

# Auto Shop Owner Switches To Environmentally-Friendly Paint

By Nathan Johnson  
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SOUTH YANKTON, Neb. — Children have a way of getting their parents to look at the world through a different set of eyes.

Tim Steiner, 45, experienced that firsthand when he decided to purchase Riverside Auto Body & Auto Sales, Inc., in South Yankton, Neb., from Joe Schieffer earlier this year. Steiner's three daughters are focused on being environmentally-friendly, and it was with their encouragement that their father decided to install a "green" paint finishing system.

"I have to give my middle daughter, Amanda, all the credit, because she's the one who really got me thinking about it," he said. "When I started to research it, it made sense — especially seeing how long the car companies have been using (waterborne paint systems). With the newer cars ... we were always struggling to get a paint match. We found out why — because they're all sprayed with the water-based paint, and we didn't have it, nor does anyone else around here."

After making some changes to his paint booths and filter system, Steiner switched to PPG's Envirobase High Performance waterborne paint system last week instead of a conventional solvent-based system.

According to Joe Bruntz, a sales manager with Auto Body Specialties, which distributes PPG products, Riverside Auto Body is the only shop in the Yankton area that uses the waterborne paint system. He was at Riverside Auto Body this week to assist Steiner and his employees with questions about the new system.

Bruntz said the PPG product results in up to 80 percent less volatile organic compounds being released into the air and contributing to the creation of smog. The paint doesn't carry the severe odor of traditional paints, he added.

"What's also nice about this is, it never settles," Bruntz said, noting that 30 minutes of stirring daily is recommended for solvent-based paints. "You shake (the PPG paint) a little bit and go ahead and mix it."

In the future, Bruntz said shops may not have any choice when it comes to reducing the amount of volatile organic compounds they release. Legislation has been passed in California and elsewhere mandating the use of low-volatile organic compound products.

"What's happening out there will eventually reach into the Heartland, and there will be requirements that you'll have to use something that is a low-VOC product,"



Tim Steiner recently bought Riverside Auto Body & Auto Sales, Inc., in South Yankton, Neb., and installed a "green" paint system. He is seen here with cans of the PPG waterborne paint product that will reduce the amount of volatile organic compounds being released into the air that contribute to smog. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Bruntz stated. "Aside from the advantages to the shop itself, legislation may dictate that you have to do it."

Steiner admitted the green system will cost him more in the short term.

"We did get some pretty decent backing from (Auto Body Specialties), but most of it was an expense to me in the form of work on the paint booths and changing the filters," he said. "I was lucky that our paint booths were modern and good enough to make the change. With just a little bit of tweaking here and there, we were more than where we needed to be."

The paint itself is more expensive than traditional paints, Steiner added. However, he said it will save the shop time because it doesn't take as long to prepare or clean up, and it is much easier to get a paint match on the first try. Using solvent-based paints, Steiner said it is rare to get the right color match with the first attempt.

"I figure it's going to more than pay for itself because it's a quicker product to use," he said.

And the quality of the paint job is also better, according to Steiner.

"It made a believer out of me," he said. "The first couple jobs we did, it was like

nothing I had ever used before. You can do a way better job."

For a decade, Steiner and his brother, Joe, jointly operated Steiner's Locker Service in Yankton after their parents got out of the business. Eventually, Steiner said he decided to go his own direction.

He had always enjoyed working on vehicles and spent much of his free time in his shop.

"(Auto body work was) what I always went back to, no matter what it was that I did," Steiner said. "When the opportunity to buy Riverside Auto Body came up, it seemed like it made the most sense. It's got a real good reputation, good standing with the insurance companies and it's been a good fit. It's a big adventure, and it should be well worth the battle."

And while Steiner said his daughter encouraged him to pursue a greener workplace, her influence over him does have its limits. She's been a vegetarian for more than a year, but this former meat locker owner does not have any plans to follow her lead.

"That won't happen," he said, before adding, "although my three girls have really cut down on the amount of meat consumed in our house."



## Work this week:

- North half closed west end to service road, Cottage Avenue to Dakota Street.
- Gravel, concrete paving west end to Highway 19.
- Half Highway 19 closed, intersection open to traffic.
- Sewer and water Cottage Avenue to Dakota Street.

## Planned for next week:

- Concrete paving, west end to service road.
- Seeding, erosion control entire project.
- Street lighting, traffic signals entire project.

## Miscellaneous:

- Oct. 14 was the final public meeting for this project. Any additional updates will be posted on our Web site listed below.
- DO NOT add, remove or relocate barrels, barricades, signs, temporary business signs, etc. on the construction sight. If concerns arise, please contact D&G Concrete Construction or the DOT for evaluation.
- Upgrades on construction progress and changes will be available on our Web site [dgconcrete.com](http://dgconcrete.com).



