



Area Honor Rolls • 7-10

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Beginning April 25th, Kopetsky's Ace Hardware in downtown Yankton will be consolidating to its Broadway location after 40 years.

Yankton

Downtown Ace To Close Doors, Move To Broadway

BY JORDYNNE HART
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After 40 years of business, Kopetsky's Ace Hardware in downtown Yankton will be closing its doors and consolidating to its 2404 Broadway location.

"We tried as hard as we could to keep it open," general manager and store partner Ken Kopetsky said. "I mean, we put our blood sweat and tears into it to keep it going as long as we possibly could. Our hope was as the community grew, it would grow, too. But the growth of the community has been primarily to the north. It's not like every new household became a customer of (the downtown) store — they became a customer of (our new) store."

According to the business's website, Kopetsky's Ace Hardware started in downtown Yankton in 1975 when Leo Kopetsky purchased a 3,500-square-foot Coast to Coast hardware store.

Since 1975, the downtown location has moved twice and had one affiliation change to Ace Hardware.

In 2006 the decision was made to expand to a new and larger operation on North Broadway in the former Ecnofoods building.

"A lot of the business migrated to this store instead of the downtown one," Leo Kopetsky said. "It is just time to do things a little different. The reality of life is, we had no business having two stores in a town this size. How we made it work — I don't know. But we did for a lot of years. When we bought this building, our whole intention at that time was we were going to move the store and do something with the old store. That was eight years ago."

Though the Kopetsky family tried to

ACE | PAGE 20

Up To The Schools

Schools Will Be Asked About Transgender Athletic Policy

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Directors for the South Dakota High School Activities Association voted unanimously Wednesday to proceed with a survey of schools on whether they prefer a statewide or local policy on transgender athletic participation.

The association directors will informally review the questions before the survey is conducted in May. The association staff will compile the results and make recommendations for the directors to consider at their



Bolin

June 9-10 board meeting. The directors adopted a policy one year ago that sets the process for transgender students to apply to participate as members of opposite-sex teams. The policy has since blown into a major controversy for the Legislature.

Four Republican lawmakers — Rep. Jim Bolin of Canton, Rep. Steven Haugaard of Sioux Falls, Rep. Scott Craig of Rapid City and Sen. Brock Green-

field of Clark — spoke to the directors Tuesday during a public discussion about the policy.

The legislators called for its repeal or at least modification. Several attempts to override the policy fell short in the Legislature earlier this year.

The directors and their staff, including executive director Wayne Carney who brought the policy to the board last year, took up the matter again Wednesday.

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A Challenge To Yankton



Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether, who is a native of Yankton, took part in several events in his hometown Wednesday, ranging from a speaking appearance at the 1 Million Cups meeting, talking to a Yankton High School history class and this appearance at Yankton Middle School, where he fielded questions from sixth- and seventh-graders. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Huether Offers Advice To Hometown

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Today, Mike Huether holds the title of mayor of Sioux Falls — but during Wednesday's meeting of Yankton's One Million Cups, he was sure credit those in his hometown that got him to that point.

"One of the biggest reasons for my personal success is because of all of you," Huether told the audience. "I've got teachers in the room who invested their time and their talent in me. I've got coaches in the room that did the same. I love this town. You folks have cheered for me, you have prayed for me along my life's journey and I'm thrilled by it."

Huether was in town Wednesday to impart some of what he's learned from his own experiences of running a city and was quick to point out that while he is a great supporter of Yankton, he also intended to issue

the city as challenge to strive to be better.

"I'm here for a reason — I love this town, but I am going to mention some things today that are going to make some of you uncomfortable, and I think you need it," he said. "There were times in my life where I was challenged to an even greater level. ... Yankton, I'm going to do the same for you today."

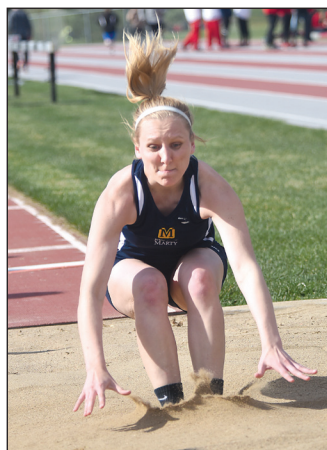
For nearly two hours, Huether testified on the importance of confidence, partnerships between public and private enterprises, and keeping the fiscal house in order while stressing the critical need to maintain and procure solid infrastructure systems and quality-of-life investments in the community.

Huether said the city boasts a number of strengths as well as areas to improve.

Among those strengths was the election of four new faces to the five-member Yankton County Commission in

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Sports



MMC Hosts Twilight Meet

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Our Towns | Bon Homme Co.

Tabor Students Help Mother Nature Pollinate

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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TABOR — At a local plot of ground, birds and bees aren't the only ones helping with pollination.

Tabor elementary students walked the Game, Fish and Parks property Wednesday, tossing handfuls of wildflower and other pollinator plant seeds — a modern-day version of Johnny Appleseed.

It wasn't always easy, as a brisk wind blew the seed hither and yon. As the seed was planted — or blown about — a group of boys dragged the field for the final touch.

Fifth grader Nathaniel Hall said it was an

experience he won't soon forget.

"It's really fun," he said. "I'll remember it, and I'm glad to help the environment."

It was all part of the "Pollinator Project" sponsored by the Yankton area chapter of Pheasants Forever. The 44 students in the K-5 school learned about the process and importance of pollination.

The Pheasants Forever chapter provided \$1,000 worth of seed, according to chapter vice president Ron Pesek. The seed includes a mix of native flowers.

The fruits of the students' labors won't be

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
A Tabor elementary student battles the wind while spreading a cupful of seed for Wednesday's "Pollinator Plot" event at a field northwest of Tabor.