

Soccer games are all over town several days each week as the spring schedule was compressed after so many snowy weekends. The school calendar has been extended to June 9, putting both the state recreation and classic tournaments in the final days of school. Hopefully, the schools will be cooperative with the players, particularly high school players who will be facing final exams, allowing players to write exams early. These players have worked hard to reach the state tournament and should not be penalized because snow days have been added.

High school players who are interested in trying out for prep teams should mark calendars for July 14 and 21, at 6:00 PM to register for tryouts. All candidates will need a birth certificate, the registration fees, a small head shot photo, and a current physical. The fees must be written in 2 checks, one for a \$30 nonrefundable registration fee and one for \$150 which will be returned to all candidates who are not selected for the rosters. Insurance, field fees, equipment, and referee costs come from this fee. The tryout date is August 10. More information is available through Rushmore Soccer Club's website, www.rushmoresoccerclub.com.

The soccer complex is moving into a new phase. Recently the City Council and the Soccer Task Force agreed to release \$120,000 from the 2012 funds in order to proceed with design and building plans. The need to identify the responsibilities of each entity, to define the utilities layout, the wetland analysis, etc. is a first step to both construction and fundraising. Both Wyss Associates and 4Front Design have donated a great deal of time to helping soccer get the project ready for the bidding stage.

Now that the land is identified for soccer and the city has accepted the deed to the land, it is possible for Soccer Rapid City to begin grant writing and gift solicitation. Developing this complex of soccer fields is a potential bonus for Rapid City's hospitality industry as it will allow existing tournaments, such as the Rushmore Cup, to grow and new ones to join the summer schedule.

In cities where field complexes have been developed, the economic impact has been significant. Sioux Falls is preparing to host the Region II tournament for the third time in 12 years. This is a multi-million dollar infusion from a tournament spanning 6 days. Rapid City could bid for that with this new facility.

Tomorrow is the annual Chris Evans Memorial Fun Run at the West Community gym. Registration begins at 4:00 with entry fees at \$8 for students and \$15 for adults. You get a tee shirt, dinner at the end along with music by MetalClef but best of all, you get to support West Middle School improvements in the name of a great young soccer player.

