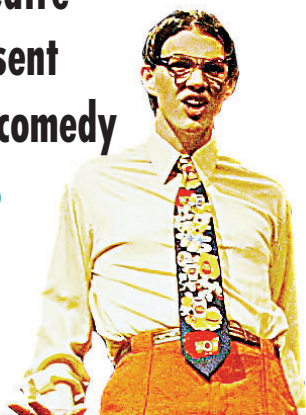


USD Theatre  
will present  
musical comedy  
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# PLAIN TALK

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The Vermillion City Council received a small sampling of what Coyoteopoly's planned South Dakota Shakespeare Festival is all about when Feste the Jester, played by Allen Jones, Sir Toby Belch, played by Reese Porter, and Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Patrick Beasley), performed a scene from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night in the city hall meeting chamber. Not pictured are performers Jamie Fields, who portrayed Maria, and Cody Strand, who took on the role of Malvolio. (Photo by David Lias)

## City agrees to Shakespeare Fest

By David Lias  
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Chalk it up to the detailed plans, presented by students from the University of South Dakota's Beacom School of Business who are involved in Coyoteopoly to the Vermillion City Council at its Monday noon meeting in city hall.

Or, perhaps the credit goes to actors who temporarily transformed the floor of city hall's meeting chamber into a stage to perform a scene from William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night just a few feet away from the aldermen seated at their large curved desk.

The students' efforts were successful Monday. The Vermillion City Council approved a resolution at its regular evening meeting agreeing to be a co-sponsor of the first ever South Dakota Shakespeare Festival in Vermillion.

The students involved in Coyoteopoly have already begun meticulously planning for the event, which they plan to hold in Prentis Park June 8 through June 10, 2012.

The festival will include three evening presentations of a Shakespeare play in the historic amphitheater that for years has sat idle in the park. During the day, workshops on various theater topics will be offered free of charge to youth at the Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts on the USD campus.

Tickets for the festival will be free for the public. Tickets will be distributed to the public for each festival performance through business sponsors. Business sponsors of the festival will have primary ticket distribution rights as an incentive for their sponsorship of the festival, in addition to other benefits.

Businesses in the Vermillion area will be the main sources of sponsorship, as well as businesses in surrounding areas such as Yankton, and extending to Sioux Falls and Sioux City, IA.

Fundraising for the project will be in the form of corporate sponsorship along with donations and fund-raising events, including one Friday night at Pro's Bar & Grill.

From 6 to 11 p.m., Coyoteopoly will be hosting a no limit Texas Hold 'Em tournament

at Pro's with a \$20 buy-in. Non-cash prizes will be awarded to the top eight place finishers. In addition, the casino night will have \$10 chip bundle buy-ins for blackjack tables. Players in blackjack will be able to cash in chips in \$10 increments for vouchers that can be redeemed for prizes.

The city resolution notes that Coyoteopoly has requested that the city of Vermillion serve as an official co-sponsor for the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, and that no direct monetary support of the event is pledged by the city. The festival may indirectly receive support from the city in the form of improvements that may be made to Prentis Park facilities prior to September of this year in preparation of the upcoming event.

"Coyoteopoly is partnering with people from USD's College of Fine Arts to prepare for the Shakespeare Festival," Caleb Lyle, Coyoteopoly's CEO, told the city council Monday night, summarizing information that had been presented to aldermen earlier that day. "We

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## USD 'rebranding' will do away with U.

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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In 2002, the University of South Dakota unveiled its new logo, a red U. – known to many as the "U-dot."

Apart from a few changes made over the years, the logo has stayed pretty much the same, coming to be known for South Dakota residents as a shorthand identifier for the university.

Now, USD is in the process of "rebranding" to create a new logo that can be identified by people nationwide.

"There are a lot of U's out there," said Bob Fitzpatrick, director of marketing at USD. "U. works great. Locally and on campus, I think we would still refer to the university as the U. sometimes. But there are many universities that, when you're there, they are the U. Once you get outside the state, U. doesn't really have a whole lot of meaning. It's kind of generic."

"When you see U., you don't see the University of South Dakota, and that's what we want to change," he said.

Fitzpatrick said a number of elements played a role in the university's decision, which was made over the course of this past academic year.

"With the growth of online and distance education, we're delivering more degrees to more places and people than ever before," he said. "Also, with the move to Division I, we're sort of moving to a larger stage in terms of regionally and nationally. And being the flagship institution in South Dakota, we want to look and act more like a national brand."

USD currently is working with Lawrence & Schiller of Sioux Falls on the project, for which a number of objectives have been outlined.

"We want something that ... will provide a



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## Plans call for replacing downtown water tower

By Travis Gulbrandson  
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

The city of Vermillion has received a loan/grant to replace the nearly century-old Market Street water tower, but more financing may need to be located before the project gets off the ground.

