

## Forum

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\$5.25 million price tag, with the lion's share — an estimated \$4 million — for constructing a new swimming pool with modern features. The new pool will replace the current structure which is nearly 50 years old.

The new amenities include a lazy river, water slides, floatable water walk, basketball hoop, one-meter diving tower, shade structures and zero-depth entry, water features, bench and shade.

The funds raised from the malt beverage tax would go to pay half of the interest and principal on the bond estimated to be approximately \$220,000 per year. The malt beverage tax is estimated to raise \$116,000 per year.

Mat Zeman, owner of Carey's Bar, and Jesse Jastram, an employee of Dakota Beverage, spoke against the tax, while City Council member Steve Ward and Director and municipal pool committee member Shane Nordyke spoke in favor of the tax. The Malt Beverage forum was moderated by Craig Thompson.

Zeman stressed that those opposed to the tax are not against the pool project, but rather a special tax that targets a small portion of the population of the community.

"There have been several community members that have stated to me directly, that we, malt beverage license holders are against this community and the new pool park project," he said.

"This couldn't be further from the truth. We are very much for improving our community and this project will do just that. It will be great for Vermillion. Our contention all along is that it should be paid for in a responsible way. To which this responsibility lies with the entire community not just a small portion."

He added that malt beverage users are already taxed at a higher rate than everyone else in town.

"Sales of my establishment have gone down consistently from 4-7 percent in the five years I have been operating," Zeman said. I can see sharp decreases in sales that directly coincide with the two times I have had to raise prices. The price raises were due to the rise in cost of wholesale, surcharges for deliveries and several other factors that any other business in town can point to on their invoices."

Stating that the only other option malt beverage license holders have, rather than passing the costs on to the consumers, is to pay the tax themselves, and reduce their profit margins, which Zeman said does not seem fair.

He also said he has issue with the city passing a tax, when they have said they have the money to pay for the project without the tax.

"The mayor himself, along with other council people have stated, definitively, that the city can pay for this pool without a new tax," Zeman said. "Construction will not cease, and all plans will go ahead if this tax is repealed. Our community development will go on without this extra taxation on a small minority of people."

However, Ward, in response to a

question about the city's ability to pay for the project with the funds on hand stated:

"I think it is important for everyone to think about how \$125,000 could be taken out of our current budget," he said. "This is not a small amount. We fund things like the National Music Museum, W.H. Over Museum, all precious things that would be on the chopping block if we have to cut into our budget. The only other recourse would be to raise property taxes."

Ward said that Vermillion community members are already paying a higher property tax level than most in the state and he does not feel that is a viable option for this project.

Nordyke added that the community of Vermillion agreed that this was the way to go when they approved the bond in November.

"The idea that the city currently has the money to pay for this project is only if we cut things already being paid for, not sitting in excess and it could equal one or two people's jobs," she said. "Yeah, we have it if we are willing to cut the things we already have."

In response to a comment made during the forum that the pool project has not been delayed and is still on schedule by the June 30 election she said that is simply not true.

"The project has already been delayed and is about a year behind schedule," Nordyke said. "They are waiting to see what happens before moving forward on the project. The pool was scheduled to close at the end of July in order to allow construction to begin. It will now wait until the following spring to begin. Every delay we have is an increase

in costs; every delay with contractor adds cost."

### DAYCARE ORDINANCE DEBATE

Ordinance 1326 which requires registration of private, in-home, daycares with the city was approved by the City Council vote of 7-2 on April 13.

The ordinance requires a provider to register with the city. In order to obtain city certification the daycare provider will need to demonstrate safety items such as having a fire extinguisher, smoke detector, two ways out of basement space used for a daycare, safe electrical wiring, closets that prevent a child from being locked inside and other basic safety requirements, such as having a fenced in yard.

The ordinance allowed that a daycare which registered prior to July 1 would not require an inspection moving the first inspection of the property to 2016.

