



Very Cold Despite Some Sun

9 a.m.: **-5** | 3 p.m.: **10**
FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2

TUESDAY ■ January 28, 2014



Talented Tanager

Transfer Basketball Player Takes Flight In Vermillion • 8



Volume 139
Number 232

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **12 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢



Ribfest Organizers Share Plans With City

Commission Gives Green Light To Meridian Plaza Project

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Ben Hanten admitted to the Yankton City Commission Monday that it might sound strange that downtown boosters want to move their biggest event to Memorial Park. However, he said the change is needed if Ribfest is to grow.

"On Sept. 8, 2007, we didn't know exactly what to expect (at the first Ribfest)," said Hanten, who is part of the Historic Downtown Yankton (HDY) board of directors and its semi-independent Ribfest Committee. "We were hoping for 1,000 people to show up. Within a few hours, all of the rib vendors were out of ribs, and soon they were gone from every grocery store in a 40-mile radius. Instead of 1,000 people, about 6,000 came."

"Things have changed a lot since that first Ribfest," he continued. "After seven successful events, we've made the decision to take this event to the next level. Everybody in Yankton loved the city's 150th celebration (in 2011), and we hope to match the successes of Ribfest with the best parts of that 150th celebration to excite this community and give Yankton another great tourist draw."

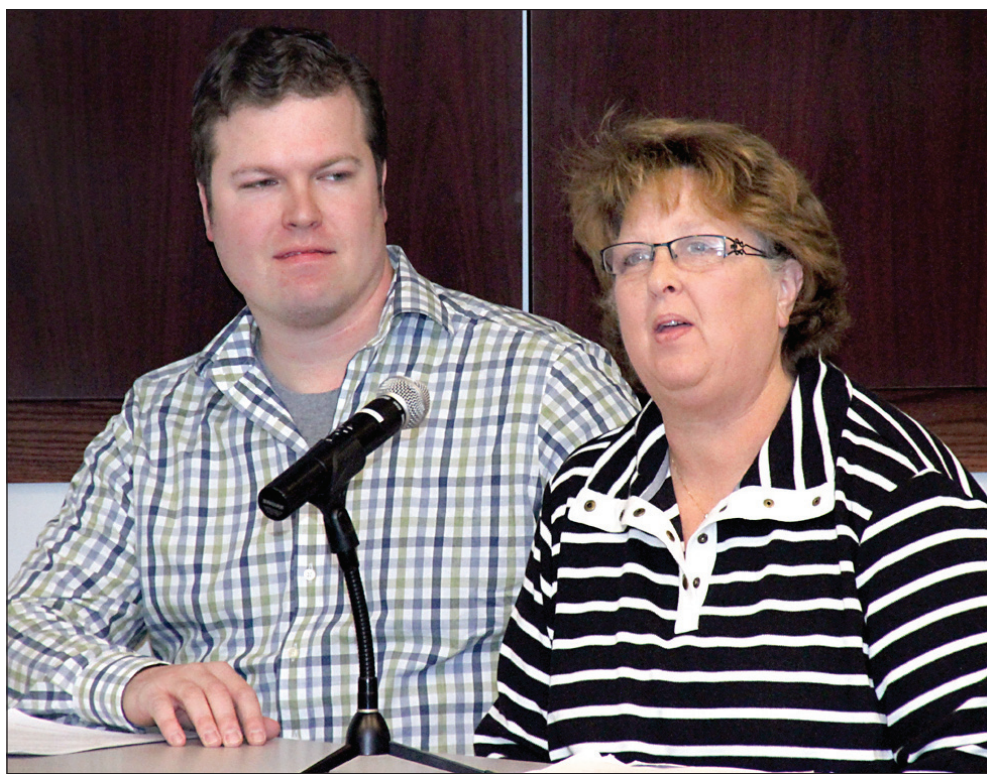
The HDY board was before the City Commission Monday to ask for support in planning this year's event, which will be moved from September to June 7.

"We would like permission to work with city officials to coordinate issues of parking, garbage, picnic tables, noise and safety," Hanten said.

Added HDY board and Ribfest Committee member Kristy Wyland, "We've got a good committee that works really hard on this and has been for quite a while. We need your support to use the park, so we can grow with this and make Ribfest a big community affair."

The growth of Ribfest faced multiple challenges if it stayed along Third

CITY | PAGE 7



Ribfest Committee members Ben Hanten and Kristy Wyland appeared before the Yankton City Commission Monday night to seek support for moving the event from downtown to Memorial Park. The event will also be moved from September to June.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Farm Bill Deal Would Cut Food Stamps By 1 percent

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House plan to make major cuts to food stamps would be scaled back under a bipartisan agreement on a massive farm bill, a near end to a more than two-year fight that has threatened to hurt rural lawmakers in an election year.

The measure announced Monday by the House and Senate Agriculture committees preserves food stamp benefits for most Americans who receive them and continues generous subsidies for farmers. The House was expected to vote on the bill Wednesday, with the Senate following shortly after.

The compromise was expected to cut food stamps by about \$800 million a year, or around 1 percent. The House in September passed legislation cutting 5 percent from the \$80 billion-a-year program. The House bill also would have allowed states to implement broad new work requirements for food stamp recipients. That has been scaled

back to a test program in 10 states.

The Democratic-led Senate had twice passed a bill with only \$400 million in annual food stamp cuts, and had signaled it would not go much higher. The White House had threatened to veto the House level of food stamp cuts.

The final bill released Monday would cost almost \$100 billion a year over five years, with a cut of around \$2.3 billion a year overall from current spending. Committee aides said they were still waiting for final numbers from the Congressional Budget Office to assess exactly how much the bill would cost.

