



Cloudy With A Chance Of Rain

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SATURDAY ■ December 12, 2015



**YHS Basketball
Teams Open
The Season At
Mitchell • 9**

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A Mixed Prognosis



D18 Lawmakers Split On Possible Medicaid Expansion

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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To expand or not to expand?
That is the question South Dakota lawmakers will face when it comes to Medicaid — the federal health program for low-income persons — during the 2016 session starting next month. The possibility of adding to the Medicaid rolls has drawn mixed reviews from District 18 (Yankton County) legislators. Sen. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton) has emerged as a strong sup-

porter of Medicaid expansion. On the other side of the aisle, Reps. Mike Stevens and Jean Hunhoff (both R-Yankton) have taken a more cautious view.

Bernie Hunhoff gave up his Democratic leadership position to focus on Medicaid expansion. He sees a number of good reasons for extending Medicaid coverage to more of the working poor.

MEDICAID | PAGE 16

Happy Holidays



Dec. 12
13 shopping
days to Christmas

CORRECTION

- In Friday's photo, "Programming Fun," a Webster Elementary School teacher's name was spelled incorrectly. One of the classes working on the "Hour of Code" was Mrs. Gravholt.
- In Friday's *Press & Dakotan*, the story about the Vermillion school board meeting with local lawmakers was in error. The board met with legislators from District 17.

* * *

H-N Stages Fifth State One-Act Play Championship

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — With Christmas fast approaching, Hartington-Newcastle students want people to know they aren't Scrooges.

At least, they performed a play by that name — "I'm Not Ebenezer Scrooge" — and won their fifth consecutive state championship at the Nebraska one-act contest at Norfolk's Johnny Carson Theatre.

H-N won top honors in Class C2 with 176 points. They were followed by runner-up Loup City with 171 and third-place Lourdes Central Catholic with 170.

This year's production was co-directed by A.J. Johnson and Linda Kathol. Johnson also serves as superintendent of the consolidated school district, now in its second year.

The five-year winning streak actually covers two divisions, Johnson said.

"Four of the titles have been in Class C2, including this year," he said. "Last year, we were in Class C1 after the merger with Newcastle. (We were in that one-act division) for just that one year, and we won."

Regardless of the enrollment classification, the state one-act play competition remains perennially rugged, Johnson said.

"I think the competition in

PLAY | PAGE 3



Six students from Yankton High School were chosen as semi-finalists for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. The nation chooses one male and one female from each state to represent the country's top high school seniors in Washington this summer. The nominees should be notified within the coming months. Pictured are (left to right): Joseph Kelly, Andrew Pietz, Cody Perakslis, Hannah Williams, Talitha Greaver and Danielle Gillis.

ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

Some Presidential Talent

Six YHS Seniors In Running For Top Scholastic Recognition

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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Six students from Yankton High School have advanced in the search for the nation's U.S. Presidential Scholars. There are only 25 seniors chosen from around the state of South Dakota as part of the 500 semifinalists.

These seniors are: Joseph Kelly, Andrew Pietz, Cody Perakslis, Danielle Gillis, Talitha Greaver and Hannah Williams.

Each year, up to 141 students — one male and one female from each state — are named

U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. The students chosen will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the national recognition program next June.

In 1964, this recognition program was established by executive order of the president to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

This is the first year the Department of Education has accepted nominations from individual schools within the states. High School counselor Amy Reyes was excited for her students to be

recognized for their accomplishments.

"(The state) received more than 100 nominations," she said. "The fact that six of the 25 came from Yankton High School is amazing."

In previous years, students were only able to apply by invitation only, based on their scores on the SAT or ACT exam. Scholars can also be nominated by a chief state school officer or from one of the Department of Education's partner recognition organizations.

Reyes received a notification in September that

SCHOLARS | PAGE 3



Grinch On Ice

"Who" is that skating to the song "Where Are You, Christmas?" from the movie "The Grinch?" It's Hailee Privett, who turned in the performance Friday night at Yankton Figure Skating's mid-season show at the Kiwanis 4-H Ice Center. The program — called "Holiday on Ice!" — saw skaters performing to songs ranging from "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Frosty the Snowman" to "The Little Drummer Boy" and "Mary Did You Know." The team coaches also took to the ice to perform to the song "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer." (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Cities, Co-Ops Receive \$740K In Hazard Mitigation Grants

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management says nearly \$740,000 in Hazard Mitigation Grant money has been awarded since September to South Dakota cities and rural electric cooperatives for electrical infrastructure protection.

The money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is made available through a presidential disaster declaration from the Wessington Springs tornado and statewide flooding that occurred in 2014.

The awards include \$140,000 to Pierre to move an electrical line from the flood plain; \$400,000 to the city of Bryant to bury seven miles of line from the substation to the city limits; \$75,000 to West Central Electric to bury four miles of line serving Okaton; and \$37,000 to Codington/Clark Electric to bury two miles of line in rural Clark County.

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MONDAY: Downtown Yankton Looks To Past As It Considers Future

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK

NORTH
OF 15TH STREET