

Press & Dakotan

(USPS 946-520)

© 2010, Yankton Media, Inc.

75 CENTS

The Oldest Daily Newspaper Of The Dakotas • www.yankton.net

VOLUME 136, NUMBER 2

Financial Reform Slowed In Senate

Neb.'s Nelson Helps Stop Overhaul Vote

BY JIM KUHNHENN Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Undaunted by a Senate setback, Democrats appeared increasingly confident Monday they will be able to take advantage of Americans' anger at Wall Street and push through the most sweeping new controls on financial institutions since the Great Depression.

The Senate, in a 57-41 vote, failed to get the 60 supporters needed to proceed on the regulatory overhaul. One Democrat, Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, joined with the Republicans.

But the evening vote was just part of a legislative ballet keeping bipartisan talks alive. At the end, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid switched his vote to "no," too, but

that was just a maneuver that will enable him to call for a new tally as early as Tuesday. If that failed, Reid planned another vote Wednesday.

Democrats believe that public pressure and the scent of a Wall Street scandal have given them the upper hand. Republicans themselves have taken up the



Nelson

Democrats' Wall Street-bashing rhetoric and have voiced hope that a bill will ultimately pass. In that light, the path to final approval seems clearer than it ever did during the contentious debate over health care.

The financial overhaul bill is a priority of President Barack Obama and, after health care, its passage would build on his legislative successes — an important political

■ REFORM, Page 5 please

Vermillion Wants Structures Studied

Overcrowding, Weight Likely Caused Accident

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

VERMILLION — A Vermillion city official says inspections will be conducted on other structures after overcrowding apparently led to the weekend collapse of a downtown apartment balcony.

At least 10 people were hospitalized in the incident, which occurred around 2:30 a.m. Sunday. The apartment is located above Carey's Bar at 18 West Main Street. The deck stood above the beer garden behind the bar.

The incident does not appear to be caused by any violations of city ordinances, said Vermillion building official Farrel Christiansen.

"We looked at (the balcony site) and compared it to the building code to see if it was built correctly," he said. "The deck seemed to be adequately constructed and reasonably attached to the building. We believe the primary cause of the collapse was overcrowding."

Christiansen said he had no firm figures on the stress exerted on the balcony just prior to its collapse. However, he said the total weight of the individuals could have exceeded 2,000 pounds.

The balcony was crowded at the time of the collapse, Christiansen said. The deck provided a fire escape as well as a place for the tenants and guests to stand outside, he said.

"It was heavily loaded (when it gave way)," he said. "If they were averaging 200 pounds (a person), that would come to a ton."

Unlike bars and restaurants, decks do not contain a maximum limit for occupants, Christiansen said. "There is no number on the wall when it comes to decks," he said.

The apartment owner will likely replace the deck, Christiansen said. "Otherwise, it's a door leading to nowhere," he said.

As a safety precaution, Vermillion city officials will inspect other downtown buildings with similar structures, Christiansen said. The



Mabry

■ BAR, Page 8 please

INSIDEtoday



Honored

Yankton's Robinson Selected As SDHSCA Girls' Assistant Coach Of The Year. PAGE 9

VIEWPOINTS

PITTS: Change Not Always Inevitable. PAGE 4



NATION/WORLD

OIL RIG: Major Leak Sinks, Could Greatly Pollute Coast. PAGE 13

WEATHER

9 a.m. 3 p.m. 47° 63° Mostly sunny

PAGE 2

INDEX

Weather . . . . . 2
Region . . . . . 2, 5
Midwest . . . . . 3
Obituaries . . . . . 3
Viewpoints . . . . . 4
Life . . . . . 5
Comics . . . . . 6
Our Towns . . . . . 7
Sports . . . . . 9-10
Classifieds . . . . . 11-13
Crosswords . . . . . 12
Nation/World . . . . . 13

RECYCLING

River City Recycling This Week SOUTH of 15th St.



TOMORROW

MERIDIAN: Renovation Begins On Yankton Bridge. \* \* \*



Hurley, Viborg Analyze Schools

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

VIBORG — An architect will look this week at the Hurley school's remodeling needs, which in turn will help the Viborg and Hurley school boards decide on the future of their consolidation talks.

The two boards decided to wait for more information after Monday night's joint meeting in Viborg.

The decision will benefit both boards, said Pat Kraning, superintendent for both districts.

"I don't think the Hurley board is comfortable remodeling without consolidation," he said, "and I don't think Viborg is comfortable about consolidation without knowing more about remodeling."

