

The Bookworm

We Won't Be Able To Quit 'Money'

"The Man Who Quit Money" by Mark Sundeen; © 2012, Riverhead Books; 272 pages.

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Just about 15 cents. That's all you ever find between the sofa cushions. It's never a huge amount of money but for some silly reason, it makes you inordinately happy.

Same thing when you find a fiver stashed in last winter's jacket, or a couple Washingtons in an old forgotten purse or wallet. It's as if you just won the micro-lottery. You feel strangely rich.

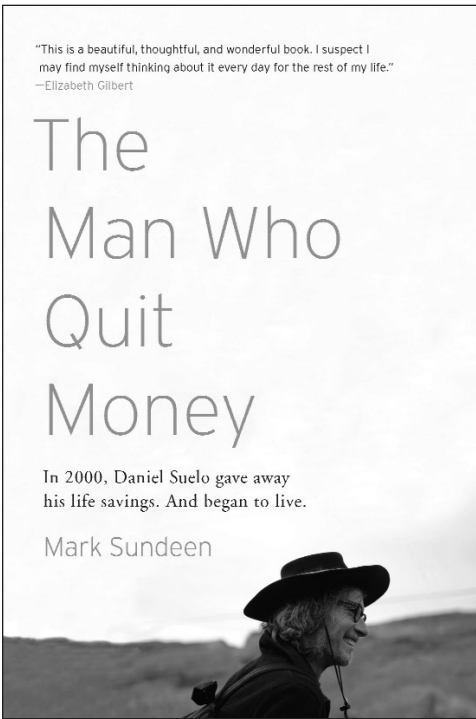
Now imagine never finding money. Imagine never wanting it at all. In the new book "The Man Who Quit Money" by Mark Sundeen, you'll read about the author's friend, who's penniless on purpose.

Back in the days before Mark Sundeen had a mortgage and a successful writing career, back when most of his possessions fit in the bed of a pickup, Sundeen lived a carefree life as an itinerant river guide, sleeping in his truck and eking out a living in Moab, Utah.

He wasn't alone in that unbothered existence. Many people, discouraged by government actions or corporate greed, left the grid to live in Moab.

One of them was Sundeen's friend, Daniel Suelo.

Born into an ultra-conservative fundamentalist family, Daniel Suelo was a sensitive child who took his faith extremely seriously. Still, during college, he re-examined his beliefs and



began to hypothesize about certain aspects of God. After a stint with the Peace Corps, he started questioning the validity of organized religion. He'd noticed the wide chasm between The Haves and The Have-Nots and how money seemed to change everything, which seemed unchristian-like and wrong. Further muddling

his deeply introspective thoughts on religion, Suelo realized he was gay.

Finding a community where eccentricity was barely noticed and tolerance is expected was, therefore, a godsend for Suelo. In 2000, after a stay in the Canada wilderness, he left his last \$30 in a phone booth and moved to Moab.

There, Sundeen says, Suelo lives with few possessions in whatever shelter he can find. He dines from a Dumpster, volunteers, and enjoys an active social life.

There, he lives "abundantly" with zero money.

Could I do it?

That's the question you'll ask yourself over and over as you're reading "The Man Who Quit Money." It's a tantalizing thought, this chuck-it-all life, and author Mark Sundeen lets his readers ponder it as he tells the life story of his friend, Daniel Suelo.

