

# Taking A Walk Down Memory Lane

BY SARAH WETZEL  
For the Plain Talk

Who in your life is worthy of commemorating?

The Main St. Senior Center is holding its fourth annual Walk of Memories fundraiser beginning next Friday through the following Monday, Memorial Day.

More of a walk down memory lane rather than an actual walk, the Walk of Memories serves as a fundraiser for the center where donors receive a flag tagged with the name of the person or group they're honoring. The flags are then displayed on the lawn outside the center and the donors have the option of keeping the flag afterwards.

Proceeds go towards the Center which serves as a location for activities and programs focusing on health, wellness and education for senior citizens of this community.

"We probably get five to ten people from the

community in the last few years that have gotten in on this, so, I hope it just gets bigger," said Crystal McGuire, Director of the Center. "We have quite a few of our members that do it. One year we even had 25 members do it. It just depends."

Though there are trends in types of dedications, McGuire said the donations can honor just about anybody.

"A lot of people will honor their spouse if they've lost their husband or their wife and we have kids that do it for moms and dads that they've lost," McGuire said. "We have a couple of people that have honored a son or a daughter in the service. So young people have been honored. This lady does it every year in honor and memory of her husband because he was a soldier."

"Somebody did several groups. One lady one year sent in money and did it for all the service members. Kober Funeral Homes did one to honor senior citizens I think



COURTESY PHOTO  
Community members are invited to sponsor flags placed on the lawn in front of the Main St. Senior Center this Memorial Day to honor loved special people in their lives.

it was."

According to McGuire, about 75 percent of dedications are individuals that have passed away, though that is not a requirement.

"We do this every year for my husband's mom who's still alive," McGuire said. "We honor her and we're proud of her. It doesn't have to be somebody that's gone. I did one for my son who's in the

service. It doesn't have to be for service members either."

McGuire herself began the Walk of Memories after seeing a similar event at another facility.

"Where I got the idea from was the care center where my husband's father used to be at," She said. "They just had started this the year before we started this. It was a little different so I revamped it a

little bit to work for us."

According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Memorial Day began as a time to pay tribute to fallen Civil War soldiers, originally May 30 supposedly because May is a time where most flowers are in bloom.

"It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars," the website reads. "In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays."

McGuire herself has a son active in the Yankton National Guard unit.

"He's not deployed right now," she said. "It is [hard] in some ways. I'm thinking in my mind they're going to get called again. He could get deployed again. He's still

active. He's been deployed three times."

According to McGuire her son has been deployed once to Oklahoma for about four months, once to Iraq and then Afghanistan for over a year each.

"That was long," she said. "Nobody should have to be there for that long. For somebody in the National Guard their unit has put a lot of time in. I think they really depend on the men and women in South Dakota because they're just a hardworking group of individuals."

Donations must be received by this Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Main St. Center at 320 W. Main St. in Vermillion.

Anyone wishing to donate in honor of a loved one or group make checks payable to Senior Citizen Services of Vermillion, Inc. And direct any questions to Crystal McGuire, Director of the Center at 605-624-8072.

## Possible New High School Indoor Scoreboard Debated At School Board Meeting

BY SARAH WETZEL  
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Jim Peterson appeared before the School Board meeting Monday to give a report on the accomplishments of the Athletic Booster Club for this past year and to outline possible future plans.

One of these included a new indoor scoreboard for wrestling, basketball and volleyball.

"We have an opportunity from a sponsor on a new wrestling, volleyball and basketball display," Peterson reported. "It's like a computer so you can put everybody's name, shots score and everything up there."

According to Peterson, the sponsor, who was to remain anonymous as of now, has offered 50 percent naming rights on the inside scoreboard. The estimated cost of the project is about \$75-80,000 with a five-year on parts, one on labor.

"In order to get it done, would need to get it done this summer or fall," Peterson said. "If you could consider it and then let me know."

After discussion, the School Board united in favor of the opportunity, especially as it would go well with the upgrades to the high school.

"It would certainly be fun to celebrate that change in the gym," commented board member Tim Schwasinger.

According to Superintendent Froke's report of the Five-Year Capital Outlay plan, it would definitely be a possibility for the school district to provide the required portion of the project funding.

"They're not showing any use of reserve with this plan," Froke said. "If you wanted to use some of the reserve in support of the indoor scoreboard, that would be an option."

If the new scoreboard is added, one of the current scoreboards has the possibility of moving to the auxiliary gym or the middle school.

Peterson also reported more of the booster club's activities.

"As of today the booster club has about 150 members and donors," he reported.

Events of the past year have been a success including the recent Tanager Pride Event and Hall of Fame which drew about 240 people.

According to Peterson there was a good spirit about the event.

Peterson also reviewed the booster club's slogan, "One team, One mission."

"We define our team as the school board, administration, alumni, students, school personnel and the community at large," he said. "We think maybe we can do better."

Peterson stated the booster club wants to meet with members of the school board more often to generate ideas and make sure goals are aligned.

Booster club projects of the past year include funding a blocking chute for the football team, the electronic sign and flagpoles in front of the high school, the addition of a Polaris Ranger, a sprayer

to get rid of the weeds, new weight room equipment and a device to assist basketball teams in shooting.

Projects in the works include a new football/track scoreboard sponsored by Sanford Health and other sponsors. The project will cost \$25,000 with a five year warranty on all the parts.

