

SD Dems Hope History Helps In 2016

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee says South Dakota's history of electing Democrats to Congress and the state's "independent streak" will ensure competitive races in the 2016 elections.



Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz spoke Saturday in Sioux Falls at McGovern Day 2015, a large gathering for South Dakota Democrats.

Wasserman Schultz, a Florida congresswoman, says Democrats will be competitive across the country.

South Dakota is considered a Republican-leaning state.

The GOP holds all statewide offices and supermajorities in both state legislative chambers. South Dakota's U.S. House seat and one of its U.S. Senate seats will be up for grabs in 2016.

South Dakota Democratic Party Chairwoman Ann Tornberg says the party hopes to run candidates for both those seats. Wasserman Schultz says South Dakota has "a long history" of electing Democrats.

Watertown Prepping For Obama's Visit

WATERTOWN (AP) — Officials in Watertown are working quickly to prepare the eastern South Dakota city for President Barack Obama's first visit to the state next month.

Watertown Mayor Steve Thorson tells KSFY-TV the city is repainting streets, running their street sweepers 16 hours a day and synchronizing all of its emergency management personnel.

Obama on Monday announced that he will visit Watertown's Lake Area Technical Institute on May 8. South Dakota is the only state in the union that the president has not visited.

Thorson says he's also reaching out to other smaller cities that have hosted the president to ask for advice. He says he'll consider their tips as he and the city prepare for the president's arrival over the next three weeks.

Lincoln Officer Hurt Breaking Up Fight

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Lincoln police officer was injured while breaking up a fight outside the downtown bars early Sunday.

Police Capt. Jeri Roeder said the officer suffered a cut above his right eyebrow while trying to arrest the men in the fight, but he will be OK.

One of men involved in the fight resisted officer's attempts to arrest him. Officers used a stun gun to subdue the 24-year-old.

Roeder says alcohol was a factor in the incident. The 24-year-old was arrested on suspicion of resisting arrest, assaulting an officer and failing to comply.

Church For Hispanic Worshipers Opens

MADISON (AP) — A South Dakota man has started a church catering to Madison's growing Hispanic population.

The *Madison Daily Leader* reports that Francisco Vargas has started the church Cristo Viene. Vargas has experience as a pastor and has been doing radio ministry for 13 years.

The new church is currently hosting its services at Madison's First Baptist Church. Vargas says the Baptist church welcomed Cristo Viene "with open arms."

Services in Spanish are held twice a week and Vargas says they are open to anyone.

Vargas adds that Cristo Viene is "here to stay" although it could take up to four years to fully establish a church.

SD National Guard Holding Food Drive

RAPID CITY (AP) — Volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard are holding a food drive across the state.

The volunteers will be accepting non-perishable food donations from the public through June 8 at any Army National Guard armory in the state and at the Air National Guard base in Sioux Falls.

The food drive will benefit needy individuals who live in the communities where the Guard members serve.

There are drop off locations in more than 20 cities including Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Mitchell, Pierre and Spearfish.

Ex-Union Official Sentenced For Stealing

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A former union official who was convicted of embezzling more than \$100,000 from the group he led has been sentenced to eight months of prison and house arrest.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports Ray Lineweber was sentenced Friday for stealing from the United Transportation Union between 2008 and 2012.

Lineweber apologized for the mistakes he made while leading the union's Nebraska State Legislative Board 30.

U.S. District Judge John Gerrard says Lineweber had a secret Office Depot credit card he used to buy over \$27,000 of gift cards, computers, a television and other items. He also falsified expense records. The total loss was \$102,907.

Lineweber will serve four months in prison and four months of house arrest. He was also ordered to pay restitution and complete community service.

Woman Found Trapped In Storage Unit

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A 59-year-old Fargo woman is expected to recover after she was trapped inside a storage unit for days.

WDAY-TV reports police believe the woman rents the unit from Bison Storage and had been living in there. They say she appears to have suffered mild hypothermia.

Sgt. Kevin Pallas says they had received reports of her coming in and out and thinks she just couldn't open the door this time.

