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VOLUME 138  
NUMBER 266

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **TWO SECTIONS** | [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)



Inside Today

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# One-Time Funding Could Help YSD

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
[andrew.atwal@yankton.net](mailto:andrew.atwal@yankton.net)

The South Dakota Legislature approved spending more than \$6 million in one-time funding to provide aid to technical schools and school districts. The amount equates to around \$45 per student across the state.

The funding could help Yankton School District (YSD) close its nearly \$1.6 million budget shortfall.

The House approved the measure 65-3, and will now become law if Gov. Dennis Daugaard signs the bill.

YSD school board president Chris Specht said any money allocated by the Legislature is appreciated by all districts across the state. However, he said one-time money also has its downsides.

“The problem with one-time money is it does not allow districts to plan for the future, nor does it help reduce the 10 percent revenue cut from prior years,” Specht said. “We all want more from our government, but no one wants their taxes to increase and no one wants their benefits cut.”

The school state aid formula is based in part on a per-student allotment. That allotment increases annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or 3 percent, whichever is less. For this year’s overall state budget, Daugaard recommends a 3 percent ongoing increase in state aid to school districts.

In FY 2012, Daugaard announced funding cuts across the board, which included cuts to education. Schools across the state were projecting about a 5 percent decrease to funding, but that decrease turned out to be more than 8.5 percent.

“If the state does give out one-time money, it’s based on next fall’s student enrollment,” YSD business manager Jason Bietz said. “If the \$45 per student becomes law, you make an assumption, based on today’s enrollment, that this would bring around \$118,000 to Yankton School District.”

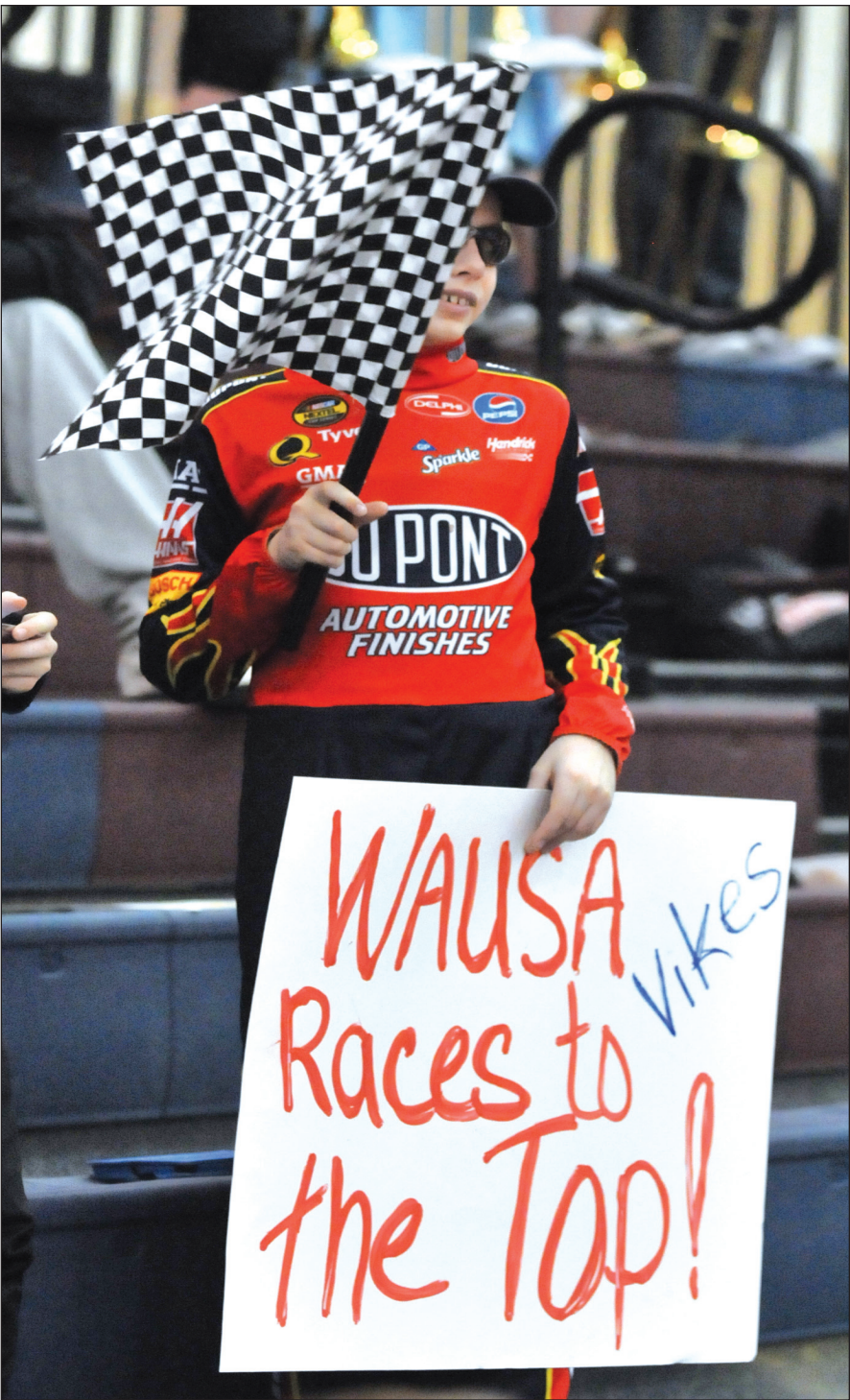
However, Bietz is not ready to take that figure to the bank.