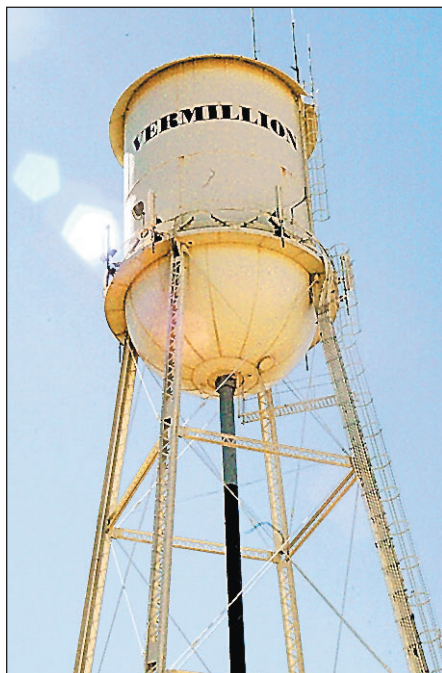
Last month, the city received a \$1,532,000 loan for the project, \$153,200 of which is in the form of a grant. The money was awarded by the state Board of Water and Natural Resources and administered through the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"At this point in time, we're taking a look at the financing of this tower," said City Manager John Prescott. "We haven't put it to bid yet, so we don't know the exact cost."

"But if we're looking at a \$1.5 million project, what we're trying to do is ... evaluate what the best way is to go now since we didn't receive the level of grant funding that we'd hoped to for this project."

One thing is certain: The downtown water tower will eventually be taken out of service.

"There's periodic maintenance that you have to do, and one of those decision points where we need to invest that sort of maintenance dollar into it, or else take it out of service and create a new one," Prescott said. "Taking that out of service would allow us to avoid investing those



There's not much life left in a prominent part of the landscape of downtown Vermillion. Once city leaders secure adequate funding, a new, larger water tower will be constructed in northwest Vermillion and the century-old downtown tower will be taken down.

(Photo by David Lias)

dollars into a tower that is 100 years old."

The tower, constructed in 1912,

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## Lepisto: Stopping invasive species is possible

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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South Dakota is bordered on all sides by states in which invasive species live that have the potential to wreak havoc on its rivers and lakes.

"The threat isn't just at the Great Lakes anymore. It's literally knocking on our door," said Paul Lepisto, regional conservation coordinator with the Izaak Walton League of America.

Lepisto spoke about the danger these species pose and the ways outdoors enthusiasts can prevent their spread Wednesday, March 30, at the fourth annual Missouri River Futures Conservation Workshop at the Clay County 4-H Center in Vermillion.

There are four species with which experts are concerned in terms of the Missouri River, Lepisto said. They are the Asian carp and the silver carp, and two invertebrates, the zebra mussel and the Asian clam.

The Asian carp is present in Lewis & Clark Lake. The presence is not great, although the carp has been sampled in several different locations.

"At this point, we do not have the Asian Carp species or the zebra mussel present in the Missouri River above Gavins Point Dam, so the dam is the barrier right now to prevent these invasive species from spreading further up the Missouri River," Lepisto said.

While the silver carp is not yet known to be in the Missouri River, it has been found in the James River and the Big Sioux.

Silver carp are known as the "jumping fish" for good reason, Lepisto said.

"They'll come out of the water when there's a disturbance – a boat going by or a jet ski, a water skier," he said. "When a school of them gets excited, they'll start leaping up in the air, four or five feet out of the water. Some of these fish weigh 40 or 50 pounds, so ... they can fly into a boat, strike and injure people who are in the boat. It's an extremely dangerous thing to have happen."

The silver carp is such a problem in the Illinois River that there is a service that offers tourists a chance to dispose of the fish through bow-hunting.

"I've seen footage of this," Lepisto said. "Carp are jumping out of the water and people are trying to shoot them with arrows. Shotguns would be more effective, I think, but I don't



The Missouri River flows under the Newcastle-Vermillion Bridge in this Plain Talk file photo. Paul Lepisto of the Izaak Walton League said such waterways are threatened by Asian carp, silver carp and other invasive species.

think the people that live on the shore or on the water would enjoy shotguns going off?"

Another invasive species, the zebra mussel – named for its distinctive striped pattern – was discovered in Nebraska for the first time this past December. The mussels often attach themselves to hard surfaces on the shoreline of a body of water.

"They're quite small – less than a quarter in size," Lepisto said. "Most of the adults are about the size of a dime."

A group of Boy Scouts discovered one of the mussels on a discarded beer can when they were collecting aluminum at Lake Zorinsky in Omaha.

"It's a small lake where they didn't think they would ever have that problem with an invasive species," Lepisto said. The lake is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the City of Omaha, which drew down the shoreline in an effort to dry out the mussels or freeze them so that they'll die and cease to reproduce.

It's the reproduction rate of this species that causes such concern among biologists, Lepisto said.

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