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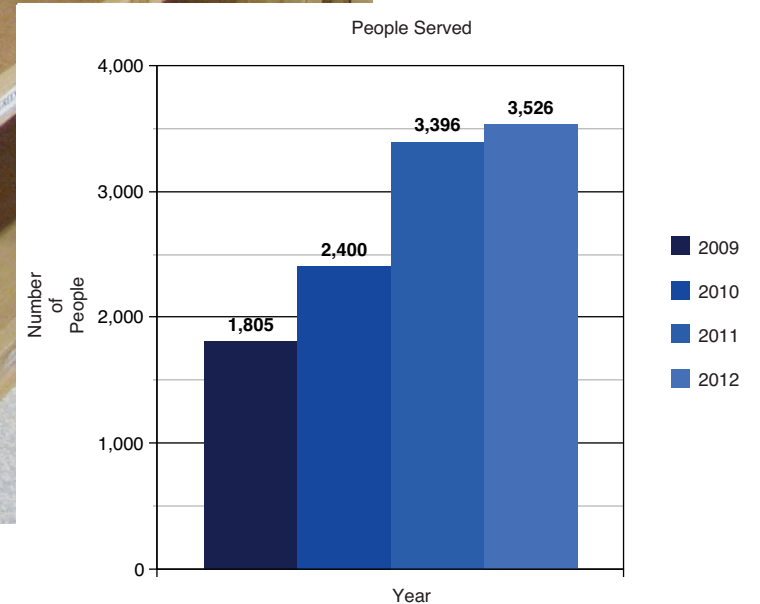
INSIDE:

- ▲ Smith named First Circuit court judge, **Page 02**
- ▲ Noem, Varilek spar in SDPB debate, **Page 03**

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FILL THE PANTRY SHELVES



The shelves at the Vermillion Food Pantry look pretty bare prior to Coyoteopoly's annual food drive, pick-up for which takes place Saturday. (Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

Coyoteopoly strives to aid local food pantry

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Last year, the Vermillion Food Pantry served 3,396 people. As of last week, it served 3,526 people – and there are still more than two months left in the year. This figure makes Coyoteopoly's annual food drive – pick-up for which

takes place this Saturday – all the more imperative. "The need just gets bigger and bigger," said pantry director Mary Berglin. A total of 363 people were fed last month alone, but Berglin said there were at least three months where the total was more than 400. "I just wonder how long a town of

12,000 people can support this food pantry," she said. "We don't get any city money and we don't get any county money." What the Vermillion Food Pantry does get is donations from area individuals, stores and restaurants. The pantry is applying for grants, as well. The Coyoteopoly food drive is a big help, too. Coyoteopoly CEO Jeff Heier

said Berglin told him this drive is the pantry's biggest of the year. "That really puts it in perspective how important it is that we do well at this," he said. Last year, Coyoteopoly brought in 5,513 food items and raised \$2,061 for the pantry, and Heier said he hopes to do even better this year. On Sunday, the drive sent

approximately 50 volunteers out to leave approximately 3,000 donation bags on doorknobs throughout the community. "Every house, every apartment, should have gotten a bag on their door," Heier said. Those bags will be picked up

■ **FOOD**, Page 09

Madisen places second during a weekend of firsts

By David Lias
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Madisen Lavin placed second in a weekend of firsts for her, and for the Vermillion community. Running in her first ever State "A" cross country meet in Huron last Saturday, she came oh-so-close to claiming the championship among the female participants. Madisen, the 12-year-old daughter of Carol and Matt Lavin of Vermillion, placed second, with a time of 15:23. The champion, Emily Hawkes, a sophomore from Madison, claimed the title by crossing the finish line just a bit over two seconds ahead of the Vermillion seventh-grader. "This is my first year running it (cross country)," she said. "My best time was a 15:04, so, it wasn't my best time. I have run faster, but I was really happy with my time, considering there were more hills and it was windier than I thought it would be." Madisen decided to become involved in Vermillion Tanager cross country this year because she enjoys competing in long races. "I've always like doing 5Ks, like the Susan G. Komen and



Vermillion's Madisen Lavin came oh-so-close to claiming the State "A" cross country championship last Saturday. The state meet was held in Huron.

(Photo by James Cimburek/Yankton P&D)

the Megan O'Connor (Memorial Scholarship Run)," she said. "I thought, 'well, heck, if that's 3 miles, then I can do 2.5,' and hopefully see if I could get good times in doing that."

"I really didn't expect what I had done ... I didn't think I would be this fast, and I really

■ **LAVIN**, Page 14

Johnson hopeful fed money will flow to Lewis & Clark water system

By Travis Gulbrandson
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Sen. Tim Johnson was in Vermillion Monday to get a first-hand look at the progress of a long-term project. The senator visited the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Treatment Plant that morning, where he discussed both the progress and the future funding of the overall Lewis & Clark project. The plant is located approximately three miles north of Vermillion. "It's good to see \$56.5 million being put to good use," Johnson said. "We have a long way to go on the entire Lewis & Clark project, but we're more than halfway there in the number of communities served."



Jim Auen, operations manager of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (right) describes the workings of the system's water plant to Sen. Tim Johnson as they toured the facility Monday.

(Photo by David Lias)

The mission of the project is to develop and operate a high-quality three-state water supply system to meet the growing

needs of the region. Approximately \$4.5 million is already set aside in the president's budget for next year,

Johnson said. The majority of future funding may be acquired through SB 3385, the Authorized Rural Water Projects Completion Act, a bipartisan effort sponsored by Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT). "It's a bipartisan bill, and we'll see where it comes out, but they need more money quickly," Johnson said. "Without earmarks, that is a hard goal, but we'll see what happens." "If passed, it would include \$80 million a year for the seven rural water projects currently on the Bureau of Reclamation's plate," said Troy Larson, executive director of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System.

■ **WATER**, Page 14

Building burns at Vermillion landfill

By Travis Gulbrandson
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The Vermillion Landfill lost a baler Monday when the building in which it was housed was the site of a fire. According to landfill manager Bob Iverson, the building was already on fire when employees arrived for work at 6:30 a.m. "There was fire coming out the vents," he said. "It was already well-started when they got here." Firefighters were still taking items out of the building and dousing areas of it with water as late as 11 a.m.

City Manager John Prescott said the state fire marshal is expected this morning (Tuesday) to investigate possible causes, after which point the insurance company will assess damages. "At this point we're anticipating that the baler as well as a couple of pieces of equipment were lost, and probably the building, but we'll wait and see what the fire marshal says, as well as the insurance company when they have a chance to take a look at it," Prescott said. Four area fire departments were on the scene Monday morning: Vermillion, Gayville, Volin and Wakonda.



The baler building at the Vermillion Landfill stands charred after an early-morning fire Monday. Four fire departments cooperated in extinguishing the blaze.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

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