



Snow, Then Partly Cloudy

9 a.m.: **22** | 3 p.m.: **16**

FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2



Upset
Special!

Mount Marty
Women Top #2
Northwestern ■ 7

THURSDAY ■ January 30, 2014

f t r Volume 139
Number 234

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

75¢



INSIDE

YHS
Honor
Rolls
PAGE 5



* * *

BID Board Wants To Direct Portion Of Revenues To CVB

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

nathan.johnson@yankton.net

A proportion of Yankton's Business Improvement District funds should go to the Convention and Visitors Bureau on an annual basis, officials decided Wednesday.

Business Improvement District (BID) board members made a unanimous decision during their first quarterly meeting of the year to allot 10 percent of the annual tax revenue to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). The decision will need final approval by the Yankton City Commission.



Viereck

The BID collects a \$2-per-night tax charged for overnight stays at certain Yankton hotels with 25 or more rooms. Smaller facilities can volunteer to be included.

The tax was implemented last April.

The Wednesday decision builds on the previous direction of the board. Last year, it decided to contribute \$5,000 to the CVB to be used on its events grant program in 2014. The program provides small grants to community events to attract outside visitors to Yankton.

That recommendation by the BID board was approved earlier this week by the Yankton City Commission.

Board members said they want an additional approximately \$4,000 to go to the CVB immediately, which would amount to 10 percent of 2013's BID revenue. That money won't be restricted to the grant program.

City Finance Officer Al Viereck said the final tally for 2013 will be between \$85,000-\$90,000.

In the future, the 10 percent allotment won't be designated to any specific program, the board decided.

Lisa Scheve, director of the CVB, said she currently has approximately \$28,000 for marketing purposes. About \$10,000 is used for the annual visitors guide, and another \$5,000 goes to another promotional effort. That leaves approximately \$13,000 for any other marketing projects.

"That makes it pretty tough to do a campaign," Scheve said.

The BID contribution should add at least \$12,000 to the CVB budget for 2015, based on current trends.

Scheve is hoping visitor numbers improve in 2014 compared to last year.

"We've got more things on the calendar this year than we did last year," she said, adding that it could lead to more BID tax revenue.

The board also decided that other funding requests will be considered during its quarterly meetings. However, a pressing issue could result in a special

BID | PAGE 11

Wiping Of The Tears



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

A Yankton Sioux tribal member takes part in the Wiping of the Tears ceremony, part of Wednesday's program at Fort Randall Casino honoring Yankton Sioux code talkers who received the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

Yankton Sioux Tribal Members Honored In Special Ceremony

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

PICKSTOWN — Karen Walker knew her uncles, Rufus Ross and Daniel Ross, served in World War II, but she didn't know their secret mission.

Nearly 70 years after the war ended, she only recently learned the two Yankton Sioux tribal members were code talkers. The American Indian soldiers played a crucial role during both World Wars I and II, as they encoded messages in their native language that were never broken by the enemy.

Walker didn't even know her uncles' role while watching last November's ceremony in Washington honoring the code talkers with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

"I was watching the ceremony (on television) but didn't think about it," she said. "Rufus and Daniel never talked about their war stories."

But Wednesday, she and other family members took part in a special ceremony at Fort Randall Casino, honoring the Rosses and fellow Yankton Sioux tribal member Barney

"There's a feeling that welled up inside, you were so proud. I can't find all the words to describe how it made me feel. We who are Natives to this country, we did (the mission) for our people and for our land."

HETH EDDY

Lambert as code talkers. All three of the code talkers are now deceased, and the Ross family accepted the silver medal on behalf of their relatives.

"This was such a surprise," Walker said. "I was so excited and shocked. I was pleased to hear my uncles were code talkers. I never thought I would be standing here. I was very emotional to be here today. I felt so honored to participate. It's an amazing day."

HONOR | PAGE 11

Common Core Rewind Rejected

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Opponents of using the national Common Core standards for math and English in South Dakota schools met defeat Wednesday in the state House of Representatives.

House members voted 35-31 against a resolution that sought to shut down the new system that went into effect for the current school year.