## Taking the wheel

Aaron Bingen, 2-year-old son of Kip and Deana Bingen of Vermillion, had great fun using his imagination while behind the wheel of the antique fire truck on display at the Vermillion Fire and EMS open house, held Oct. 7 at the William J. Radigan Fire and EMS Station. The annual event gave youth and their parents an opportunity to meet local firefighters, view the department's fire trucks and ambulances, and dine on a meal of free hot dogs served by the fire department's volunteers. (Photo by David Lias)

## Wine & Whiskers fundraiser is successful

Heartland Humane Society's Wine & Whiskers event was a huge success, raising over \$30,000 for the organization. Wine & Whiskers was held Oct. 3 at the Hillcrest Country Club in Yankton. It was the first event of its kind for the organization, and featured wine and beer tasting, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a live and silent auction.

All of the funds raised go

toward caring for the shelter animals, including veterinary expenses, spay and neuter expenses, food and shelter. Heartland Humane Society relies on donations from the community, and the fundraiser is the largest it has done to date.

"We just want to say thank you to everyone who made our event successful — the sponsors, auction donors, attendees

and cash donors," said Tasha Anderson, executive director at Heartland Humane Society. "This event sets the standard for our fundraising efforts going forward. It was a lot of fun, too!"

For more information about the event or the organization's fundraising efforts, contact Tasha Anderson at 605-664-4244 or email [hhs@midconet-network.com](mailto:hhs@midconet-network.com). Heartland Humane

Society serves Yankton and Clay counties in South Dakota and Cedar County in Nebraska, and surrounding communities, protecting and enhancing the lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people. Visit Heartland Humane Society online at [www.heartlandhumane-society.net](http://www.heartlandhumane-society.net).

## Rain delays corn, soybean harvest in South Dakota

SIoux FALLS (AP) — All South Dakota farmers have to do is look in their fields to see what many figure to be record corn and soybean crops, but they can't harvest them just yet because of soggy weather.

The Codrington County Extension agronomist in Watertown, Chuck Langner, said big machinery would have a hard time getting around in muddy fields.

Tripp farmer Gary Stoebner said he has a bumper crop waiting for him if he can just get it out of the ground.

"The combine is sitting in the yard ready to go. All we need is sunshine," said Stoebner, whose farm has received almost 2 inches of rain in the past week.

"This might be the best crop I've ever raised," he said.

Water is standing in some fields in the northeast as well while harvesting gear sits idle. Langner said another delay of a week or more could take its toll on a harvest that's already running late.

A late spring, cool summer and wet fall have been blamed for the harvest delays.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the corn harvest is 2 percent complete and the soybean harvest 16 percent complete — both well behind the five-year average.

In a normal year, one-third of South Dakota's soybean crop

would already be harvested. In south central South Dakota, the farmers growing corn and sunflowers are just a few years removed from a lingering drought. Now they have plenty of rain.

"We're happy to have it. We just have to wait longer for harvest," said Megan Peterson, Tripp County Extension educator for livestock.

A hard freeze is forecast for the entire state this weekend.

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### Dear President and Mrs. Abbott, USD Faculty, Staff, Students, and the entire Vermillion community:

Paul, our entire family, and I thank you for the flowers, the cards, the memorials, and countless other kindnesses showered upon us. However, most of all we are eternally grateful for your prayers and thoughtful words during this extremely sad time. Our faith, family, and friends are certainly what sustain us.

A special thanks to Dr. Timothy Schorn for being Elizabeth's guiding light at USD — she admired you very, very much; to Mr. James Parker for your immeasurable help and support during those first difficult days; to David Lias (Elizabeth's godfather and uncle), Heather Fluit, Matt Hittle, and Melissa Johnson for your lovely and poignant articles that will forever be cherished by our family and friends; to Elizabeth's (and my) sisters at Kappa Alpha Theta — the "bond is eternal"; to Elizabeth's Political Science League friends for enriching her world in ways we never could have imagined; and to the entire USD and Vermillion communities for an outpouring that has deeply touched us.

A good friend shared a quote from C. S. Lewis' *The Last Battle* — one of Elizabeth's favorite books —

*And as He spoke He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read, which goes on forever, in which every chapter is better than the one before.*

Elizabeth Weathers Lias is now living the Great Story! And finally, there are many of you at USD and in Vermillion who had a profound influence on Elizabeth whether you were her teacher, her friend, or an admired colleague. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for embracing Elizabeth while she was here, and for continuing to embrace us now that she is gone. We are so blessed.

Gratefully,  
Paul and Tia Esser, and our children  
Liz and Ross Owen, Tim and Kimberly Esser,  
and Jacob Lias