"There is a need for more information, and that's a reality that both boards face."

The two boards said they had wanted to put consolidation to a vote this fall. If approved, the merger would take effect with the 2011-2012 school year.

However, both boards said they felt they needed to get more information on Hurley's remodeling before drawing up a

■ MEETING, Page 7 please

CANDIDATE DISCUSSION



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Constitutional Candidates for South Dakota Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer and State Attorney General converged on Tyndall's Corral Cafe for an open discussion with the constituents of seven counties. The forum gave the candidates a rare opportunity to share their stances on issues related to the positions they are seeking. Candidates include: Front (L-R) Jason Gant, Steve Barnett, Marty Jackley, Teresa Bray and Pat Miller. Back (L-R) Tim Rounds, Mike Mehlhaff, Tom Deadrack and Rich Sattgast.

State GOP Field Takes To Grassroots At Tyndall Forum

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE shauna.marlette@yankton.net

The Republican Party of South Dakota is taking on a grass-roots challenge, renewing interest in the party in the hopes of making South Dakota a stronger state.

Bon Homme County Republicans, long a name-only group, are accepting the challenge under the leadership of chairman Gary Jerke. To further their cause, they held a constitutional candidates' forum in Tyndall at the Corral Cafe Monday night.

"I see a renewed interest in politics," said former South Dakota Governor Walter D. Miller. "People are seeing the opportunity to make a change in government, and they are taking it. Most people know that, as short of

money as we are getting, the administrative rules and mandated policies are out of control. They don't like it, and people are coming out of the woodwork to see what is happening and what they can do about."

That renewed interest was evident in the number of people who came to listen to the nine candidates speak.

The candidates at the forum were State Attorney General Marty Jackley, who is seeking re-election; Secretary of State candidates: Teresa Bray, Tom Deadrack and Jason Gant; State Treasurer candidates: Mike Mehlhaff and Rich Sattgast; and, State Auditor candidates Steve Barnett, Pat Miller and Tim Rounds.

"This was everything we hoped for,"

■ FORUM, Page 8 please

DECISION 2010

Knudson: Governor Needs To Be Proactive

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON travis.gulbrandsen@yankton.net



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

South Dakota gubernatorial hopeful Dave Knudson discussed the issues that loom in his Republican primary battle during a campaign stop Monday in Yankton.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Dave Knudson said he hopes whomever reaches the state's highest office after this election season takes a more proactive stance than that of the current administration.

"In my mind, (they're just) swatting tennis balls over the net, putting Band-Aids on things, not really dealing with problems," Knudson said during a campaign stop in Yankton Monday morning.

He said the current situation is the opposite of the William Janklow administration, for which Knudson served as chief

of staff in 1995 and 1999. "We were very much into getting things done, figuring out what the problem was, looking for a solution, and then implementing that solution," he said. "I think the (Rounds) administration just has not been problem-solving-oriented."

These differences can be seen both in the areas of the budget and state projects, he said.

"(Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard and gubernatorial candidate) doesn't think we have a budget crisis," Knudson said. "I mean, we had a \$40 million deficit this year, a \$100 million deficit last year. If that's not a crisis, does it have to be \$200 million before he would call it a crisis?"

Knudson, a Sioux Falls legislator and Yankton native, said Republican legislators entered into the last legislative session with the goal of having a zero-deficit budget, which he said they achieved through across-the-board cuts.

"We were able to do that by the end of the regular session with no help from the administration, and certainly none from the lieutenant governor. I'm not aware that he ever made a single suggestion of a way to save money," he said.

Although some of the cuts ended up being substituted, Knudson said, "we were

■ VOTE, Page 5 please

City Commission Receives Sculpture Project Update

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

The Yankton City Commission received an update Monday on an outdoor sculpture display that will soon be installed throughout the community's downtown.

Representatives of RiverWalk, Inc., told commissioners that the 10 sculptures chosen for the inaugural year of the display will be installed May 13-14. In the

meantime, granite slabs that the sculptures will be affixed to will be placed in downtown Yankton and Riverside Park.

RiverWalk is a non-profit organization that was created with the goal of arranging for an annual outdoor sculpture display in Yankton's downtown.

"We started out with 10 sculptures," RiverWalk President Lisa Scheve said. "Hopefully, next

■ CITY, Page 8 please



CORRECTION ON PHOTO

The Yankton Prom photo that was published in Monday's edition of the Press & Dakotan misidentified the individuals pictured. Making their entrance during Saturday's Grand March were Jeff Grossenburg and Brooke Anderson. We apologize for the error. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)