

Lichter

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she said.

"In the fall, you start applying," Abby said. "You interview through December and January, and then match in March. So, it is a long process to find out where you are going."

While Abby did not always want to be a doctor, she credits both her time at Yankton High School and her employment at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital as reasons she chose this path.

"I don't think I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up," she said. "I went to Catholic schools at Sacred Heart from preschool to eighth grade and then, obviously, everyone is at the public high school. It wasn't really until I took (Advanced Placement) Biology and learning about the systems that I knew I wanted to do something with the sciences. I knew then I was going to major in biology. My first year of college, I got a job here at the hospital on the surgical floor and I worked there all four years of undergrad. That is when I realized I really enjoyed interacting with the patients and medicine, which allowed me to do the biology/science portion and still have the relationships with people. I knew I didn't want to be in research or anything like that. This lets me do both of what I love."

Abby and her parents, John and Linda Lichter, said being able to complete Abby's education locally was huge for their family.

"It has been fantastic to be able to see her — we are both still actively working — so, if



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Abigail Lichter shows her parents, John and Linda, her match letter informing her she will be serving her residency at her first choice, Sioux Falls Family Medicine. Lichter, who is a Yankton native, was one of ten USD Sanford School Of Medicine students who completed their medical training on the Avera Sacred Heart Campus in Yankton and were matched to their residencies as part of the national match day, Friday.

she had gone further away, we would have maybe been able to go and see her a couple times a year," explained Linda. "We have been able to stay close and have been able to help her with anything she needed help with."

John added, "We are just really proud of her that she has been able to accomplish this. We just really think that would be great if she were to serve the people of the area."

Saying that the support system her family gave her was a huge benefit, Abby

noted, her long-term goal is to return to the community.

"Our family is very close, I see my parents multiple times a week — we have dinner at least once a week," she said. "My sister is here in town, both my grandmas and my aunt, as well. I didn't want to move away from that support system when I was going to medical school — not that Vermillion was that far, but to be able to be right here in Yankton was great. Sioux Falls was the closest place for residency and then I plan on

coming back to Yankton to practice."

For the next five weeks, Abby will be focused on finishing medical school, graduating in May and beginning her residency in late June.

"It will be busy," she said. "It is finding housing — most people who were matched will have to do spouse or 'significant other' job searching — we kind of avoided that. Luckily, I am pretty familiar with Sioux Falls, both finding a place to live and the program. So, for me, it might be a little less stressful than for others who are moving across the country. But it is still a lot of preparation, getting everything that we need to get done before we start that next chapter."

Abby said she has an idea what residency will be like, but until she is thrown in on day one, she won't fully understand what it means.

"Family medicine is considered a specialty, but it is not a specialty at all; it is everything," she said. "I will be taking care of pregnant women, delivering their newborns, taking care of their children, taking care of elderly, all the middle aged people — it is just such a broad range. That is what I think is going to be the most difficult about the next three years — there is going to be so much to learn as it is so broad an area. You are learning it all in three years, which is going to be busy, but it is also going to be very interesting. I think it will be a very rewarding path."

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local medical providers and the medical students are an advantage to the students and the community.

"I don't know all the relationships that they have built with our providers in the area. But I do check in with the students, and they all have wonderful things to say about our physicians in the Yankton medical family," she said. "So, I am sure there are great ties and relationships that have been built. It is immeasurable to those students to have that. There have been so many that have been on our campus, gone on to do their residency and then come back to Yankton. I am not sure what the numbers are but there have been quite a few that have."

She noted that there is a strong Yankton High School connection in the USD medical school, as well.

"I think there are five or six Yankton High School graduates that are doing their medical school right here in Yankton," she said. "That says a lot about our schools and what they are producing and putting out, as well as the expectations they have."

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Bill

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and organized labor.

At a retailers gathering Jan. 13 on the eve of the legislative session, Daugaard said it would be "a little bit of an affront" to voters if state lawmakers changed what had been approved at the election.

The governor's office issued a statement Friday in which he explained his decision to sign the youth wage into law.

"The campaign for Initiated Measure 18 focused on adult workers who support a household — not on teenagers who, in almost every case, still live at home. I do not believe SB 177, which will expand entry-level opportunities for youth, undermines that intent," Daugaard said in the statement.

OTHER BILLS SIGNED

Daugaard signed four other pieces of legislation into law.

One clarifies the procedure and timetable for challenging signatures on candidate nominating petitions.

Another makes many changes in laws regarding candidates and political parties, including requiring that party candidates who withdraw after the primary can't be replaced unless they meet certain criteria.

The two others he signed came from the Legislature's watershed task force. One provides for voluntary mediation services in drainage dispute. Another establishes a statewide system of nine river-basin districts for water management.

The three vetoes deal with attempts to reduce various taxes. Legislators return Monday, March 30, for one day to consider the vetoes and any other new business.

One of the vetoed measures attempts to create a new class, leased residential, for property tax purposes. Its prime sponsor is Sen. Deb Peters, R-Hartford.

"There is no way to guarantee that property tax relief for leased residential property landlords will find its way to tenants," Daugaard said in his veto message.

"This is the reason leased residential property was not included in the property tax relief proposals in 1995, and 20 years later, it is a reason to oppose Senate Bill 100," he wrote.

Another vetoed measure would "exclude certain municipal taxes from the gross receipts used to determine the tax liability for customers served by electric cooperatives and electric utilities." Its prime sponsor is Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg.

"I do not accept the argument that the current taxation system imposes a double tax. Rural electric companies are in a similar situation to thousands of businesses throughout South Dakota," Daugaard said in the veto message.

The third veto deals with an attempt to repeal the sales tax that has been

charged in recent years against the salaries paid to VFW and American Legion baseball coaches. Its sponsor is Sen. Brock Greenfield, R-Clark.

