



Are You Ready To Dance? Yankton Native Colton Iverson Is ■ 8



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Building South Dakota Legislation Good For State Growth

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry believes the Building South Dakota package aimed at assisting with economic and community development is a good piece of legislation.

"We've continued to have an incentive to reduce costs for large projects," David Owen said. "We've acknowledged that when projects

come to the state because of those incentives, it's not money we would have otherwise. So there will be some dedicated use of the contractors' tax money from those projects to do other things through the Building South Dakota fund, and their sales tax will be set aside so they can be paid as a re-incentive payment, which is where we've had a problem."

Owen made the comments Wednesday while reviewing the 2013 Legislature with Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce members at the Hillcrest Golf and Country Club.

He called the bill a "grand compromise" between competing interests, including those who are critical of economic development incentives as corporate welfare and others who are focused on the competitiveness of South Dakota incentives compared with other states.

Building South Dakota will make "reinvestment payments" available to projects costing at least \$20 million and that wouldn't come to the state without economic assistance. Existing businesses that spend at least \$2 million on new equipment would also be eligible for the payments.

Decisions on how much to pay would be made by the state Board of Economic Development, but those payments could not exceed what the business paid in state sales and use taxes on the project.

Building South Dakota includes a special fund that would collect money that can be used for local infrastructure improvements, housing, education, workforce training and economic development. The contractor's excise tax, as well as revenue from the state's unclaimed property fund, will go toward Building South Dakota.

Also, money from the unclaimed property fund will not be transferred to the economic development initiative unless money is available for normal increases for

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A MOBILE EDUCATION



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Dugan Smith, interpreter for the National Park Service, stands in front of the new mobile ranger station. Officials will use the station at regional events to draw people to the Missouri National Recreational River. Smith hopes people that visit the station will get more information on the park and want to visit the area as a result.

River Officials Introducing New Mobile Ranger Station

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Officials from the Missouri National Recreational River are introducing something new this year that they hope will attract more visitors to the park.

A new mobile ranger station has been developed, which officials will take to area parks and events in hopes of getting additional traffic to the river.

"We will take the trailer, which has a lot of displays and features, outside the immediate area," said Steve Mietz, superintendent of the river for the National Park Service (NPS). "One of the places we've been asked to take the station already is Mount Rushmore. Millions of visitors that go there will see the trailer and check out what we have, and hopefully they'll go to Yankton to see the river on their way back east."

One of the goals of the ranger station is to attract

people to the river who aren't from the immediate area. Mietz is hoping the trailer draws a more regional — and even national — audience to the river.

"It's really a mobile visitors center," he said.

STEVE MIETZ

STATION | PAGE 11

Governor Approves State Budget

\$4.1 Billion Budget Signed But Vetoes Technical School Provision

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Wednesday approved the \$4.1 billion state budget passed by the Legislature but vetoed a minor provision that directs how some money would be divided among the state's four technical schools.

Daugaard also signed into law measures that establish a new program to lure businesses to South Dakota, ban the use of cell-phones by beginning drivers and set up a commission to regulate boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts.

The measures were among two dozen the Republican governor signed Wednesday. He is still considering 19 other bills passed by lawmakers during the main run of this year's legislative session, which ended March 8.

Daugaard issued a line-item veto for a part of the budget that directs how \$500,000 in one-time money would be distributed to technical institutes. He said he supports giving the schools the money but distribution based on enrollment in the 2011-2012 school year was improper. By striking that language, the money can be distributed according to more recent enrollment figures, he said.

The Legislature is unlikely to override the governor's veto. The South Dakota Constitution provides that when a governor issues such a line-item veto, the rest of a bill is considered to be signed into law.

Lawmakers had made few changes in the governor's recommended budget for the year beginning July 1. The spending plan provides roughly 3 percent increases to ongoing spending on K-12 schools, universities, state workers' paychecks and the facilities that provide medical care to those



Daugaard

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Alex Brager receives a diploma Wednesday for completing the Yankton Boys & Girls Club Career Launch Program. The eight-week program taught the graduates about career opportunities in Yankton and the job skills necessary to succeed in those areas.

YBGC Celebrates Launch Graduates

Program Teaches Students About Careers Available In The Community

BY DEREK BARTOS
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For several community youth, the next stage of their lives took flight Wednesday as they celebrated their completion of the Yankton Boys & Girls Club Career Launch Program.

The eight-week program taught the teenagers about careers within the community, what type of education and experience was needed

and how to develop themselves to succeed in those areas.

"They did a great job of teaching us about careers," said program participant Tyler Rodriguez during the graduation ceremony at the Boys & Girls Club. Rodriguez said the skills he learned during mock interviews helped him land a job at Menards, where he has been working for the past three weeks.

The Career Launch Program was organized and taught by the 2013

Yankton Leadership Group. Members of the group are selected each year by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce and offered leadership courses that explore Yankton's background and promote economic development. At the completion of the course, the leadership group creates a project to give back to the community.

"Our group wanted to participate in a project that we knew we could manage together as a team, measure the effectiveness and see something good come out of it," said leadership

LAUNCH | PAGE 11

Senate Vote OK's \$85B In Cuts, Averts Shutdown

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Senate approved legislation Wednesday to lock in \$85 billion in widely-decried spending cuts aimed at restraining soaring federal deficits — and to avoid a government shutdown just a week away. President Barack Obama's fellow Democrats rejected a call to reopen White House talks scrapped because of the tightened spending.

Federal meat inspectors were spared furloughs, but more than 100 small and medium air traffic

facilities were left exposed to possible closure as the two parties alternately clashed and cooperated over proposals to take the edge off across-the-board spending cuts that took effect on March 1.

Final House approval of the measure is likely as early as Thursday. Obama's signature is a certainty, meaning the cuts will remain in place at least through the end of the budget year on Sept. 30 — even though he and lawmakers in both parties have criticized them as random rather than targeted. Obama argued

strongly against them in campaign-style appearances, predicting painful consequences, before they began taking effect, and Republicans objected to impacts on Pentagon spending.

Without changes, the \$85 billion in cuts for the current year will swell to nearly \$1 trillion over a decade, enough to make at least a small dent in economy-threatening federal deficits but requiring program cuts that lawmakers in both parties say are

CUTS | PAGE 11



FIRE CALLS

The Yankton Fire Department responded to a pair of fire calls Wednesday, including this blaze in the 400 block of W. 15th St. that was reported at approximately 12:30 p.m. The occupant of this mobile home was attempting to thaw out a pipe using torch in an attached porch structure. When he left the building, the porch caught on fire. The fire was confined to the porch area, and there was light smoke damage to the mobile home. At 3:30 a.m., firefighters were called to a blaze reported in an apartment building in the 900 block of E. 13th St. A kitchen fire was discovered it was initially reported under control, but then caused heavy damage to the kitchen area and smoke damage to the apartment. The first floor of the apartment building was evacuated briefly, and two people were referred to the Red Cross for temporary housing. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)