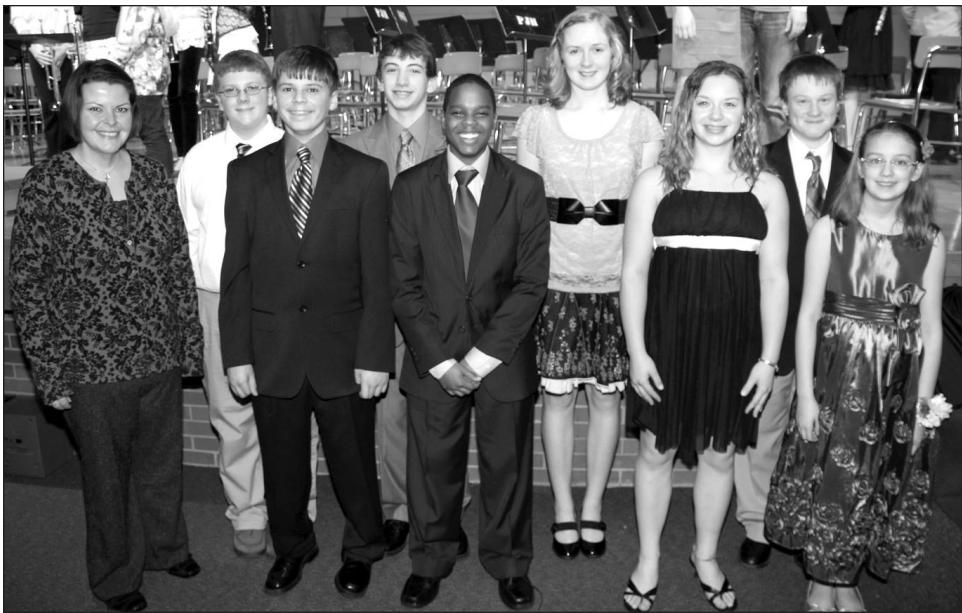
But this isn't just your run-of-the-mill biography. Sundeen lends his readers a good sense of who Suelo really is, while still preserving the enigmatic aspects. He lets us scoff a little, then he pulls us back into wholeheartedly agreeing with Suelo, almost to the point of wanting to live in a cave, too.

Notice I said "almost." Sundeen is stingy with romanticism and freely relates hardships while he also examines the morals behind money and why most of us chase it.

I think that if you've ever seriously considered your cash and wondered if you could really live without it, here's your chance to reflect. For you, "The Man Who Quit Money" is a book to take to the sofa.

YMS ALL-STATE BAND MEMBERS

Eight Yankton Middle School Band students were selected to participate in the 13th annual South Dakota Music Educators Association Middle School All-State Band. Students are selected by completing a rigorous audition process. The selected students from across the state gathered in Pierre at T.F. Riggs High School on March 2-3 to rehearse for the concert given on Saturday afternoon. The final concert will be broadcast on South Dakota Public Television at 4:30 p.m. May 27. Representing Yankton Middle School were (from left) YMS Band Director ReNae Jackson and, back row: Adam Lange, Joseph Kelly, Sophie Drotzmann and Steven Bray; front row: Turner Frank, Grant Cammock, Allyssa Hagen and Adele Benoit. Joseph Kelly and Sophie Drotzmann were also recognized during the concert as three-year members of the SDMEA Middle School All-State Band. (Submitted Photo)



St. Patrick's Day Celebration In Vermillion

VERMILLION — "The Good People" with Chris Hoover and artist Mary Black Bonnet Artichoker are headlining this year's St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Washington Street Arts Center, 202 Washington Street in Vermillion, on Saturday, March 17, running from 7-9 p.m.

Bruce Gray, Cindy Gehm and Rebecca Gehm's dynamic family trio, "The Good People," play and sing a wide range of music, from old-time folk to popular songs. These musicians have performed at a number of venues in the area, including Gayville Hall. For this event they'll collaborate with Irish balladeer Chris Hoover for the first half, then play a variety of music for the second half of the evening. Grace Freeman and her troupe of lively Irish Dancers will also perform.

The evening will also feature Black Bonnet Artichoker's "Ole Ni's Taku he?" (What do you See?), a multi-media exhibit of photography, sculpture and painting. Currently a Vermillion resident, Black Bonnet Artichoker is an enrolled member of the Sicangu Nation at Rosebud, South Dakota. At the 21st Annual Sand Painters Open show in Valentine, Nebraska, she received the Douglas Ballard Memorial Award for outstanding Photography for her photograph, "Hihanni Waste" (Good Morning).

Those attending will enjoy an Irish dinner of potato soup, beef stew, soda bread, desserts, and a variety of beverages, including Irish brews, wine, and soda. The open to the public, and tickets will be available at the door. There will be door prize drawings for new and current VAAC members. Sponsors are Carey's Bar, Jones Foods, Hy-Vee, Walmart and Vermillion Area Arts Council.

