

Fall food, fun and family found at harvest festival

By Sarah Wetzel
For Plain Talk

Friends and Vermillion community members gathered at Clay County Park just outside of town on Saturday to enjoy the second annual Red Earth Harvest Festival.

"At a board meeting we had a little brainstorming and decided want to do a festival to celebrate food because it's the time of the harvest," said Caitlin Collier, treasurer of Red Earth Cooperative which sponsored the event. "This is the perfect spot."

The location did seem to be ideal with tall trees framing a grassy area which played host to some playground equipment and vendor tents.

"It's pretty self-contained so it's nice, the kids can run around," said Marije Wright. Wright was enjoying the evening with her family as well as being one of the vendors. "The spot was free as long as we had something for the kids," Wright said. At her booth, selling God's Green Earth products, children could blow bubbles and enjoy some candy corn. A few booths down there was a dinosaur display.

"We asked the vendors to do some kind of educational thing or activity," Collier said. Other children's activities included balloon twisting, games with prizes a hayride and scarecrow making.

Families also enjoyed a live music.

One of the bands, Midwest Dilemma, piped Folk/Rock music to festival-goers. They created a unique sound with a flute, guitar and tuba.

"We're [originally] from the area," the members explained to the audience. "This song was inspired from when we come home and want to meet up with friends and tell all the stories from the road."

Meeting up with friends seemed to be the theme of the evening.

"I like saying hi to friends and just enjoying the day," Collier said. "We decided we wanted to do something that involved food and community because that's really what the Red Earth Co-op is all about."

Guests lined up later in the evening for a free dinner.

"The hog that we're having has been roasted by John Robertson of Howlers," Collier



Sue Jopling with Church Ladies' Sweet Treats.
Thomas Hatzenbuehler/
For The Plain Talk

said. "It was donated by Hannish Farms which is one of our members and a vendors at farmers market."

Also donated were various gift baskets being offered for a raffle.

"Last year we had a silent auction," Collier said while handing someone their raffle tickets. "We decided to try something different this year with the raffle. This is money that goes back to us. Everything else is free with optional Free Will donation."

According to Collier, the Red Earth Cooperative is not only looking to bring a bigger and better festival back next year, but also another way to share local food.

"We're working towards opening a grocery store in Vermillion that has local and healthy foods," Collier said.

"We're a registered cooperative which means that everybody who becomes a member is a co-owner."

Collier also said that they are in the process of following a developmental model and advice from Food Co-op Initiative, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping startup new retail grocery co-ops.

"We're hoping to have 300 members by the end of October," Collier said. "We're hoping by this coming spring we will have a site selected and start on getting the place open."

Vermillion area no longer has to travel for spa treatment

By Heidi Kronaizl
For the Plain Talk

From the outside, The Spa at Wynie Mae's, located at 25 West Main Street, may look like the typical small town beauty shop and boutique.

On the inside? There sits a full salon and spa.

Wynie Mae's offers unique services such as salt glows and aromatherapy wraps. The new addition of intuitive life coaching and Reiki therapy, a stress reduction and relaxation technique is now offered in the spa.

Wynie Mae's has made the transition to become a registered Aveda salon, offering hair and beauty products that are made from natural products and are up to 99 percent organic.

With the addition of Aveda, Wynie Mae's has seen clients shopping local for their products, rather than traveling to Sioux Falls or Sioux City to purchase them.

"We want Vermillion to be the place where you can get a little bit of everything," said Bekki Engquist-Schroeder, the owner of Wynie Mae's. "The more we can keep adding to this town, makes people want to stay in Vermillion. The part of offering more things and staying new and fun in this business is also trying to continue to make Vermillion a better community."

While the change to Aveda's organic products may be new, Wynie Mae's has had a green approach from the start.

"Aveda goes along with my original business plan of its sustainably sourced, it's certified organic, it's 97 to 99 percent natural," Engquist-Schroeder said. "Every product is made in the United States except for some of the makeup."

"When I opened up the salon part of my goal was to be sustainable and to be a good steward of the Earth."

The stereotypical salon booths are not installed in Wynie Mae's. The salon features furniture that is vintage, was purchased secondhand or donated by clients.

"They [clients] just love our style and our energy and will bring



Bekki Engquist-Schroeder, owner of Wynie Mae's Spa is all smiles in a job she enjoys.
Thomas Hatzenbuehler/For The Plain Talk

stuff in," Engquist-Schroeder said. "It kind of just goes along again with our whole mission of being good stewards, providing awesome services to a unique clientele and doing it the best that we can."

While the women at Wynie Mae's offer their unique services under one roof, they all collaborate on making sure customers are satisfied. The team goes to extreme lengths to keep a good energy and atmosphere at the spa.

"We want you to be totally relaxed, we want your experience here to be that you're going to just enjoy not just coming to get your haircut, but also to spend time with us ... just kind of let the world melt away a little bit while you're in here," Engquist-Schroeder said.

Customers may be offered a beverage while getting a haircut or a hand massage while receiving a new hair color.

Aveda requires that the team at Wynie Mae's take classes each month on learning new skills or retouching on old ones. Engquist-Schroeder feels that these services help make The Spa at Wynie Mae's stand out against other beauty salons in town.

"We're very spiritual, we live and breathe our passion," Engquist-Schroeder said. "We are connected to each one of our clients. If it takes us two hours to cut your hair because we are in a great conversation and you just

want to sit here and visit we will spend as much time with you as we can."

The efforts made by the team at The Spa at Wynie Mae's are noticed by their customers.

