



# PRESS & DAKOTAN



## Sales Tax Numbers Are Up

BY ROB NIELSEN

Rob.nielsen@yankton.net

Warm days and brisk construction are being cited as some of the reasons the city has brought in more from sales tax in the first two months of 2015 than in previous years.

City Manager Amy Nelson said a variety of factors are contributing.

"We're building — there's a number of new structures going up," she said. "That creates activity. Those people have contractors that are here in town and they're spending money on materials. The weather certainly helps because we've had some nice



Nelson

— even in January and February — days where people seem to get out and about more."

She added, "We've had a lot of tournaments and hosting (events) and I think that's all contributed to it. And maybe people are feeling more comfortable overall with the economy in general and feel more comfortable spending money."

Both January and February saw sales tax

**TAX** | PAGE 17

## Governor Inks Youth Wage Bill

### Three Measures Vetoed, Ensuring One More Day Of Session

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

**G**ov. Dennis Daugaard issued vetoes against three pieces of tax legislation Friday and signed into law two other measures, the youth minimum wage and changes to state election procedures, which people had urged him to veto.

Sen. David Novstrup, R-Aberdeen, sponsored the youth wage of \$7.50 per hour. It will apply to workers younger than age 18.

Many business organizations supported it, led by the South Dakota Retailers Association and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Novstrup's legislation came in response to a decision by South Dakota voters in the Nov. 4 election.

A majority of 55 percent said yes to increase the state minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour and to provide an annual inflation adjustment.

"As it increases, it will push young people out of the job market more and more every year," Novstrup said.

He said the \$7.50 is meant to ensure an opportunity for young workers.

"The business and the marketplace will drive what they're paid at," Novstrup said. "This is more about the 14 and 15 year olds than the 17 year old."

Novstrup figured out the governor's decision shortly before noon Friday. An email sent to lawmakers by the Legislative Research Council listed the governor's vetoes. Novstrup's bill wasn't among the three.

Official word came from the governor's office minutes later through news releases about the vetoes and about the final five bills signed into law.

"I really didn't know what direction he was going to go," Novstrup said.

Daugaard met with Novstrup and Shawn Lyons, the retailers executive director, several weeks ago to discuss the bill.

"He was very thoughtful about it," Novstrup said. "He took his time to make a decision. I appreciate that. He doesn't jump to a decision or a conclusion."

Daugaard, a Republican, opposed the \$8.50 ballot issue that was sponsored by Democrats



Daugaard

**BILL** | PAGE 20



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

University of South Dakota medical students that completed their medical training at the Avera Sacred Heart campus participated in Match Day on Friday and found out where they would be serving their residency. Pictured are: Back row: Left to right: Anthony Loewen, Luke Hofkamp, Luke Rasmussen, Sara Pepper and Abigail Lichter. Front row: Spencer Schilling, Teresa Maas, Courtney Nelson, Emily Thornton and Heidi Werner.

## The Match Game

### Med Students Find Out Where They Will Serve Their Residencies

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

shauna.marlette@yankton.net

For University of South Dakota medical students completing their medical training in May, Friday was not just the last day of the week.

It was Match Day.

During a ceremony held at the Avera Sacred Heart Pavilion, each of the 10 medical students completing their education in Yankton found out where they would be serving their residencies.

National Match Day occurs on the third Friday of March each year at each of the 155 medical schools in the United States. Fourth-year medical students are given the results of



Youmans

the National Resident Matching Program telling them where they will serve their residencies.

According to Lori Hansen, the Yankton campus dean for the USD's Sanford School of Medicine, Match

Day is a big deal for students in medical education, second only to the day they were accepted to medical school.

"It is the day when they find out which program and which specialty they have matched for their

**MATCH** | PAGE 20



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

John, Abigail and Linda Lichter celebrated Abby's match day placement to Sioux Falls Family Medicine as part of the USD Sanford School Of Medicine Match Day ceremonies at the Avera Sacred Heart Pavilion on Friday.

### Student Is Ready For The Next Step

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

shauna.marlette@yankton.net

With a short but very important letter, University of South Dakota medical student Abigail (Abby) Lichter of Yankton learned her medical residency fate Friday.

Lichter got the word at a ceremony held Friday at the Avera Sacred Heart Pavilion, and she couldn't be happier.

"I did get what I wanted," she said. "I am going to Sioux Falls as part of family medicine. Sioux Falls was my first choice."

The process of applying, interviewing, ranking and waiting for her placement culminates a long educational journey.

"It is a long educational process — four years of undergrad and four years of medical school (all which were completed at USD)," Abby said. "Then picking out your specialty is a little nerve-wracking — just making sure you are making the right choice. I started wanting to do family medicine and I thought, maybe once I got into my rotations, I might find something I liked better, but I didn't. So, I will be going family medicine."

The entire match process took almost a year,

**LICHTER** | PAGE 20

## Vermillion Tech Center Seeks Tenants

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

VERMILLION — A \$4.2 million building on the outskirts of Vermillion remains the object of a lawsuit, but a local economic development official remains confident the vacant structure will soon house one or more businesses.

The Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company (VCDC) is suing Minnesota-based Eagle Creek Software Services. VCDC says the technology company didn't follow an agreement to move into the 32,000-square-foot Vermillion Technology Center (VTC).

The VCDC says it built the technology center for Eagle Creek in return for the company entering a long-term agreement to lease and occupy the building. The building is located at 1012 Princeton Street, near Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart and Polar. Eagle Creek runs its Vermillion op-



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

The VCDC is seeking tenants for the Vermillion Technology Center, which was originally constructed for Minnesota-based Eagle Creek Software Services.

eration out of another site.

The VCDC is seeking about \$3.1 million in future rent and about \$154,000 for past rent and other expenses.

"I cannot comment on the current lawsuit, specifically. But I will say the

**VCDC** | PAGE 3