USD Chamber Singers To Perform Saturday

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota's acclaimed vocal ensemble, the Chamber Singers, will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, at the United Church of Christ, 226 E. Main St. in Vermillion.

The program, "Make a Joyful Noise," includes classical and contemporary musical selections from the Chamber Singers' recently completed four-state tour that featured select performances in South Dakota, Iowa, Colorado and Wyoming. There is no admission cost for the March 17 concert; however, a freewill offering will be collected. Complementary child care will be provided at the church and copies of the Singers' most recent CD, "Nature's Witness," will also be available.

The premiere vocal ensemble at USD with 30 members, the Chamber Singers is comprised of graduate and undergraduate students selected through auditions from the entire university student body. Its repertoire, which is primarily a cappella, includes music from the Renaissance to the present in a wide variety of styles. The Chamber Singers have performed for state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference, and recorded several choral works for a companion record series to music textbooks used by colleges and universities nationwide.

CDWC Trivia Contest Slated For Sunday

SOUTH YANKTON, Neb. — The Corps of Discovery Welcome Center, located on Highway 81 three miles south of Yankton, will be hosting its annual trivia contest at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18, in the reception hall of First Congregational UCC, Hartington.

Cost per team is \$125, with up to five players per team. Individuals wanting to be on a team are also encouraged to sign up, as there may be individual team slots available.

The contest will consist of 10 rounds of 10 questions per round with Mulligan's available for purchase. Refreshments will also be available.

For more information, contact the CDWC at 402-667-6557, email at cdwc@byelectric.com, or check out the CDWC's new website, http://corpsdiscoverywelcomecenter.net .

'Occupation: Murder!' Presented In Centerville

CENTERVILLE — Centerville Community Arts Council, Inc., will present the murder mystery/comedy "Occupation: Murder!" by Billy St. John in the Centerville School Gold Gym, Centerville. Performances are set for Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 25 at 2 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door. A Dinner Theatre will be presented Saturday, March 24, at 6 p.m. Tickets for the Ham Dinner and Play must be purchased by Tuesday, March 20. Tickets for the Dinner Theatre are available at the Centerville Community Library (563-2540). Ice Cream Sundaes (free will donation) will be served one-half hour before the Friday and Sunday performances.

When the rehearsal begins for the fictional TV show "It's a Living" who would suspect that before the telecast is over, the hardest problem to solve would be who committed murder on the set. Come and learn the answer when "Occupation: Murder!" hits the stage.

This show is produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company.

USD Pianist Skyrn To Present Recital Tonight

VERMILLION — Dr. Susanne Skyrn, professor of music at the University of South Dakota, will present a faculty piano recital at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 16, at Colton Recital Hall in the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts.

The program will feature Spanish keyboard music from the 18th and 20th centuries. Composers include Isaac Albéniz, Joaquín Rodrigo, Federico Mompou, Sebastián Albero and José Larrañaga.

Skyrn has appeared as a piano soloist and collaborative artist throughout the United States and Europe. She combines performing the standard piano repertoire with research interests in early keyboards and Spanish and Latin American keyboard music. Her performances have been broadcast nationally on public radio and on public access television. She has



Skyrn

board Music," was released by Wayne Leupold Editions in July 2010. The recital program, which is free and open to the public, will feature several works from the "Anthology." She will present the same program this month at venues at Converse College and Wofford University in

Spartanburg, S.C., Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock, N.C.

Skyrn holds degrees in piano performance from the College of Idaho, the University of Cincinnati and the University of Colorado. She was a prize winner in the Mason and Hamlin Idaho state auditions and the regional auditions and the recipient of an award from the Cincinnati Three Arts Foundation. In 2006 she was named the first recipient of the University of South Dakota's College of Fine Arts Biennial Distinguished Professor Award. She teaches studio and class piano and piano literature at the University of South Dakota, where she has been on the faculty since 1988.

