



Warm And Mostly Sunny

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**FRIDAY** ■ March 6, 2015



**Crofton Girls  
Roll To 51st  
Straight Win  
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## Relish

## Sports



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Punch Ticket To  
State B's  
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**14** DAYS UNTIL  
**SPRING**  
#ThinkSpring

## 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 enforcement 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 session. 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

## 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  
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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 unfortunate, 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 same-sex 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 same-sex marriage.

"I 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 Nebraska's ban following a lawsuit filed against the state last November. Seven same-sex couples 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

**BAN** | PAGE 10A

# 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



Woods

an emergency to get the riprap put on a piling over on the bridge by Fleeg's," Woods said. "We wanted to make sure we got that taken care of before the spring thaw comes in. With the weather starting to turn warm — which I think we're all happy about — we want to get 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

## Principal Pirate



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 City/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 after petition annexation," Mingo said. "After that petition is submitted, it will be reviewed by the City Commission and



Mingo

recorded over at the county. There will be a number of other processes — the full subdivision process, rezoning, they're going to request a tax-increment 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 town-homes for phase one of the three-phase plan. The development is situated around the 2400 block of West City Limits Road on the west side across from the Yankton School

**MEETING** | PAGE 2A

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**TOMORROW:** Downtown Church Looks To Start Coffee Shop

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
**NORTH**  
OF 15TH STREET