Daugaard said in his veto letter that it "creates a privilege to the amateur baseball teams sponsored by select organizations, specifically American Legion and VFW organizations."

"While I admire these organizations and appreciate the work they do, it is bad tax policy to exempt coaches in these organizations, while continuing to tax other amateur baseball coaches," the governor wrote.

The three bills vetoed Friday are the only ones the governor used his authority against this session.

It wasn't clear during the final weeks of the legislative session whether labor organizations and Democratic leaders would attempt a petition drive to refer the youth wage to a statewide vote if the governor signed it.

OPPOSITION TO WAGE BILL

Ann Tornberg, the chairwoman for the South Dakota Democratic Party, issued a statement in early March urging the governor to veto the youth wage.

"Allowing the state Legislature to immediately thwart the will of the voters sets an awful precedence," Tornberg said.

An attempt to reach her Friday wasn't successful.

The youth wage generally received support from Republican legislators and opposition from Democratic lawmakers. Only Republicans signed as co-sponsors, with Rep. Justin Cronin, R-Gettysburg, as the lead sponsor in the House.

The Senate voted 25-7 for the bill along party lines. The House vote 44-24, with one Democrat — Julie Bartling of Gregory — supporting it. The House opponents were a mix of Democrats and Republicans.

Lyons, the retailers official, engaged in debates last fall arguing against the ballot issue. He noted Friday that during one radio interview a supporter of the ballot issue said it wasn't about young people.

"I hope with the passage of SB 177 there will be opportunities for young people to obtain entry level positions and gain valuable experience," Lyons said Friday.

"Small businesses from around the state expressed their concern that they may no longer be available," he said.

In 2014, Daugaard issued one veto and it was sustained. He issued three vetoes in 2013 and all were sustained.

In 2012, he issued four full vetoes with three sustained and one overridden. He issued a line-item veto, which legislators agreed with, and a style and form veto, which legislators supported.

During his first session as governor in 2011, Daugaard issued three full vetoes. Two were overridden. The third was sustained.

He also issued a style and form veto in 2011 that legislators didn't support because other parts of the legislation weren't clear. He subsequently vetoed the full bill.

Match

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residency program," she said. "This is where they will be spending their next 3-5 years finishing their medical education."

A lengthy process, Match Day is in reality nearly a year in the making.

"The process actually begins in the fall when the students decide which specialty they want to enter and where they would like to go for their residency training," Hansen said. "Then they set up interviews and receive information on whether they are granted interviews at the institution or program. Then the students put in a ranking of the programs where they would like to go to complete their residency program. The programs also put in their rank list. It goes into a computer and then, today, they find out how the computer matched them."

Senior medical students usually begin the application process at the beginning of the fourth year of medical school. Programs review applications and invite selected candidates for interviews held between October and February. After the interview period is over, students submit a

"rank-order list" to a centralized matching service. At the same time, residency programs submit a list of their preferred applicants in rank order to this same service. The process is blind, so neither applicant nor program will see each other's list.

For most students, their placement is a complete surprise.

"It is a process and some students don't match," Hansen said. "Those students found out on Monday. So, they had this week to find a spot. Those students know where they are going. But for most students, it is a total surprise. (During the Match Day ceremony,) we will call them up to the podium, hand them a letter and they will go sit with their family. All of the students will open their envelopes at the same time. So it is very emotion filled."

Hansen said that each year, there are 10-14 medical students who complete their training in Yankton.

"This group of very soon future physicians have been a great group to work with," she said. "We have been very fortunate. They have a good knowledge base. They are very skilled in the art of medicine and have learned professionalism. We have really enjoyed having them here and hope to see some of them back in the Yankton community being physicians."

LOOKING LOCAL

Kassandra Youmans, physician recruiter for ASHH and the ASHH regional managed hospitals and clinic practices, said there is great value to having the medical students on campus.

"It is such an advantage getting to know them and build relationships with them," she said. "At the same time, they get to know the community as a whole. So, it is great that we get to have them here. For us, it is a great recruitment tool: We get to know them early on and build a relationship with them and it makes it so much of an easier transition when they do decide to locate here because they know what to expect coming to us."

Youmans said she would love to have all of the students return to Yankton once their residency's are finished, but realistically that is not possible.

"Recruitment goes on what our needs are, as well," she said. "We may want all of them but not have the need for them. But, it is nice to be able to plan out and say, three years from now, we are going to need a family practice physician or we need another surgeon. If there is a physician that is getting toward the end of their career we can plan for that."

Youmans also said that the relationships built between

Hospitals, Tax-Scofflaw Docs Targeted In House Medicare Deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — House aides released an outline late Friday of an emerging bipartisan deal shielding physicians from Medicare cuts and pumping more funds to popular programs for children's health and community health centers.

In a first hint of some of the measure's fine print, the bare-bones summary said lawmakers would raise money partly by targeting Medicare providers who are tax scofflaws. In the winner's category, the agreement would also help Tennessee hospi-

tals serving large numbers of poor patients and makers of medical equipment who bid for Medicare business.

The one-page document provides no price tags and few specifics. But as lawmakers, congressional aides and lobbyists have said for days, it

would cost roughly \$210 billion over a decade, with around \$140 billion financed by adding to federal deficits, aides said Friday. The remaining \$70 billion would be split about evenly between Medicare providers and beneficiaries.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., have been seeking the agreement for two months in hopes of resolving a problem that has haunted Congress for years.

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Please stop by to celebrate a new year of RiverWalk! The evening will include photos of the new sculptures, food, drink and fun. RiverWalk committee members will be serving for tips and all proceeds go to RiverWalk.

"Farmer" by Larry Starck —one of the new 2015 RiverWalk sculptures.