

Capital notebook:

Weiland didn't change stance

By Bob Mercer
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – Rick Weiland became involved in politics at age 10. The year was 1968. He didn't want his older brother Ted to have to go to war as a U.S. soldier in Vietnam.

Rick pulled his wagon around Madison collecting pop bottles. Back then, bottling companies reused them and paid a deposit for their return.

His bottle money went for a newspaper ad supporting a Democratic candidate for president who opposed the war.

Rick Weiland has been deeply into politics ever since. This year he is the Democratic candidate for one of South Dakota's seats in the U.S. Senate.

A weekend ago, I trailed Weiland at several campaign appearances in Pierre. He spoke Saturday morning to the delegates meeting of the South Dakota Education Association.

He called for tax loopholes to be closed for major corporations and more money to be provided for schools.

Weiland met for afternoon sandwiches with high school students who had participated in the two-day YELL – Young Elected Legislative Leaders – event held by the South Dakota Democratic Party.

That's where Weiland told the story about his fear that Ted would have to go to war. In those days, the U.S. government held a draft to require young men to serve.

"It was my wake-up call. You'll have wake-up calls in your life," Weiland told the YELL students.

At age 20 he worked on the campaign of Democratic U.S. House candidate Tom Daschle, who won by 139 votes. Weiland spent 15 years on Daschle's House and Senate staffs.

In 1996 Weiland ran for the U.S. House seat. Weiland won the primary but lost in the general election to Republican John Thune.

He later ran again in 2002 for U.S. House but didn't win the primary. He worked as South Dakota director for AARP and as CEO for the International Code Council.

Since 2009 he and his wife, Stacy, have been involved in Sioux Falls restaurants.

After the YELL luncheon, I asked Weiland whether he voted for Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama in 2008.

South Dakota's primary was a battleground for the Democratic presidential nomination.

He paused, like someone who carries something hard to explain.

"It was her vote," Weiland said.

He voted for Obama because Clinton as a U.S. senator in 2002 supported the U.S. going to war in Iraq.

The choice was difficult because he had worked for her husband's administration – and because many Daschle staff went to work for Obama after his Senate election and Daschle's defeat in 2004 against Thune.

As for brother Ted, his number – 99 – wasn't called for the draft in 1968.

By the time eight years later when Rick Weiland turned 18, there no longer was a draft.

That era's war was over.

Council agrees to pay part of HVAC upgrade

By Travis Gulbrandson
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The City of Vermillion moved to cover 50 percent of the cost to air condition the IT room in the basement at the public safety center.

The action was taken by the Vermillion City Council during its regular meeting April 7.

The motion will cost the city \$3,998.50, making this the second time in 2014 that the city has moved in favor of upgrading the HVAC system at the public safety center.

The 2014 budget will need to be revised to account for this, with funding likely to come from the second-penny budget.

At the March 3 meeting, the city council concurred with the base bid award of \$175,608 and the first alternate bid of \$14,963 to replace the system in dispatch.

According to a city council memo, the city will be responsible

for \$38,107 of the base bid and half or \$7,481.50 of the dispatch cost.

Last week's action brings the city's total cost to the project up to \$49,577.

The memo said the police chief and sheriff initially did not recommend accepting this newest addition, as they wanted to develop another option to cool the IT room.

"After further review, it appears that accepting Alternate #2 is the best course of action," the memo reads.

The chiller at the Clay County Courthouse failed early last summer, at which time the court rented a chiller and hired John DeWit as the mechanical engineer to develop plans and specifications for a new HVAC system.

An effort to replace the chiller failed last August, when estimates submitted by Trane Turnkey Proposal were much higher than anticipated - \$62,000 for the courthouse and \$113,000 for the

public safety center.

Police Chief Matt Betzen and County Sheriff Andrew Howe told the council last summer that the system kept breaking down in 2012.

"My system is still working, the sheriff's system is still working, (but) they are at the end of their lives," Betzen had said at that time.

Howe added that the system was unreliable when the temperature changed.

"When we have a cold evening and a hot day, the system switches itself over to a winter situation," he said. "It's a water system. ...

"It's trying to protect that, so it'll turn the air conditioning off when the temperature gets to, say, 40 degrees," he said. "And then in the morning we have to reset it, turn the air back on every day. You don't notice it until about 10 a.m., when you start to notice how stuffy it is. We're always constantly resetting the system, and we don't want that."

