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## Governor Speaks To Honors Students

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON  
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VERMILLION — Gov. Dennis Daugaard was in Vermillion Saturday offering three points of advice to area high-achieving 10th graders: Use self-discipline, have persistence and determination, and remember the people who love you.

Daugaard made these remarks at the annual Governor's Leadership Luncheon, which recognizes high school sophomores from South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa for their academic achievement and major leadership roles in their respective communities. The event was held in the ballroom of the Muenster University Center at the University of South Dakota.

The governor encouraged the students to maintain their achievements through the use of self-discipline.

"You really have the ability — more than your peers — to achieve great things in life, whether in your state, in the nation or somewhere else in the world," Daugaard said.

Upon graduation, some of the students might attend college or a technical school, some might join the military and others the workforce, he said.

"You also will be forced to discipline yourself to achieve some of the things your parents and other authority figures in your life have disciplined you to do," he said.

"You really will have to impose upon yourself a greater self-discipline than you've had to in the years leading up to the day you graduate. ...

"It's very easy to make one bad decision that you regret for a long time," he said.

Daugaard also said he hopes the students have the persistence and



Daugaard

## SPRING RITES AT MMC



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Prospective Mount Marty College graduates Mitch Ackelson and Ashlin Aguilar prepare to lead their classmates into Laddie E. Cimpl Arena for Saturday's commencement ceremony. Ackelson, of Fort Collins, Colo., graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Aguilar, of Grand Island, Neb., graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

## New MMC Graduates Ready To Take The Next Steps

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Ashlin Aguilar faces more than the usual uncertainty awaiting any new college graduate.

The Grand Island, Neb., native received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice during Saturday's commencement at Mount Marty College. She is moving to Sioux City, where she will work as a police officer.

While law enforcement always carries risks, Aguilar acknowledged the recent shooting of a Sioux City officer. Authorities conducted a manhunt leading to a suspect's capture in Texas, near the Mexican border.

"(The shooting) makes it a little scary, but I'm still looking forward to my new job," she said, holding her young cousin.

While looking to her future, Aguilar also looks back fondly on her time at MMC.

"It's really exciting to graduate. It's been a long four years, with both studying and athletics (she played soccer)," she said.

Other MMC graduates expressed similar mixed feelings about the future.

ings about the future.

Amidst Saturday's hectic schedule, Jade Steinberg of Yankton quickly ate some fast food while awaiting the graduation processional into Cimpl Arena.

A nursing graduate, she's looking forward to a new career and home.

"It's fantastic to be graduating," she said. "I'm moving to Omaha with my fiancée — and my two dogs."

A move is also in the works for Mitch Ackelson of Fort Collins, Colo. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration and plans to pursue opportunities in his hometown.

Ackelson chose not to disclose any definite plans. "I don't want to jinx it," he said, flashing a grin.

A classroom of another sort awaits Lisa Keogh of Stuart, Neb., who received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and special education. She will start her career teaching special education for kindergarten through third grade at McCook, Neb.

"It's far from anybody I know, but people have told

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## Diplomat: Clinton Did Not Make The Call On Benghazi

Board Didn't Question Clinton At Length About The Attacks

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The seasoned diplomat who penned a highly critical report on security at a U.S. outpost in Benghazi, Libya, defended his scathing assessment but absolved then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. "We knew where the responsibility rested," Thomas Pickering said Sunday.

"They've tried to point a finger at people more senior than where we found the decisions were made," Pickering, whose career spans four decades, said of Clinton's critics.

The Accountability Review Board, which Pickering headed with retired Adm. Mike Mullen, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not question Clinton at length about the attacks but concluded last December that the decisions about the consulate were made well below the secretary's level.

Pickering and Mullen's blistering report found that "systematic failures and leadership and management deficiencies at senior levels" of the State Department meant that security was "inadequate for Benghazi and grossly inadequate to deal with the attack that took place."

Pickering's defense of his panel's conclusions, however, failed to placate Republicans who have called for creation of a special select congressional committee to investigate the Sept. 11, 2012, assault on the U.S. diplomatic mission that killed four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

The top Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee said he wants sworn depositions from Pickering and Mullen, and promised to make that request on Monday.

"This is a failure, it needs to be investigated. Our committee can investigate. Now, Ambassador Pickering, his people



Clinton

BENGHAZI | PAGE 2

## Yankton Men Honored At Ceremony

Jim Black And Bob Hanson Are Two Of Only Three Living WWII Submarine Veterans In S.D.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Jim Black and Bob Hanson form part of an elite — and rapidly dwindling — fraternity.

The Yankton men are two of only three living World War II submarine veterans in South Dakota. They played a crucial role in the underwater force known as the "silent service."

"I went over on a U.S. sub and came back with a Japanese sub," Hanson said, referring to a captured enemy vessel. The Japanese submarine was later inspected for clues to the enemy's naval operations.

Black, who was stationed at Guam during the war, recalled the infamous broadcasts of Tokyo Rose, the female radio announcer who transmitted propaganda to demoralize American forces.

"Tokyo Rose played all the Big Band songs for those of us out on the submarines, then told us we were losing the war," Black said.

Hanson and Black were honored during Saturday's special service in Yankton for the United



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels (left) visits with local veterans Bob Hanson (right) and Jim Black prior to Saturday's memorial service near Meridian Bridge for the USS Scorpion and all submariners. Next year marks the 70th anniversary of the Scorpion's disappearance, and a memorial in Yankton pays tribute to the submarine and its crew. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net).

States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) and the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. The memorial service honored the 77 crew members of the USS Scorpion SS-278, presumed lost March 6, 1944, and all submariners lost at sea.

A total of 52 U.S. Navy submarines were lost in the Pacific Ocean during World War II. There

were 374 officers and 3,131 enlisted men who perished on submarine crews during the war.

Lt. Gov. Matt Michels of Yankton spoke at Saturday's service, paying tribute to the contributions of Black, Hanson and all other submariners.

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## Nebraska

## Helmet Bill Will Get Another Ride

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — An effort to repeal Nebraska's motorcycle-helmet law will get another ride in the Legislature, this time with a new crop of state lawmakers.

Opponents who have tried for two decades to repeal the helmet law are pushing for it again, with hopes that they can find enough votes among the 10 freshmen senators who came to Lincoln because of term limits. The closest they came was in 2010, when supporters secured a 27-vote ma-

jority but failed to hit the 33 needed to end a filibuster.

The sponsor, Sen. Dave Bloomfield, said the proposal could still go through a first-round vote before lawmakers adjourn on June 5. If the session ends before the bill clears a final vote, lawmakers will hold it over until next year. Bloomfield — who rode a dirt bike around his farm in the 1970s — picked the measure as his priority bill, increasing the odds that it will see debate.

"I always wore a helmet," said Bloomfield, of Hoskins. "It makes

good sense to wear a helmet. But the government should not be requiring it. We have to do something to protect ourselves."

The Legislature's Transportation and Telecommunications Committee advanced the bill in March on a 5-3 vote. The committee proposed an amendment to the bill that would require riders to wear eye protection on highways, and only allow bikers old than 21 to ride without helmets. It also would apply to moped operators.

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## BLESSING BIKES

The Rev. Joe Mason of Kingsway Christian Church in Yankton, right, blesses a motorcycle during Saturday's bike blessing at Riverside Park in Yankton. The Rev. Dani Jo Nink of Christ The King Lutheran Church in Yankton also blessed bikes during the one-hour event. The 19th annual blessing attracted about 150 bikers from South Dakota and surrounding states. The event was sponsored by the Midwest Riders Motorcycle Club. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net). (Randy Dockendorf/P&D)



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