

SHERIFF'S REPORT

SUNDAY, NOV. 9
 7:50 a.m. - A deputy responded along with EMS to a medical emergency south of Vermillion.
 1:20 p.m. - A deputy investigated a theft of a wagon wheel attached to a fence at a rural residence near Beresford.
 2:36 p.m. - A deputy responded to an alarm at an Irene business. The alarm was determined to be a malfunction.
 7:24 p.m. - A deputy responded along with EMS to a medical emergency east of Vermillion.
MONDAY, NOV. 10
 6:53 a.m. - A deputy responded to a vehicle fire west of Meckling. A semi had a fire at its rear axle. The

driver stopped and disconnected the tractor from the trailer to minimize the damage. Fire units responded and put out the fire.
 8:08 a.m. - The School Resource Officer assisted the Jolley School Principal in convincing a child to go to school.
 9:27 a.m. - A deputy investigated a report of truant kids who attend the Beresford School.
TUESDAY, NOV. 11
 4:48 a.m. - A deputy investigated a car/deer accident on Greenfield Road.
 1:16 p.m. - A rural resident on Bluff Road reported a chocolate lab has strayed to his property. The dog will be transported to the Humane

Society if the owner does not report it missing.
 2:22 p.m. - An inmate was transported from the Minnehaha County Jail to the Clay County Jail after he violated Clay County probation while in Sioux Falls.
 5:45 p.m. - A deputy located a wanted person in Vermillion. The man was arrested and booked into jail.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12
 1:00 p.m. - The School Resource Officer assisted High School administrative staff with two girls who were caught smoking in the bathroom. The girls were disciplined using school disciplinary policy.
 4:35 p.m. - A deputy assisted a

Highway Patrol Trooper with a traffic stop which resulted in two arrests for drug charges.
THURSDAY, NOV. 13
 3:06 p.m. - A vehicle was stopped and the driver was cited for speeding on Highway 19 north of Vermillion.
 6:55 p.m. - A deputy investigated a car/deer accident on Highway 50 east of Vermillion.
 8:51 p.m. - A caller reported a vehicle was westbound in the east-bound lane of Highway 50. A deputy responded and the vehicle was located in Yankton County.
FRIDAY, NOV. 14
 1:03 p.m. - An inmate was transported to the State Penitentiary in

Sioux Falls after sentencing. Another inmate was then picked up in Mitchell and transported to the Clay County Jail after being arrested in Beadle County for a Clay County warrant.
 2:26 p.m. - A patient was transported to the Human Services Center in Yankton for an involuntary mental health committal.
 3:33 p.m. - A patient was transported from the hospital in Vermillion to the Human Services Center in Yankton for an involuntary mental health committal.
 5:25 p.m. - A vehicle was stopped and the driver was cited for speeding and driving with a revoked driver's license south of Wakonda.
 6:12 p.m. - A deputy assisted a Vermillion Police Officer with multiple

shoplifters caught at a Vermillion business.
SATURDAY, NOV. 15
 12:16 a.m. - A deputy assisted a driver of a disabled vehicle near Meckling.
 4:21 p.m. - A caller reported a parked vehicle causing a hazard on Greenfield Road. A deputy responded and found the owner was hunting nearby. The owner moved the vehicle.
 5:01 p.m. - A caller reported a dispute over a hunter trespassing. The hunter had already left the area and was not located.
 5:23 p.m. - After a caller reported a vehicle's driver was intoxicated, a deputy located the vehicle in Wakonda and arrested the driver for DWI.

CHAMBER CHAT

CHAMBER BUSINESS
FRIDAY, DEC. 5
 "The Spirit of Christmas": The Special Events Committee for the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (VCDC) is sponsoring the 6th Annual Parade of Lights in Downtown Vermillion on Fri., Dec. 5 at 6:30 pm. Vermillion area merchants, businesses, schools and organizations are encouraged to put together a float or entry for the parade. The theme is The Spirit of Christmas, so get your creativity flowing and enter! First, second and third places will be awarded. Entry forms can be found on the VCDC website, www.vermillionchamber.com, or at the Chamber office at 116 Market St. Deadline to enter is Dec. 1.

At the end of the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus will light the community Christmas Tree at Ratingen Platz on the corner of Market and Main Streets. After the tree lighting, children and parents are invited to the Edith B. Siegrist Public Library for Stockings for Soldiers, an opportunity to make a FREE ornament to take home, and to decorate a stocking for a soldier serving overseas or at the VA Hospital, sponsored by the library.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6
 Children 11 and under are encouraged to enter a coloring contest for a chance to have Lunch with Santa, sponsored by HyVee, on Sat., Dec. 6 at 11:30 am at HyVee. Coloring pages will be available at the public schools, HyVee and the VCDC office at 116 Market St. The coloring entries must be received by Nov. 25.

