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McCain: Vote On Hagel Should Go On

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's pick to be defense secretary is unsuited to head the Pentagon, but Republican senators should stop stalling the nomination and allow a vote on Chuck Hagel, a leading opponent said Sunday.

"No, I don't believe he's qualified," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. "But I don't believe that we should hold up his nomination any further, be-



Hagel

cause I think it's (been) a reasonable amount of time to have questions answered."

Republicans have angered Obama by delaying the formation of his second-term national security team, which includes Hagel, a former Republican senator from Nebraska, and John Brennan, the president's top counterterrorism adviser who's awaiting confirmation as CIA director.

Critics contend that Hagel, who snubbed McCain by staying neutral in 2008 presidential race when McCain ran against Obama, isn't supportive enough of Israel and is unreasonably sympathetic to Iran. The nomination also became entangled in Republican lawmakers' questioning of how the White House handled the Sept. 11 attack against a U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya.

GOP senators also have challenged his past statements and votes on nuclear weapons, and his criticism of the President George W. Bush's administration lingers.

Republicans last week held up a confirmation vote but have indicated that they eventually would relent and permit a vote when they return from their break on Feb. 25.

Obama's chief of staff, Denis McDonough, said Hagel, a Vietnam combat veteran, said was the right person to lead the Pentagon, and "has one thing in mind: How do we protect the country?"

Sen. Lindsey Graham, who's led the opposition with McCain to Hagel's nomination, said critics were "doing our job to scrutinize ... one of the most unqualified, radical choices for secretary of defense in a very long time."

"But at the end of the day," said Graham, R-S.C., "this is the president's decision. I give him great discretion. I can't believe one Democratic colleague is not upset by this choice enough to speak out."

VISITING MEAD



DEREK BARTOS/P&D

Visitors check out the inside of the Mead Building in Yankton during an open house Saturday afternoon. The event gave the public one last chance to tour the facility before it was closed again for a year for further renovations.

Mead Hosts Weekend Open House

BY DEREK BARTOS
derek.bartos@yankton.net

Five tons of lumber, 3 tons of roofing underlayment and 125 tons of clay tile.

The volume of materials that went into the roof restoration of the Mead Building in Yankton was staggering, but so too was the amount of man-hours and donations, said Steve Kunkel of Stonebrook Roofing.

Kunkel spoke Saturday afternoon at an open house at the historic building hosted by the Yankton County Historical Society (YCHS) and the Dakota Territorial Museum. The event celebrated the completion of the roofing project and gave the public a chance to tour the Mead Building before it was closed again for more renovations.

"It's been an amazing undertaking," Kunkel said. "It's taken an extreme amount of hours and a lot of dedication by a lot of people."

S.D. Legislators To Discuss Medicaid Expansion

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — On tap this week in the South Dakota Legislature: a special hearing on expanding Medicaid to cover more people and special spending bills that include proposals to boost state financial aid to school districts.

Here are five things to know heading into the session's seventh week:

CROSSOVER DAY

The Legislature is off Monday for the President's Day holiday, but the House and Senate will work hard Tuesday and Wednesday as they face the deadline for getting bills out of the chamber in which they originated. That deadline, called crossover day, is Wednesday. All Senate bills must be dealt with by the Senate —

either passed and sent to the House or killed — and the House must finish work on its own bills. Leaders of the Republican majority said both chambers are in good shape to meet the deadline.

SCHOOL AID

To meet the crossover deadline, the Senate Appropriations Committee must vote Tuesday on 24 special spending bills, including some that would give extra state financial aid to school districts. Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proposed increasing state aid by 3 percent next year, essentially covering inflation. But representatives of school districts have said they need more money to help recover from the effects of budget cuts made two years ago. One bill, sponsored

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USD Music Museum Looks To Expand

Vermillion Landmark Seeks \$15M Revamp

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

VERMILLION — Grammy-winning fingerpicking guitarist Pat Donohue thinks a South Dakota college town of about 10,000 is an unlikely place for a wide-ranging collection of musical instruments that includes saxophones built by inventor Adolphe Sax, a rare Stradivarius violin with its original neck and a Spanish guitar on which Bob Dylan composed some of his earliest songs.

But that's part of the charm of the 40-year-old National Music Museum, a treasure tucked away in an old Carnegie library building on the University of South Dakota campus.

