



Forkfly

Live Local. Spend Less.  
Start getting great local deals today!

www.forkfly.com

# PLAIN TALK

Serving our readers since 1884.

Volume 127, Issue 15

USPS 657-720



Friday,  
April 13,  
2012

75¢



© 2012 YANKTON MEDIA, INC., all rights reserved

www.plaintalk.net

**INSIDE:**

- ▲ Frank Abagnale Jr. to speak at USD, Page 03
- ▲ Lias: Don't kill the death tax, Page 04



South Dakota's Alexa Rudeen tags out Oakland's Alivia Nikolaus at third base during Saturday's Summit League action in Vermillion. USD earned a 9-6 victory, completing a three-game sweep of the Grizzlies, USD's first-ever Summit League regular season sweep. The Coyotes, and everyone else in Vermillion attempting to enjoy outdoor activity last weekend, had to deal with relentless, gusting wind and the clouds of dust it caused. Read more about the local sports action inside this week's Plain Talk.

(Photo by David Lias)

## School board counts on reserves to balance budget

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

One way that Gov. Dennis Daugaard defended the highly controversial education reform legislation that he introduced in Pierre earlier this year is by stating that it would provide more money to public schools in South Dakota.

But members of the Vermillion School Board, along with Superintendent Mark Froke, aren't counting on any extra revenue from Pierre as they begin the preliminary crafting of the Vermillion School District's 2012-13 general fund and capital outlay budgets.

They have sharpened their pencils, looked at factors beyond their control, and determined, at this point in time at least, that they will have to dip into reserve funds once again to balance both the district's capital outlay and general fund budgets.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET**

"We're addressing some major needs in this budget," Froke told the board at its March 26 meeting while discussing the capital outlay budget. "There is not much in the area of flexibility that's been built in."

The preliminary capital outlay budget expenditures for next year total just over \$1,740,053. Local resources available for the budget stand at \$1,550,000. To balance the budget, the board will likely have to use approximately \$190,053 in reserve funds.

"This is the first time we've utilized reserves of that nature," Froke said.

School Board President Mark Bottolfson noted the high school track refurbishing project is one

reason the district must tap reserves to balance the fund.

"And there are some very good things taking place here," Froke said. "It will be a tight capital outlay budget, but we're addressing some important issues."

District administrators plan to spend \$4,000 in the elementary schools, \$8,000 in the middle school and \$11,000 in the high school. These monies, will, in part, be on hand to replace equipment that breaks down and meet other miscellaneous expenses relating to equipment or the school buildings.

The extra funds allocated to the middle and high schools will go toward replacing science and music equipment.

The district plans invest nearly \$185,000 of capital outlay funds in technology for 2012-13. The bulk of that amount - \$130,000 - will go toward the purchase of new iPad computers to be used in the high school. Administrators have also set aside \$40,000 to be used to upgrade the district's technology system and keep it operating.

Other major items in the preliminary capital outlay budget include \$97,000 for the purchase of new books for the school library and new textbooks; \$302,400 for bus transportation; approximately \$541,000 for various certificates and leases involving school buildings, Johnson Controls, construction bonds and a copier lease; \$87,700 for lease of the DakotaDome, the alternative school space on Cherry Street and the school administration building located

■ **SCHOOL**, Page 16

## Missouri River 2011 rise brings flood of information

By Travis Gulbrandson

travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

Major disturbance events - such as the rise of the Missouri River last year - are out of the scope of most researchers and research projects, according to one expert.

"We'll still be understanding this flood decades from now, so it's going to be very interesting how that information is compiled and brought forward as new people work on it," said Gerald Mestl, Missouri River program manager with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Mestl discussed some of the effects of last year's river conditions and the history of flooding along the river as part of the annual Missouri River Institute Research Symposium, which was held Thursday at the University of South Dakota.

Despite the chaos it can cause, a rise along the Missouri River does have some positive outcomes, Mestl said.

■ **FLOOD**, Page 16



Gerald Mestl, Missouri River program manager with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, discusses last year's river rise during a presentation at the Missouri River Institute Research Symposium Thursday.

(Photo by David Lias)

## Hark! Shakespeare fest to be staged here soon

By Travis Gulbrandson

travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

The first annual South Dakota Shakespeare Festival is drawing closer, and Coyoteopoly students are doing their best to ensure it hits the stage as smoothly as possible.

"The South Dakota Shakespeare Festival is going to take a lot of work, and Coyoteopoly has worked for 18 months to get it rolling, and we're finally almost at the end of it," Coyoteopoly CEO Anya Point said during a presentation to the Vermillion Rotary Club Tuesday afternoon.

Coyoteopoly is a University of South Dakota student-run corporation that provides charitable work to the area, and is the organizer of the festival. Scheduled for June 8-10 in



Coyoteopoly CEO Anya Point shows off a limited edition ticket to the first South Dakota Shakespeare Festival as she and Coyoteopoly CFO Jillian Nelson make a presentation to the Vermillion Rotary Club Tuesday afternoon.

(Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

Prentis Park, the festival will feature performances of "As You Like It" at 7 p.m. each night, as well as a variety of other activities and vendors.

■ **FEST**, Page 16

## Grant, loan allow landfill to grow

By Travis Gulbrandson

travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

City officials are pleased with the news of the approval of a nearly \$2.2 million grant and loan package that will enable an expansion of the regional landfill.

"We are pleased to have this sort of support," said City Manager John Prescott. "Any time we look at projects like this at the landfill they usually have a pretty good dollar figure attached to them, so the ability to either use the state's loan program or receive a grant makes it a lot easier to us."

The \$2,161,210 package

■ **GRANT**, Page 05

**Reaching Out to Serve You.**

Call to schedule an appointment with  
**BOARD ELIGIBLE  
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON,  
JEREMY KUDERA, M.D.**

**VERMILLION MEDICAL CLINIC®**  
101 South Plum Street • Vermillion, SD 57069  
605-624-8643 • www.vermillionmedicalclinic.com