Moderated by Matt Fairholm, City Council member Parker Erickson and parent Laura Wiemers spoke against the ordinance, while Gera Jacobs, USD Professor and Council member Kathrine Price spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Wiemers said the issues that the ordinance raises are varied and cause undo hardships for in-home daycare providers in Vermillion.

"It is concerning to me, that at the April 6 council meeting, City Council members were asked questions regarding the ordinance and were unable to answer without the assistance of the city manager or the fire chief regarding what the

ordinance actually said," she said. "When asked several questions regarding different portions of the ordinance it became clear to the audience that no one what sure what the ordinance actually contained, yet they passed it anyway."

She stressed that if the ordinance stays in place Vermillion could lose a significant portion of their providers and that the costs incurred would be passed on to parents, making affordable daycare unavailable for many.


However Price said that many of the providers who are threatening to close their doors are close to retirement and the ordinance would assure that the next generation of providers meet basic standards.

The panel all agreed that they did not believe there are any unsafe providers currently operating in Vermillion.

Price also said that the registration should be a comfort to parents in that, while they are not experts in fire code safety rules and regulations, the ones inspecting the daycares would be allowing the parents to focus on the provider and if they are a right fit for their family.

"Even after all the discussion, I don't understand how parents would not want their daycares locatable by fire and rescue crews or to have periodic fire inspections," she said.

However, Weimers questioned, if the ordinance is retained, will Vermillion lose daycares and what will happen if they do. Stating that she believes it will negatively affect the care options in town.



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# Tour of Lawns and Gardens

**Saturday, June 27, 2015**

**Tickets Sold from 9-11AM at 1905 Green**

**\$10 Donation: includes lunch and chance for door prize.**

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**Questions call 605-660-4763**

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### NIGHTLY SPECIALS

**Monday:**  
\$5 Cheeseburgers & Fries  
1/2 Off Domestic Bottles

**Tuesday:** \$5 Boots

**Wednesday:** 1/2 Off Taps

**Thursday:** \$.50 Traditional Wings (no limit ~ dine-in only)

**Friday & Saturday:**  
Beseda Dinner (Czech Meal)

**Sunday:** \$10 Buckets

## VFW

Post 791 209 Cedar  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Sunday Only**  
5-7pm Cooks Choice

**Thursday**  
5-7pm – Domestic Beers **\$1.50**  
5-7pm – Hamburger/ Pizza Burger & Fries **\$5.00**

**Friday**  
Country Fried Steak  
Serving 5:30-8:00

**Saturday Entertainment**  
No Band  
Regular Menu 5:30-8:00  
**Bingo Wed. at 7:00p.m.**  
**Sunday at 6:30p.m.**  
**Happy Hour M-F 4:30-6:00**  
Chislic Served Last Wednesday of Month

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## Saturday, June 27

### Pitching Triathlon 8:00 am

Teams of 2 will participate in a modified round robin tournament playing:

- Horseshoes
- Ladder Ball • Cornhole

Prizes Will Be Awarded!  
Adults & teens (16 yrs. & up)  
**Must pre-register by June 25**  
To register, call 402-357-2669 or email cdwc@byelectric.com

### Games For All Ages! 10 am-4 pm

- Pitching for Points
- Washer Toss
- Ring A Pop
- Ring Around the Rosie

Enjoy the hiking trail and be sure to stop by the Gift Shop!

**Root Beer Floats, Watermelon, Lunch, Snack & Drinks Will Also Be Available**

## Corps of Discovery Welcome Center

89705 Hwy 81 in Nebraska, (2 miles south of Yankton, SD)

For more information, contact Ninette Paltz, Director by calling 402.667.6577 or emailing cdwc@byelectric.com. Find us on Facebook by searching for: Corps of Discovery Welcome Center

## Welcome To The Marina Grill

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- Thirsty Thursday Drink Specials
- Prime Rib Saturday's
- Continental Breakfast Saturday & Sunday
- Happy Hour 2:30-6:30pm

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