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**The 2013 Riverboat Days Theme Is ...
RIVER CITY • 2B**

75¢



Baby Death

Wagner Woman Sentenced

Cournoyer Gets 22 Years For Drug Use, Not Reporting Death

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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LAKE ANDES — A Wagner woman will spend up to 22 years in prison for using drugs while a toddler lay dead in the closet of her home for up to two days. Laurie Cournoyer, 29, was sentenced Thursday in First Circuit Court at the Charles Mix County court-

house in Lake Andes. The sentencing concluded a case that began nearly a year ago. Presiding Judge Steven Jensen pronounced sentence on Cournoyer. The judge handed down nearly the maximum sentence of 30 years. Attorney General Marty Jackley announced the sentence in a press release. Cournoyer was sentenced to 10 years for posses-

sion of methamphetamine; five years for keeping a place for use or sale of controlled substances; and five years for failure to report the death of a child. All three sentences are to run consecutively. The charges stem from a July 4, 2012, incident involving the death of 2-year-old RieLee Lovell found dead in a closet. Cournoyer and her husband, Taylor, were caregivers for the child at their home in a Wag-

WAGNER | PAGE 3A



P&D FILE PHOTO
Mike Durfee State Prison (MDSP) Warden Bob Dooley grabs a construction helmet as he leads a 2009 tour of inmate work programs at the Springfield facility. Dooley will take on additional duties this summer as the director of prison operations for the South Dakota Department of Corrections.

Mike Durfee Warden Up For Challenge Of New Role

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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SPRINGFIELD — Warden Bob Dooley doesn't believe in just sitting behind his desk at Mike Durfee State Prison (MDSP). He tours the grounds, checking on the daily operations and speaking with staff and inmates at the Springfield prison. Besides his work at Springfield, he oversees minimum security units in Yankton and Rapid City. Dooley will take that kind of hands-on approach to the next level as the director of prison operations for the South Dakota Department of Corrections (SDDOC). He will assume those duties upon the retirement of Warden Doug Weber this summer. In his new role, Dooley will report directly to the state corrections secretary. He will take on the new position in addition to his present duties. "I will continue to be the full-time warden in Springfield, Yankton and Rapid City," he said. "In addition to being the director of prison operations, Doug Weber is also the warden of the Sioux Falls prisons. With his retirement in June, we will be hiring a new warden. Warden Weber's deputy warden, Daryl Slykhuis, is also retiring this spring, and his replacement will be announced in the near future."

Weber's position is responsible for the planning, operation and management of the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls. He also oversees Pheasantland Industries, an inmate work program. Applications for Weber's vacancy should be submitted by today (Friday) to the Bureau of Human Resources. While Dooley will remain at Springfield, one major personnel change is under way at the prison. "Deputy Warden Dallas Schneider of MDSP is retiring in April," the warden said. "His replacement, Jennifer Stanwick, has already been appointed. I don't anticipate any other changes."

WARDEN | PAGE 2A

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Remembering The Fallen

Yankton Woman Reflects On Losing Husband To War

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of stories looking back at the impact of the Iraq War on the 10th anniversary of the beginning of combat operations.

BY DEREK BARTOS
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It's been more than seven years since Kay Schild's life changed forever, but she can still recall the moment as if it happened yesterday.



R. Schild

She was at her home in Tabor when two military officers approached her house. They had been sent to inform her that her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Schild, had been killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. "I remember the guys coming up to the door," Kay said. "When I close my eyes, sometimes I still see that." Richard and Staff Sgt. Daniel M. Cuka, of Yankton, were killed Dec. 4, 2005, when two improvised explosive devices blew up near their Humvees in Baghdad. They were members of Yankton's "Charlie" Battery of the 147th Field Artillery. Spec. Corey Briest and Spec. Allen Kokesh Jr., both of Yankton, and Pvt. Warren Bender of Redfield were also



DEREK BARTOS/P&D

Kay Schild of Yankton looks at a memorial of her late husband, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Schild, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2005. Richard was a member of Yankton's "Charlie" Battery of the 147th Field Artillery. Since Richard's death, Kay and her two children have had to learn to adjust to life without him while also keeping their memories of him alive.

SCHILD | PAGE 2A

INSIDE TODAY



Bluegrass Act To Perform At Dakota Theatre • 1B

INSIDE TODAY



USA Weekend

Sentinel Law Draws Mixed Reviews

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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With South Dakota's school sentinel bill signed into law by Gov. Dennis Daugaard last week, local law enforcement officials are expressing mixed feelings about the legislation. "As it sits, I would be an opponent of any kind of program here," Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen said. "I'm hoping we won't be faced with implementing school sentinels." Meanwhile, Yankton County Sheriff Jim Vlahakis said he accepts the will of the Legislature. "The law is in place, and if that's

something the school board wanted to do, I wouldn't stand in their way," he stated. "If somebody has to be armed in the school, we'd be better off with law enforcement like school resource officers, but that often can't be the case because of funding." According to the law, "any school board may create, establish, and supervise the arming of school employees, hired security personnel, or volunteers ... to secure or enhance the deterrence



Paulsen



Vlahakis

of physical threat and defense of the school, its students, its staff, and members of the public on the school premises against violent attack." Those armed individuals are referred to as school sentinels. Prior to implementing a sentinel program, the school board must obtain the approval of the law enforcement official who has jurisdiction over the school premises.

SENTINEL | PAGE 11A

Dems Push Assault Weapons Ban Through Senate Panel

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats pushed an assault weapons ban through a Senate committee on Thursday and toward its likely doom on the Senate floor, after an emotion-laden debate that underscored the deep feelings the issue stokes on both sides. Exactly three months after 26 children and educators were gunned down

in Newtown, Conn., the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the measure on a party-line 10-8 vote. The bill would also bar ammunition magazines carrying more than 10 rounds. Thursday's vote marked the fourth gun control measure the committee has approved in a week and shifted the spotlight to the full Senate. Majority Leader

GUNS | PAGE 11A



YMS BANDS GET IN TUNE

These flutists from the Yankton Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade band work their way through a performance of "Three American Sketches" during a concert Thursday night at the YMS Old Gym. The program, entitled "A Celebration of Music," also featured performances by the sixth-grade band, as well as the Black and Red Jazz bands. The musicians were under the direction of ReNae Jackson. To see or purchase images of this event, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)