Also on Sat., Dec. 6 from 12:30 to 2:30, bring the children for FREE pictures with Santa at HyVee by Peterman Photography. For more information please call the VCDC office at 605-624-5571.

THIS WEEKS HAPPENINGS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
 • Donation items most needed at the Food Pantry are: Pasta

sides, rice sides, canned corn, pork-n-beans, small jars of jelly or honey, canned tuna, canned spaghetti, ravioli, mac-n-cheese, chunky soups, cereal, fruit juices, Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna Helper, canned fruits, applesauce, laundry detergent, rice, chili, fresh produce, toothpaste, and hotel shampoo. The Food Pantry is located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E Clark St.

• Veteran Holiday Relief Drive: Benefiting homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families. Contribute an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Buddy Basket (filled with household items), a single household or hygiene item, winter apparel, shopping gift cards, or monetary donation through Jan. 10, 2015. Vermillion Drop-Off locations: The Broadcaster/Plain Talk 201 W Cherry St. or Main Street Center 320 West Main St. through Jan. 10, 2015. Monetary Donations can be mailed to ATTN: VETS RELIEF DRIVE: American Legion Auxiliary Unit #1 c/o Marie Anne Ben 16 East Bloomingdale St. Vermillion or South Dakota Operation: Military Kids SDSU West River AG Center 1905 Plaza Blvd. Rapid City, SD 57702 (SD Central Funds Office). Please join the Depart. of South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary and Autumn Simunek, Miss Dahe and partners in providing a comfortable Holiday Season to our Veterans and military families in need throughout South Dakota. For additional locations/questions: Email: Autumn.Simunek@gmail.com

• Dakota Hospital Foundation Wreath Decorating Contest: participants may submit a live or artificial decorated wreath along with registration form by Mon., Dec. 1 from 8 am to 6 pm at Sanford Vermillion, 102 S. Plum St. For earlier drop off, call Sanford Vermillion. Wreaths will be auctioned at the Dakota Hospital Foundation Tree of Lights Open House & Wreath Auction, Tues., Dec. 2, 5-7 pm at Vermillion Event Center. Proceeds will assist in funding the Sanford Arts Vermillion program. Visit sanfordvermillion.org for more information.

• Exhibition: Borderlines now through Nov. 21 at John A. Day

Gallery located in Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on USD campus. Closing reception, Fri., Nov. 21, 6-8 pm

• Mentors needed immediately: The Clay-Union Foundation has 9 children seeking mentors in Vermillion. Volunteers spend 2 hours/week with their match—the program helps both adult volunteers and youth age 5-17. Please email jgilliersd60@yahoo.com, phone John Gille at 605-421-5050, or go to www.clay-unionfoundation.org to apply online. The program welcomes volunteers outside of Vermillion who are willing to match as well. The mentoring program covers all of Clay and Union County, with several potential mentors available in N. Sioux City, if youth are interested in mentoring. Matches are based on available volunteers, so apply to be a mentor.

The Clay-Union Foundation is doubling down, hosting two events in 2015. The Heritage Ride, an annual bike ride for the past 15 years, will be held Sat. Aug. 15 starting at the Immanuel Lutheran church parking lot in Elk Point.

The Get to the Point half marathon will again be held on Sat., Sept. 26, starting at Casey's, exit 8 off I-29. Applications are online at runsignup.com under either Heritage ride or Get to the Point. All proceeds support the foundation's mission of helping youth, and supporting its scholarship and community fund efforts.

• Vermillion Area Community Foundation (VACF) updated grant application information: Beginning this year, there are only two grant periods: The second Thursday in April and the second Thursday in October. Grant guidelines can be found at: http://vermillion.sdcommunityfoundation.org or applications can be picked up at the VCDC, 116 Market Street.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21
 • The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills.

Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered are: resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered on: Fri., Nov. 21, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (C.D.T), Vermillion at 1024 W. Cherry St. Parties interested in attending should register by calling 605-677-6900 before 5 p.m., Wednesday, November 19.

• Open House for Veterans & their families at Gayville Community Center, 404 Washington St., Gayville, SD, Fri., Nov. 21 from 10 am-2 pm. Hosted by Yankton County Veterans Service Office & the SD Dept. of Veterans Affairs as a campaign to identify & make direct contact with SD veterans and to make them aware of the benefits & services available to them including compensation for service-connected disabilities, veterans & widows pension, burial benefits, education, VA healthcare, on-the-job training, etc.

