## Meet Clay County's choices: Phyllis Packard, County Commissioner

By Katie Clausen  
For the Plain Talk

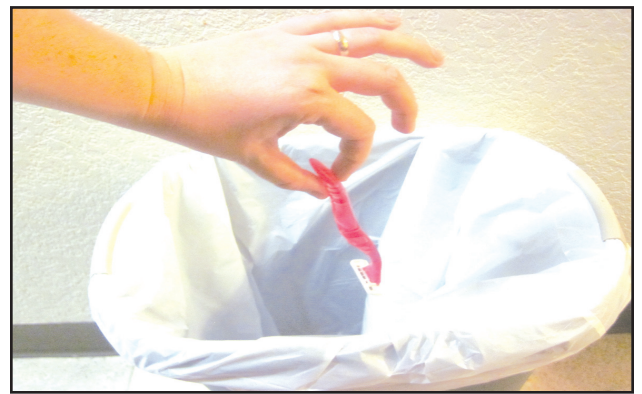
For Phyllis Packard, being a creator of fiber art is a way to brighten the community. Bringing sensible leadership to the community is also her art. Elected for the second time to the Clay County Commissioner's office, Packard is one of five commissioners who find their personal goals positioned around local policy management.



PACKARD

For Packard, the road to the Court House is painted with a multitude of experiences. She moved to Vermillion in 1968. "I've lived in Vermillion for a very long time," Packard said. "I did my undergraduate in Fine Arts at Syracuse. I taught and worked as a fiber artist." After spending a few years in Vermillion, Packard decided to invest in a second education, this time taking a turn towards public

■ PACKARD, Page 7A



In a popular trend, many lay aside their razors for the month of November whether the cause be cancer awareness, warmth, or simple laziness.

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

## No-Shave November: Growing for a Good Cause

Editor's Note: The month of November is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and The Plain Talk wants to take time to recognize the battle many men fight against the disease. This is the first of two weeks where we shine a light on a serious issue in the lives of men.

By Sarah Wetzel  
For the Plain Talk

The start of the holiday season to some also means the start of a new crop of facial hair as men and women across the world participate in variations of the annual No-shave November. Participants in this event, which is also known as Noshember or Movember, come with different reasons for setting aside their razors. Nate Mittendorf, a USD Computer Science student is a part of the no-shave faction dedicated to raising cancer awareness in a fun way. "I participate in no Shave November to help raise awareness for male prostate cancer," he said. "Typically I donate what money I would use on shaving supplies to those patients. I have done it for the past several years." Like most members of this circle of the event, Mittendorf has a personal connection with the cancer which he recognizes not everyone shares. "Someone that I was close to had a father that was diagnosed with prostate cancer," he said. "Most men that I know are doing it for fun." According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer is more prevalent than one might think. About 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate

■ NO-SHAVE, Page 8A

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