



Small fry hope for a bite

People of all ages gathered, with rod, reel, bait and a little luck, at the shore of one of the water hazards of The Bluffs Golf Course Monday, June 8, to participate in the annual Youth Fishing Derby. The Vermillion Parks Department provided poles and bait for the young people, virtually ensuring that all participants kept busy that morning reeling in fish.

CHECK IT OUT

At the Vermillion Public Library By Anne Marshall

New York Times Best-selling Authors

The Philippine Sea Plate is the most unexplored realm on the planet and is surrounded by subduction zones including the seven-mile deep Mariana Trench. This area is home to an incredible anomaly of a hidden ocean that dates back 220 million years. The Panthalassa is a purgatory of existence, inhabited by nightmarish sea creatures long believed extinct. In Meg: Hell's Aquarium, by Steve Alten, the problems start when a captured 76-foot, 100,000 pound Megalodon gives birth to a litter of five.

Razor Sharp, by Fern Michaels is her latest exhilarating novel featuring The Sisterhood. This includes seven formidable women who have earned a reputation for righting wrongs and outsmarting the bad guys and helping a friend in need.

Michael Malone is a master story teller and his new novel, The Four Corners of the Sky is a novel of love, secrets, and the mysterious

bonds of families. Navy pilot Annie Peregrine-Goode's father left on her seventh birthday and reappears 20 years later with a dying wish that is both absurd and mysterious.

DearReader.com Book Club

The DearReader.com Book Club offers many selections to Internet patrons. Each book runs for five days, Monday through Friday. Some genres offer selections every other week. Check out this service by registering at the library's Web site, <http://vpl.sdl.n.net> and clicking on the book club icon. Online patrons can also find the club at www.supportlibrary.com/su/su.cfm?x=470596.

The following selections for the week of June 22 are:

AUDIO BOOK: No selection for this week.

BUSINESS: Nice Guys Can Get the Corner Office, Russ Edelman.

FICTION: Roastbeef's Promise, by David Jerome.

GOOD NEWS: Washington's Lady, by Nancy Moser.

MYSTERY: Murder on Bank Street, by Victoria Thompson.

NON-FICTION: Man vs. Weather, by Dennis Diclaudio.

PRE-PUB: No selection for this week.

ROMANCE: Captain Wentworth's Diary, by Amanda Grange.

SCIENCE FICTION: No selection for this week.

TEEN: Dead is a State of Mind, by Marlene Perez.

THRILLER: No selection for this week.

Be Creative @ Your Library

Summer Reading Program Activities

Monday, June 22: Debbie Reeves from the National Music Museum will visit the library at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23: Make an instrument for the Creative Crafts Program starts at 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24: The movie this week is The Jungle Book, which will run for 78 minutes and is rated "G."

Thursday, June 25: Ready, Set, Draw with Ms. Paige will

Jones Food competes in blood drive challenge

The need for blood takes no vacation. There is a consistent need for blood to be used for surgery, cancer, trauma and burn patients. It could be a family member, friend, maybe even you. Local donors make sure the supply of blood is adequate to meet patient needs everyday.

You can help the summer blood supply by coming out to donating in honor of your community. Community Blood Bank's bloodmobile will be at Jones' Food Center locations during Customer Appreciation Days on Tuesday, June 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Jones' Food Center in Vermillion. All who

donate will receive a special thank you gift, compliments of Jones' Food Center and an All American Blood Donor t-shirt.

This is a friendly competition between the stores to recruit the most life saving blood donors in their communities. The winning store receives a traveling trophy and the community receives bragging rights for the year. Last year it was Jones' Food Center in Vermillion taking the trophy home.

"This blood drive event supports the needs of patients during one of the most difficult times of the year to maintain an

adequate blood supply," states Ken Versteeg, executive director, Community Blood Bank. "With many people on vacation and traveling, blood donations decrease; however the need remains strong throughout the summer months."