• NMM Level I, Fri., Nov. 21 @ 12:05 pm featuring Klezmer Klarinet at National Music Museum located at corner of Clark & Yale St. Free & open to the public

• Vermillion High School Fall Show, Fri., Nov. 21 & Sat., Nov. 22 @ 7:30 pm at Vermillion High School

• USD Theatre Dept. presents Romeo & Juliet, Fri., Nov. 21-22 at 7:30 pm, Nov. 23 at 2 pm, Dec. 3-6 at 7:30 pm and Sun., Dec. 7 at 2 pm at Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts. Visit www.usd.edu/theatre for ticket information or call 677-5400

SATURDAY, NOV. 22
 • Holiday Kick-Off Vendor/Craft Show & Fundraiser, Sat., Nov. 22, 9:00-3 pm at National Guard Armory, 603 Princeton Ave. Over 30 vendors. Lunch available. All proceeds from raffle will be donated to the Vermillion ESA to assist with gifts for the giving Tree. Free admission

Door-straight through double glass doors on left & first door on left, North Door-down hall to left & first door on left).

• Overeaters Anonymous is a 12 step program for people with eating disorders & struggles.
 • The 28th Annual Santa's Shack Gifts & Crafts Festival will be held Sat., Nov. 22 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Wakonda School Gymnasium. Several vendors already registered. Interested vendors should send an email to: aklogue@yahoo.com.

• Vermillion Area Farmers Market Holiday & Winter Market, Sat., Nov. 22, 10 am-1 pm at Clay County Extension/4-H Building, 515 High St. For more information, call 605-659-3399 or visit: VAFarmersMarket@gmail.com

• Toddler Storytime (ages birth to 3 with adult), Sat., Nov. 22 @ 10:15 am at Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, 18 Church St. Please call 677-7060 or visit: vermillionpubliclibrary.org to register.

• Preschoolers Storytime (ages 4-6), Sat., Nov. 22 @ 11:15 am at Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, 18 Church St. Please call 677-7060 or visit: vermillionpubliclibrary.org to register.

• Turkey Trot-5K or 1 mile family fun run/walk, Sat., Nov. 22, 1 pm at Prentiss Park. Registration information: http://bit.ly/1thxk0m or call 624-1960. Adults \$20, under 12 yrs. old \$10. Send names, phone number & t-shirt size to: Robin Svendsen, 38 Muirfield Court, Vermillion, SD 57069. Proceeds to the Vermillion Backpack Food Program. Sponsored by SD Counseling Assn. Lewis & Clark Chapter.

• USD Football vs SDSU, Sat., Nov. 22 @ 2 pm, Coughlin-Alumni Stadium, Brookings

NEXT WEEKS HAPPENINGS:

SUNDAY, NOV. 23
 • USD's Marching Band - The SOUND of USD - presents its year-end concert, Sun., Nov. 23 @ 2:30 pm, Aalfs Auditorium, Slagle Hall. Open to the public at no charge!!!!

Come and celebrate this great ensemble's dedication and contribution to USD!

MONDAY, NOV. 24
 • The Vermillion Ministerial Association (VMA) is once again joining forces with the Welcome Table to provide the "Feed the Multitude" Thanksgiving community meal. This year the meal will be held on Mon., Nov. 24 from 5 to 7 pm at First United Methodist Church, 16 N Dakota St.

• Preschoolers Storytime (ages 4-6) at Vermillion Public Library, Mon., Nov. 24 @ 5:30 pm. Please call 677-7060 or visit: vermillionpubliclibrary.org to register

• Support Group meeting for caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimers or memory loss, Mon., Nov. 24 @ 7 pm at Vermillion Public Library. For more information, call Fern @ 624-4898 or Marilyn at 934-2534.

• USD women's basketball vs. UC Irvine, Mon., Nov. 24 @ 7 pm, DakotaDome

• Al-anon meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mon., Nov. 24 @ 7:30 pm. For more information, call 624-9764.

• Girl Basketball - Practice begins, Mon., Nov. 24

TUESDAY, NOV. 25
 • Graduate Student Reviews, Tues., Nov. 25, 8:30 am-5 pm, John A. Day Gallery, Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts

• Toddler Storytimes (ages birth to 3 with adult), Tues., Nov. 25 at Vermillion Public Library, 10:30 am. Please call 677-7060 or register online: +98

• Vermillion Rotary Club meeting, Tues., Nov. 25 from 12:00-1 pm in the Al Neuharth Media Center conference room. For more information, visit: www.vermillionrotaryclub.org

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26
 • Preschoolers Storytimes (ages 4-6) at Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, Wed., Nov. 26 @ 11 am. Please call 677-7060 or register online at www.vermillionpubliclibrary.org.

QUALITY
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come in?
 "All late-model used," Gregoire said. "Any car that comes in goes to the back room and gets completely checked out. We make sure it's ready for the road when it comes out front."

According to Gregoire, though the cars come from a variety of sources including other dealers, auctions and even people off the street, they have one thing in common.

"The big thing for us is low miles," he said. "Vermillions like low miles. Lot of other towns they get by selling higher-mileage cars but in Vermillion the people like low-mileage cars. It's just what sells in this town."

Gregoire's history with cars extends far beyond the 25 years of running Quality Motors.

