



Afternoon Showers A Possibility

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Doane Sweeps MMC In Baseball • 8

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Westbrook Shines In Pre-Draft Tourney • 8



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‘Buffett Rule’ Is Nixed In Senate

Election-Year Bill Draws Battle Lines On Tax Issue

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans derailed a Democratic “Buffett rule” bill Monday forcing the nation’s top earners to pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes, using the day before Americans’ taxes are due to defy President Barack Obama on one of his signature election-year issues.

By a near party-line 51-45 tally, senators voted to keep the bill alive but fell nine votes short of the 60 needed to continue debating the measure. The anti-climactic outcome was no surprise to anyone in a vote that was designed more to win over voters and embarrass senators in close races than to push legislation into law.

At the White House, Obama denounced the vote, saying Republicans chose “once again to protect tax breaks for the wealthiest few Americans at the expense of the middle class.” In a statement issued after the vote, he said he would keep pressing Congress to help the middle class.

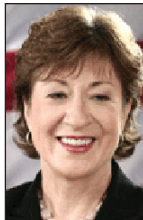
“It’s just plain wrong that millions of middle-class Americans pay a higher share of their income in taxes than some millionaires and billionaires,” he said.

Republicans called the measure a divisive Democratic distraction from the nation’s real problems that would not address the economy’s real woes.

“This legislation will do nothing with regard to job creation, with regard to gas prices, with regard to economic recovery,” said Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the No. 2 Senate GOP leader.

Democrats’ goal, he said, was “to try to draw attention away from the issues that the American people are most concerned about.”

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine was the only Republican to join Democrats in voting to keep the measure



Collins

SENATE | PAGE 14

TOP OF HIS CLASS



Andes Central Principal Rocky Brinkman is shown talking to student Nikayla Chytka at the school last week in Lake Andes. Brinkman was recently named the 2012 South Dakota High School Principal of the Year.

Andes Central Principal Meets Challenges, Finds Success

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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LAKE ANDES — As a junior/senior high school principal, Rocky Brinkman doesn’t want to see students only in his office — so he goes out to meet them.

When the bell rings, he makes it a practice to stand out in the Andes Central hallways, greeting the students and staff between class periods.

During one break, he visited with student Nikayla Chytka and teacher Tracey Hopkins. They shared a laugh and conversation about school happenings.

“I like for the students to see me around, to feel they can talk to me any time,” he explained.

It’s that close-knit feeling, along with Andes Central’s academic improvements, that led to Brinkman’s selec-

tion recently as the 2012 South Dakota High School Principal of the Year.

Besides his role as principal, Brinkman serves as athletic director and coach. He has become well known for molding the Andes Central volleyball team into a state powerhouse.

Speaking like a true coach, he quickly credited a team effort for the principal’s award.

“This award isn’t about me,” he said. “It’s recognition of our students, staff and communities. This is their award.”

The South Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals (SDASSP) selected Brinkman for the award. He and Jeff Rieckman of Philip, South Dakota Middle School

PRINCIPAL | PAGE 14

Canine Heartworm Threat Heats Up

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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While Yankton residents likely enjoyed the warm winter, those who own a dog should keep in mind that it puts their pet at a greater risk for heartworms.

Heartworms are spread from dog to dog through mosquitos, which have also been taking advantage of the warmer-than-usual weather.

In the past week, two dogs have tested positive for heartworms locally.

The first case was detected 1 1/2 weeks ago at the Animal Health Clinic.

“I don’t know when it got infected because it was an adopted dog from the Sioux City Humane Society,” said Dr. Bruce Teachout.

He said it had been adopted two years ago and had no history of tests or prevention, so it may have been infected prior to being adopted.

A second dog from the Yankton area tested positive Saturday, Teachout said.

“That was a local dog that two years ago had been tested and was on a preventive,” he stated. “Last year, they did not (give it the preventive). That means it got it this year in Yankton.”

Two cases were confirmed last year, but they were in dogs that had been brought to the area when their owners moved up from southern states, according to Teachout.

Dr. Janet Messner at the Yankton Veterinary Clinic said no cases had been confirmed this year at her facility, but two dogs from the Tyn-dall area tested positive in 2011.

Yankton’s Veterinary Medical

THREAT | PAGE 14

YFPC Escape Attempt Thwarted Sunday Night

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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An escape from the Yankton Federal Prison Camp (YFPC) was thwarted Sunday night, according to authorities.

A media release from the YFPC stated that David Wood was observed by staff getting into a vehicle as a passenger and being driven away from the institution around 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

He was back in custody by approximately 8:35 p.m.

According to the Yankton Police Department, it received a report from YFPC staff at 8:35 p.m. of a contraband drop and were called in to assist. Police received information that the suspect driver had a white Toyota with Texas plates and was staying at Yankton’s Best Western Kelly Inn.

Surveillance was done of the hotel for the driver of the vehicle, and Police Chief Brian Paulsen said police did not learn of the escape

ESCAPE | PAGE 12



TRAVIS GULBRANDSON/VERM. PLAIN TALK
Frank Abagnale — the inspiration behind the book, movie and Broadway play “Catch Me If You Can” — makes an appearance in Aalfs Auditorium Monday night in Vermillion.

USD Catches Up With Abagnale

Legendary Impersonator Shares His Life Story In Vermillion

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
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VERMILLION — Although Steven Spielberg’s 2002 film “Catch Me If You Can” made the story of check-forger and con man Frank Abagnale famous the world over, the real Frank Abagnale had nothing to do with its production.

That being said, he is extremely satisfied with how it turned out.

“(Spielberg) did an incredible job, I thought, of telling the story,” Abagnale said. “He went out of his way not to glorify what I did, and stayed as close to the story as I thought he could.”

That’s just the way Abagnale wants it, and in an appearance at the University of South Dakota’s Aalfs

“I know that some people are fascinated by what I did 40 years ago as a teenage boy, but I’ve always looked on it as something that was immoral, illegal, unethical and a burden I live with every single day of my life, and will to my death.”

FRANK ABAGNALE

Auditorium Monday night, he elaborated on why that is.

Between the ages of 16 and 21, Abagnale posed as a Pan Am pilot, a pediatrician and an attorney. He also cashed more than \$2.5 million in fraudulent

SPEAKER | PAGE 12

Official: Food Cooperative Paying Off For School District

BY DEREK BARTOS
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A newly formed purchasing partnership with the Brandon Valley and Harrisburg school districts could save the Yankton School District approximately 3 percent on food costs, according to a report presented Monday night to the Yankton School Board during its regular monthly meeting at the YSD administration building.

Food services director Sandi Kramer said the

schools will combine quotes for food usage and agree on the same manufacturers, and, in many instances, the same products, in an effort to secure lower-priced bids.

“There are some schools in California that are already doing this, and it’s going very well,” she said. “I know there’s some schools in New York that are looking at doing it, too — putting their districts together. It’s something we’ve been thinking about doing for a long time. It was just a matter of finding the schools that would work well together, and I think we’ve got a

great partnership working together with those two other schools.”

Kramer said the combined usage quotes for the three schools will be approximately \$1.8 million, likely making the co-op the third largest buying group in South Dakota. Because of that, the schools are drawing a lot of interest for their business, which in turn has opened up several options for food items, she said.

SCHOOL | PAGE 12



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TOMORROW: USD Prepares To Celebrate Earth Day

