



Partly Cloudy With T-Storms Overnight

9 a.m.: **63** | 3 p.m.: **73** | DETAILS: PAGE 2A

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75¢



Better Luck Next Year

Neb. Lawmakers Eye More Progress, Tax Changes In 2014

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — While lawmakers this week closed the legislative session by approving a \$7.8 billion, two-year budget, efforts will continue in the coming months to review whether the tax system is too complex and puts Nebraska at a competitive disadvantage against other states.



Heineman

Lawmakers on the 14-member Tax Modernization Committee are preparing for a six-month review of the tax structure, with public hearings expected throughout the state. The study is intended to produce recommendations to make the tax system fairer, simpler and more competitive, while maintaining essential state services. Some lawmakers have cautioned that the review will look for structural deficiencies in the tax system, but may not lead to widespread tax cuts.

Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogallala, who sits on the tax committee, said Thursday that lawmakers may end up shifting some taxes, but he wants to see an overall cut.

"I'm pretty sure that most people out there, when you talk about taxes, they don't want you to just reshuffle the deck chairs on the Titanic," Schilz said. "They're looking for a tax cut. I think that's so important, but I'm pretty sure it's going to take people deciding what sacrifices they're willing to make."

In his end-of-session address to the Legislature on Wednesday, Gov. Dave Heineman signaled that he plans to push for cuts again next year. Earlier in the week, he praised lawmakers for their work on a few modest tax measures but argued that they hadn't cut enough.

"In 2014, we will have an opportunity to take a giant step forward regarding tax relief and tax reform," the Republican

2014 | PAGE 11A

'So Much More That Can Be Done'



Jan Putnam (center) is retiring from her position with the Yankton Area Special Olympics. Barb Clayton and Sheri Duke, who will replace Putnam, held a celebration Wednesday night to celebrate Clayton's time with the organization. Members from the state office, Daryl Nordquist (left) and Melanie Frosch (right) were also in attendance.

Putnam Hands Over Reins As Yankton Area Special Olympics Head

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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When Jan Putnam began her job as the head of delegation for the Yankton Area Special Olympics there was a total of two softball teams. Her goal moving forward was always to involve anyone who wanted to participate.

Putnam has been involved with the Yankton Area Special Olympics since 1997 and has been the head of delegation since 2000. Putnam is now stepping down from that position, and Barb Clayton and Sheri Duke will take her place as co-heads of delegation.

"We had one team of slow-pitch athletes and one team of tee-ball athletes when I started," Putnam said. "We took a team that was self-sufficient because we didn't have a staff for (administering medication) and things like that, but when I started I decided everybody needed the opportunity to go no matter what their ability or disability."

Putnam became more involved with Ability Building Services and began taking four softball teams. The Special Olympics has now grown to six teams.

Putnam first became involved with Special Olympics because her son was diagnosed as moderately retarded, she said. When she and her husband came to the realization their son would not be able to participate in high school athletics, they wanted something he could compete in.

Although the organization has grown since she began working there, Putnam said the Yankton Area Special Olympics has the potential to grow even more, which is why she is handing the position over to Clayton and Duke.

"We always think about the big sports like basketball and softball and bowling, where there are a lot of athletes who participate," Putnam said. "You also have track and field, weightlifting and swimming, that if somebody has the time, then maybe we can coach a couple of athletes and maybe we can just take a couple of athletes to something like that. There's so much more that can be done than I

PUTNAM | PAGE 11A

MMC Sees Success Placing Graduates In Jobs

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Seventeen graduates. Seventeen jobs. Mount Marty College's school of education had 17 graduates this year, all of whom found jobs teaching in classrooms throughout the region.

"In years past, some students have taken jobs as paraprofessionals or in other fields," said Nick Shudak, director of the Masters of Teacher Education at MMC. "With small colleges and with people that come to places like Mount Marty,



Shudak

not able to leave their home for a number of different reasons, Shudak said.

"We also have a remarkable rate of

oftentimes they can be location-bound and can't look for a job outside where they live. Despite that, we've still seen really high placement rates."

