



Partly Sunny With Overnight Rain/Snow

9 a.m.: **36** | 3 p.m.: **64** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

MONDAY ■ March 17, 2014



**Gayville-Volin
Finishes 8th
At State
SPORTS/8**

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Volume 139
Number 273

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

75¢



Crimea Votes 'Yes'

Residents Overwhelmingly Approve Move To Join Russia

BY MIKE ECKEL AND JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG
Associated Press

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine — Just two weeks after Russian troops seized their peninsula, Crimeans voted Sunday to leave Ukraine and join Russia, overwhelmingly approving a referendum that sought to unite the strategically important Black Sea region with the country it was part of for more than two centuries.

The vote was widely condemned by Western leaders, who planned to move swiftly to punish Russia with economic sanctions.

As the votes were counted, a jubilant crowd gathered around a statue of Vladimir Lenin in the center of Simferopol to celebrate with song and dance. Many held Russian flags, and some unfurled a handwritten banner reading "We're Russian and proud of it." Fireworks exploded in the skies above.

"We want to go back home, and today we are going back home," said Viktoria Chernyshova, a 38-year-old businesswoman. "We needed to save ourselves from those unprincipled clowns who have taken power in Kiev."

Ukraine's new government in Kiev called the referendum a "circus" directed at gunpoint by Moscow, referring to the

CRIMEA | PAGE 12



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton High School student Kate Schaa (left) and teacher Heather Olson have been leading the effort to raise funds for local students who need shoes but can't afford them.

SPORTS



**The Madness
Of March
Begins • 8**

**3 DAYS UNTIL
SPRING**

* * *

Some See Frustration With SD Vehicle Bills

BY NORA HERTEL
Associated Press

PIERRE — They're called "vehicle bills": pieces of legislation with little more than a title. They are created by lawmakers to give themselves an option to revive or introduce new legislation beyond the normal deadline for bills to make it out of whichever chamber they start in.

Some advocates of open government say they mean less scrutiny for lawmaking.

"Those bills, while sometimes necessary, overall you see more of them," said David Bordewyk, general manager of the South Dakota Newspaper Association. "It frustrates the public in terms of understanding what's happening."

One top lawmaker defended vehicle bills as a handy tool in a short session where policy may not come together until late.

"You don't know what you don't know until the end of session," said Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave.

Rave, a Republican from Baltic, offered such a bill in late January. The intentionally vague bill read: "In case a title affecting medical services or the ordinary operating expenses of South Dakota is needed to accommodate the legislative process, this bill is being introduced to accomplish that purpose."

Rave said the bill was intended as a vehicle that could be filled in later in case the federal government accepted Gov. Dennis Daugaard's proposal for a partial Medicaid expansion.

The government rejected Daugaard's proposal. In March, another lawmaker grabbed Rave's bill, and it was overhauled in a House committee to create a task force to study autism in the state.

The change prompted lobbyists to object to a lack of discussion on the bill.

"I just want to voice some con-

BILLS | PAGE 2

Fire On Ice!



DEREK BARTOS/P&D

Members of the Yankton community celebrated the completion of payments for the Kiwanis 4-H Ice Center during a mortgage burning ceremony Saturday evening at the arena. Pictured are (clockwise from lower left) Matt Walters of First National Bank South Dakota, Yankton County 4-H leader Darrell Nielson, Yankton Area Ice Association president Bryan Schoenfelder and Marc Mooney of First Dakota National Bank.

Weighty Issues Remain For Lawmakers In Nebraska

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska lawmakers are nearly three-fourths of the way through this year's 60-day session, with many of the most high-profile issues still awaiting a vote.

Of the 105 bills designated as priorities this year, lawmakers have advanced 52 beyond a first-round vote. Forty have reached the floor of the Legislature, but haven't received a vote, and 13 are stuck in committee.

By choosing a bill as a priority, lawmakers increase the odds that it will get debated.

Senators have forged ahead this year with an updated, \$7.8 billion budget that includes funding for property tax relief, early childhood education and pediatric cancer research. They also have proceeded with plans to create a state guardian program for people who can't make decisions for themselves because of a disability or mental illness.

ISSUES | PAGE 2

Heart And Sole At YHS

Students, Staff Reach Out To Kids In Need Of Shoes

BY DEREK BARTOS
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With numerous local children in need of shoes and fellow students wanting to help, a program at Yankton High School has been busy tying the two together.

Earlier this school year, YHS students began the project — Tying It Together — by selling sweatshirts to raise money to purchase new shoes for younger students who can't afford them. Those sales recently wrapped up, with YHS raising around \$700 for its effort.

"It was great to see the Yankton High School students come together for this cause, because they know that kids need shoes," YHS student Kate Schaa told the Yankton School Board last week. Schaa and YHS math teacher Heather Olson helped spearhead the fundraising effort and attended the meeting to present a report on the project.

"I've never been in the situation where I've had holes in my shoes," Schaa continued. "It's great to see the high school students care about something so important."

Olson said the idea for Tying It Together stemmed from an event last year in which the school district hosted a shoe giveaway in partnership with Samaritan's Feet, an international organization that aims to provide shoes to the less fortunate.

The event was organized by Yankton native Taylor Specht, who solicited donations and worked with Samaritan's Feet to purchase the footwear. More than 250 children were provided new shoes at the gathering at Yankton Middle School.

"Those kids got their brand new shoes and they were proud of them. They were racing back and forth and we were timing them," Olson said. "It was one of the most amazing nights in my life. I bawled when I got home and told my husband about it."

The YHS teacher said she wanted to continue the effort to provide shoes to students in need, so she spoke with the administration about ways to get the school and students in-

SHOES | PAGE 11



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

University of South Dakota student David Christianson of Yankton has been selected to present his research poster at the 18th annual Posters on the Hill next month in Washington. He is the only student from South Dakota chosen to participate.

Heading To The Hill

USD Student Selected To Present Research In DC

BY DEREK BARTOS
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VERMILLION — David Christianson wants people to know that there is quality scientific research taking place in South Dakota, and soon he'll have the opportunity to spread that message.

The University of South Dakota student and Yankton resident was recently selected to present his research poster at the 18th annual Posters on the Hill next month in Washington. He is the only student from South Dakota invited to participate in the undergraduate research event, where posters are on display to Congress, federal agency funding officers and invited guests in the Rayburn House Office Building. Only 60 posters were chosen out of 600 applications.

"It's cool, and a chance to represent the area," said Christianson, who will begin medical school at USD later this year. "And it's great for the

"Ultimately, I would like this place to become more of a hub for medicine and science, and I'm interested in any way I can play a role in that."

DAVID CHRISTIANSON

school. There's a lot of good chemistry going on at USD."

Christianson said his research, "Design of Nanoscale Compositions for Remineralization of Human Dentin," resulted from the work completed by his chemistry research group in conjunction with a local dentist to address tooth decay.

"The idea was to look at ways to rebuild areas that would otherwise become cavities, and also to analyze areas that potentially could need more attention," he said.

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