

VERMILLION SCHOOL BOARD

Booster Club Onto Next Project

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

Jim Brady, Vice President of the Athletic Booster Club appeared before the School Board at Monday's meeting to give thanks, report on past projects and give an idea of future ones.

According to Brady, the Booster Club boasts over 150 donating members who have been very generous in helping move forward in projects such as the new scoreboards inside and out.

"We'll be really excited to see that working during basketball season," Brady said. "It was a good deed that we got that put together."

Next on the agenda: leveling and resurfacing the football and soccer fields and the practice football field.

"We'll get that graded and seeded and a sprinkler system in," Brady said. "To be able to do that we've talked to some excavators in town and Banner Associates they're willing to half price put some laser placements out there so we know how much dirt we need to excavate and bring back in. We need to be able to find that so we can get estimates."

The School Board approved the use of up to \$2,500 to survey the fields in order to get a quote on how much the whole project will cost so fundraising can begin.

The current estimate is \$80,000-\$110,000.

The school board was also asked to consider naming rights for the field as there are various groups who have already committed to giving funds to that project.

Future projects include improving both the concession stand area and installing more comfortable seating though the list of wanted projects will be re-prioritized after the field resurfacing project is completed.

The Vermillion School District's two resource officers, Paul Pederson and Isaac Voss, appeared before the board to answer questions about their positions.

Pederson is a Deputy Sheriff working for Clay County and Voss is a



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
Booster Club Vice President Jim Brady explained the club's next focus to the School Board Monday.

Sergeant for the City of Vermillion. "We're very proud to have an affiliation with these gentlemen," Superintendent Mark Froke said. "They do an excellent job and they add to our culture in the school which is a positive one."

Pederson, who has been an officer for six years, is the resource officer at the High School and Jolley Elementary while Voss covers the middle school and Austin Elementary.

Both officers teach periodic classes and work with kids on social skills and generally helping them experience positive law enforcement interaction.

"This is my first year as a resource officer," Voss said. "I've loved every minute of it. There have been some interesting challenges for me coming from the street and going into the schools and hanging out with kids. It's been great. I've been focusing a lot lately at the middle school and the

other schools on making sure we're up to date on our lockdown procedures and safety measures within the school. I spend time every chance I get in the classrooms with the kids and just getting to interact with them as much as possible."

School Board members expressed their appreciation for the two officers and the extremely quick emergency response time having school resource officers provides.

According to Pederson, the response time between the high school and Jolley would be 45 seconds tops.

"We're really grateful because we only had one resource officer for some time," said board member Shannon Fairholm. "This certainly helps with the response time should we ever have a situation which we hope we never do."

In the financial report, Business Manager Sheila Beerman reported that the vast majority of the High School Renovation costs have been paid off with only \$250,000-\$300,000 left to pay.

According to Froke there have also been about \$54,000 in Energy Efficient Rebates received. These unanticipated funds will most likely be placed in the Capital Projects and Capital Outlay Fund.

There will be an open house and ribbon cutting at the high school to celebrate the completion of the project Monday from 5-7 p.m. with the ribbon cutting at 5:15 sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

The open house is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided by the Food Service Program in the High School Commons.

Froke also reported on the official enrollment for State Aid Purposes.

"For next year for state aid purposes we'll have a drop of about six students unless of course we have an enrollment increase," he said. "I reviewed some statistics today that I thought was positive. The state average for 2014 in regards to cost per student was \$8,040. That includes general

BOARD | PAGE 12

USD Ranked Among Best Colleges For Veterans

University of South Dakota has been ranked 135 among the best colleges for veterans by College Factual (www.collegefactual.com), a trusted resource that uses customizable tools and outcomes-based rankings systems to guide students through the college selection process.

A number of factors important to veterans were used to determine the ranking. Some important data points are how affordable the school is to veterans, the size of the veteran population at the school, whether the school accepts ACE credits and offers flexible learning options, and availability of veteran resources such as a veteran's office on campus.

The ranking also includes important quality metrics such as graduation and retention rates, reported earnings of graduates, the percentage of full-time teachers, and the average student loan default rate.

In addition to University of South Dakota's placement in Best Colleges for Veterans Overall, the institution also ranks highly for veterans in General Psychology, earning a 95 spot out of 875. The institution also is ranked 145 out of 827 for veterans in Biology, General.

You can see all of the school's rankings at <http://www.collegefactual.com/colleges/university-of-south-dakota/rankings/badges/>.

College Factual's ranking system is based on a series of algorithms that include information from the Department of Education, nationally mandated data reporting for institutions, Veterans Affairs, and Payscale.

For more information about College Factual's rankings, visit www.collegefactual.com or contact media@collegefactual.com.

