

# BAR

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inspections will determine that the decks are safe and meet current city ordinances, he said.

"We want to make sure there is not another problem," he said. At least 10 people were injured when the balcony collapsed, according to Vermillion Police Chief Art Mabry.

"Six people were taken by ambulance to the (Vermillion) hospital, and my officers saw another four people walk into the hospital after arriving by private transportation," Mabry said.

"According to our officers on the scene, and what they experienced, they described injuries

ranging from bumps and bruises to very serious injuries."

The injured persons probably had an even larger fall than normally expected, Mabry said.

"Downtown, the first floor of those businesses typically have very high ceilings," he said. "This (deck) was more like 2 1/2 stories up. I would say it was about 25 feet off the ground, so it was a good drop."

Fortunately, the incident occurred after the bar had closed at 2 a.m., Mabry said.

"It was a rainy night, and anybody in the beer garden would have been standing under the deck to stay out of the rain," the police chief said.

"Had that (balcony) come down with anybody underneath, they would have been killed instantly."

Mabry said the balcony col-

lapse was the first incident of its kind that he could recall in his eight years as Vermillion police chief.

"The deck was four feet by six feet," he said. "One of the (news) reporters measured that size down on the floor and was amazed that 10 people were on it."

Mabry said he found no indication of criminal activity or other violations and has closed the case. However, he advised property owners to double-check the safety of their decks.

"I'm not saying, had the tenants looked, they would have found anything and avoided this (accident)," he said. "But as an owner or tenant, it's not a bad idea to look at the construction of these kinds of structures periodically, especially those things like decks that are outside and weathered."

volunteers hope their effort inspires others with big ideas to follow them through to completion, even if it takes years of work.

"I think it's really nice to see a group of young professionals doing something in the community and thinking outside of the box," she said of her own board. For more information about RiverWalk, visit <http://yankton-riverwalk.org/>.

In other business Monday, the commission issued proclamations for Police Week, Arbor Day, the National Day of Prayer and Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. It also awarded a variety of contract and bid awards for a truck, two water main projects and various street department supplies.

# FORUM

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Jerke said. "It was kind of a shot in the dark. Jason Gant called and wanted to come down and I said, in fairness to all the candidates of our party, I felt that what we should do is have an evening such as this. When I started calling everyone, they all said yes, because when they go to the Lincoln Day dinners it is the gubernatorial or congressional candidates that get the time and the platform."

Another aspect that Jerke was very pleased with was the talent that the candidates offer the Republican Party. During the evening's presentation, he advised the delegates attending to get to know the candidates because they would be the people working hard for them.

"These races are so important in how they influence us at the local level, maybe more so than the (congressional and gubernatorial)," Jerke said. "... I believe in the rural areas, so I called Yankton County and Davison County and all the counties in between, and we had representatives from seven of the eight (counties) that indicated they were coming. Now the voting power of those that are here tonight are close to that of Minnehaha County."

During the forum, each of the candidates was given five minutes to introduce themselves and their platforms. Then, each candidate answered the question of what innovations they bring to the position they are seeking.

Jackley, who at this time is running unopposed, said that his job is to represent the people of South Dakota.

# CITY

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year we'll be able to have 11 or 12. It just depends on how the community receives it and supports it."

The event is the culmination of years of work by the RiverWalk board, which also includes Katie Hunhoff and Michelle Kolda, and the RiverWalk committee.

"I would just like to congratulate the committee, as well as the community," Commissioner Judy VanDerhulst said. "This was no small project, and I understand why it might have taken

some time to get off the ground. For (a town) the size of Yankton to have something like this is truly wonderful."

Scheve said the display puts Yankton on the same playing field as Rapid City, Sioux City and Sioux Falls, which all have similar outdoor sculpture installations.

"Hopefully, the community will continue to support it," she said. "For us to continue to stay on that playing field, we do need support."

Artists from Nebraska and South Dakota crafted the sculptures selected. The public will have an opportunity to meet with them at a celebration being planned for May 13 at the 7 Beer and Wine Bar.

Scheve said the RiverWalk

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Minervas

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