“We really don’t know what to fully expect yet, since the bill hasn’t been signed by the governor and we don’t know all the details surrounding the one-time money,” he said. “We appreciate one-time money, but we’re still searching for a long-term solution.”

The bill spends around \$5.8 mil-

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## VIKINGS’ RACE ENDS EARLY



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

A Wausa fan cheers on the Vikings during their Class D2 opening round game with Spalding-Spalding Academy on Thursday at Lincoln North Star High School. Wausa's season was black-flagged, as the Knights beat Wausa 65-62. For more results, see page 7A.

## Speaker:

# Death Penalty Rooted In Mythology

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
[nathan.johnson@yankton.net](mailto:nathan.johnson@yankton.net)

The idea that the death penalty provides justice is largely based on mythology, according to Dr. Alexander Mikulich.

Speaking to a Yankton audience Thursday night, he made that argument with facts and — as a Roman Catholic social ethicist, activist and scholar — also with theology.

Mikulich, an associate professor from the Loyola University Jesuit Social Research Institute in New Orleans, delivered his speech, “Ethical Issues and the Death Penalty,” as part of the Mount Marty College Benedictine Institute lecture series. The event, held at Marian Auditorium at Mount Marty College, is sponsored by the

school’s Benedictine Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Social Justice.

To get the audience reflecting on the death penalty, Mikulich used an exchange from J.R.R. Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings” series.

Frodo tells Gandalf the Wise that Gollum deserves death.

In response, Gandalf says: “Deserves it! I daresay he does. Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. For even the very wise cannot see all ends.”

Mikulich then instructed the audience to think about Donald Moeller and Eric Robert, the two men South Dakota executed last fall.

“We may feel with Frodo that these individuals who committed these murders deserve death,” he said. “But then we might also want to hesitate to reflect with Gandalf about issues of guilt, innocence, justice and the meaning of hope.”

This notion was given real-life resonance during the question-and-answer portion of the lecture, when a man in the audience indicated that he believed Saddam Hussein was one who deserved to die.

Mikulich said that the only instance in which Catholic teaching allows the contemplation of the death penalty is when someone is a threat to the common good.

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Alexander Mikulich, an associate professor from the Loyola University Jesuit Social Research Institute in New Orleans, argued against the death penalty Thursday as part of the Mount Marty College Benedictine Institute lecture series.

and reaches out to anyone willing to volunteer in the event of an emergency.

“If we need 15 people to set up a shelter, we can send out a message and round up one group for the job,” Scherschligt said.

Anyone can sign up by going to the website <http://serv.sd.gov>, he said. The entries will go under Yankton County’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), but it’s not lim-



Scherschligt

ited to Yankton County residents or even South Dakotans, he said.

“This will really cut the response times if we have the names already out there,” he said. “What’s nice about the system, if we’re in the middle of a tornado wiping out an area, I can go to our database and send out the alert (for volunteers) earlier.”

Yankton County CERT leaders will contact registrants with training and deployment opportunities, Scherschligt said. “We can send out messages via phone and email, and it will

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## THE LION SINGS TONIGHT

Soloist Jeffrey Miller leads the first- and second-grade students at Yankton’s Webster Elementary School through the roaring song “I’m A Lion” during Webster’s spring concert, held Thursday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Students in grades 1-2 performed the program “Child of the World,” while students in grades 3-5 presented the program “Celebrate You and Me.” Both programs emphasized self-worth, acceptance and understanding among children. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net). (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



## SERV SD Offering Online Pre-Registration

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
[randy.dockendorf@yankton.net](mailto:randy.dockendorf@yankton.net)

During emergencies, valuable time can be lost rounding up volunteers for disaster relief.

Now, citizens can register online ahead of time to offer their services if needed, according to Yankton County emergency manager Paul Scherschligt.

The Statewide Emergency Registry of Volunteers in South Dakota (SERV SD) coordinates the pre-registration of individuals. The system operates under the state Department of Health