For more information or to make an appointment please call Jones' Food Center in Vermillion at 624-2624. Walk-ins are also welcome. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, be in good general health and weigh at least 110 pounds. Donating blood on the Community Blood Bank bloodmobile takes just 25-30 minutes.

Vermillion among 13 districts to receive bonding authority under federal stimulus plan

Thirteen South Dakota school districts, including the Vermillion School District, have been approved for \$29 million in bonding authority to raise funds for construction or rehabilitation projects as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"This new bonding program gives school districts a remarkable opportunity to complete school modernization projects during tough economic times," said Gov. Mike Rounds. "These projects will be a boost to the construction industry and help keep people at work in communities across South Dakota."

The ARRA, or federal stimulus initiative, created a new financial instrument called the Qualified School Construction Bond. With this new instrument, school districts basically receive interest-free loans to complete modernization projects, and their lenders get tax credits.

QSCB funds may be used for two main purposes: (1) to construct, rehabilitate or repair public school facilities; (2) to acquire land on which school facilities can be constructed.

Twenty-four school districts applied for bonding authority under the federal stimulus program.

The state Department of Education plans to allocate 2010 bonding authority for the remaining 11 districts as soon as it becomes available.

Approved for bonding authority – 2009

Aberdeen School District: \$2.8 million

Custer School District: \$3.0 million

Freeman School District: \$2.7 million

Gettysburg School District: \$1.5 million

Groton Area School District: \$2.0 million

Hanson School District: \$330,000

Highmore-Harold School District: \$2.0 million

Mitchell School District: \$2.5 million

Tri-Valley School District: \$4.5 million

Vermillion School District: \$757,000

Warner School District: \$1.1 million

Wolsey-Wessington School District: \$3.1 million

Yankton School District: \$2.8 million

THE ELDERLAW FORUM

By Professor Michael Myers

Three Years: Estate Still Not Closed!

A woman dies with a \$350,000 estate. Her heirs wait for a distribution. They are patient. How patient should they be? How long should it take to close an estate and distribute its assets?

"Is there a law that an estate must remain open for three years before it can be closed?" asked a caller to the senior legal helpline. "It has been three and a half years since mom died and all we get from the lawyer and the bank are excuses."

"The bank blames the lawyer and the lawyer blames the bank. What can we do?"

The caller's sister is the personal representative of the estate. "She's frustrated; we're all frustrated. We are a close family and there is no disagreement about who is entitled to how much. The lawyer had an illness and that may be part of the problem."

I advised the caller there is no fixed time required before an estate can be closed. A final account and petition for distribution can be filed when there are sufficient funds available to pay all debts and taxes and the time for filing creditors' claims has expired.

In the caller's state, a final account does not have to be filed if all persons entitled to distribution of the estate sign a written waiver of account or a written acknowledgement of receipt of their share of the estate. If the estate cannot be closed within one year – or 18 months if the estate is required to file a federal estate tax return – the personal representative must file a verified report on the status of the estate.

The status report must state the condition of the estate and the reasons why it cannot be closed and distributed. Reasons might be ongoing litigation, or an estate tax audit, or real property that must be sold. The report must estimate the time needed to close the estate.

"We assume the longer the estate is open the more time the lawyer will spend working on it and the higher his fees. Is that a correct assumption?" she asked.

In some states fees for both the attorney and the personal representative are set by statute. For example, California provides for four percent of the first \$100,000; three percent of the next \$100,000; two percent of the next \$800,000 plus one percent of the next \$9 million, plus one-half of one percent of the next \$15 million. In the caller's state the fees must be deemed "reasonable" and approved by a court.

What may not be reasonable in this case is the delay in closing the estate.

(Pro bono legal information and advice is available to persons 55 and older through the USD Senior Legal Helpline, 1-800-747-1895; mmyers@usd.edu. Opinions solely those of the author and not the University of South Dakota).

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