



Yankton Teams Swept By Brandon Valley Saturday • 7

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Daugaard Sets His Agenda

At Inauguration, Governor Says South Dakota Will Be Frugal, Not Cheap

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Saying “careful and responsible management will continue to be my goal for the next four years,” Republican Dennis Daugaard took the oath of office Saturday afternoon in the Capitol rotunda to start his second term as South Dakota’s governor.

During his 15-minute inaugural address, Daugaard promised more of the frugality that led to eliminating state government’s structural deficit and improved bond ratings during his first term.



Daugaard

But he also pledged he wouldn’t be cheap and he will “seize opportunities in the short term where it can lead to savings, or efficiencies, or better government in the long term.”

The first example came immediately after the ceremony. He told news reporters a priority in the legislative session would be raising more money for roads

and bridges. He said too much maintenance was deferred

in the past, such as buildings at the state Human Services Center in Yankton.

“We need to confront decisions like that — and make them, right or wrong,” Daugaard said.

For Republicans, the weekend was a multi-day victory celebration. They swept every statewide office on the Nov. 4 ballot, took the open U.S. Senate seat and once again elected super-majorities in both chambers of the Legislature.

In the audience Saturday was new U.S. Sen.

AGENDA | PAGE 9

MMC Hall Of Famers Announced



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mount Marty College introduced its 2015 Athletic Hall of Fame class during Saturday’s home basketball doubleheader with Presentation. Inductees include Justin Bonnichsen (not pictured), Nancy (Ommen) Heldberg (far right), Jesse Kurtenbach (second from right) and the 1999 baseball team.

Other current Hall of Famers were on hand, including S. Ann Kessler (seated). The Hall of Fame class will be inducted in May.

Do Low Oil, Gasoline Prices Make Keystone Unnecessary?

BY DINA CAPPIELLO AND JONATHAN FAHEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A 50-percent plunge in the price of crude oil, resulting from abundant global oil supplies, and cheaper gasoline at the pump raise critical questions about whether the Keystone XL oil pipeline is still needed or even makes financial sense.

Oil prices always have been volatile, and both the pipeline company and the oil refiners and producers that would use the pipeline expect prices to rise and plunge throughout the project’s life.

When Keystone XL was first proposed in the fall of 2008, for example, oil was in the midst of an even bigger plunge, from nearly \$150 a barrel to below \$35, and the global economy was collapsing into recession.

Opponents will use lower prices to argue that the pipeline now could pose a greater threat to the environment than originally thought.

Low oil prices could make the pipeline more important to the development of new oil sands projects in Canada than anticipated by the State Department, which is conducting the environmental review, and therefore is more likely to increase emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases linked to global warming.

The review found the pipeline was not likely to exacerbate global warming, but it based that conclusion on higher oil prices. At such prices, producers can afford the

KEYSTONE | PAGE 12

County May See Fuel Savings Soon

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Yankton County’s highway department hasn’t seen immediate savings from lower fuel prices, but that could change in the near future, a county official says.

“Fuel prices have not yet affected Yankton County due to a current contract we are under with Stern Oil of Freeman, South Dakota,” said Highway Superintendent Brian Gustad.

The county’s fuel prices are locked in place through the end of this month, Gustad said.

“Currently we have a contract of \$3.27 per gallon for number 2 diesel and a price of \$3.09 for regular gasoline, which are due to expire at the end of January when we will be seeking bids for FY 2015,” he said.

One major factor greatly affects the

county’s fuel consumption in any given year, Gustad said.

“Fuel usage is largely dependent upon the weather,” he said. “We use around 50,000 gallons of number 2 dyed diesel per year and around 20,000 gallons of regular gasoline per year.”

Those numbers don’t apply to all county departments, Gustad said.

“Totals reflect usages from a county as a whole with the exceptions of the following offices; Yankton County Sheriff, Yankton County Emergency Management, Yankton County Emergency Medical Services, and the County Extension office,” he said.

AAA said this week the fuel prices appear



Gustad

headed for a continued downward trend, or at least relative stability.

“The average price for retail gasoline hit multi-year lows during the last few months of 2014 and is expected to continue to fall as we begin 2015,” said AAA spokeswoman Marilyn Buskohl.

The current falling gas prices should bode well when it comes time to solicit new fuel bids, Gustad said.

“I would anticipate a savings over the course of the year when we are to open bids for fuel in 2015,” he said.

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Yankton High School student Abbie Rehurek wraps a present as part of the annual Gift Givers program. The student-run organization provides food baskets, family-needs baskets and toys for families in the Yankton area.

YHS Gift Givers Delivered Holiday Joy

BY JEREMY HOECK
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It wasn’t part of a class. It wasn’t required for credit.

But between 30-40 students at Yankton High School volunteered their time to help out with the annual Gift Givers program during the holiday season last month.

The student-run organization, which was created by a YHS class in 1998, receives general descriptions of families and generates one food basket and one ‘family needs’ basket for each family.

“Our kids love it,” said YHS librarian Becky Tasa, who runs the program. “They really look forward to it.”

Last year’s efforts were able to help 12 families, while David Allen’s donations helped out with six additional families.

Although the students never know who they’re shopping for, they’re involved for a simple reason, according to YHS freshman Jada Teel.

“It felt really nice to give kids things they needed,” said Teel, who bought a 4-year-old girl a jacket, a headband and a few other clothing items.

Among the food items purchased last month were more than 50 boxes of macaroni & cheese, 170 pounds of potatoes, more than 100 vegetables and 70 cans of chicken and tuna.

GIVERS | PAGE 11



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TOMORROW: City To Examine Trailer Court License Renewal

