

School board, USD reach agreement

Tanager football will continue at DakotaDome

By David Lias
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The Vermillion School Board approved a comprehensive written agreement with the University of South Dakota that will allow for at least two more seasons of Tanager high school football to be played in the DakotaDome.

It will also provide the school district

expanded access and the opportunity to hold additional athletic activities in the DakotaDome.

"There's been a great deal of refinement on the contract," Superintendent Mark Froke told school board members. "I believe I've taken all of the issues that you've presented, and presented them to the university. By the nature of negotiations, you don't always get everything that you ask for, but you as a board, we as a dis-

trict, have done very well in our recent discussions as far as development of this contract."

The agreement becomes effective July 1, and ends on June 30, 2012. It may be extended for one additional year upon written agreement from both the school district and the university. A goal of this short-term contract, put into writing, is to hopefully negotiate a long-term agreement between the public school and USD.

Those negotiations will begin during the second year of the contract approved Monday, with the goal of entering a long-term contract

effective July 2012.

"I think this needs to be looked at as a comprehensive facility use agreement," Froke said, "and not simply just a Dome agreement. We're getting more than just the football games at the Dome, which give rationale for the increased lease costs.

"It's a two-year agreement with a third year option upon mutual agreement," he said.

The option to extend the agreement to a third year is important, said Mark Bottolfsen,

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Commemorative guitar finds a new home

Governor presents instrument to National Music Museum

By David Lias
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Move over Stradivari. Make room for Steve Miller.

An Ibanez electric guitar that has carefully been watched over by Gov. Mike Rounds for nearly four years has a new home: The National Music Museum in Vermillion.

In a formal ceremony held at the museum Friday afternoon, the governor personally presented the guitar to Dr. Brad Randall, president of the National Music Museum Board of Trustees.

The commemorative instrument was presented to the governor during concerts in Pierre in 2006 held to help dedicate the South Dakota Vietnam War Memorial.

The guitar was signed by musicians who performed in that concert: Steve Miller of The Steve Miller Band; Mike Love and Bruce Johnston of The Beach Boys; and Stu Cook and Doug Clifford of Creedence Clearwater Revisited, originally known as Creedence Clearwater Revival.

"The veterans of the Vietnam War era really enjoyed music, and there was a specific kind of music at that time that they identified with, and we've all heard it, and it was special," Rounds said.

When the 2006 event was still in its plan-



Gov. Mike Rounds presents the latest addition to the collection of instruments housed in the National Music Museum in Vermillion to Brad Randall, president of the museum's board of trustees. (Photo by David Lias)

ning stages, Vietnam War veterans were asked the type of activity that would be appropriate to help bring people together at the dedication.

"They were asked, 'What kind of entertainment do you want? Do you want a dance?' and they replied, 'Are you kidding? We want concerts.'"

"So we went to work, and we asked people in South Dakota if they would help us put together a plan where we would have a series of rock concerts," Rounds said.

The state's memorial to honor the 28,000

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USD forum discusses effects of 'global warming'

By Shauna Marlette
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After the long, cold, snowy winter South Dakota has just experienced it is hard to fathom that the world is in the middle of a global warming trend.

And yet, at Wednesday's International Forum at USD's Faber Hall, the four panelists — Dr. Moses Ikiugu (School of Health Science and a native of Kenya), Dr. Dennis Johnson (Economics), Dr. Mark Sweeney (Earth Sciences) and Prof. Elizabeth Burleson (USD School of Law) — said it is a problem that is growing exponentially.

"What people need to remember is that weather is not climate," Sweeney said during his presentation. "Weather is the current state of the atmosphere — hot or cold, wet or dry, calm or stormy. The weather of one year does not change the average conditions over time."

Sweeney said trends are averaged over decades or more, and that even a trend might not accurately represent the state of the overall climate.

"For the last eight years, people have been saying that South Dakota has been cooler than normal," he said. "While that is true, the climate has still been warming, the oceans have been warming, the atmosphere has been warming." That warming has had a devastating effect on Ikiugu's homeland. Because of that, he says he is the face of global warming.

Ikiugu explained that growing up in 1960s in Kenya was like growing up in a lush garden. Now it is baked ground with very little water.

"On the plains of Kenya, you can see the ice caps on Mt. Kilimanjaro," he said. "Those ice caps are now expected to be gone this decade. Once they are gone, there will be no water for the people."

He said that since 1912, 85 percent of the ice caps have melted away — 26 percent of that since the year 2000. He added that in the area where he grew up, there once was a running creek and a natural spring and now there is no surface water. The two largest lakes have dried up so suddenly that it has caused entire ecosystems to be lost because the animals did not have time to migrate.

