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district's use of the Dakota-Dome.

"This time, a shorter-term agreement has come in front of us. It is a two-year agreement to kind of test the waters to see how extended usage may or may not work," Bottolfson said. "At that point, we thought that maybe two years was a little short, so we asked for a third year option. Mark went back and met with Rich Van Den Hul (vice president of finance and administration at the University of South Dakota) last week, and he agreed that such an option could be put in place if needed."

Bottolfson said that as the school district "tests the waters" of operating under the short-term agreement that's about to be finalized, the district and the university can hopefully eventually hash out a long-term agreement for use of the Dakota-Dome.

"If at the end of two years we don't like the way it is turning out, we can have the option of having a third year so we can plan on building a stadium on our own," he said.

Bottolfson noted the initial proposal that came from the committee's contained "a great discrepancy between where we could afford to be and where the university wanted us to be as far as financing to stay playing at the Dome.

"Both sides, I think, have come a long ways, and personally, it would be my recommendation to give Mark the okay to go ahead and develop this extended usage agreement for final approval," he said.

The board authorized Froke to work with university officials to draft an agreement. It will be presented for formal consideration at the school board's March 22 meeting.

The latest set of financial figures offered by the university calls for the school district to make a \$35,000 payment for use of the DakotaDome during the first year of the new agreement. In the second year, the school district would pay an additional \$15,000, or a total of \$50,000, to gain access to the facility.

"And we would pay an additional \$1,000 if the third year is needed," Bottolfson said.

The DakotaDome cooperative use advisory committee's mission was to explore the options available to the community for continued use of the DakotaDome facility when it met last year. Options explored by the committee included:

- Option A - This option would recognize the combined efforts of USD, VSD and the City of Vermillion for a total commitment of \$8,027,115 which represents the estimated cost of improvements to the DakotaDome over the next 10 years. With this option the contributions would be: City of Vermillion one-sixth or \$89,190, Vermillion School District one-sixth or \$89,190 and USD two-thirds or \$356,761 annually for 15 years with annual adjustments indexed to an inflation factor.

- Option B - This is a flat rate proposal of \$50,000 per year for 15 years. Cumulative cost over 15 years is \$750,000.

- Option C - This proposal of \$55,000 for year-one is increased by 6 percent annually for 15 years. Cumulative cost over 15 years is \$1,280,173.34.

- Option D - This financial model suggested the Vermillion School District purchase the "turf" in return for the facility use. The estimated cost of the turf (2009) is \$900,000. Using \$900,000 for 15 years at 5 percent interest the estimated annual payment would be \$85,406.50. The cumulative cost over 15 years is \$1,281,086.02.

- Option E - The proposal is an option to allow each organization to provide their individual facility.

- Option F - This proposal encouraged a formal mediation process by hiring an outside service.

The committee's recommen-

ation called for an initial capital investment of \$1 million to \$2 million from the Vermillion School District and the city of Vermillion be made for a term of 15 years, with an annual "use charge" to be determined by all parties to the agreement. The Vermillion School Board balked at those figures, and district and university officials agreed to continue discussing options.

Froke and Jason Huska, dean of students at Vermillion High School, met with USD Athletic Director Joel Nielsen last week.

"We reviewed the ideas for access to the Dome," Froke said, "and I must say that Joel has a very good attitude along those lines; he wants to make things work out, so we talked about a number of things."

Discussion topics included expanding the school district's access to the Dome to include not only high school varsity football, but also junior varsity football, seventh- and eighth-grade football games, and perhaps also ninth-grade football. The district will also seek, if schedules allow, additional high school football practices in the Dome.

Froke, Huska and Nielsen also discussed the possibility of holding an early season indoor varsity track meet in the facility. "We thought that would be of great interest to area schools," Froke said, "and we'd also like to try to have a seventh- and eighth-grade track meet at the Dome, with occasional practices."

"There was also discussion about possibility hosting a basketball classic," he said. "Jason would try to promote that, and that was met with a positive attitude by Joel. We talked about the fact that the school would run it - the university would open up the doors, turn on the lights, and make sure that everything was going, but we would run the events."

USD and Vermillion School District officials also will likely talk about the district's access to the DakotaDome's swimming pool. "They (the university) are willing to discuss that item further, and they are particularly interested in the educational component. We opened up the door for discussions along those lines."

At the end of the short-term agreement, Froke said, the school board can evaluate how well the new agreement is working.

"We're at a point where we were looking to spend a significant amount of money," said Matt Lavin, a member of the school board, "either staying with the Dome for a long-term contract ... or a significant amount of money developing our own facility. It's not that we couldn't have, but this allows us, for a period of time, a cooling off and seeing if we can get an arrangement that will work with the Dome."

"At the same time," he added, "if that didn't work out, we would have the breathing room to actually go to our community and really come up with something that we would be proud of."

"We could throw something together and have a field (of our own) for next year," Dave Stammer, school board member, said. "The question is whether that would meet the needs of our school and our community. Hastily building something right now, I don't think, is a very wise idea. I think we need a little bit of time to plan before we go ahead and build something on our own, so I support going into a short-term agreement."

### Parlet visits Juno Chapter

S.D. Eastern Star's Associate Grand Matron Teri Parlet, Rapid City, made her official visit to Juno chapter #44, O.E.S., Vermillion, March 4.

Worthy Matron Grace Bick and Worthy Patron Alton Siecke presided over the day's activities.

Associate Grand Matron conducted a school of instruction in the afternoon. Prior to the initiatory ceremony, the Star Points, with Worthy Matron Grace Bick as soloist, conducted the candlelight service. The Degrees were given to a new member.

Remarks were given by Associate Grand Matron Teri Parlet; S.D. Worthy Grand Patron Larry Hornstra, Armour; Past Grand Matron Jan Gruening, Presho; Jan Hadrick, Faulkton and Connie White, Parker.

Protom officers assisting were Deb McNary, Grand Ester Janelle Kribbel, Beverly Orr, Jan Grade, John Ryger and Susan Willadsen.

A monetary gift was presented to Associate Grand Matron Teri Parlet. The coin marel will go to Eastern Star

A.C.T.X., dental care for children.

Past Matrons served the noon luncheon in the Temple. No-host supper was served at a local cafe. Guest Stars were welcomed from Centerville, Mitchell, Parker, Sioux Falls and Yankton. Evening refreshments concluded the official visit.

Eastern Star members are welcomed to meet the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

### Gottlieb speaks at Rotary meeting

The Vermillion Rotary Club met at its usual venue, the Freedom Forum on the USD campus, on Tuesday, March 9. After a lunch of lasagna and giant string beans our meeting was called to order by President Dave Lorenz, who led in reciting the boy Scout Prayer and the "Four-Way Test" for Rotarians in their business and social dealings. Grandian Donahue led in the singing of two songs, with Jack Noble providing piano accompaniment. President Lorenz made several announcements, including the coming visit of Rotary's International President-elect

on April 13, and the fact the Vermillion Rotary will be providing two scholarships for Vermillion High School seniors this year. Rev. Bob Grossmann introduced his family's foreign exchange student, Franziska Neis of Ulm, Germany, and Franziska then gave a brief talk explaining her stay in Vermillion.

Our program was given by Dave Gottlieb, head track coach for USD. Coach Gottlieb thanked President Lorenz for helping the track team maintain a 3.1 grade point average, and then described in some detail the transition of the University from NCAA Division II to Division I, particularly in athletics. A very wise method of making this transition for several schools was the establishment of the temporary Great Western Conference, making it possible for these schools to have a level field of competition even while they were beginning to schedule established Division I schools. Mr. Gottlieb is sure that the move to Division I will prove profitable for USD since there are 29 Division I track champions, as opposed to only nine in Division II. USD hosted the Great Western Indoor

track meet recently and found great respect for the USD organization from schools as far away as New Jersey and Texas. USD also came away with an unexpected championship with 17 of their 22 entrants posting their season's best efforts at this meet. USD is also planning to host the outdoor Great West Conference meet at Yankton, later this spring. In the meantime, USD will also host four major high school track meets that will bring a total of 5,000 high school athletes to Vermillion and the USD campus, clearly a great recruiting tool for USD. Following the next year's athletic season, USD will become part of the Summit Conference of NCAA Division I schools, and will be back to facing its traditional foes in athletics at South Dakota State, North Dakota and Augustana. Coach Gottlieb also spoke about several of the very talented athletes that are now part of the USD track program. We thank Coach Gottlieb for a very interesting and informative program.

Our meeting was closed with the traditional singing of the first stanza of My Country 'Tis of Thee.

## CHECK IT OUT

### At the Vermillion Public Library

By Anne Marshall

#### Upcoming Events at the Library

The Online Book Club is asking its readers to write and tell what they enjoy about this special library. E-mails can be sent to [Susan@DearReader.com](mailto:Susan@DearReader.com)

The Young Adult Book Club selection for March is The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin. This book discussion starts at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16. Copies of The Westing Game are available at the circulation desk.

This month's Histories & Flicks is scheduled for Thursday, March 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Community Room. Join us for the movie and discussion of The Journey of August King, by John Ehle. Discussion will be facilitated by Jim Zuercher from Morningside College.

Also on March 18, the USD Reading Council will host a Caldecott Day at the library from 3:34 to 5 p.m. This program includes stories, activities, and snacks.

How to Train Your Dragon! A program for upper elementary students to learn about the book before seeing the movie is scheduled after school at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, March 25. Crafts, activities, and snacks will be provided.

The VITA program is ready to donate their time to prepare tax returns free of charge to members of our community. These volunteers are IRS trained to provide a wide range of services. They are scheduled for March 20 and 27, and April 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you have a special collection you would like to share with the community, the library has a display case located behind the circulation desk just waiting for your treasures. Please stop by or call the library at 677-7060 to inquire about scheduling a date.

### 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.net> and clicking on the book club icon. Online patrons can also find the club at [www.supportlibrary.com/su/su.cfm?x=470596](http://www.supportlibrary.com/su/su.cfm?x=470596). The following selections for the week of March 15, 2010 are:

AUDIO BOOK: No selection for this week.

BUSINESS: Second Chances, by Gary Stromberg & Jane Merrill.

FICTION: Last Light Over Carolina, by Mary Alice Monroe.

GOOD NEWS: A Skeptic's Guide to Faith, by Philip Yancy.

MYSTERY: Deep Creek, by Dana Hand.

NON-FICTION: Rocket Man, by Craig Nelson.

PRE-PUB: No selection for this week.

ROMANCE: Deep Down, by Karen Harper.

SCIENCE FICTION: No

selection for this week.

TEEN: The Midnight Charter, by David Whitley.

THRILLER: No selection for this week.

CLASSIC UPCOMING BOOKS for March: Kristin Lavransdatter I: The Wreath, by Sigrid Undset

### New Adult Mystery Collection

Special Agent Sydney Fitzpatrick, forensic artist to the FBI, returns to Quantico to help identify a brutally murdered young woman. When her friend and colleague is killed in a hit-and-run, Sydney is certain this is connected to the first case. Award-winning author Robin Burcell, an FBI-trained forensic artist, has worked in law enforcement for more than two decades. The Bone Chamber, joins Burcell's other novels, Every Move She Makes, Fatal Truth, Deadly Legacy and Cold Case.

Jack Susko is enjoying a quiet life as the owner of a secondhand bookstore; though the truth be told, he'd prefer to be home with his cat rather than having to endure actual paying customers. When a wealthy book collector offers him some

easy money to find as many copies of the works of an obscure poet, Jack can't turn down this job. But very soon poetry books aren't the only things disappearing in Australian poet Lenny Bartulin's new novel, Death by the Book.

While running surveillance in an industrial section of Scottsdale, P.I. Lena Jones discovers the body of a woman connected to Second Zion, an infamous polygamy cult based in northern Arizona. With the help of a former polygamist "sister wife", Lena soon discovers a shocking secret. Check out the latest mystery, Desert Lost, by retired journalist, Betty Webb.

Author Blaize Clement has added a new edition to her infamous "Cat-Sitter" mysteries. Pet-sitter Dixie Hemingway never would have guessed that her trip to the veterinarian's office would be anything but ordinary. Dixie is led on a wild-goose chase of epic proportions from exclusive resorts to dangerous back streets. Will she make it out of this madcat adventure and live to pet-sit another day in Raining Cat Sitters and Dogs?

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