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# SD: No To Refugees

## Daugaard Opts Out Of Accepting Syrian Refugees

BY KELLY HERTZ  
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PIERRE — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard has joined with several other governors across the country in calling on

the Obama administration to re-assess the screening process for its Syrian refugee policy.

However, Daugaard also said that no Syrian refugees have been sent to South Dakota



Daugaard

and the state has yet to be contacted about taking any.

The concerns over the flood of Syrian refugees have heightened since the terrorist attacks in Paris last Friday, in which 129 people were killed and more than 350 injured. A passport allegedly belonging to a Syrian refugee was discovered in connection with the investigation of the case, but its authenticity has not been verified.

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ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D  
QPRT instructor Lori Montis speaks with clinical healthcare providers about the details of interviewing a person at risk of suicide. Montis broke the participants up into groups where one acted as the healthcare provider and one acted as an at-risk individual with a scripted backstory to practice asking the right questions and techniques that encourage their suicide risk clients to open up. This was all part of a suicide risk assessment training course that took place at the Human Services South Training Center Wednesday.

## Giving A Voice To A Silent Problem

Yankton Offers Suicide Risk  
Assessment Course For  
Practicing Professionals

*EDITORS NOTE: This is the second in an ongoing series of stories involving the issue of suicide.*

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN  
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It can feel like a helpless situation. Suicidal thoughts tend to go unnoticed and loved ones may not be aware that those thoughts are haunting someone until an incident happens.

But there is a way for citizens to empower themselves. Being informed could be your greatest weapon.

Yankton Area Mental Wellness Inc. sponsored a QPRT (Questions, Persuade, Refer and Treat) Suicide Risk Assessment and Risk management training course at the Human Services Center South Training Center Wednesday for local organizations and agency care providers.

The course is designed for health professionals to reduce mental health consumer morbidity and mortality by standardizing the detection, assessment and management of patients at elevated risk for suicidal behaviors in all settings and for all ages.

Approximately 20 people, from a variety of mental and behavioral health agencies in the area, attended the training as did education staff and administration.

Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health employees like April Empey have

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## Taking Care Of Business



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Nate Welch, executive director of the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (VCDC), provides an update Wednesday on the Vermillion NOW! 2 campaign. The five-year initiative surpassed its \$1.6 million goal for pledges.

## Vermillion Campaign Passes \$1.6 Million Goal

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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VERMILLION — The Vermillion Now! 2 campaign for economic development has surpassed its \$1.6 million goal in pledges, an official announced Wednesday.

"We've received \$1.1 million in cash and \$528,000 in in-kind contributions," said Nate Welch, executive director of the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company (VCDC).

Welch gave his report during the VCDC luncheon at the Bluffs clubhouse. Vermillion

Now! 2, a five-year initiative, has wrapped up a year-long fundraising campaign.

The \$1.6 million represents a major commitment toward Vermillion's future, Welch said. More importantly, the donors are honoring their pledges, he said.

"We've received \$410,000 in cash so far, which represents over 93 percent of the amount we would expect to receive at this time," he said. "People are holding true to their word and commitment."

Of the \$410,000 in cash collected to

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## VCDC Pursues Lawsuit Against Eagle Creek

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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VERMILLION — The Vermillion Chamber and Development Company (VCDC) is progressing in its lawsuit against a business that didn't occupy a VCDC building as planned, according to the organization's legal counsel.

VCDC attorney Melissa Jelen responded to an audience question at Wednesday's luncheon for the Vermillion Now! 2 campaign.

The VCDC has filed suit against the Eagle Creek software business. The VCDC alleges Eagle Creek didn't follow its commitment to locate in Vermillion at a facility provided for the business. Eagle Creek disputes the allegation.

The building in the middle of the dispute is located across from Wal-Mart in the northwest part of Vermillion.

At Wednesday's luncheon, Jelen said she realized the VCDC audience wanted more information on details surrounding the lawsuit and its progress. However, she said neither she nor the VCDC officials could speak freely on many issues while the lawsuit remains in the courts.

"We're not allowed to do so at this time," she said. "We'll have more of an opportunity once the litigation is over and the matter is resolved."

However, Jelen said she could provide an update on the legal process that is public record and has been reported in the media.

The VCDC sought a summary judgment, which would have immediately decided the lawsuit, Jelen said.

"The court denied our motion and said we need to do more discovery," she said. "The court said there are more issues that need pursuit."

In another development, the VCDC has added the Eagle Creek shareholders to the lawsuit, Jelen said. The motion seeks to hold those individuals, as well as the business itself, responsible for any damages.

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## High Winds Expected For Yankton County

From P&D Staff Reports

The weather outside could turn frightful the next couple days.

The Yankton area is under a wind advisory for today (Thursday) for strong northwest winds trailing a powerful cold front expected to sweep through the area. Winds are expected to reach 30 to 35 miles per hour, with gusts up to 50 mph possible.

The real fun could come Friday. The southeast corner of South Dakota, covering Yankton and Clay counties, is under a winter storm watch throughout the day into the evening. At press time, snowfall from 4-7 inches is possible. Cedar County in Nebraska is also under a storm watch, with snowfall from 3 to 5 inches possible.

Gusty winds are also possible Friday, which could create visibility issues.

Keep up to date online at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net) for more weather details.

## Hartington Lights Up Christmas — Early



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
This lighted vehicle takes part in last year's Candlelight Christmas parade in downtown Hartington, Neb. The 15th annual event is slated for Friday with activities throughout the afternoon and evening.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — In Hartington, Christmas arrives before Thanksgiving. At least, the Candlelight Christmas celebration does.

The 15th annual event will be held today (Friday) with the theme "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree."

"People come from all over. We get people from Yankton, Omaha and western Nebraska," said Chamber of Commerce President Karma Schulte.

The downtown Hartington business district will feature lights in each window, with activities held around town, Schulte said.

"We don't like to have empty or dark space downtown during Candlelight Christmas," she said. "We look at putting (lights) into places that are closed or empty."

The highlight is the lighted vehicle parade, set for 7 p.m. The parade route



Cedar County

begins at the parking lots for Hartington-Newcastle, Cedar Catholic and Holy Trinity schools, proceeding down

Broadway Avenue before turning west on Main Street.

Schulte expects another good turnout of entries.

"We've had as many as 60 and as few as 35," she said. "We average about 40 entries. This year, the numbers look like they are up."

You can expect to find almost anything in the parade, Schulte said.

"We've had everything. We've had houses, dogs, combines and airplanes," she said. "We try to have them pre-register (their entries) or come early so we can turn in a little blurb about them and the

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