HEIKES

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fresh food over a growing season that exceeds 20 weeks.

The size of the basket depends on the amount of each shareholder's investment.

"A lot of this stems from more and more concern that people have about the quality of food that they are eating," Sam said, "They want to know who is growing their food, and how they are growing it. People are concerned about where corporate agriculture is headed and how it pertains to the quality of food that we eat."

The family farm where Sam grew up, was once a place where livestock was raised. "We fed cattle there for 40 years," he said. "So the soil is very rich there."

At one point in his career, Sam was responsible for selling seed to farmers who had thousands of acres of land to plant each spring. Now that he's retired, he can concentrate on producing high value food crops.

"And maybe most importantly, to share that abundant food supply of very high quality fresh produce with the community, which is totally different than what motivated me before," he said. "The heart of the farm is the soil, and in the beginning it's the seed. The motivation is not entirely profit driven, because of the relationship with the shareholders.

"I've always loved fresh vegetables, and now I'm doing it on a larger scale and sharing it with the community, which is a wonderful thing to do," Sam said.

CHAMBER CHAT

Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce & Development Company
116 Market Street, Suite 103
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-5571
vcdc@vermillionchamber.com
www.vermillionchamber.com

ANN BREITAG

Chamber Business:

Business After Hours and Open House hosted by The Main Street Center, 320 W. Main Street, is Tuesday, Sept. 18 from 4-6 p.m. Tours of the senior center will be given. Please join us to make new contacts, socialize and find out what The Main Street Center has to offer. Refreshments will be served.

Business After Hours: Are you looking for an opportunity to showcase your business and network with your peers? Sign up to host a Business After Hours event. These events generally run from 5-7 p.m. on a weeknight and the hosting business provides hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. If interested, contact Ann at: annb@vermillionchamber.com or at 624-5571.

Announcements:

Exhibition through Sept. 21 at John A. Day Gallery at USD's Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts – "Utopian Visions: Illustrations from the Mid-20th Century." Includes illustrations from University Art Galleries permanent collection

Heartland Humane Society (HHS) needs area support to receive grant from Chase Community Giving. HHS is competing with charities nationwide for grants ranging from $10,000 to $250,000. Residents can help by simply voting for HHS through the Chase Community Giving program on Facebook Sept. 6-19. Go to: http://www.facebook.com/#./pages/Heartland-Humane-Society/71692424908. For additional information, contact hhs@midconetwork.com or call (605) 664-4244.

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