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# A 'Lightning Strike'

## On The Mend, Lein Recounts School Shooting

#### **BY RANDY DOCKENDORF**

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HARRISBURG — A Superman suit hangs in Principal Kevin Lein's office, a gift from two Harrisburg High School students after being shot by a student last week.

The Harrisburg incident marks the first intentional in-school shooting in South Dakota history.

Lein was confronted on a Wednesday (Sept. 30) by HHS student Mason Buhl, who allegedly shot the principal in his office. Lein was hit in the right arm and suffered a flesh wound. He had raised his hand, and the shot went through his elbow.

Assistant Principal Ryan Rollinger heard the noise and tackled Buhl, diffusing what could have

been a much worse situation. Rollinger apprehended Buhl and held him down with help from HHS athletic director Joey Struwe.

Lein, a Mount Marty College graduate and former MMC instructor and coach, told the *Press & Dakotan* he was blessed to have the rapid response of Rollinger and Struwe.

"I think there were angels sitting on those guys' shoulders," Lein said. "Mr. Rollinger saved my life. Had he not taken the action he had, I'm fairly certain I wouldn't be talking to you. Mr. Rollinger tackled (Buhl) and had the presence of mind to move him away from my door."

The situation could have turned out much worse,

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## A Survivor's Story



# City Sees Huge Boost In Sales Tax Numbers

75¢

Harrisburg High School principal Kevin Lein, a Mount Marty College

graduate and former MMC teacher and coach, is recovering from last week's incident in which a student allegedly fired

a shot and hit Lein in the elbow. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)

BY ROB NIELSEN rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The year, as a whole, has been good to Yankton's sales tax numbers — and August saw the trend continue to new heights.

Yankton City Finance Officer Al Viereck said it was a big month financially for the city. "Sales tax through August was really good

"Sales tax through August was really good again — especially the month of August," Viereck said Friday. "We're at 6.42 percent year to date. That puts us second highest among First Class cities with only Sioux Falls being higher."

The month of August saw



**KELLY HERTZ/P&D** 

Teri Jendusa-Nicolai speaks at the fifth annual Candlelight Vigil held at the Yankton Middle School Friday evening. Jendusa-Nicolai survived a murder attempt by her ex-husband in January 2004, and has since been a strong advocate for spreading awareness of domestic violence.

### Survivor Of Vicious Domestic Abuse Case Shares Tale At Vigil

#### BY REILLY BIEL reilly.biel@yankton.net

The speaker at Friday's fifth annual Candlelight Vigil, an event honoring victims and survivors of domestic violence, showed what true strength looks like when she spoke before a large crowd at the Yankton Middle School about her near-murder at the hands of her ex-husband.

Teri Jendusa-Nicolai, of Norway, Wisconsin, along with Sheriff Chris Schmaling, who worked on her case back in January 2004, recounted the ordeal perpetrated by Jendusa-Nicolai's ex-husband, David Larsen.

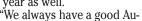
Larsen, who is currently serving life in prison, lured Jendusa-Nicolai into his home during a visitation with the couple's two children. He proceeded to beat her on the head with a bat 10 times, duct-taping her hands, feet and mouth, putting her into a garbage bin and leaving her in an unheated storage space for 26 hours. Remarkably, Jendusa-Nicolai survived.

She had known Larsen was abusive long before that day, however. During their brief three-year mar-

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D Sheriff Chris Schmaling speaks at the fifth annual Candlelight Vigil held at the Yankton Middle School Friday evening. the city bring in \$863,864 in total sales tax for a 9.23 percent increase over August 2014, which saw the city bring in \$790,874. Viereck said this exceeded expectations for the month and the year as well.



Viereck

gust, but to have a 9 percent increase above and beyond our usual good August is really good," he said. "I believe we budgeted for a 2 (percent increase in revenues) and then we upgraded our estimate to 3, so it's still well above that."

Viereck told the *Press & Dakotan* that August tends to be stronger due to the events going on.

"We always do pretty good in August because of Riverboat Days and some of the other activities," he said. "To go above an already high figure is just phenomenal. ... When the community does things to bring people in like that, those people come and spend money in our community and that helps in softening the blow on other (expense) increases."

He added that the addition of a special event and good weather for Riverboat Days helped increase traffic to the city.

"We have Riverboat Days every year, but this year we had really good weather and, from what we heard, the weather was fabulous," he said. "Stuff like (the 2015 Grand National Cribbage Tournament) is one that you don't hear a lot about, but I think they brought in about 500 people altogether between contestants, family and friends. When you bring people like that into our community for a couple of days, they're invariably going to be spending money. ... It's a tremendous boost to our economy when outsiders bring money and spend it here."

Viereck said prospects for the trend continuing are high.

"We've got some other things like Harvest Hal-

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**MONDAY:** New Church Bound For Yankton