

PULPIT REFLECTIONS

By Deacon Denny Davis

Brothers and sisters,  
As I am sure by now most of you have heard or read, our repeal of the death penalty bill was defeated in the House State Affairs Committee by one vote and therefore did not advance to the House floor for debate. It was disappointing to get so close, but we gave it all we had. I am getting calls and e-mails from around the country that many are surprised that we got the bill this fall in our first year of introduction.

I know many of you are also hurt and probably angry that we didn't even get the bill out of committee, but have no fear – we will be back in 2015.

This was my first shot at doing this kind of work, and I learned a lot this year and have some ideas about what we need to do to get ready for the 2015 session. We had a lot of good testimony this year and some of that will return next year.

I plan on doing a cost analysis on death penalty trials this year in order to have some idea what to present at the next session. Just getting this information will keep me busy for most of 2014.

There is a lot to do yet on the issue, but I am determined that we will get this done as long as we keep going back to Pierre and beating on the door of repeal.

So, don't lose heart friends we have made a good start. This will take time in South Dakota and we have been successful at getting the issue on people's minds and hearts. I never thought this would be easy and I am sure there are many obstacles to come.

Please keep praying and talking to your legislators

about this issue. All the legislators are running for office this year, so it's a good opportunity to confront all of them about where they are at on the death penalty issue. One question you might want to approach them with is, "If you say you are pro-life, then how can you be for the death penalty?"

The more that question is asked, the more the candidates will be forced to look into their souls.

Thanks you all for the good work you have done this past year. All of you are vital to getting the repeal passed here in South Dakota. We all knew this would be an uphill struggle and this year's work has gotten us a lot closer to our goal, which is life and not death.

I received two quotes last week that I want to give you as a gift for the coming year. The first is from Abraham Lincoln, who said, "The possibility that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just."

I think that our failure this year has been a wise teacher for us in the year to come. Nothing has been lost and some humility has been gained.

The second quote I received in prayer the day after the failed smoke-out on the house floor. It's from 1 Corinthians 3:7: "Neither the planter nor the waterer matters, only God, who makes things grow." Then verse 9 reads: "We are coworkers with God; you are God's farm, God's building."

We are not alone in this work, my friends. Let's keep going with hope and confidence that justice will win out for the least of these.

Polar Plunge is Saturday at VHS

The fifth annual Vermillion Polar Plunge will be held Saturday, March 29 at the Vermillion High School. Registration for the event will begin at 11 a.m., with the Plunge kicking off at 1 p.m.

Special Olympics South Dakota loves hosting Polar Plunges in Vermillion and hope to make 2014 the biggest Polar Plunge that Vermillion has ever hosted.

Polar Plunges offer participants a unique opportunity to raise money for Special Olympics South Dakota. Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$100 in order to get the opportunity to jump into frigid

waters. Sounds crazy, but Polar Plunges are a ton of fun! Individuals and teams use this opportunity to dress up in costumes, compete to see who can raise the most money and complete a "bucket list" item when they take the Plunge! There will be a ton of great prizes for individuals and groups with the best costumes!

Polar Plunges are hosted by the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics South Dakota and are the largest fundraisers held each year for Special Olympics South Dakota. This year, there will be 15 Polar Plunges held across the state of South Dakota from January to April,

with all proceeds from the events going to the athletes, competitions and special programs supported by Special Olympics each year.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® and Special Olympics South Dakota are excited to be hosting Polar Plunges once again and are looking forward to having a great time "Freezin' for a Reason" – the athletes of Special Olympics South Dakota!

Registration can be done online at www.plungesd.org. Participants can also register the day of the event. For more information, contact (605) 331-4117.

App offers new resources for local golfers

By Travis Gulbrandson  
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Getting a reservation at The Bluffs Golf Course has just become easier.

For more than a week, golfers have been able to download a free phone application that allows them to set up a tee-time, keep track of their scores and even improve their game.

The app – Active Golf – is from the Active Network and was made available to local users through money allotted by the city council.

Parks & Recreation Jim Goblirsch said the app will increase usability in several respects.

"You either had to go there and get a tee time, or you had to call (and reserve) it," he said. "Now you can create a profile on Active, and you can reserve your tee times when you want it, what day you want it, how many days out, if you're going to golf with a twosome, a foursome, if you're going to get a cart or not. It's all going to be available for you there."

The app also informs users of course closings, inclement weather and special offers.

Parks Superintendent Aaron Baedke said the app also can help

improve playing through the use of GPS, which can track a player's distance from the holes.

"You can see how far the water is, how far you need to hit (the ball) to clear the water," Baedke said.

Players also can keep track of their scores over the course of the season.

"You can have a golfer profile and see how you've improved throughout the year," Baedke said.

If The Bluffs is hosting a tournament, there also is a "leader board" option that ranks the participants by their respective scores.

Goblirsch said golf course employees have gone through more than 80 hours of virtual training including Web-based classes and conference calls to become proficient with the ins and outs of the app.

"We think it's going to streamline some efficiency out there," he said. "We hope to see some benefits of increased users. We haven't found a lot of negatives to it."

Parks department representatives are scheduled to man a booth in the Muenster University Center to get the word out among college students, while other options are being explored with the non-student

population, Goblirsch said.

"There are a lot of people in the community that are golfers who we feel are really going to take advantage of this, and just make it more user-friendly," Goblirsch said. "That's the direction we're looking at here, making it more accessible."

That accessibility extends to activities offered by the Parks & Recreation Department, as well.

