Sales tax to fund third high school/aqua park?

By Nick Vanquez

Rapid City could build a proposed aqua park, as well as help to finance construction of a new high school, by keeping its one-cent sales tax.

The tax cannot be used, however, to pay for school programs, teachers or classroom construction.

The city sales tax is said to bring in between $8 million and $9 million in revenues annually, according to city estimates.

According to the city, half of that is paid by residents of Rapid City, while the other half is paid by tourists, and the remaining 40 percent is paid by individuals who live outside the city but do business in Rapid City.

Revenues from the one-cent sales tax have been divided as follows: 30 percent for the construction of the new high school; 30 percent for the construction of a new aquatic center; 20 percent for the construction of a new stadium; and 20 percent for the construction of a new community center.

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