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Sports



Irene-Wakonda
Tops Freeman • 7

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County Saw Rise In Fatalities In 2014

BY ROB NIELSEN
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While many law enforcement statistics stayed the same between 2013 and 2014, Yankton County Sheriff Jim Vlahakis said he only saw one major jump.



Vlahakis

"The one that sticks out is the fatality accidents," Vlahakis said. "In 2002 we had two and in 2014 we had eight accidents, but 10 deaths resulting from the accidents."

Vlahakis said there wasn't any singular reason for such a large spike in the number of fatalities.

One statistic at the county level that saw a large drop was the number of concealed weapons permits. In 2013, 671 permits were issued versus 387 in 2014.

Vlahakis said the political climate of the time contributed to such a large number of permits.

"We had a big run on pistol permits back in 2013," he said. "That's when the federal government was talking about changing laws and banning certain weapons."

He added that permits for this year are running a bit above normal.

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A SONG FOR

Kaitlyn



COURTESY PHOTO

In honor of Yankton native Kaitlyn Erickson, the Doane College Choir will sing at St. John's Lutheran Church in Yankton Thursday, Feb. 19, and at Kaitlyn's grave site the following day. Kaitlyn, who was a member of the choir, passed away in 2014 after a nine-month battle with Ewing's sarcoma.

Choir To Honor Lost Friend

BY JORDYNNE HART
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"Sometimes when words fail, music can still speak."

When Dr. Kurt Runestad, director of the Doane College choir of Crete, Nebraska, heard this old adage, he thought of a very special student who has touched the lives of many.

Kaitlyn Ann Erickson of Yankton passed away Feb. 28, 2014, after a nine-month battle with Ewing's sarcoma, a very rare form of soft bone tissue cancer.

Kaitlyn sang soprano for the Doane choir until she was diagnosed with the cancer after

her sophomore year of college.

In her honor, the Doane choir will sing at St. John's Lutheran Church in Yankton Thursday at 7 p.m. and at Kaitlyn's grave site the following morning.

"This is therapy for all of us," Runestad said. "Music is beautiful that way."

But for Taylor Anderson, this is not good-bye. It's a "see you later."

"I don't think I will ever be able to say good-bye," Anderson said. "Kaitlyn was my suite mate, my choir and golf buddy and my best friend. She

CHOIR | PAGE 12

Will SD Expand Medicaid Program?

No Agreement Yet To Pay For Health Program

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — Democrats pushing an expansion of the state's Medicaid program are working behind the scenes with the South Dakota health care industry to figure out a way to pay for it, but so far they've made little apparent progress on a deal with the Republicans who control state government.

Sen. Bernie Hunhoff, a Democrat from Yankton, said on Monday that members of the industry are "working seriously" to figure out how to make an expansion happen. But with less than half of this year's legislative session remaining, Democrats haven't reached an agreement with Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard or the GOP supermajorities in both chambers of the state Legislature.



Hunhoff

"The calendar pages are flying by, but I do think we're making good progress," Hunhoff said. "There's too much at stake."

Hunhoff said a regional director from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is scheduled on Thursday to have an informational meeting with legislative leaders and Gov. Dennis Daugaard's administration.

Daugaard said in a recent interview that he's open to expanding Medicaid to cover the most vulnerable South Dakota residents, but his main opposition remains how much an expansion is expected to cost South Dakota. Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government would cover the cost of the expansion until the end of 2016, with the federal share dipping slightly each year afterward until it settled at 90 percent in 2020.

In rebuffing Democrats' calls for an expansion leading up to the 2015 legislative session, Daugaard cited a 2013 study his administration commissioned that found an expansion would

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Water, Air Concerns Heighten Conflict With Pig Farms

BY DAVID PITT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — From Washington state to North Carolina, federal lawsuits are challenging the efficient, profitable livestock industry to change its ways. The arguments found in the suits are based on studies that increasingly show the impact phosphorous, nitrate and bacteria from fertilizer and accumulated manure have on

lakes and rivers as well as air pollution that may be harmful to respiratory health.

Large-scale livestock farmers insist they're using techniques to keep manure and fertilizer from draining into waterways, though fifth-generation Des Moines farmer Bill Couser says, "We realize this is not going to happen overnight or in two years."

However, those who rely on rivers and lakes for drinking

water or live near such farms — especially in the top two hog-producing states of Iowa and North Carolina — are growing impatient, and their lawsuits serve to highlight the debate between the right to raise livestock and the right to clean water and air.

Earlier this year, a federal judge in eastern Washington ruled that an industrial dairy

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Birds Of A Feather

These pigeons hunker down for some rest and to soak up some fading sunlight late Monday afternoon on the tower above the United Church of Christ (Congregational) in Yankton. A cold front moved through late in the day, causing temperatures to gradually fall into the nighttime hours. Temperatures for today (Tuesday) are expected to struggle to reach 20 degrees, all of which will be carried along by brisk winds. Readings are expected to climb into the upper 30s by Friday before dipping again for the weekend. For weather details, see page 2. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

TONIGHT
MEN'S HOOPS
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. SIOUX FALLS STATE
7 P.M. - DAKOTADOME

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SATURDAY
MEN'S HOOPS
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE VS. JAGUARS
2 P.M. - DAKOTADOME



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TOMORROW: County Commission To Discuss Agricultural Survey

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
NORTH
OF 15TH STREET