"(Here's) something I want you to consider when you look at the ethical dimensions of global warming," Ikiugu said. "Kenya produces less than 1 percent of the overall global emissions of carbon dioxide. However, they suffer with 9/10 of the burdens of the results of all the emissions worldwide."

Looking at how to limit and even reverse the carbon emissions globally, is what Burleson (who recently attended the latest UN interna-

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Welcome Table will meet March 29

The next Vermillion Welcome table will be Monday, March 29 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

It will be the 437th Welcome Table meal served.

The March 29th meal will be sponsored and served by The USD Social Work Club.

Thank you to SAE for sponsoring and serving last Monday's meal.

Troopers plan sobriety checkpoints

The South Dakota Highway Patrol has sobriety checkpoints scheduled in April in the following counties: Beadle, Brown, Charles Mix, Clark, Codington, Custer, Davison, Day, Fall River, Hughes, Hyde, Meade, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Roberts, Sanborn, and Yankton.

For sobriety checkpoint text message alerts, visit act-civilized.com.

Plain Talk poll results

Poll results 3/18/10
to avoid state budget cuts, would you favor a tax increase?

Yes	49 votes
No	31 votes
Undecided	8 votes

To participate in the Plain Talk Internet poll, log on to www.plaintalk.net.

Whistleblower speaks on ethics at USD

By Nathan Johnson
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A whistleblower who exposed the largest corporate fraud in history encouraged members of a Vermillion audience Tuesday to put themselves in the shoes of WorldCom employees who became complicit in the wrongdoing — what would they have done differently?

Having the strength to confront and expose wrongdoing in a corporate setting is not something that happens overnight, according to Cynthia Cooper.

"I'm convinced that character is not forged at the crossroads of some major decision we make in our lives," she said. "I very much believe that character is built decision by decision. The foundation of our character is laid brick by brick."

Cooper was one of Time Magazine's Persons of the Year in 2002 for her role in exposing the \$3.8 billion fraud that took place at WorldCom. She has since gone on to write a book about her experiences as a corporate executive, has given moti-



Cynthia Cooper, a whistleblower who helped uncover \$3.8 billion in fraud at WorldCom, encouraged a Vermillion audience Tuesday to write a code of ethics to guide their decisions in life. (Photo by David Lias)

national speeches about business ethics and is CEO of The Cooper-Group, LLC, a firm that provides

professional services that include fraud prevention and detection.

Cooper delivered the 2010 Arthur A. Volk Accounting Symposium/Ethics Lecture at the University of South Dakota's Wayne S. Knutson Theatre. Her speech was entitled "Ethical Leadership for the 21st Century."

Individuals should write down a code of ethics, so they are prepared for the decisions life may demand of them.

"You need to know what you stand for. That's number one," Cooper said. "Ask yourself if it's legal. If the answer is, 'no' you can easily stop there."

However, what is legal and what is ethical are not always the same, she warned.

Another important factor is having the courage to do what is right.

"I can't sit here and tell you that I was always a pillar of strength throughout this process," Cooper said. "I wasn't. There were times when I was literally scared to death."

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Workers restoring gleam to faded Slagle Auditorium

Revamped facility will open in fall of 2010

By Justin Rust
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When Slagle Auditorium first opened, it was considered a fantastic facility.

That was 85 years ago. Time has started to catch up with the once proud facilities.

Workers have been busy since last year, however, restoring the gleam that's faded in Slagle Auditorium due to time and heavy use over the years.

The auditorium is getting a facelift and will be ready to open its doors again in the 2010 fall semester.

"After 85 years, I think Sla-

gle had lost its luster," said

USD Vice President of Finance and Administration Rich Van Den Hul. "Now, the students, community and visitors have another place for the next 75 years, and with improved acoustics, lighting and seating will help make it an even better venue for performances."

Slagle hasn't had much work done to it since it was built in the 1920s. The building's auditorium has been closed since the spring of 2009 and so far, everything is going as expected in order for it to reopen in fall of 2010.

However, everything is running as expected because of an

adjusted timetable.

Welfi Construction is in charge of the renovation, but the project had to wait because they were in charge of the stair tower project to Paradee Hall, which ran late.

"That project had to be done first, and it ran late and we had to make sure it got done," said Cathy Wagner, USD's director of planning and construction. "At this point, that's the only thing holding it back."

Besides the one setback, Wagner said the renovation is coming along well and that there have been a few unex-

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Slagle Hall has served both the University of South Dakota and the Vermillion community well since its construction in 1925. Clay County 4-H'ers used the auditorium as the venue for its fashion revue several decades ago. (Archives and Special Collections, USD)