Donahue, a regular performer on Garrison Keillor's radio show "A Prairie Home Companion," got to play a 1947 D'Angelico New Yorker guitar and a 1902 black and wood-grained guitar built by Orville Gibson for millions of listeners during a 2006 live broadcast from campus.

"The only unfortunate thing that I can think about it is that not enough people are going to see it because of where it is," Donohue said. "But then again, that's one of the things that make it unique."

The National Music Museum has boasted a world-class collection of musical instruments since it was established, and officials now want to build a facility to match that. The museum is looking to raise \$15 million over the next few years to triple its gallery space, improve the entrance and revamp the vast archives where music scholars can peruse the thousands of instruments and documents not on public display.

"We'll have a proper lobby and visitor reception area, which we really don't have now," said Ted Muenster, who's leading the fundraising effort for the USD Foundation. "It will be a pretty impressive complex when we're finished with it."

The expansion plans recently earned a federal seal of approval with the awarding of a \$500,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Endowment chairman Jim Leach visited the museum in 2010 and found

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CLINICAL WORK



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Andre Fields of Sioux Falls, left, works with a Yankton player on dribbling during Saturday morning's seventh and eighth grade Olympia Scott free basketball clinic at the Summit Activities Center. Fields was one of the volunteers who traveled to Yankton with Scott, a former WNBA player and two-time champion. The clinic was part of the healthy Yankton winter festival.

Fordyce Set To Celebrate Its Centennial This Summer

BY LINDA WUEBBEN
P&D Correspondent

FORDYCE, Neb. — There will be a hot time in the old town this summer when the Village of Fordyce celebrates its centennial.

The small northeast Nebraska community is planning day-long schedule of activities on Saturday, June 8. The centennial committee includes Jennifer Eickhoff, Charlie Becker, Ruth Wiebelhaus, Amanda Potts, Kurt and Cassidy Potts, John Pinkelman, Tom Pinkelman and Jeanne Kaiser.

Along with counting down four months until the big day, the committee has been ordering souvenirs for sale and planning a fun time for all ages.

Fordyce was known for many years as a railroad town and was actually named for the first railway official, William F. Fordyce, stationed at the depot. The depot was tagged Fordyce and the name stuck when the town became incorporated. In 1912, a fire destroyed several downtown businesses and the area residents realized the need for some type of a fire district. The town was incorporated in 1913 and the water tower, which still stands today, was erected in 1915 as a defense for a future fire disaster.

In 1919, there were 21 businesses around town including a bank, hotel, grocery store, post office, hardware, meat market, clothing, grain elevators and a blacksmith. A Catholic parish was started in 1909 before the town was incorporated and a parochial school built in 1919 and both are active still. The town's population

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WH Seeks Balanced Budget Fix

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is concerned about the effect that looming, drastic across-the-board budget cuts will have on the middle class, his new chief of staff said Sunday. Congressional Republicans predicted the cuts would start as scheduled next month and blamed Obama not only for doing little to stop them but for the idea itself.

The cuts, called the sequester, would drain \$85 billion from the government's budget over the coming seven months. Actual cuts may be around 13 percent for defense and 9 percent for other programs because lawmakers delayed their impact, requiring savings over a shorter period of time. The White House last week let loose a list of ways Americans would feel the trims, from longer waits at airport security to as many as 13,000 teachers being laid off. Outgoing Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta told a congressional panel the sequester would hollow the U.S. military because it would give the Pentagon little leeway in deciding how best to spend the money.

Denis McDonough, the president's chief of staff, warned the cuts would come as the stock market is coming back, the housing market has improved and the number of jobs has grown, and urged Congress to consider a balanced approach that would further strengthen the economy and, in turn, the middle class.

"This isn't a spending fight for us," McDonough told NBC's "Meet the Press." "This is a fight about whether we're going to

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RAISING THE GREEN



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Members of the Yankton Bucks' basketball team hold up a check for \$3,583 to represent funds raised by the team and the Yankton community to donate to the family of Pierres Conrad Adam, a junior basketball player who is battling cancer. Yankton fans were asked to wear green to the game, and fundraisers during the game added another \$1,121.81 to the total donated to the Adam family. The University of South Dakota also presented a check for \$5,000 to the Adam family on Saturday, from fundraisers done on campus in recent weeks.