"Our days of (waiting) at the Armory to sign up for swim lessons and summer programs ... are going to cease," Goblirsch said. "We're going to have the big one this summer yet, but in the fall we're going to unleash the online version of it."

Once that version is launched, visitors will be able to log on to a Web site and register for whichever activities they choose, and pay for them in one lump sum.

"You don't have to write out a check to the baseball, to the softball, to the soccer, to the city, to whatever else," Goblirsch said. "It's going to be one-stop shopping."

For more information about the Active Golf app, visit <http://www.thebluffsgc.com/>.

VERMILLION POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

03/17/14 17:25 – Caller reported two young girls were approached by a man in a car who offered them candy. A similar call came in a few minutes later, this time the suspicious man took a photo of a young girl. The suspected vehicle and driver were not located or identified. Patrol officers were given the vehicle description, a teal-colored car, possibly an Oldsmobile Cutlass, or similar vehicle with 19 county plates.

03/17/14 23:17 – Caller requested assistance with removing several intoxicated people from his property. The subjects and been at a party at a neighbor's and when it ended they migrated over to the callers property. When the police arrived, several subjects in the front yard yelled, "Cops," and all visible persons fled on foot. Officers patrolled the area.

03/18/14 00:08 – Officers contacted two young women in a local bar. They did not have identification but provided names and dates of birth. When officers started a routine records check one fled on foot, the other remained. Both subjects were underage. The remaining subject had not been consuming alcohol

and was warned about entering liquor establishments. Further she was told that her friend needed to turn herself in immediately. A few minutes later the friend returned, she also had not been drinking. She was warned about being in a bar and lying and fleeing from police. She explained she was seeking a degree in the medical field and was afraid, but had realized her actions would get her into more action. She was released with a warning.

03/18/14 00:13 – Caller requested help because a drunken man had followed her and two friends from a bar and threatened to kill one of her friends. Officers arrived to find a large man holding a realty sign over his head and attacking a much smaller man. Both were secured. Investigation revealed the large man had tried to hit on the two women who were friends with the smaller man. The three and decided to leave the bar. The larger man had followed them out of the bar, threatened them and then tried to attack the smaller man, which is when officers arrived. The larger man was arrested for assault and disorderly conduct.

03/18/14 08:19 – Yankton police sent a picture of a young man who had passed some fake \$50 bills. The Vermillion investigator recognized the man in the photo. Follow up interviews resulted in a confession and further information. Information was forwarded to the Secret Service.

03/18/14 13:03 – Officers responded to a report of a vehicle parked in a handicap parking space without appropriate credentials. Officers responded and cited the vehicle.

03/19/14 11:09 – Officers responded to a report of an estranged husband pounding on the doors and windows of the wife's home. The husband was gone when officers arrived. The complainant suspected the husband was drinking and was on probation. The court services officer was contacted and accompanied officer to the husband's home. He had been drinking and was arrested.

03/19/14 12:15 – Investigators started a sex

crimes investigation. 03/19/14 17:29 – Caller reported finding some items at an antique store that belonged to him. Under investigation.

03/19/14 21:22 – Caller reported ongoing harassment via text message for two women in Colorado. Under investigation.

03/20/14 11:45 – Caller reported a vehicle burglary. Person(s) unknown entered the caller's vehicle in the night and removed several items. Under investigation.

03/20/14 17:13 – School bus reported a vehicle passed the bus while the flashers and stop sign were activated. Under investigation.

03/20/14 18:28 – Officers were called to a hit and run accident. There was information regarding the suspect vehicle and a description of the driver. Under investigation.

03/20/14 20:02 – Caller reported a vehicle burglary. Sometime during the night, person(s) unknown entered his vehicle and took several items. Under investigation.

03/21/14 01:11 – Officers responded to a complaint of loud music coming from a neighbor's home. The music was loud and could be heard from the sidewalk outside the residence. The renter was contacted and was intoxicated and underage. He was cited for noise prohibition and minor consuming alcohol.

03/21/14 01:38 – Officers stopped a vehicle for erratic driving. The driver was intoxicated and was arrested for DWI.

03/21/14 08:21 – Officers stopped a vehicle for failing to stop at a stop sign. The driver was revoked and was cited for driving while revoked.

03/22/14 02:34 – Officers stopped a vehicle for erratic driving. The driver was intoxicated

and was arrested for DWI.

03/22/14 20:56 – Caller reported a theft that had occurred in Anchorage, Alaska. He was referred to the investigating agency.

03/22/14 23:17 – Officers responded to a report of a woman screaming next door and telling someone to get off her and that something hurt. On arrival officers contacted a woman with fresh injuries. She initially would not cooperate. A search of the residence found a man hiding in the bathroom shower. Investigation continued and the woman eventually gave a statement. The man was arrested for domestic assault. He had three previous convictions for assault.

Total Records: 20

March 31 is your last chance to enroll for 2014 health coverage Don't delay – Enroll today!

Community Health Centers have impartial assisters available free of charge to aide you in finding health coverage that fits your budget. Contact your local Community Health Center to discuss your health coverage options or set up an appointment with a Certified Application Counselor to help with the application process. You may also enroll online at HealthCare.gov, by phone at 1-800-318-2596/TTY 1-855-889-4325, or mail. In addition, you can find in-person help in your community at LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov. Contact any of the Health Centers for a location near you.

allPOINTS Health Services 605-356-3317	Falls Community Health 605-978-6890
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