The woman was taken to the hospital to be examined.

Program Finds Students With Rural Ties For Med School

PONCA, Neb. (AP) — A special Nebraska program continues to give high school students from rural areas a shot at medical school in the hope they will return to a similar area to work.

The Rural Health Opportunities Program is designed to help address the shortage of doctors, nurses and other medical workers in rural areas.

The *Sioux City Journal* reports the program offers a full undergraduate scholarship and early admission to the University of Nebraska Medical School.

Natalie Leader graduated from dental school in 2012 and now owns her own dental practice in Ponca. Leader, who is from Wayne, said she couldn't imagine living and working in a big city.

"I don't particularly love living in the city," Leader said. "There's a lot more opportunity sometimes in rural Nebraska."

The program began in 1990. Since then 420 students have graduated and 65 percent of those are practicing medicine in Nebraska. Students aren't obligated to work in rural areas but many do.

Other states have similar programs. Nebraska's is unusual in that it targets high school students instead of college students.

"We're pretty happy with it," said Dr. Jeff Harrison, assistant dean for admissions and student affairs and family medicine professor at UNMC. "It's done



PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

what it was meant to do."

The program is a partnership between UNMC and the state's three state colleges in Wayne, Peru and Chadron that attract most of their students from rural areas. Between seven and 28 students who grew up in rural areas are admitted each year.

"It goes back to the old data: Who's going to go back and practice in a rural area? Someone from a rural area," Har-

risson said. "It is kids going back to their roots."

Wayne State College sophomore Mary Alderson said having a spot in medical school already gives her peace of mind while she's studying chemistry.

"That is the thing that makes RHOP worthwhile. You're reassured that what you're doing will pay off," said Alderson, who is from North Bend.

Linguist: Dakota, Lakota Are Still Mutually Intelligible

BY LANCE NIXON
Capital Journal

PIERRE — Are they two languages or one, Dakota and Lakota? And what about the more distant cousin tongue, Nakota? And how many people speak these languages?

Linguist Armik Mirzayan at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion said a lot depends on who's doing the count and how. Part of what goes into calculating the numbers is deciding whether to use a linguistic designation or a "cultural plus linguistic" designation. Also, geographical issues make it impossible to just go to the reservations and survey the number of language speakers.

"There are communities of Lakota and Dakota speakers in the major cities in the U.S., off the reservations. Some of the cities where you can find Lakota/Dakota speakers include Rapid City, Denver, and Minneapolis, as well as several other urban areas, too, I am sure," Mirzayan told the *Capital Journal* in an email. "So, as you can see, counting numbers is hard for this context. First, the geographic distribution of the population of Lakota and Dakota speakers is complex, and second, there are groups amongst which fluency varies from semi-fluent to more fluent to very fluent. How do you count number of speakers along this kind of a graded scale?"

Deciding whether they are speaking one language is also an issue for linguists.

"I can tell you that in historical linguistic studies and linguistic reconstruction we talk about the 'Dakotan' languages," Mirzayan said. "These include: Stoney (Nakota; in Alberta), Assiniboine (Nakota; in Saskatchewan and northern Montana), as well as three major dialects that group into Santee-Sisseton (Eastern Dakota), Yankton and Yanktonai (Central Dakota), and Lakota

(the western dialect)."

Using the linguistic designation, Mirzayan added, it's possible to consider Dakota and Lakota dialects of one language because they are mutually intelligible to a large extent. He said about 70 to 80 percent of one can be understood by speakers of the other dialect.

But the same ease of understanding does not carry through between Dakota and Lakota people in trying to converse with Nakota speakers.

"Nakota, in the linguistic designation, is spoken by the Assiniboine and Stoney nations of Montana and Canada, for the most part, and it is not easily intelligible now to Lakota and Dakota speakers. Therefore, Nakota is, at this point, almost a different language, even though very obviously linguistically and culturally related to the Dakota and Lakota, as these share a lot of vocabulary and history with each other," Mirzayan said.

