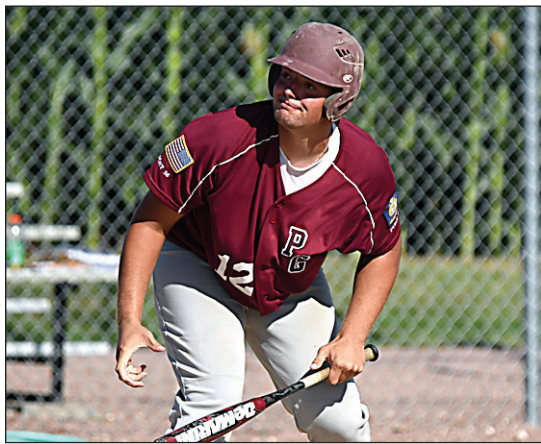




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COURTESY PHOTO
South Dakota Lt. Gov. Matt Michels of Yankton was honored last week with the Public Leadership in the Arts Award for State Arts Leadership from the group Americans for the Arts.

Michels Honored For Art Dedication

BY REILLY BIEL
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An appreciation for art runs in Matt Michels' family.

This was made evident when he received the Public Leadership in the Arts Award for State Arts Leadership from the Americans for the Arts organization on July 8 for his role in supporting the arts in the state of South Dakota.

"This is a humbling honor," said Michels, Yankton attorney and lieutenant governor for South Dakota. "I accept this award not on behalf of myself, but on behalf of the South Dakota Arts Council and South Dakotans for the Arts. Organizations like those are the heart and soul of arts in the state and they've taught me a great deal."

Originally getting his start in health care as a nurse, Michels saw the healing effects art could have in behavioral health and healthcare recoveries.

"I've been privileged to work with organizations that provide visiting artists and money for the patients to explore the arts," said Michels. "It helped provide them with a calm, non-judgemental environment for them to express their views."

Michels has used his position as lieutenant governor to garner

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County OKs Levy



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

During a special county meeting Wednesday, Yankton County Commissioner Ray Epp addresses a concern expressed by a member of the public about a proposed tax levy to be used for roads and bridges. On the day of the deadline for applying to the levy, the County Commission unanimously passed the levy proposal.

Commission Passes Road And Bridge Tax

BY ROB NIELSEN
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With revenues not being enough to help cover road costs in the coming years, Yankton County is enacting a new tax option to help ease the strain.

During a special meeting Wednesday, the Yankton County Commission voted unanimously to approve a property tax levy of 90 cents per \$1,000 of valuation to help aid in funding of road and bridge improvements in the county. The levy is effective starting with the 2016 budget year. The deadline for passage was Wednesday, or the commission would've had to wait another year to consider the levy again. A two-thirds majority was

"None of us up here, me included, want to pay more taxes. ... Unfortunately, what we found (is) there's not enough money there. This gives us an opportunity to start taking care of our roads and bridges."

TODD WOODS

required for passage.

Woods said while no one wants to raise taxes, this was a necessary measure.

"None of us up here, me included, want to

pay more taxes," he said. "We went through the budget line by line to be very diligent about how we could take some fluff out. Unfortunately, what we found (is) there's not enough money there. This gives us an opportunity to start taking care of our roads and bridges."

The levy became an option after the passage of Senate Bill 1 during the 2015 legislative session. Funds raised from the levy are only allowed to go to roads infrastructure and cannot be appropriated elsewhere. Woods said the county will take in roughly \$1.5 million extra each year with the levy in place with minor fluctuations possible from year to

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Yankton

Artists To Kids: Draw On Inspiration

BY ALYSSA SOBOTKA
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Batman, The Flash and Wonder Woman all made an appearance at the Yankton Community Library Wednesday as part of its summer, superhero reading program.

Or at least their creators did.

Midwesterners Eric Gapstur and Sean E. Williams spoke to area youth, as well as a few adults, about the process of making comic books, how they began and how youth could get started.

"I love comics and spreading the love for them," said Gapstur "Spreading that enthusiasm and seeing that in kids (is why I'm speaking today)."

Gapstur is a comic book illustrator with DC Digital who resides in Iowa. His most common work includes the artwork of "Batman," "The Flash" and "The Green Hornet."

Also a contributor to DC Digital, Sean E. Williams wrote "Sensation Comics Featuring Wonder Woman," as well as "Vampire Diaries," "Fairest" and his original - "Artful Daggers" - under his self-owned publishing company.

"The process of making a comic book is not apparent to everyone, that's why I like doing (presentations)," Williams said. "I think it makes people appreciate comics more because



ABOVE: Sean E. Williams, a comic book writer and a contributor to DC Digital, explains the material that aspiring comic-book authors and artists can read in order to learn about the business. Williams and comic book illustrator Eric Gapstur presented a program on their profession Wednesday at the Yankton Community Library. RIGHT: Gapstur draws a character on some paper at the request of Rebekah Frederick of Yankton during Wednesday's program at the library. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Summer Hail Prompts Snowplows In Rapid City

RAPID CITY (AP) — A brief but intense hailstorm that dropped as much as 4 inches of slippery pellets in a South Dakota city prompted officials to call out snowplows in the middle of summer.

Pennington County Sheriff's Deputy Matthew Jackson tells the *Rapid City Journal* that the Tuesday night incident on U.S. Highway 16 south of Rapid City was "definitely weird" for mid-July.

The National Weather Service says pea-size hail pelted the highway for about 15 minutes. Jackson says the area was shrouded in heavy fog as the hail melted and a few cars went off the road, but that there were no serious injuries.

