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Yankton One Act, "Bride: An Interview With America," Earns State Superior

Yankton National Honor Society Holds Induction Ceremony

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A SHOT OF THE DOME



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

This wide shot shows University of South Dakota senior Tempestt Wilson firing up a free throw attempt during USD's 67-45 victory over Kansas City on Saturday at the DakotaDome. Wilson led the Coyotes (12-12) with 18 points. For details on the game, see page 10.

Stage Set For L&CTC Gala Saturday

Event Is Annual Fundraiser For Dakota Theatre

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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The Lewis and Clark Theatre Company (LCTC) is set to hold its annual gala this weekend, with all proceeds from the event benefiting the Dakota Theatre in downtown Yankton.

The event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16, at Minerva's in Yankton. Tickets can be purchased by calling Michele Leibfarth at 605-661-0303. Tickets will also be sold at the door if the event does not sell out.

"There will be a live auction, silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and a dessert auction as well," Leibfarth said. "Back by popular demand this year will be Yankton's version of the David Letterman Show" featuring Chris Hilson as David Letterman with Mike Hilson as Paul Shaffer with a band, too."

The band will feature music from Jay

Gilbertson, Mark Johnson and Tom Zoss, with Ted Powell on the piano and Scott Olson playing the role of Doc Severinsen.

"Each year, the live auction has been very popular and will feature a number of dinner options," Leibfarth said. "New this year, there will be a fishing excursion with Cabela's master Walleye circuit world champion Curtis Olivier on the Missouri River.

"However, the main draw to the event has always been our version of the David Letterman show. Everyone that goes loves it, and people that don't go say they're sorry they missed out every year."

Other live auction items include a dinner with the president of USD, a dinner with the president of Mount Marty, a big barbecue party put on by Steve Huff, and a Chilean dinner. There is also another boating trip with a tour of the Gavins Point power plant.

Leibfarth added that Chris and Mike Hilson add a lot to the annual show. Chris Hilson, playing Letterman, a former radio personality, making him a natural for the role. Mike Hilson is a very in-demand area musician.

"They put the band together just for this show so it should be really nice to see," Leibfarth said. "There will also be various 'stars' that come out to the show — some back by popular demand and others who will be brand new this year."

The actors playing the stars for the show come from around the region, including some from Minneapolis, Sioux Falls and Nebraska.

"They all have a history here in Yankton and are popular individuals in town and have done performances in the past with the theatre company or high school theater," she said. "The show, as a whole, is really funny and is really professionally done

GALA | PAGE 13

Storm Blasts Parts Of The Upper Plains

Immediate Yankton Area Escapes The Brunt Of The Blizzard

From P&D and AP Reports

A powerful storm swept across much of the Upper Plains Saturday and Sunday, but the immediate Yankton area was spared the full brunt of the wintry assault.

South Dakota officials started closing interstates in South Dakota and North Dakota as blizzard conditions moved into the states.

Terry Woster with the South Dakota Department of Public Safety said Interstate 90 between Sioux Falls and Chamberlain and Interstate 29 between Sioux Falls and Watertown were closed Sunday afternoon.

Woster says falling snow and strong winds are combining to create slippery roads and near-zero visibility.

Travelers are advised to delay trips in the direction of the closed highway from either direction until conditions improve.

Yankton got away with rain and only light snow from the storm. Yankton County was originally under a blizzard watch during the first portion of the weekend, but that was downgraded to a winter weather advisory Saturday night.

Yankton unofficially received about .04 of an inch of rain on Saturday and .14 on Sunday. Some light snow did fall early Sunday afternoon. There were winds gusting to near 40 miles per hour at times.

Heavy snow and high winds made travel treacherous across

much of western and north-central Nebraska.

The National Weather Service issued a blizzard warning for much of western Nebraska on Sunday, but the blizzard warning for the Panhandle area near Scottsbluff was canceled because the storm is less severe there.

State officials closed U.S. Highway 30 between Ogallala and Chappell and State Highway 61 between Ogallala and Arthur because of snow and ice.

The weather service said 4 to 10 inches of snow could fall across much of western and north-central Nebraska on Sunday. The heaviest snow was expected to fall north of a line between Grant, North Platte, Broken Bow and O'Neill.

High winds gusting up to 50 mph were expected to create drifting and whiteout conditions.

In North Dakota, officials have issued a no travel advisory for the southeast portion of the state.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota State Patrol closed highways in western Minnesota due to hazardous road conditions.

Interstate 94 from Moorhead to Alexandria was being closed.

The Associated Press also reported that the University of North Dakota hockey team was stranded in South Dakota after of-

STORM | PAGE 13

Legislators Discuss Education, Medicaid Issues

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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When District 18 legislators met at a Saturday morning cracker barrel at the Avera Professional Pavilion, education funding and Medicaid were two of the more vigorously discussed topics.

Legislators agreed that there are a lot of issues with Medicaid that must be examined, but there were disagreements on when the state should approach the issue.

"There are a lot of issues that are going on with the Medicaid program that we need to address," said Rep. Bernie Hunhoff. "However, I spoke with someone who has worked in Medicaid for years who said South Dakota has the best functioning Medicaid program in the nation and have had that for many years here."

He added that he supports a medical bill, which a similar form was passed in Nebraska, that would give pre-natal care to babies regardless of the mother's citizenship status.

Sen. Jean Hunhoff said she thinks there must be more funding available for the Medicaid program.



From left: Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, Sen. Jean Hunhoff and Rep. Mike Stevens address the audience during a District 18 cracker barrel held Saturday at the Avera Professional Pavilion in Yankton.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

"The reality here is that we all must go through the process and see what kind of money is left over at the end of the session," she said. "If there is any money left over, the money added to various programs is only a one-time allotment. However, we do need

to have more money in Medicaid but there is really no new money out there."

Rep. Mike Stevens said if the Medicaid program was so simple, other states would have signed up for it in a snap.

"Once you get into the pro-

gram, it is highly unlikely you'll be able to get out of it," he said. "I don't think it's a stupid idea to wait and get more information about the program."

However, Rep. Hunhoff thinks the program would help South Dakota immensely and doesn't be-

lieve the state should wait any longer before signing up for Medicaid expansion.

"We have always been trying to provide care for working poor

DISTRICT 18 | PAGE 13

Significant Storm Damage Is Seen In Mississippi

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Emergency officials say an apparent tornado has caused significant damage in Hattiesburg, Miss., after passing along a main road.

Forrest County Fire Coordinator Chip Brown says there is major damage in Hattiesburg and Petal, including on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. He couldn't confirm injuries.

He said the damage was still being evaluated, but that the storm passed along a main Hattiesburg thoroughfare.

National Weather Service meteorologist Joanne Culin says there have also been reports of injuries in Marion County.

Nasty weather has settled in on much of Louisiana and Mississippi, including tornado or flash flood watches.

The National Weather Service says bad weather is likely to stretch into Fat Tuesday in southeast Louisiana. Jefferson Parish has canceled a Monday night parade.

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