The outdoor tennis courts will also be refurbished at a price of about \$22,000 fully funded by booster club and parents.

According to Peterson, the City Rec and Community Foundation both interested in using the refurbished courts.

Future Booster Club events include the Tanager Blitz fundraiser next week, drive a ford, paint the window contest in town, the annual homecoming pregame at Howlers, and the second annual hall of fame event.

Superintendent Froke presented the revised Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan which had undergone a few minor adjustments to support the current high school refurbishment project.

This is a backup amount of \$40,000 just in case something happens in the middle of the project they'll have some funds to fall back on.

Froke also reported a possible change on the last day of school for high school students.

"I had a request from the high school to allow one day early dismissal this year to deal with all the things that need to be handled with the evacuation of the high school in preparation for the renovation," Froke said. "I said let's go ahead and plan on that. It's a short day anyway and the semester tests could be given Monday and Tuesday. It would give the teachers an opportunity to clean out their rooms and get the tech all organized and stored."

School board members agreed this would be a good idea.

"I don't have a problem ending school early because it's such a unique situation, the remodeling of the high school," board member Dave Stammer said. "It is a big job that we're asking of the teachers to basically clean out everything in the school which they normally would not have to do."

Jim McGuire and Jason Gault also appeared before the board to present the Technology Budget Plan.

Projects planned over the next few years will come from the general fund in the amount of about \$87,000 which include Ipad self insurance and finishing the projector project district-wide.

According to McGuire and Gault, the Ipad lease is up and the plan is to take the cart at the high school and make that a cart for the eighth grade so there would be a cart for sixth, seventh and eighth grade. The extras would be spread them out into the elementary school classrooms.

Another item will include replacing high school classroom TVs.

Jason Huska reported to the board regarding South Dakota High School Activities Association Ballots and the Training Rule Violation Report.

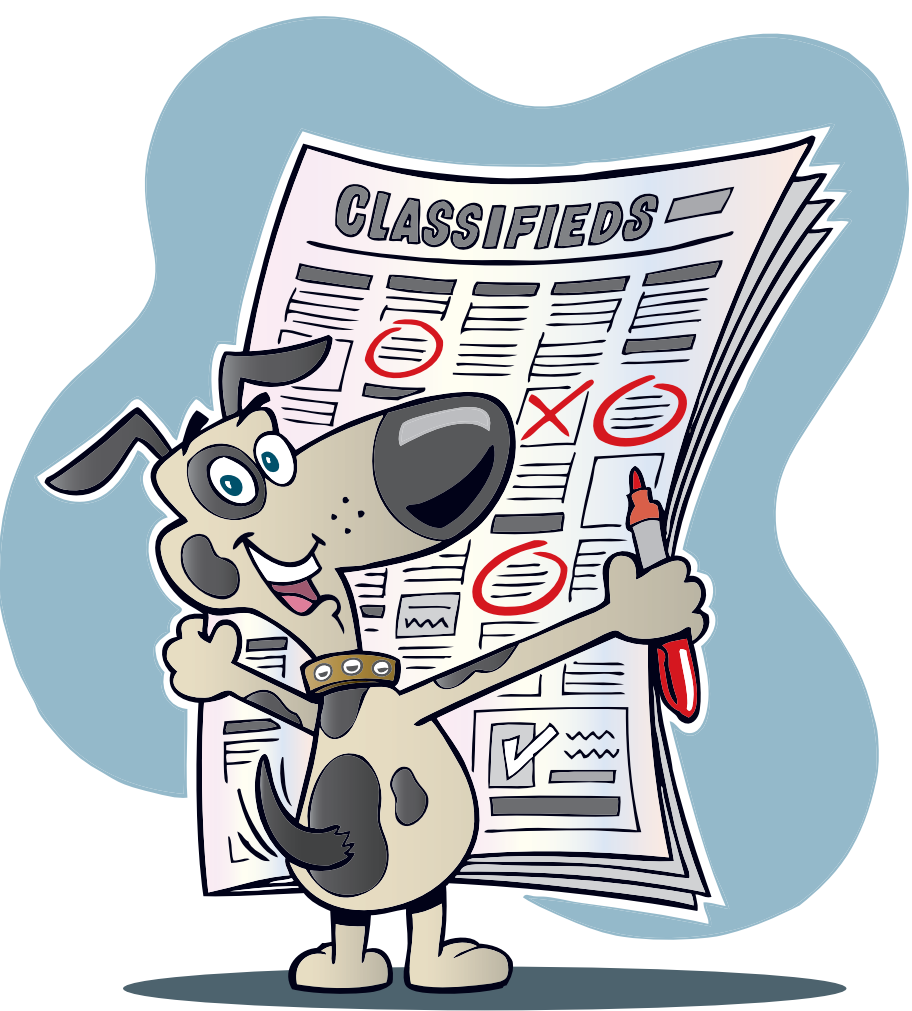
According to Huska there is a proposed constitutional amendment where each division would have the same number of total students.

According to their website, the purpose of the SDHSAA is to direct and coordinate interscholastic activities carried on by the member high schools of South Dakota.

Huska recommended a yes vote on the amendment and Brad McDonald from Tri Valley for board member.

The Vermillion School Board approved both suggestions.

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