Mirzayan said recent linguistic surveys and anecdotal evidence indicate that Lakota speakers of all abilities, on and around the reservations of North Dakota and South Dakota, amount to about 6,000 persons, or roughly 14 percent of the total Lakota population.

"More difficult is the fact that average age of Lakota speakers is 60 or over ... probably more near 65 years old, and inter-generational transmission has been very difficult," Mirzayan said.

Things have been better the past few years with the rise of immersion schools, home immersion and other strategies, Mirzayan notes. But Lakota faces challenges.

"The language probably stopped being transmitted to children during the 1950s because of the history of boarding school language suppression and punishments that that generation received earlier. This language is 'in trouble,' but with efforts at revitalization it can

be maintained."

Mirzayan said he knows less about the number of Dakota speakers.

He said the Ethnologue, the comprehensive reference work that catalogs all the known languages in the world, puts the number of speakers of all the "Sioux Dialects" at 25,000. "This would presumably include all Lakota (a little more than 6,000) and Dakota (a little more than 18,000), but whether it includes the northern Nakota, I cannot tell," Mirzayan said.

Mirzayan adds that he questions whether there could really be 18,000 Dakota speakers and said people who work with the language put the number much lower.

Already in 1971, Mirzayan said, Sisseton-Wahpeton language scholar and artist Paul WarCloud was saying there were few Dakotas living who could speak the language fluently and still fewer who could speak all three dialects (presumably a reference to two D-dialects and the L-dialect of the Lakotas).

"More recently, Harlan LaFontaine and Niel McKay

in their book '550 Dakota Verbs' (2004) state that in Minnesota's four Dakota communities there are fewer than thirty elders that learned Dakota as their first language. They also say that probably about 6,000 people in the region can converse in the Dakota language on some level," Mirzayan said.

The number of speakers of Dakota dialects is decreasing and the same holds as for Lakota: very little inter-generational transmission, and the average age of speakers is quite high."

Mirzayan estimates the average age of Dakota speakers may be around 65 or older.

"This language is also 'in trouble,' but again, with efforts it can be maintained," Mirzayan said.

On the plus side, Mirzayan said, there are groups of second language learners and young adult learners for Lakota and Dakota, at least, who are very active in efforts to document, teach and revitalize the language.

Celebrate Women 2015

Bring Mom For A Special Day of Fun!

Power Your Heart into Life

Celebrate Women 2015

with Event Speaker Julie Clark

NEW Location!
Saturday, May 9th, 2015
NFAA Easton Archery Complex

Doors Open at 11:00 am
Lunch Served 12:30pm-1:45pm
Door Prizes & Inspirational Speaker 2pm
Booths Open at 11am

Advance Tickets Only \$20
Tickets available at Yankton Hy-Vee, Press & Dakotan & the Broadcaster

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FIRST DAKOTA NATIONAL BANK
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Yankton's Primo Women's Event!

YANKTON AREA RELAY FOR LIFE
JUNE 26-27, 2015 • RIVERSIDE PARK
SURVIVOR'S LAP • 6:00PM

4:30 - 5:30PM Survivor Registration • 5:00 - 5:30PM Survivor Celebration/Meal • 5:45PM Group Survivors Pictures

SURVIVOR REGISTRATION

Name _____ Gender M/F _____
Phone _____ Email Address _____
Date of Birth (optional) _____ Month and Year of Diagnosis _____
Type of Cancer _____ T-Shirt Size (circle): YM, YL, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
Signature _____

* I am interested in hearing more about patient-related programs/services of the American Cancer Society. Yes/No
* Please contact me about volunteer opportunities with the American Cancer Society. Yes/No
* Please send me information about donating to the American Cancer Society. Yes/No

Please send registration form by Friday, June 12th to:
Avera Cancer Institute Yankton - Attn. Darla Gullikson, 1115 W 9th St., Yankton, SD 57078

Survivor Registration form can also be completed on the Yankton Relay For Life website at
www.relayforlife.org/yanktonSD (click on Survivors & Caregivers) by June 12th to ensure t-shirt size.