"The pathway of Common Core is the road for the federalization of schools in our country," said Rep. Jim Bolin, R-Canton. He sponsored the resolution.

Bolin said South Dakota educators are capable of writing their own standards. That was the case previously when the Dakota STEP achievement tests were used for assessing students' proficiency.

Common Core is the replacement for those standards in math and English-language arts. The national Smarter Balanced assessment tests now will be used rather than Dakota STEP.

"We're not setting content. That's local control," Rep. Kristin Conzet, R-Rapid City, said in response to Bolin.

Conzet said there has been "a grotesque amount of misinformation and scare tactics" circulating. One-third of anti-Common Core votes came from Sioux Falls-area legislators Wednesday.

"I can assure you, overwhelmingly, parents are opposed to these new standards," Rep. Jim Stalzer, R-Sioux Falls, said.

Phone calls, letters, e-mail and conversations ran "two, three, four to one" against Common Core, according to Rep. Charlie Hoffman, R-Eureka. He voted for the resolution.

"We're re-inventing the wheel," Hoffman said. "Our teachers are just lost in a sea of regulatory gobbledygook."



Stevens

CORE | PAGE 11

Local Dry Conditions Spark Fire Danger

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Just as the grassland fire danger index reached the high category Wednesday, the Yankton Fire Department was called upon to fight its first two grass fires of the year.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles told the Yankton County dispatch center that no controlled burns would be allowed because of dry, windy conditions.

At approximately 3 p.m., a report was received of a grass fire near the intersection of S. Jim River Road and Wilfordale Road.

"It started in a tree grove and traveled about 400 feet to the river bank," Nickles said late Wednesday afternoon. "There, it got into the underbrush that had been covered over by dirt along the bank. We got out as much as we could, but the bank is still burning underneath.

The landowner is keeping an eye on it."

A cause for the fire was not determined, he stated.

While a full-fledged burn ban is not currently being considered, Nickles said more controlled burn restrictions could occur.

A second fire was reported at approximately 6:45 p.m. Wednesday along the James River east of Yankton. It is believed to have started when some embers drifted over from a nearby dwelling. Little damage was reported.

"When it's so dry, and then you throw the frozen, crispy grass on top of it, it's a tinderbox. It's almost, if not as bad as, the drought," he stated. "We'll keep an eye on the burn index and take it day by day."

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

An onlooker peers down the bank of the James River east of Yankton Wednesday night as a grass fire burns along the steep embankment. Yankton firefighters dealt with two grassfires Wednesday that were spurred by a lack of snow, dormant vegetation and gusty breezes.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Brooke Brady, a nurse in Norfolk, Neb., and Cody Lukkes, a teacher at Yankton's Stewart Elementary School, prepare for "Heart To Heart With Yankton's Dancing Stars" benefit event set for Minervas in Yankton on Feb. 8. The event is a fundraiser for the Yankton Women's/Children's Center.

Stars To Dance 'Heart To Heart'

Event To Support Women's Shelter And Visitation Center

BY DEREK BARTOS

derek.bartos@yankton.net

While the new season of "Dancing With the Stars" won't hit the television airwaves until March, community members will have a chance to see Yankton's own version — and help a local cause — next week.

The Yankton Women's/Children's Center (YWCC) will host its "Heart to Heart with Yankton's Dancing Stars" event at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at Minerva's Grill & Bar. Proceeds from the dinner/entertainment/auction fundraiser will benefit both the women's shelter and the Family Visitation Center (FVC).

"We're really excited," said YWCC Executive Director Desiree Warren-Johnson. "And we want everyone in the community to know

that, just by attending this event, everybody is making a difference for countless families right here in our community."

The event is being held to help fund the growing demand for the organization's services, Warren-Johnson said, as federal funding hasn't been able to keep up with its needs.

"In the last three years, we have seen a record number of shelter nights in the history of the shelter," she said.

In 2012, the shelter had more than 1,400 shelter nights — twice the amount seen in a typical year. That was followed by more than 900 shelter nights last year. The FVC also monitored 902 supervised visitations and 884 supervised exchanges throughout 2013.

DANCE | PAGE 9