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SPORTS



**Area Athletes
Prove Mettle At
Howard Wood • 8**

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**City
Debates
Outside
Agency
Funding**

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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With sales tax revenue below projections and potential budget cuts on the horizon, the Yankton



Nelson

City Commission recently debated how it should handle the funding of outside agencies. The block of \$119,462 allocated to 17 different non-profit organizations or events in 2014 is a perennial subject of discussion for the commission. Questions raised this year ranged from how entities are selected for funding, to whether money to them should be cut if city departments have to implement budget reductions.

City Manager Amy Nelson said during a 2015 capital budget workshop recently that a contingency plan of 5 percent budget cuts for departments has been drafted for 2014 if sales tax revenue does not increase to projected levels.

Revenue for the first three months of 2014 was up 1.04 percent compared to 2013. The budget for 2014 assumed a 2 percent increase in revenue.

Nelson questioned whether the commission would entertain the option of funding some outside agencies with its "bed, booze and board" (BBB) sales tax revenue fund rather than its general fund. While the general fund is budgeted to zero, not all the money that flows into the BBB fund is earmarked.

In part, it's because the commission decided some time ago

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Okla. Execution Resonates

Death Penalty Gets More Attention In Nebraska

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The bungled execution of a death-row inmate in Oklahoma is casting new attention on the death penalty in Nebraska, where capital punishment remains on the books but no one has been executed in nearly two decades.

Nebraska's supply of sodium thiopental — a required lethal injection drug — expired in December, leaving the state with no approved way to carry out executions. The drug is nearly impossible to buy because like most drugs used in executions, it's produced by European-based companies that are prohibited from exporting drugs used for capital punishment.

The hurdles in Nebraska have reached a point that even some death-penalty supporters believe the state will never execute another inmate.

Sen. Bob Krist of Omaha said he considers the death penalty an appropriate punishment for the most heinous crimes. But with constant legal challenges and no approved way to carry out executions, he said, the state is wasting money.

"Without a means to do it, we really don't have a death penalty," Krist said. "If you don't have the capacity to do it, then having it on the books just means an extensive appeals process. It sets the state up for a very expensive, long-term legal fight. It just seems to me ... that life in prison without parole is the cleanest and least expensive option."

Sen. Colby Coash of Lincoln, who opposes the death penalty, said he's most bothered by the cost of appeals and the constant rehashing of heinous crimes, which keeps offenders in the public eye and makes it harder for their victims' families to find closure.

"If any other program in government were as costly and inefficient as the death penalty, we wouldn't have it," Coash said. "I think Nebraska has executed its last inmate. The guys who are on death row now are going to die there" without being executed.

Nebraska has sentenced 33 offenders to death since 1973, and of those inmates, three have been executed. The last was Robert E. Williams, who was electrocuted in 1997. Williams confessed to killing three women and trying to kill a fourth dur-

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Mount Marty: In Full Color



ABOVE: It was a colorful day on the campus of Mount Marty College in Yankton Sunday morning when MMC's Student Government Association sponsored the 5K "Running with Color" event, which attracted more than 100 participants. Participants were coated with different colors as they moved through the course. The school later held its annual Athletic Ceremony and Hall of Fame inductions at the Roncalli Center. **LEFT:** The day concluded with MMC's spring band concert at Marian Auditorium. To see or purchase images from the "Running with Color" event and the concert, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

At Least 11 Hurt In Circus Stunt Fall

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A platform collapsed during an aerial hair-hanging stunt at a circus performance Sunday, sending eight acrobats plummeting to the ground. Nine performers were seriously injured in the fall, including a dancer below, while an unknown number of others suffered less serious injuries.

The accident was reported about 45 minutes into the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus' 11 a.m. Legends show at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence.

Stephen Payne, a spokesman for Feld Entertainment, the parent company of Ringling Bros., said the accident happened during an act in which eight performers hang "like a human chandelier" using their hair.

He said the metal-frame apparatus from which the performers were hanging came free from the metal truss it was connected to. The eight women fell 25 to 40 feet, landing on a dancer on the ground.

All the performers have been doing "some variation of this act for some time," Payne said, though he didn't know how long. The current incarnation of the act began in January with the launch of the show, he said.

Providence Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare said officials and inspectors haven't yet determined what caused the accident. He said none of the injuries appears to be life-threatening.

Roman Garcia, general manager of the Legends show, asked people to pray for the performers.

"Everybody's doing fine, everybody's at the hospital, everybody's conscious, everybody's doing pretty well," he said at the Dunkin' Donuts Center less than two hours after the accident.

Rhode Island Hospital in Providence admitted 11 patients with varying injuries, including one in critical condition, spokeswoman Jill Reuter said.

**Studies Show
'Diversity
Gap' In
U.S. Schools**

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. teachers are nowhere near as diverse as their students.

Almost half the students attending public schools are minorities, yet fewer than 1 in 5 of their teachers is nonwhite.

New studies from the Center for American Progress and the National Education Association are calling attention to this "diversity gap" at elementary and secondary schools in the United States. The groups want more to be done to help teachers more accurately mirror the students in their classrooms.

Teachers are always pushing their students to excel, said Kevin Gilbert, coordinator of teacher leadership and special projects for the Clinton Public School District in Clinton, Mississippi.

It becomes easier for students to believe "when they can look and see someone who looks just like them, that they can relate to," said Gilbert, a member of the NEA's executive committee. "Nothing can help motivate our students more than to see success standing right in front of them."

More than minority students would benefit from a more diverse teacher corps, said Ulrich Boser, the author of the center's report.

"Even in a place like North Dakota, where the students aren't particularly diverse relative to the rest of the country, it's important for our social fabric, for our sense as a nation, that students are engaging with people who think, talk and act differently than them but can also be just as effective at raising student achievement in the classroom," he said.

There were about 3.3 million teachers in American public elementary and secondary schools in 2012, according to a study by the

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**Weiland: ACA Needs
To Be More Affordable**

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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A day after all five Republican U.S. Senate candidates appeared in Yankton for a Lincoln Day Dinner, Democratic hopeful Rick Weiland held a town hall meeting Saturday in the community to focus on issues such as health care and campaign financing.

Weiland is the sole Democratic candidate in the field. He will face Annette Bosworth, Stacey Nelson, Jason Ravnsborg, Larry Rhoden or Mike Rounds in November, depending on the outcome of the June Republican primary election. Independent candidates Gordon Howie, Larry Pressler

and Clayton Walker are also in the running. All five Republican candidates for the Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Tim Johnson said Friday that they want to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in favor of something else.

Weiland told his audience at Fry 'N' Pan that he, too, has problems with the ACA. He made the stop as part of an effort to revisit all 311 South Dakota towns and cities — a process he recently completed.

"We got a few things with the Affordable Care Act that I think were really good," he

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NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

Rick Weiland, a Democrat running for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Tim Johnson, held a town hall meeting Saturday at the Fry 'N' Pan restaurant in Yankton.