Governor to SDNA: 'Newspapers matter'

By Bob Mercer
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – Government should be as transparent as possible and there should be a presumption of openness, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Friday night at the annual convention of the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

"I do appreciate having a free press," he said.

Daugaard said his administration is working

on having state boards and commissions improve their web sites and meet in publicly accessible places where their proceedings can be digitally broadcast over the Internet.

More financial information has been placed on state government's Internet site since he took office in 2011 and a new site for rule proposals was constructed, the governor said.

"I'm sure there are more opportunities for

improvement," Daugaard said. "I want you to help me see where those opportunities are."

Daugaard said he and his wife, Linda, still receive their weekly copy of the hometown Dell Rapids Tribune and several daily newspapers are delivered to the governor's residence.

"They're our family and our friends," he said about the people reported on in the Tribune.

Daugaard said he appreciates that tough

questions are asked by news people and that government needs to be kept in check.

"So thank you very much for choosing careers in journalism," he said.

Daugaard said he is optimistic and confident that newspapers will thrive into the future amid competitive challenges from on-line sources.

"Newspapers matter," he said.

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 4/4-10/2014

Chris Cyril Becker, 602 Birchwood Crt., Hurley; Speeding on other roadways, \$154.00 plus costs

Andres Luna-Gutierrez, 305 W. 305 W. 20th St., S. Sioux City, NE; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Robert McFall, 31284 SD Highway 19, Vermillion; Municipal speeding, \$39.00 plus costs

Ethan David Cleaver, 1510 Lewis St., Vermillion; Municipal speeding, \$39.00 plus costs

Daniel Joseph Yost, 3406 W. Courtland Apt. 3, Chicago, IL; Failure to make proper stop at stop intersection, \$54.00 plus costs

Lucas Michael Hodges, 929 Katherine St., Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Darla J. Seiders, 607 3rd Street, Fairfax; Speeding on a state highway, \$19.00 plus costs

Christopher Michael Amundson, 1007 Cottage Ave., Vermillion; Exhibition driving, \$54.00 plus costs

Nathan Jay Geerdes, 219 Forest #1, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Thomas R. Pottbaum, 508 1st Ave. SE, LeMars, IA; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Lee R. Bartak, 50678 846 Rd., Ewing, NE; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Richard Culver, 1008 East Side Drive, Yankton; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Hannah Elizabeth Hawkins, 3005 Bonnie Lane, Milford, IA; Unauthorized parking in handicapped space, \$56.00 plus costs

Shelby L. Repplinger, 2300 Indian Hills Drive #226, Sioux City, IA; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Christopher Glenn Leslie, 203 S. Lyndale Ave., Sioux Falls; Speeding on a stat highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Scott Edwin Roberts, 412 W. Dartmouth St., Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$19.00 plus costs

Jonathan David Manson, 510 N. 1st

Street, Beresford; Speeding on a state highway, \$19.00 plus costs

Scott Michael Manley, 321 E. Main St., Vermillion; Making unreasonable noise, \$54.00 plus costs

Meghan Jo Rozell, 1405 St. Andres Lane, Elk Point; \$19.00 plus costs

Armand J. Sprakel, 1506 1st St., Crofton, NE; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Rex A. Kinnear, 411 Stanford St. Lot 27, Vermillion; Obey traffic device unless directed by policeman, \$54.00 plus costs

Randall Raymond Oliver, 1001 W. 10th St., Yankton; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Tiffany Leanne Dvorak, 300255 388th Ave., Lake Andes; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Kendyll Albrecht, 2900 Douglas Ave. #206, Yankton; Speeding on a state highway, \$39.00 plus costs

Ralph A. Egbert, 307 Kingsbury St., Gayville; Renewal registration

during assigned month, \$54.00 plus costs

Kristen Michelle Hovdestad, 1604 E. 19th Street, Sioux Falls; Careless driving, \$54.00 plus costs

Justin James Sherritt, 2719 33 1/2 Avenue South, Fargo, ND; Speeding on a state highway, \$79.00 plus costs

Joseph Alan Brewer, 604 W. Broadway,

Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Stanley M. Peterson, 804 Carlton Circle, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs

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