Republican House leaders said they would support the deal. After wavering for several years, the GOP leaders were seeking to put the long-stalled bill behind them and build on the success of a bipartisan budget passed earlier this month. Leaders in both parties also were hoping to bolster rural

FARM | PAGE 12

State Of The Union

President To Focus On What's Achievable

BY JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — No longer about bold ambitions, this year's State of the Union address will focus more on what's actually achievable.

For the White House, that dose of realism is aimed at avoiding a repeat of 2013, when a long list of unfulfilled policy goals — including gun control and an immigration overhaul — dragged President Barack Obama down like an anchor. Tuesday's prime-time address will focus instead on redefining success for Obama — not by what he can jam through Congress but rather by what he can accomplish through his own presidential powers.

He is expected to announce executive actions on job training, retirement security and help for the long-term unemployed in finding work. All are part of the White House focus this year on boosting economic mobility and narrowing the income gap between the wealthy and the poor.

Another action Obama is expected to announce is the creation of a new retirement savings plan geared toward workers whose employers don't currently offer such plans. Because commercial retirement accounts often have fees or high minimum deposits that are onerous for low-wage workers, this program would allow first-time savers to start building up savings in Treasury bonds. Once the savings grew large enough, a worker could convert the account into a traditional IRA, according to two people who have discussed the proposal with the administration. Those people weren't authorized to discuss it ahead of the announcement and insisted on anonymity.

"Tomorrow night, it's time to restore opportunity for all," Obama said Monday on the video-sharing site Vine, part of the White House's broad social media promotion of the speech.

"I think the way we have to think about this year is we have a divided government," White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer said. "The Republican Congress is not going to rubber-stamp the president's agenda. The president is not going to sign the Republican Congress' agenda."

The address, delivered before a joint session of Congress and millions of Americans watching on television and the Internet, typically garners a president his largest audience of the year. It also provides perhaps his best opportunity to try to persuade skeptical



Obama

UNION | PAGE 7

USD

Is Edward Snowden A Hero?

Vermillion Forum Examines The Implications And Impacts Of Actions

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

VERMILLION — Is Edward Snowden, the former National Security Administration (NSA) contractor who stole approximately 1.7 million top-secret files and turned them over to the media, a traitor or a hero?

Short answer: It's complicated.

Snowden's acts and their potential repercussions, positive and negative, were the topic of discussion at an international forum held Monday afternoon in Farber Hall on the University of South Dakota campus.

"I think that the question some of you should be thinking about is whether Mr. Snowden has done us a service in revealing information that wouldn't normally come into the public domain, and if the nature of this service mitigates his unlawful conduct?" said Gregory Huckabee, associate professor with the Beacom School of Business.

In the past, cases such as Watergate and the Pentagon Papers brought about positive change via the cooperation of whistle-blowers and the national media, he said.



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

Tom Martin, former head of the USD ROTC program, Tom Sorensen, associate dean of the USD School of Law, and Gregory Huckabee, associate professor with the Beacom School of Business participate in Monday's International Forum on the USD campus.

However, Huckabee added that all of these cases need to be taken on an individual basis, and that it is too soon to know in the Snowden case.

A big part of the issue revolves around the sheer number of files Snowden took, said Tom Martin, former head of the USD ROTC program.

There's so much information, it can't be sorted, he said.

"Just think of the volume of information that we're talking on just the wiretaps," Martin said. "Put yourself on the 50-yard line at the Dakota-Dome, and the DakotaDome is filled to

maximum capacity with spectators. You have all these people in the crowd, and you're supposed to find one person who's holding up a pen from the Beacom School of Business. Do you think you're going to find that one person? They're a literal needle in a haystack."

There is a responsibility on the side of the journalists, as well, said Tom Sorensen, associate dean of the USD School of Law, and a former journalist himself.

FORUM | PAGE 12

I-29 Reopens Between Sioux Falls And Canada

PIERRE (AP) — A major eastern South Dakota highway shut down by a weekend blizzard reopened Monday, but travel remained treacherous in the region and some schools delayed buses and classes for a couple of hours.

Officials about dawn reopened Interstate 29 from Sioux Falls to the North Dakota border. Transportation officials in North Dakota reopened the interstate to the Canadian border at about the same time.

Sunday's blizzard — the latest in a string of several severe storms to hit the region in recent weeks — brought wind gusts in excess of 60 mph that blew and drifted snow onto roadways. The storm also brought dangerous cold weather overnight, with wind chills dropping into the minus 30s.

South Dakotans are used to the cold, but a high number of days with subzero wind chills has kept schoolchildren inside for recess more than during a normal winter.

"When you get into the zeroes and the wind's blowing and the wind chill is cold, they stay indoors and play inside the gym or the classrooms," Brian Grogan, of Pierre, said Monday morning while dropping his three elementary school children off at St. Joseph School, a few blocks from the South Dakota Capitol.

"It's a little bit colder than it has been in previous years, but we're hardy people up here," he said.

Other than the kids not being able to go outside as much, the colder winter hasn't had much of an impact, he said.

Eagle Illegally Shot Near Verdigre

VERDIGRE, Neb. (AP) — Officials are looking for information related to the illegally shooting of a bald eagle in northeast Nebraska.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission says the adult eagle was reported dead on Jan. 21. It was found near Verdigre, close to the Missouri River.

Officials say the bird had not shown decomposition and there

was fresh blood on the beak.

Bald eagles are federally protected. Maximum penalties for violating the law include a fine of \$250,000 and up to two years of prison.

Officials say callers who report any information about the shooting may remain anonymous and could be eligible for a reward.