





Crofton Girls Roll To 51st Straight Win Page 6A

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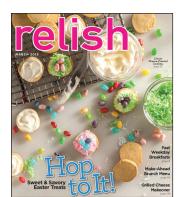


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American Profile



Relish

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Viborg-Hurley Girls **Punch Ticket To** State B's Page 6A



Grinch And Bear It



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Kristian Asfeldt of the University of South Dakota and a cast member of USD's upcoming production of "Seussical The Musical" explains the rules of the game "Pin the Heart on the Grinch" during activities held at the Yankton Community Library Thursday. The cast performed songs from the show and led a large crowd of children (and parents) on hand through several activities. Thursday's event was one of many activities tied to Read Across America Day, which was March 2. The day celebrates the birth of Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss,

Neb. Gay Marriage **Ban Is** Upheld

8th U.S. Circuit Court Of Appeals Blocks Federal Judge's Order

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

HARTINGTON, Neb. — A local advocate on equality issues said he isn't surprised a federal appeals court on Thursday allowed Nebraska's ban on same-sex marriage to

stay in place. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked a federal judge's order for the state to begin recognizing gay marriages and civil unions.

"I think it's very unfortu-nate, but I'm not surprised by (Thursday's) ruling. It's a very conservative court," said Hartington resident Daniel Kruse.

While he's disappointed the ban will stay in place, Kruse thinks Nebraska will eventually recognize samesex marriages.

"I do believe that, down the road, victory will be achieved," he said.

Kruse said he wasn't surprised earlier in the week when a federal judge struck down Nebraska's ban on samesex marriage.

"I would say this, it was r would say this, it was pretty much what I expected the ruling would be and what it was," he said. Last Monday, Judge Joseph Bataillon ruled against Ne-braska's ban following a law-

suit filed against the state last November. Seven same-sex couple filed the lawsuit, backed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Nebraska, seeking to have their marriages recognized.

The judge lifted the ban starting next Monday (March 9).

Nebraska voters passed the constitutional amendment, which defines marriage as one man and one woman, in 2000 with nearly 70 percent in favor



Nebraska **Medical** Marijuana **Debate Heats Up** BY GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. - Supporters of medical marijuana will urge Nebraska lawmakers Friday to pass a bill they say would help ease suffering, but the state's top law en-forcement official plans to fight it.

Both sides will square off in a legislative hearing on the proposal, introduced for the first time in this year's ses-sion. The bill by Sen. Tommy Garrett of Bellevue would allow marijuana to treat epileptic seizures and symptoms of other diseases.

Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson opposes the bill, saying such policies should be decided on con-

DEBATE | PAGE 2A

Emergency Riprap Action Approved

BY ROB NIELSEN

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With warmer weather imminent and the situation with the Old Highway 50 bridge near Fleeg's (Fleeg's Bridge) becoming worrisome, the Yankton County Commission voted Thursday to approve emergency riprapping around the bridge.

Commission chairman Todd Woods said it was important to take action before the spring thaw.

"The action we took today was to declare

Principal Pirate



Woods

this done as quickly as possible so we can protect the bridge in case we have ice, flooding and other things like that because it's such a vital artery to our county."

Woods said there could be some minor impacts to traffic during the riprap placement.

'We're going to have large trucks coming down to bring large rock into the area," he said. "We're going to have flaggers out there. We're also going to have it announced on the radio stations and the paper in regards to when that will be happening. ... We shouldn't have too much of a disruption in traffic, but we'll have a little bit of traffic out there that

RIPRAP | PAGE 2A

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Webster Elementary School principal Melanie Ryken is press-ganged into service as a pirate by buccaneers Raleigh Guidry (left) and Myshelle Everson in a scene from "A Pirate Adventure," the program presented by the Webster students Thursday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. The program featured grades 1-2 performing together to sing of the pirate life, with grades 3-5 combining their voices to explain "How to Be a Pirate." To see more images from this event, visit www.yankton.net/.

Joint Planning Meeting Discusses Housing Proposal

BY ROB NIELSEN

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Yankton Area Progressive Growth's (YAPG) recent proposal for relieving the city's strained real estate market by building additional affordable housing has been making the rounds at various government meetings around the county.

The topic was a major point of discussion during Thursday morning's meeting of the Yankton Čity/County Planning Committee.

Community Development Director Dave Mingo said the city will need to take a number of steps to get the project moving.

'It would be an annexation by the city and it would be an owner petition annexation," Mingo said. "After that petition is submitted, it will be reviewed by the City Commission and

recorded over at the county. There will be a number of other processes - the full subdivision process, rezoning, they're going to request a taxincrement district, for the first phase, anyway, at this point.' The project,

known as Westbrook Estates, tentatively calls for up to two apartment complexes with 70 units each for 140 total apartments, 28 single-family homes, 28 twin-homes and 16 townhomes for phase one of the threephase plan. The development is situated around the 2400 block of West City Limits Road on the west side across from the Yankton School

Mingo

MEETING | PAGE 2A

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