



Warmer Than Normal

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S.D. Lawmakers OK Study Of School Funding

Committee To Focus On Funding Formula And Revenue Sources

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — After hearing repeated requests from schools for more money, South Dakota lawmakers have decided to take another look at the state system for funding public school districts.

The Legislature's Executive Board voted unanimously last week to appoint a study committee that will investigate the funding formula and revenue sources used to finance the schools. The study panel will meet during the summer and fall to come up with recommendations to be submitted to the 2014 Legislature in January.

"I think a lot of it is we keep hearing year after year after year that education funding isn't enough in this state. So now let's come up

with some ideas," said Sen. Ryan Maher, R-Isabel, chairman of the Executive Board, which handles management issues for the Legislature in the nine months each year the lawmakers are not in session.

Wade Pogany, executive director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, said he hopes the study will look at new funding sources, not just changes in the way existing money is divvied up among the school districts.

"At least the conversation will begin. That what's important to think about — long-term funding solutions for education," Pogany said.

Pogany said school districts still have not recovered from the cuts that Gov. Dennis Daugaard and the Legislature made two years ago

STUDY | PAGE 2

CANDY AND CAMOUFLAGE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Logan Wiesler and Zoltan Spak brought a sweet contrast of color to the Yankton High School prom's annual Grand March Saturday at the Summit Activities Center. The march drew a packed house to the Summit Center gymnasium as 176 couples paraded through a maze of candy and lights fitting with the prom's theme, "Wonka's Golden Ticket from Mr. Willy Wonka." To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

INSIDE TODAY



USD Softball Completes Sweep Of UMKC ■ 7

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Norfolk Plane Crash Victims Identified

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — Federal investigators are trying to determine why a small plane crashed in northeast Nebraska this weekend, killing both people aboard.

Madison County Sheriff Vern Hjorth said 26-year-old Dale Butler of Omaha and 24-year-old Amy Brobst of Fort Collins, Colo., both died when the plane crashed Saturday evening.

Butler, the pilot, was a college student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Aviation Institute and licensed to fly, according to university officials.

Hjorth said the plane crashed into a soybean field shortly after taking off from the Norfolk airport.

The *Norfolk Daily News* reported that FAA officials said the plane struck a power line before crashing into some trees.

U.S. officials investigating the

SOMETHING ON THE WIND



PHOTO: YANKTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Yankton firefighters were called out at about 4 p.m. Sunday to a controlled burn that got out of control on Willowdale Drive on East Highway 50. The blaze appeared to be contained, but officials said they were concerned about a weak but gusty cold front about to move through the area. When the front passed, the winds whipped up from the northwest, stoking new flare-ups. Firefighters then began back-burning (shown here) to contain the blaze. Increasing winds could create more fire issues at times today (Monday) and Tuesday before a new system brings a chance of rain and possibly light snow on Wednesday. For weather details, see page 2.

MMC Names New VP Of Finance

BY DEREK BARTOS
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While Ginger Moeller isn't very familiar with Yankton, her recent arrival to the city feels like a homecoming.

The new vice president of finance at Mount Marty College actually has an accounting degree from the school, but took her classes at the MMC campus in Watertown. Still, that fact doesn't keep Moeller from feeling she is now where she belongs.

"Some things are still familiar, and the whole mission is the same as when I went to school in Watertown," she said. "So in a way, I feel like I'm returning home."

Moeller most recently served as the associate controller at South Dakota State University in Brookings,



Moeller

versity, Moeller (who also has a daughter, Madeline, attending SDSU) believed it was a good time to look for a new opportunity.

"It was the first chance I've had to move away and branch out on my own," she said.

Moeller said that while her goal was to find a vice president position, her primary focus was on joining a faith-based institution. She found both at MMC, she said.

"It's wonderful because they care

about you as a whole person, including spiritually," she said. "You don't normally get that in a public institution."

In her new role at MMC, Moeller reports directly to the school president and serves as the chief financial officer for the college. Areas of responsibility include human resources/payroll, purchasing and travel, insurance, student financial aid, business office, accounting and budgeting.

"I have my work cut out for me, as there hasn't been anyone in this position since last fall, so there is a lot of work to be done," she said. "But there's a great team here on campus, and I'm excited about working with them. I know I'm going to love it here."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos

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Federal Prison Camp Named Semifinalist For Military Award

BY DEREK BARTOS
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The Yankton Federal Prison Camp is one of two South Dakota employers being recognized for providing extraordinary support to workers who are in the military.

The prison was recently named a semifinalist for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest honor for employers who aid their Guard and Reserve employees.

This year, 138 semifinalists stood out among 2,899 employers nominated by a Guard or Reserve employee.

The other semifinalist from South Dakota is Black Hills Corporation of Rapid City.

"We're pleased a local employee felt that they were being supported enough that they were willing to nominate the Yankton Federal Prison Camp for this award," said Todd Cowman, public information officer for the camp. "We were pleasantly surprised to be listed as a semifinalist, and we just hope that it shows the local community how willing we are to support our troops through their deployments."

Employers selected as semifinalists assist Guard and Reserve employees through formal and informal initiatives, including setting veteran hiring goals, establishing military employee liaisons, providing child-care for deployed employees, arranging care package drives and granting additional leave for military employees and family members before and after deployments.

"Freedom Award semifinalists stand out for their extraordinary support and steadfast commitment to our nation's Citizen Warriors," said Ronald G. Young, executive director of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), in a news release. "National Guard and Reserve members show tremendous resolve overseas and during times of domestic

SUPPORT | PAGE 2

FBI Checking Training Angle In Bombing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee said Sunday that the FBI is investigating in the United States and overseas to determine whether the suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing received training that helped them carry out the attack.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, is charged with joining with his older brother, Tamerlan, who's now dead, in setting off the shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs. The bombs were triggered by a remote detonator of the kind used in remote-control toys, U.S. officials have said.

U.S. officials investigating the

bombings have told The Associated Press that so far there is no evidence to date of a wider plot, including training, direction or funding for the attacks.

A criminal complaint outlining federal charges against Dzhokhar Tsarnaev described him as holding a cellphone in his hand minutes before the first explosion.

The brothers are ethnic Chechens from Russia who came to the United States about a decade ago with their parents.

"I think given the level of sophistication of this device, the fact that the pressure cooker is a signature device

that goes back to Pakistan, Afghanistan, leads me to believe — and the way they handled these devices and the tradecraft — ... that there was a trainer and the question is where is that trainer or trainers," said Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, on "Fox News Sunday."

"Are they overseas in the Chechen region or are they in the United States?" McCaul said. "In my conversations with the FBI, that's the big question. They've casted a wide net both overseas and in the United States to

TRAINING | PAGE 10



FACING THE MUSIC

A flutist with the Mount Marty College concert band looks up to director Dean Rettedal during the band's annual spring performance Sunday night at Marian Auditorium. The band — comprised of MMC students and faculty, and community members — performed a wide variety of numbers, ranging from the 17th century piece "Canzona Bergamasca" to selections from the film "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest." To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)