'Come To The Table' Nov. 21

Bergen Lutheran Church WELCA will be hosting their 18th annual "Come to the Table" event on Saturday, November 21st at 10 AM in the Bergen Church Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Jenny Peterson, speaker and author, will be our special guest sharing her story of faith and how God has worked in her life through her loss of sight, numerous surgeries and her now restored sight. Jenny's never give up attitude is ever present when she shares her story through speaking and in her self-published book, "She Walked By Faith, Not By Sight". You won't want to miss hearing her incredible journey and story of faith! Dawn Nelson of the Clay Creek Deaf Cowboy Band will be sharing her gift of music as well.

"Come to the Table" began at Bergen in 1997 and has featured a variety of musical and entertaining programs over the years. One of the highlights of this annual event is always the beautifully decorated tables.

Bergen Church is located seven miles west of Vermillion on the Timber Road. Join us and Celebrate Fall . . . Celebrate Faith!

University Of South Dakota, South Dakota State University Fourth Annual South Dakota Showdown Series Aims To Break World Record

As part of the Fourth Annual South Dakota Showdown Series, South Dakota Corn, University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University will team up in a world record attempt to generate funds to benefit Feeding South Dakota.

During the third quarter of the football game on Nov. 14, 2015, a Coyote cheerleader will attempt to put on 32 or more T-shirts in one minute. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the current world record is set at 31 shirts. For each T-shirt the cheerleader is able to put on, South Dakota Corn will make a donation of \$100 to Feeding South Dakota. If the record is broken at 32 shirts, South Dakota Corn will make a donation of \$3,200 to Feeding South Dakota.

"It's great to see all of the excitement that is generated throughout the state when these two schools' sports teams go head-to-head in the Showdown Series," added Corn Utilization Council President Reno Brueggeman. "The enthusiasm of the loyal fans and students is

matched by their generosity as they raise money to help feed hungry South Dakotans through this longstanding rivalry."

"The South Dakota Showdown Series has become a source of pride throughout our department, not only because it recognizes the academic and athletic achievements of our student-athletes, but also because of its philanthropic efforts to feed the people of South Dakota. We are thankful to have a strong partner in the South Dakota Corn Council and we look forward to this year's competition," said University of South Dakota Director of Athletics David Herbster.

"We are excited to compete in the 4th annual South Dakota Showdown Series as it showcases competition at the Division I level. South Dakota Corn has been a great partner and has provided us a tremendous stage to tout the benefits of healthy competition, academic achievement, sportsmanship and philanthropy," said South Dakota State University Director of Athletics Justin Sell. "Both schools take great pride in supporting Feed-

ing South Dakota and look forward to raising funds and awareness to the organization's important work. We hope to add some lifetime memories and create a sense of pride throughout the state as they see our student-athletes model the values that are the cornerstone of what makes South Dakota a great state."

In addition to the world record attempt, both universities are raising money to feed hungry families in the state by providing collection boxes in all Vermillion and Brookings First Bank & Trust branches and online at bankeasy.com. Complementing efforts are pledges per mile taken by the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity in sup-

port of the Official Game Ball Run from Brookings to Vermillion. Additional monies and awareness will be raised through social media campaigns awarding autographed memorabilia and Showdown tickets, and there are opportunities for fans to donate on game days at the concession areas.

"First Bank & Trust is pleased to serve as a collection point in this effort to support Feeding South Dakota," said Kevin Tetzlaff, president of First Bank & Trust in Brookings. "As a community bank, it is both our responsibility and our privilege to help Feeding South Dakota and area Ag producers get food to those who need it most. We hope

our customers will join us in this effort."


Both teams launched a social media campaign this season, driving donations to Feeding South Dakota. Fans have the opportunity to win autographed memorabilia, Showdown Football game tickets or team apparel, by donating to Feeding South Dakota and liking the posts on Facebook at [Facebook.com/UniversityofSouthDakotaAthletics](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofSouthDakotaAthletics) and [Facebook.com/SouthDakotaStateUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaStateUniversity).

The Series is structured against a point system in which each school can earn 24 points per year based on head-to-head competition and Conference Championships between SDSU and

USD, in a total of 17 men's and women's sports. Points are also awarded for athlete's GPAs and philanthropic efforts. In its three years, the South Dakota Showdown Series, with the help of South Dakota Corn and Coyote and Jackrabbit fans, has raised over \$66,000 for Feeding South Dakota equating over 330,000 meals for hungry South Dakotans.

Feeding South Dakota is the state's hunger relief organization fighting to eliminate hunger in South Dakota. Feeding South Dakota assists in providing temporary food assistance to 21,000 hungry South Dakota families and individuals each week.

When Life Changes, Review



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