



Gazelles Open Fall Softball Season At Home • **7**

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

f t r Volume 140
Number 103

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **16 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢



Plaza Gets OK Vote

Commission Accepts Bid For Project Near Meridian Bridge

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The Meridian Bridge Plaza construction project cleared a major hurdle Monday as the Yankton City Commission approved Wellf Construction's \$475,800 bid. The motion also included a \$48,000 bid for shading structures for a total project cost of \$523,800.

Commissioner Jake Hoffner said this project provides a necessary connection between downtown and the pedestrian bridge.

"The goal is to link downtown with the bridge, and I think this is one of the links we can start with," Hoffner said. "I think it's responsible government in action meeting with the community over the last seven years debating it, looking at it. And I think it's time to move on."

Mayor David Carda said he was happy to see the work that had been done



Akland

to bring the cost of the project down.

"There's people that have worked on this for quite a while and this is what they've brought in front of the Commission," Carda said. "It is considerably less than the \$966,000 which had been discussed for a while. It got paired down quite a bit, and I think a lot of work has gone into it so far."

But there was some hesitation on the part

CITY | PAGE 11



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Two students at Yankton's Webster Elementary School shoot some hoops on the playground Monday morning. The school is working to secure a grant for new playground equipment.

A Student Of Life



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Mary Pistulka, RN, Hospice Nurse for Avera@Home, in Yankton is one of the top finalists for the NAHC and Hospice Nurse of the Year Award for 2014.

Pistulka Finalist For National Hospice Honor

BY JORDYNNE HART
jordynne.hart@yankton.net

Though Mary Pistulka has worked at Avera as a hospice nurse for 26 years, she believes she is still a student.

"The patients always teach me more than I teach them," she said. "What I learned the most from them is to appreciate my life and my health and to recognize that family, faith and friends are what matter."

Pistulka, RN for Yankton's Avera@Home, has been named one of the top 10 finalists in the running for the National Association for Home Care (NAHC) and Hospice Nurse of the Year for 2014.

The public is invited to visit NAHC's website to vote for this year's winner. To vote for Pistulka, go to www.nahc.org and find the 2014 Nurses of the Year link under the consumers tab or go

to www.nahc.org/consumer-information/2014-nurse-of-the-year-nominees.

"I feel honored. Hospice care is so dear to my heart," Pistulka said. "To be recognized among other home care and hospice people means a lot."

She is the only South Dakota nominee this year.

At Avera, Pistulka has been a lead nurse for the hospice program developed in Yankton. Pistulka continues to expand this program by meeting with physicians and people in nursing homes so they really understand what hospice is about.

"There are plenty of people that could benefit from hospice but don't know about or don't want to talk about it," Pistulka said. "The doctors don't always think of it as soon as they should."

Every year, NAHC encourages members to nominate a nurse

AWARD | PAGE 11

Missouri Shooting

Mourners Urge U.S. Blacks To Take Action

BY JIM SUHR
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The mourners filled an enormous church to remember Michael Brown — recalling him as a "gentle giant," aspiring rapper and recent high school graduate on his way to a technical college.

But the funeral that unfolded Monday was about much more than the black 18-year-old who lay in the closed casket after being shot to death by a white police officer. The emotional service sought to consecrate Brown's

death as another in the long history of the civil rights movement and implored black Americans to change their protest chants into legislation and law.

"Show up at the voting booths. Let your voices be heard, and let everyone know that we have had enough of all of this," said Eric Davis, one of Brown's cousins.

The Rev. Al Sharpton called for a movement to clean up police forces and the communities they serve.

"We're not anti-police. We respect police. But those police that are wrong need to be dealt with just like those in our community



ROBERT COHEN/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT

The casket of Michael Brown exits Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church at the end of his funeral on Monday.

that are wrong need to be dealt with," Sharpton said.

Two uncles remembered how Brown had once predicted that someday the whole world would know his name.

"He did not know he was offer-

ing up a divine prophecy," Bernard Ewing said.

More than 4,500 mourners filled Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis for the

FUNERAL | PAGE 15

Webster Seeks Public Help For Playground

Online Voting Under Way To Secure Wellmark Funds

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@yankton.net

With a simple click of a computer mouse, the community of Yankton can help Webster Elementary School continue its winning ways.

Webster is in the running for a \$7,500 grant from Wellmark and it needs the support of the Yankton community to help win it.

"Wellmark is celebrating its 75th anniversary," said Kristy Welker, a member of the Webster school parent organization, Winners of Webster (WOW). "They are giving away 10 grants to improve community health as a way of saying thank you to the communities that have supported them in South Dakota and Iowa."

Webster Elementary, the smallest elementary school in the Yankton School District (YSD), is in the second year of fundraising to purchase playground equipment for its students, explained principal Melanie Ryken. One way they are raising funds is by seeking out grants, such as the one from Wellmark.

"If you look at our playground, we really don't have any playground equipment for our 'older' students — and by older students, I mean our Kindergarten through fifth-grade students," she said. "We have a new playground area for our pre-school and junior-kindergarten students, but other than the basic swings on the west side of the school, we don't have any equipment for the older students."

WOW is working to change that, hoping to raise \$30,000 to purchase new playground equipment, Welker said.

"We are about half-way there right now," she said. "Our goal is to get the money raised so we can have the equipment installed by the start of the next school year. The Wellmark grant would go a long way to meeting that goal."

However, as soon as the \$30,000 goal is reached, Ryken said the school plans to install the equipment.

"Our current fifth-graders were saying it isn't fair that they won't get to play on the new playground because they will be in middle school next year," Ryken said. "We already have the funding in place through the school district's capital outlay fund for the safe surface that will go under the equipment. We have also already been looking at what equipment we wish to purchase, although the final decision will be made when we see how much we raise. Because of that, if we win the grant and, say,

WEBSTER | PAGE 11

CORRECTION

In the *Press and Dakotan*' story "Local Gardeners Share Harvest" that was published Saturday, it was incorrectly stated that a donor was the Yankton Federal Prison Camp. The Yankton Trusty Unit, located near the Human Services Center, donates produce from its garden to the Contact Center. We apologize for the error.