"The girls [at Wynie Mae's] are talented and sweet," said Elizabeth Szymanski. She has been going to Wynie Mae's for services for two years. "It has a laid back atmosphere."

While The Spa at Wynie Mae's has made recent changes, more are anticipated in the future.

Ceramic painting is currently offered in the salon, but is going to be relocated to a location off of Highway 50. To accommodate the change, Wynie Mae's will then expand its stock of hair and beauty products to place in the storefront.

Another cosmetologist will be added to the team to help accommodate with walk-in services. Wynie Mae's is considering expanding into an apartment located behind the store in the next year.

This would add two additional treatment rooms, a relaxation room, a shower and a break room.

To make an appointment with The Spa at Wynie Mae's team, give them a call at (605)-658-1234. The Spa at Wynie Mae's is also on Facebook, posting about updates with what's new in the spa. For a complete list of services visit their website at www.wyniemaes.com.

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don't like to lose any students part-time or full-time. But, when you get right down to it, is pretty clear we are down in part-time students and up slightly in full-time on-campus students. If you have to be down, part-time is the place you would rather do it. But, I would rather not lose any students."

According to the released data, the largest increases in student counts were seen at two of the smallest universities in the state. Northern State University in Aberdeen had an increase of 237 students, but that only equaled a 0.72 percent increase in FTEs for the campus. South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, however, saw an increase of 158 students and a 7 percent increase in FTEs.

Meanwhile, South Dakota State University in Brookings saw an increase of just three students, and saw its FTEs decrease by .39 percent. Dakota State University had a decrease of 82 students, but only saw its FTEs decrease by .06 percent. Black Hills State University had 25 more students but lost 4.64 percent FTE students.



USD President Jim Abbott spoke last Thursday at the Aalfs Auditorium to give his account on how things are shaping up at the university.

Alan Dale / The Plain Talk

availability on the Internet.

"As the Internet becomes more popular, students in Sioux Falls are more inclined to stay home and take a course by distance rather than take a class at the center," he said. "We are certainly the one who lost the most at the University Center because our courses are much easier to teach by distance."

He explained that a history course, which is an example of a course USD teaches at University Center, is relatively easy to teach by

distance when compared to a lab class.

"A student taking biology or math is more inclined to take it in person because of the lab requirement," Abbott said. "DSU teaches math and does very well with it. Students don't like to take math by distance because they think they need the in-person teacher."

Abbott said he was puzzled by the decrease seen in the number of transfer students and would be digging into the data to see if there was a reason for the drop. He also said his staff would be continuing USDs effort to bring in more students from out of state.

"One of the reasons for going to DI in sports was to play up all the programs across University; it was to become more of a regional destination," he said. "I didn't look up exactly what numbers of our students are from out of state, but I would guess it falls between 30-35 percent. Those students pay more than in-state students. That is a benefit to us. Also, a certain number of students who come here from other states stay here to live after graduating. I feel that is beneficial to us, as well."

He noted that the

residence halls on campus are currently full, but doesn't believe that the school will be building new dorms in the near future.

"My sense is that the Board of Regents would be reluctant to allow us build a new dorm until we can demonstrate that we have significant growth on campus of our freshman class each year," Abbott said. "Our goal is to move from between 1,200-1,300 freshmen students to 1,500 freshmen students on campus. It won't be easy to do, but that is our goal."

When looking at graduate numbers, USD remained stable, Abbott said. He added that the economy plays a big role in the number of graduate students seen.

"This year, I think that our numbers are flat," he said. "When the economy gets strong, the numbers reduce a little bit. It is a known fact that when the economy is weak, the college graduate who has lost their job or been downgraded will go back to school."

When the economy is strong, the students will take a break from their program."

Abbott said there are several programs that are seeing large growth, such as the nursing program, which moved from a two-year to a four-year bachelors program. In addition, he noted that the addition of new staff and a new master's degree in public health will continue to drive enrollment in the future.

"We were the only state that didn't have a master's in public health program," he said. "When you collaborate between the public health program and the fact that we have a new chair in computer science who is very interested in big data and how it affects public health issues, I am looking forward to see where that goes."

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Vermillion Community for once again helping us to sponsor the 6th annual Vermillion Tanager Volunteer Day. This year as in all others it would be impossible to do without our many sponsors.

First, to the Chamber of Commerce of Vermillion, your continued support in providing a luncheon in the park for all students and teachers goes above and beyond! To our t-shirt supporters thank you Sanford Hospitals (who have been with us since the beginning), Vermillion PTA, Royal Canin, Vermillion Public Schools Foundation, Vermillion Rotary Club, Johnson Feed Inc., and the Vermillion Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 19 for your support for our t-shirts. Sending students out in a united front (t-shirt) tells everyone we are in this together. It also allows us for one day to be the same no matter background, economics, or other daily challenges. Thanks, next, to the Vermillion Ladies Golf Association and Trinity Lutheran church for providing watermelon and treats to all of students at lunch.

Without all of you, Tanager Volunteer Day would not succeed. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

USD THEATRE PRESENTS

NEXT TO NORMAL
Music by Tom Kitt, Book and Lyrics by Brian Yorkey
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Adults \$15 • Senior Citizens (62+) \$12
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Reservations: 605-677-5400 or www.usd.edu/theatre
Join us for special talk back sessions immediately following the performances on Sept. 26th, Oct. 1st, and 4th hosted by the Department of Theatre and mental health professionals from across the region.

This event is partially sponsored by a generous donation from the First Bank & Trust and the USD Student Government Association. If you are a person with a disability and need a special accommodation to fully participate, please contact Disability Services at 605-677-6389 48 hours before the event.

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