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EB-5

SD Seeks To Recover Cash

State Contracts With Lawyer To Get Back Benda's \$550,000

also

■ SD Troopers
Didn't Stop
Their Practice
Of Taking
Drivers' Blood.
PAGE 8

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The Governor's Office of Economic Development is paying a private attorney to pursue the possible recovery of \$550,000 that allegedly was misappropriated.

The \$550,000 came from a grant program in 2010 overseen by Richard Benda, a top figure in the administration of then-Gov. Mike Rounds.

Criminal investigations conducted secretly last year

into Benda's activities prompted GOED Commissioner Pat Costello to hire Paul Bachand in spring 2013 to represent the state agency.

GOED's duties include supervision of the Future Fund grant program that was the source of the money.

Each governor has operated the Future Fund in semi-secret fashion since it was created in 1987 at the request of then-Gov. George S. Mickelson.

Its purpose is to assist in economic and workforce

BENDA | PAGE 10



JORDYNNE HART/P&D

Peggy Sue Arayza, 4, holds a donated zucchini at the Yankton Contact Center. The center will be accepting produce donations and giving away produce 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

A Place For Your Excess Produce

Local Gardeners Share Harvest With Contact Center

BY JORDYNNE HART

jordynne.hart@yankton.net

Have an abundance of fruit or vegetables from this year's great growing season? Or perhaps just looking to get some fresh garden produce for free?

The Yankton County Contact Center is accepting and giving away produce from this year's abundant garden harvest.

"We have always accepted produce," said director Jennifer Adamson. "Some seasons, vegetables and fruits are so crazy growing that you can't use them and you have already overwhelmed your friends and family. This is a place where you can share the wealth."

The Yankton Contact Center is located in the Yankton County Courthouse. The center's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Many of the big donors include area farmers, city gardeners and Yankton's Federal Prison Camp (YFPC).

YFPC case manager Bruce Fisher said that this month alone, three inmates harvested 7,000 pounds of produce that have been delivered to non-profit organizations such as the Contact Center, the monastery, Ability Building Services houses, Cedar Village, area senior centers and the county jail.

"It's been a great growing year so far. We should easily make that 7,000 pounds into 10,000 pounds of produce by the end of the summer."

The prison camp has been donating produce from its two-acre garden since 1998, but hasn't started donating to the Contact Center until this year.

"I feel bad that we didn't even think about it until this year," Fisher said. "We had so many watermelon last year that nobody wanted. The Contact Center would have been the perfect place to donate those."

GARDEN | PAGE 10



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton and Huron girls' varsity soccer teams line up for player introductions Friday as a YHS banner stands behind the Gazelles' bench. Friday marked the first home action for the Yankton boys' and girls' soccer teams as an officially sanctioned high school sport.

Sanctioned YHS Soccer Makes Home Debut

BY ROB NIELSEN

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This year has been called a watershed moment in the history of American soccer by some as the U.S. national team advanced out of the "Group of Death" during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. A little closer to home and with a few less global viewers, this year has also been significant for soccer at Yankton High School.

Friday marked the first time the Yankton High School's Bucks and Gazelles — both varsity and junior varsity — played in front of their home fans as an officially sanctioned sport, as they took on the Huron Tigers.

Joe and Lori Rust have two daughters — Elizabeth (varsity) and Lexi (junior varsity) — playing for the Gazelles.

Joe said he saw the move to sanction as a necessity and that it's great to see it come to fruition.

"It's the only option they had because everyone else went and sanc-

tioned," Joe said. "It's good that they'll have all the teams in the state playing for one championship this year."

Lori, who works with the Yankton Youth Soccer Association, said while it feels like a regular soccer game, that doesn't mean there isn't more anticipation for the first home match under the sanctioned banner.

"I didn't think it would feel any different," Lori said. "We've been playing soccer for years. It's just another regular soccer game. There's a lot of excitement building up and once the day is finally here, it's great."

Gazelles head coach Tyler Schuring said YHS has done exceptionally well preparing for its games.

"I thought the high school has done a nice job helping us out — helping us get scorers set up, set up a nice parking lot for us, setting up gates, getting good bleachers out here," Schuring said.

"The school has done a really good job



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Alyssa Roth takes money from a paying customer at the gate prior to the start of the Gazelles' varsity match against Huron Friday. As a sanctioned sport, YHS soccer now charges admission for the games.

SOCCER | PAGE 10



ALAN DALE /VERMILLION PLAIN TALK.

Terry Johnson takes time out to find a comfortable place at the Vermillion Theater after nearly three decades as its manager. The theater closed its doors on Sunday.

Vermillion Theater's Gone With The Wind

Longtime Film House Closes After 43 years

BY ALAN DALE

Vermillion Plain Talk

VERMILLION — "Do you feel lucky?"

For many moviegoers in Vermillion they did and for 43 years to boot.

Once named the March Theater, the Vermillion Theater, located at 4 West Main St., closed its doors on Sunday after four-plus decades of providing the town, county and area with old-fashioned, movie entertainment.

"I feel sad and I wish we could keep going,

but business nationwide is down 15-20 percent and we are right in line with the rest of them," manager Terry Johnson said. "We are holding our end up and business is not bad, it's just that it's not great."

Johnson had been the manager at the theater since 1985 and was emphatic about making it clear that the theater didn't have to close, but the decision became one of pragmatism.

Its final showing was of "Guardians of the Galaxy."

"Too bad the guardians couldn't block the theater's closing."

"The reason was we had equipment problems at the Coyote with a digital projector and our warranty expired so we then had to buy a

new one which would cost approximately \$60K," Johnson said. "We had just made that switch to digital three years ago and Mr. (Jack) March didn't want to make the investment on another auditorium and the buildings were up for sale...it was a move forward to operate in one building on two screens."

"Business was good in Vermillion and it didn't need to close. We just solved a problem by not making a \$60,000 investment. It was something Mr. March didn't feel was a wise investment at this time in his career."

The single film theater kept itself relevant despite doubling as a time machine.

One could swear that walking in to see a

THEATER | PAGE 10