

Golf Ball Drop For CASA Planned

The Southeast CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) Program is hosting The Golf Ball Drop for CASA fundraiser near Riverside Park on Saturday, August 22 at 4:00 p.m., as a part of Riverboat Days 2015.

Southeast CASA is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization, providing advocacy services for abused and neglected children from Yankton, Clay, and Bon Homme Counties who are involved in the foster care and family court systems. CASA's highly-trained volunteers advocate for the children in these difficult situations, providing each child with a voice in Court. Our mission is to ensure that the best interests of a child are promoted as the Court determines where the child will have a safe, permanent home.

The Golf Ball Drop for CASA has 2,000 individually numbered golf balls which will be dropped from an extended fire truck ladder onto the grassy area east of the water treatment plant. Raffle tickets corresponding to the golf balls will be sold for \$5 each or 5/\$20. There are 17 chances to win \$100, and one chance to win \$500! Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

A children's activity takes place following the measurements. Kids will pick up as many golf balls as they can, each earning a prize for their help. CASA will weigh each bag, and a larger prize will go to the child in each category who gathers the most balls.

As a local non-profit organization, Southeast CASA relies on local support to help every child who needs a CASA advocate. You can provide CASA services for abused and neglected children through your participation in this fun activity! To purchase your raffle tickets, please contact the Southeast CASA Program at 605-760-4825 or 605-929-5126.



Esping Resigns From Vermillion School Board

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

The Vermillion School Board, which reorganized just last month, is losing one of its members.

Board president Chris Esping announced that due to her family's upcoming relocation to Sioux Falls, she is forced to resign from the board.

Her resignation creates an opening on the board which will require an appointment of a local citizen to fill the one year remaining on her term.

Esping said she knows of a few people who have expressed interest and is very sure that the board will continue to provide strong leadership for the school district.

Superintendent Dr. Mark Froke introduced the district's new special services director at the meeting.

"I would like to introduce Dawn Worth as special services director for the district," said Froke. "She has previously been a special education teacher, a regular classroom teacher, a principal, a teacher trainer for a cooperative and most recently an official at the state Department of Education in the special education division. I would like to welcome her.

"I have come a long path that has built to where I am today," Worth said. "I am met quite a few of the teachers and look forward to working with the district. If you have questions please call me."

During the meeting the board also heard a report from Mike Hubbard of Johnson Controls on the progress of the high school renovation.

He said while there have been a few delays in projects, the building will be ready for classes to begin on Aug. 19.

The board also approved changes to the high school attendance policy during the meeting.

Wording changes specific to unexcused absences have been made to give administrators and teachers more leeway in different situations.

Principal Curt Cameron told the board the current policy saying that any unexcused absence will result in a grade of "0" for work missed during the absence did not give the teachers a chance to work with students.

He said there are situations that require teachers to work with students using the example of student whose home he went to and found the parents passed out and the child still asleep. In that

situation, he said he hoped that he would be able to work with the student and not force teachers to give the 'devastating' grade of a zero, which is almost impossible to recover from.

After discussions, the board approved the change in wording with Doug Peterson abstaining.

Peterson said he had issues with making a policy more lenient when the board had just approved a change to the employee policy regarding absences.

The change he was referring to was in the classified staff handbook, where employees will now be notified by email if they have missed a punch. They will also be allowed four missed punches before any disciplinary action will be taken.

Other business at the meeting included:
• A report on the auxiliary gym floor at the high school. Due to water damage sustained earlier this year, the district has been trying to dry out the floor. However, the floor has been warping. Per a recommendation from the district's insurance company, air is going to be forced under the boards of the floor to try to minimize the warping and dry the floor completely.

It was noted that there is skepticism that this will work and that the floor is

used for regulation basketball games when there are double headers hosted by the school. The board stated if the floor is warped it could affect the games. Dr. Froke said that he will try to expedite the process and if needed attempt to get the warped portion of the floor repaired before needed for sports.

• Approved the USD Head Start agreement for the year;

• Approved four open enrollment applications;

• Approved new classified staff agreements including: Joel Gonzalez, VMS Custodian; Valerie Punt, night time custodian; Lexie Madison, special education assistant at Jolley; Ryan McFarland, special education assistant at the Middle School; Todd Stephens, special education assistant at the high school; Dakota Taylor, special education assistant at the high school; and, Christian Hagen, middle school wrestling coach.

• Approved the hiring of Beyond School Adventures staff;

• Approved the resignation of Josh Jorgensen as debate coach for the upcoming year.

The next meeting of the Vermillion School Board is scheduled for Sept. 14 at the Al Neuharth Media Center on the USD campus.

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MtronPTI
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Sunset Manor Irene, S.D. at (605) 263-3318 or apply online at www.avera.org/careers

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