"All the way through school I worked on cars, he said. "I had a lot of cars through high school and liked the business and it was a lot of fun."

When he first began the business, Gregoire said he was faced with some unique challenges for a car salesman.

"I started this when I was 20 years old," he said. "I can remember when I first started. I flew into Florida to buy cars and I couldn't rent a car because I wasn't old enough. I think it was 21 to rent a car."

Gregoire said he is a Vermillion native but went to school in Brookings where he majored in general agriculture, intending to pursue farming.

"My family is all farmers north of town," he said. "The time I got out of school there wasn't enough ground

to support another family. Dad had always talked about doing something like this and he kind of steered me this way."

According to Gregoire, his father also dabbled in auto sales which gave him a good background.

"He sold for John Deere at Elk point," Gregoire said. "He sold next door here for Cleaver's back in the day. I think he sold there 7 or 8 years. That's what got me in the business."

Quality Motors has changed quite a bit since its initiation in 1989.

"When we started it used to be in the front of the UPS building," Gregoire said. "It used to be a lot longer, it went all the way up to the street. We started with 8 or 10 cars. We ended up buying the UPS building. We built this in '94, this place. We kept adding on. We have a little over 80 cars now."

"We added service probably 12-13 years ago," Gregoire said. "We were just sales before. It just kept growing so we needed to add the service because we were getting too many cars to get ready and we just needed the help back there so we started the service deal and it's going really good. I'd say 75% of our business is sales."

Not all upgrades were worth it, according to Gregoire.

"Somebody asked us the day we bought the internet how much that's helped and I said yeah it's helped us but it's also hurt us too," he said.

"We're not selling any more cars than we were 15 years ago. Yeah we're getting people driving from 2-3 states away to get a car but you haven't picked up an extra 20% on top of what you already had. It's basically a wash."

Though Quality Motors has been overall successful

and has grown, Gregoire said it has pretty much reached its limit as far as expansion.

"What's next? Size-wise we've grown about as far as we can over here," he said. "This size of a town we're probably doing as much as we can. This is a nice manageable size. This is working really well."

Though he enjoys the cars, Gregoire said his favorite part of the job is actually the customers.

"Just meeting the people," he said. "You like 99% of the people. There's that 1% you don't care for but it's nice to meet so many other people that otherwise I'd never get to meet, a lot of good people the last 25 years. It's a real plus, this job."

It's a pro that can become a con in a university town that has a high turnover rate.

"That's been the hardest thing," Gregoire said. "We've met a lot of really good people, we befriend them and they take off because there's not a lot of job opportunity around here. A lot of them said they'd love to stay round here but they just can't."

For those who do stay, however, they can rest easy knowing there are reliable mechanics in town.

"The two mechanics we have in back have gotten over 30 years of experience, both of them," Gregoire said. "They're well known in the community and honest as the day is long."



Troy Gregoire has built a reliable business for Vermillion at Quality Motors. **THOMAS HATZENBUHLER / FOR THE PLAIN TALK**

They've got a lot of repeat business as they've worked on people's cars the past 30 years. They're just real honest guys and I don't have any issues with them. They don't try and sell people things they don't need. It's a small town, you don't need that type of hassle."

This is success that speaks for itself.

"We hardly do any advertising in the back room," Gregoire said. "It's just word of mouth that keeps those guys going. These guys are the guys you're going to see in the grocery store, downtown and they're nice reputable guys. They're very good at their job. They've got a hard job keeping all these

cars going."

Though Gregoire said he did work on cars his whole life, he is a long shot from considering himself a mechanic.

"I'm pretty basic what I can do," he said. "All I can do is oil change and tires and stuff."

So what does it take to be a mechanic?

"You have to have a lot of patience and I wasn't given that option," Gregoire said.

According to Gregoire, community members can

expect to see Quality Motors continue functioning for the foreseeable future.

"Vermillion's been good to us, surrounding towns have been good to us," he said.

"I hope we can do it for quite a few years. If one of my daughters want to take it over they sure could."

Quality Motors is located on 401 W Cherry St. and can be reached by phone at (605) 624-5585.

HVAC Technicians/Installers
 Full-time with retirement, paid vacations and holidays, flexible hours, employee discounts and health insurance. Experience preferred but will train.
 Apply in Person

Larry's HEATING & COOLING
 920 Broadway, Yankton, SD 57078

ANNUAL Christmas Festival
 Sunday, December 7 • 1-4 pm
 W.H. Over Museum
 Near the Dakota Dome on University St. • Vermillion
 Visit with Santa Claus, entertainment, spectacular refreshments, best Bake sale in the State, decorated trees and Children's activities presented by 4-H members in the Discovery Room.
 Everyone Welcome!
 Vendors Welcome: 605-677-5228
 Donations to the Food Pantry welcome at the door.

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