



A jubilant crowd in the DakotaDome helped the USD women's basketball team celebrate its thrilling 59-53 overtime victory over South Dakota State University Monday night, Feb. 13. The game marked the rebirth of the traditional in-state rivalry between the Coyotes and Jackrabbits that has been dormant since SDSU left the North Central Conference in 2004. For more photos, view the gallery at spotted.plaintalk.net (Photo by David Lias)



Ryan Larsen, the assistant women's basketball coach at the University of South Dakota, is the last of the "plungers" to enter the frigid water at Vermillion's Polar Plunge. He attempts to convince his two hunting dogs, Tess and Zoe, to take a chilly dip. See a gallery of photos from the event by logging on to spotted.plaintalk.net. (Photo by David Lias)

lic Library expansion project to Welfl Construction of Yankton.

The decision was made at the council's regular meeting Monday night.

Bids were opened Jan. 19 for the project, which has been in the works for several years.

"We had strong interest going into the bid opening, and we were fortunate to receive eight bids, which tells us what we're going to be paying to have this project done at this point in time," said City Manager John Prescott.

Welfl submitted the lowest base bid of \$2,298,000. The architect - Architecture Incorporated of Sioux Falls - estimates the project will cost approximately \$2,662,696.

"The architect has gone through their bid, reviewed all the numbers and made sure they added up and that there were not any discrepancies there," Prescott said.

The contract completion date is April 1, 2013.

USD stops State in OT

The University of South Dakota Coyotes proved that their rival-

ry with the South Dakota State is back.

In front of a euphoric DakotaDome crowd Monday night, Feb. 13, 2012, the Coyotes beat their once and again in-state rivals for the first time since 2003, coming back from nine points down in the final minutes and needing overtime to beat the SDSU Jackrabbits 59-53.

"We got stops when we needed them, we gutted out some defensive possessions, and we got some rebounds," USD head coach Ryun Williams said. "We didn't have much rhythm tonight, but we found it at the right time."

Tanagers refuse to lose

Gutsy, resilient, unshakable - call 'em what you want. The Vermillion High girls were all of those things as they recovered from a 15-0 Beresford run and emerged from a tense fourth quarter with the District 8A basketball championship Friday night, Feb. 24, 51-45.



March 2012

Lion Eyes

Olsons shoot mountain lion on their property - with a camera

They say a picture is worth a thousand words.

That phrase needs to be reworked just a bit when one considers the image captured by the Matt and Dawne Olson family of rural Vermillion last month. It has been the talk of the town this past week.

For Christmas, the Olsons presented their son, Cody, with a digital "game" camera. It's designed to be hidden outdoors and can be programmed to take photos at a certain rate over time.

The Olsons mounted the camera in a tree on their acreage near the Vermillion River, about eight miles north of Vermillion, and simply let it snap away as Cody, a student at South Dakota State University, returned to Brookings after his holiday break ended.

When he returned home last Friday for the long President's Day

weekend, Cody retrieved the digital card from the camera, and began reviewing them on his computer.

"There was about 180 pictures on there of deer and raccoon and coyotes, and he got about halfway through, and there was a picture of a mountain lion," Matt said. "He was pretty surprised."

City seeking funds to expand local welding training

The city is applying for a community development block grant that will help in part to expand a workforce training program that teaches adults basic welding skills.

Action was taken to apply for the grant at the regular Vermillion City Council meeting Monday night.

The grant was brought to the attention of the city by the South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG).

"What the governor is trying to do is get more educated workers in the state, and so this is kind of a statewide effort to get more training programs," SECOG planner Janice Graving explained at the meeting.

The welding program

itself was implemented earlier this year, with its first section concluding Feb. 28. It is a partnership between the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company (VCDC), the Vermillion School District and Masaba Mining, Inc.

Vermillion loses Komen Race

The South Dakota Affiliate of Susan G. Komen® is moving its 2012 Race for the Cure to downtown Sioux Falls on September 30. Organizers believe the new location will enable more supporters from across the state to attend the event. The South Dakota affiliate's desire is to grow the race, because more money raised translates into better breast health and greater progress towards a cure for breast cancer.

"We are deeply grateful to the people of Vermillion for propelling the Komen Race for the Cure from infancy into a gathering of more than 4,000 participants," says Colette Abbott, founder and former race chair for the Susan G. Komen South Dakota Race for the Cure. "I've been amazed at the commitment of South Dakotans to raise more than \$800,000 to fund breast cancer research and education since 2008. The impact of the Race for the Cure on breast health in our state is only poised to grow as the race moves to Sioux Falls and becomes a truly statewide race."

'Realizing the Dream': 40th annual Wacipi held

Last year, organizers of the annual USD Wacipi had an easy time getting a head count of the number of participants.

Dancers, organizers and family members from tribes across South Dakota and surrounding states found themselves packed in the ballroom of the Muenster University Center on the USD campus in 2011.

Last weekend, as the Wacipi marked its 40th anniversary at USD, it returned to its former, and much larger home - the DakotaDome.

"This event has been held in the Dome in the early 1990s," said Wyatt Pickner, a senior at USD majoring in American Indian Studies/Clinical Lab studies who is a member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. "I believe 1992 was the last time the Wacipi was held here. This is the first year that the event has returned to the Dome."

The USD Wacipi was held in conjunction with the 15th annual Building Bridges Conference and Native Weekend at USD March 17-18, 2012.

Freezin' for a reason Locals 'take the plunge' for Special Olympics

The first year the Polar Plunge benefitting Special Olympics was held in Vermillion, there were 46 participants who raised \$8,000.

Last year, there were 94 jumpers who raised \$18,000.

This year, organizers more than met their goals of 100 jumpers and \$20,000.

"We are pleased to announce that today we have 109 plungers," said event MC, Pastor Steve Miller of the United Church of Christ-Congregational. "Last year we raised \$18,000 for Special Olympics. Today, friends, we raised \$28,977"

The parking lot at Vermillion High School was crowded with onlookers and plungers - many of whom were in costume - on March 25's chilly, overcast afternoon.

Participants were required to raise a minimum of \$100 to take a plunge into the freezing water-filled tank.

Kozak honored for service

A Vermillion man who continues to have a lasting impact on the University of South Dakota and the city of Vermillion is the recipient of

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