Bloomfield Music Boosters Host Fundraiser Sunday

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Get ready to enjoy an afternoon of good food and beautiful music by the Bloomfield Schools musicians in grades 5-12.

Bloomfield Music Boosters along with the Bloomfield Schools Music Department will be hosting a fundraising activity Sunday, March 18, running from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Bloomfield Schools Auditorium.

The Bloomfield Music Showcase and dinner will be done in partnership with the Antelope-Knox County Chapter No. 30238 of Thrivent. It will match up to \$1,000 in support of this event being held to earn money for new, safer risers with acoustic shells and additional musical equipment

for the Bloomfield Schools Music Department.

The Bloomfield Music Showcase dinner will include lasagna, green beans, lettuce, garlic bread and desserts donated by parents of the music department students. The meal will be served continuously from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. When people finish eating, they are welcome to sit in the bleachers and listen to the numerous groups and individuals preform.

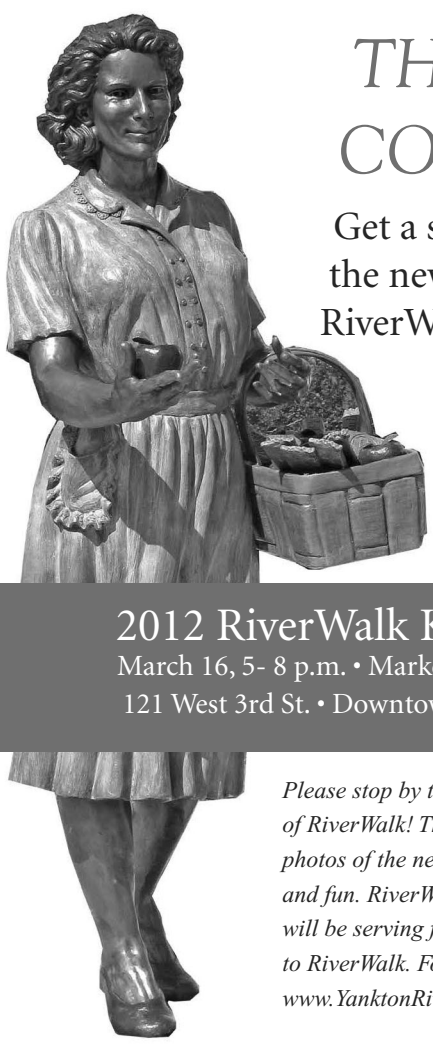
There are 100 students enrolled in music programs from grades 5-12 with Sheila Lange as the director. There will be individuals and groups providing music selections as well as the 5th and 6th grade band, Junior High Chorus and band and the High School band and chorus.

Pre-sale tickets can be purchased from music students. Call Myrna Seagren at 402-373-2893 or Sheila Lange at 402-373-4800 if you need tickets and they will arrange for a student to contact you. You may pay at the door the day of the event as well.

The risers and acoustic shells will cost approximately \$11,000. All other monies collected will be

used to purchase additional music equipment for the music department.

Previous fund raising included a soup supper during Pack the Gym Night, a walking taco meal during a recent basketball game and donations collected from individuals and businesses has earned about \$1,800 so far for this project.




THEY'RE COMING!

Get a sneak peak of the new 2012 / 2013 RiverWalk sculptures

2012 RiverWalk Kick-off  
March 16, 5- 8 p.m. • Marketplace Cafe  
121 West 3rd St. • Downtown Yankton

Please stop by to celebrate a new year of RiverWalk! The evening will include photos of the new sculptures, food, drink and fun. RiverWalk committee members will be serving for tips and all proceeds go to RiverWalk. For more information, visit [www.YanktonRiverWalk.org](http://www.YanktonRiverWalk.org).

"Our Canteen Lady" by Sondra Jonson —one of the new 2012 RiverWalk sculptures.



AM 1450

**MORNING COFFEE**

**WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY**

**Friday, March 16**

7:40 am  
Vermillion Chamber (Steve Howe)

8:15 am  
United Way (Pam Kettering)

8:45 am  
Lions Club Dance (Kevin Watt)