Some years with lower placement rates could be due to students not looking for jobs or not being able to leave their home for a number of different reasons, Shudak said.

"We also have a remarkable rate of

students who stay in school districts for more than five years," he said. "This becomes a reflection on the teacher preparation program at Mount Marty — a lot of new teachers (nationwide) won't make it past their first few years in the field."

Shudak added that the high number of students staying in the education field shows that Mount Marty prepares students to work in education and deal with all the demands that come with working with students.

"Even our students that end up working as paraprofessionals end up working

in the field for a long period of time," he said. "This shows how strong our program is. Although this year we have 100 percent of our graduates working in classrooms, other years have seen strong placement rates, as well."

Shudak credits the students who he says work hard to get out there and find jobs after they graduate.

"Teachers want to teach. We tell freshmen that if you want to teach, you'll be able to find a job," he said. "Our program

MMC | PAGE 11A

5 YHS Grads Headed To USD Medical School

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Trevor Kindle has always known what he's wanted to do with his life.

"For as long as I can remember, I've wanted to be a doctor," the 2009 Yankton High School graduate said.

Along with four other members of his YHS class, Kindle is now one step closer to that dream, having recently been accepted into medical school at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

"There's a lot of kids that don't get into med school," he said. "So it's a big relief to get in, especially somewhere so close to home."

Kindle joins fellow 2009 YHS graduates Jens Lillevoed, Collin Michels, Michael Nielson and Jordan Schild as members of the USD medical school's Class of 2017.

GRADS | PAGE 11A



PHOTO BY MATT KAPUST/SANFORD LAB

Four physicists celebrate the installation of the Large Underground Xenon (LUX) dark matter detector in its water tank 4,850 feet underground in the Sanford Lab. (The young scientists-turned-cheerleaders are spelling out "LUX.") Dark matter is thought to be the predominant form of matter in the universe, but so far it has never been directly detected — though more than a dozen experiments around the world are looking for it. During Monday's presentation in Yankton, audience members will be able to speak directly to researchers via video link.

Lead Scientists Set For Video Chat

BY DEREK BARTOS
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From nearly a mile underground, scientists will be reaching out to the Yankton area next week to offer insight into one of the state's most sophisticated research laboratories.

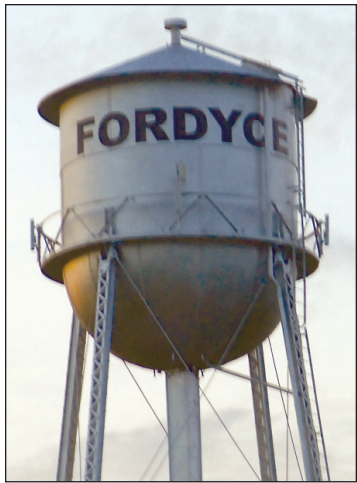
Physicists at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead will be holding a live, two-way video chat with the public to discuss the lab and their research. The event will be held from noon to 1:15 p.m. Monday, June 10, at the Kelly Inn and Convention Center in Yankton.

"I think the general consensus is that people around the state aren't really aware of what's going on there," said Chris Bauer, a Sanford Lab electrical engineer from Yankton who helped bring the event to the city.

Located at the site of the old Homestake gold mine that was closed in 2003, the underground laboratory is home to two experiments at the 4,850-foot level.

CHAT | PAGE 11A

INSIDE TODAY



Nebraska Town Celebrates 100th
RIVER CITY



USA Weekend

CORRECTION

In the Girls State story that ran in Thursday's *Press & Dakotan*, Aliyah Greaver was accidentally omitted from the article due to incorrect information given to the *Press & Dakotan*. Greaver received a scholarship for best appellate attorney. We apologize for the omission.



June 28-29, Riverside Park
SURVIVOR'S LAP 6:00PM



REGION 2A | OBITUARIES 3A | WORLD 3A | VIEWS 4A | MIDWEST 5A | SPORTS 7A-8A | CLASSIFIEDS 9A-11A

TOMORROW: Yankton Head Start Program Deals With Federal Cuts

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET