



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Yankton Hosts First
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Volume 140
Number 12

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | TWO SECTIONS | www.yankton.net

75¢



Graduation Season



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Graduation season is here, and that includes four members of Mitchell Technical Institute's (MTI) Industrial Maintenance Technology program at Yankton's Regional Technical Education Center. Four students graduated from the program Thursday with a commencement program that featured MTI president Greg Von Wald, left, and MTI outreach coordinator John Heemstra (right). The four graduates, posing as photos were taken by family members, were, from left: James Hausman of Yankton, Zane Jensen of Gayville, Diedra Losing of Yankton and Seth Voorhees of Yankton. MTI will hold its main commencement at the Corn Palace in Mitchell at 5 p.m. today (Friday).

Corps:

Reservoirs Can Hold Runoff

Forecast Above Normal, But Far Below 2011 Levels

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Runoff into the upper Missouri River basin was less than anticipated during April, leaving plenty of room in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' reservoir system to handle expected precipitation.

"Our latest forecast for runoff above Sioux City, Iowa, this year calls for 31.7 million acre-feet, which is 125 percent of normal," said Jody Farhat, chief of the Corps of Engineers Missouri River Basin Water Management Division, during a monthly update on basin conditions. "To put this in perspective, runoff during 2011 was 61 million acre-feet."

Earlier this spring, mountain snowpack was tracking near the levels recorded in 2011, but it has since dropped off.

"We're just beginning to see that runoff enter the reservoir system," Farhat said. "The total volume of water stored in the

RUNOFF | PAGE 11A

* * *

Transition Starts For ASHH Leadership

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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The transition has begun and the search process is being organized to find a permanent replacement for Avera Sacred Heart Hospital CEO Pam Rezac, who retires next month.

This week, ASHH officials announced the appointment of Doug Ekeren as interim CEO effective June 28. Ekeren has served on the hospital's administrative team for the past 21 years. He currently serves as the vice president of professional and regional services.

Rezac retires June 27 after 17 years at the ASHH helm and 34 years in health care



Ekeren

leadership. She will provide valuable input as the hospital transitions to new leadership, Ekeren said.

"Really, what I am doing now, I am transitioning out of my responsibilities that I had prior to her (retirement) announcement," he said Thursday. "Other members of our senior operating team are picking up a lot of those responsibilities to free me up to work on the transition with Pam."

The details of the search

ASHH | PAGE 11A

RIVER CITY



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To USD • 1B

INSIDE



USA Weekend

McVays Share Experience With Alzheimer's Disease

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Ellen McVay told an audience gathered for the "Our Journey Through Alzheimer's" event at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Pavilion Thursday night that her experience with Alzheimer's disease started while she was out driving in 2010.

"I started being aware in Yankton driving my car and kind of forgetting where I was going," Ellen said. "I just kind of got a little worried but I didn't want anybody to know because I thought, 'I just want to be perfect,' like most of us want to be. I couldn't really trust my driving and I didn't want (husband) Michael to talk about it, but eventually I said to him, 'Honey, I think there is something wrong with my brain, I don't know what it is,' and that's when we began (to look into it)."

The event, featuring Ellen and her husband, retired cardiologist Dr. Michael McVay, was presented by the Alzheimer's Association's South Dakota Chapter. Ellen is an Alzheimer's Association 2013 National Early-Stage Advisory Group member

Mike McVay said at this point, the

"At some point in the decision, I decided that I'm in charge of my life and my choice is to be happy."

ELLEN MCVAY

family had noticed something was amiss.

"When we made the decision to see a neurologist and subsequently learned about the diagnosis, then our children said, 'You know, we've been concerned for a while about mom's memory. She'll repeat things or ask things over that we'd just gone over,'" Michael said. "In retrospect, they could see and raise that level of concern."

From there, the couple went through an extremely trying diagnostic process.

"This (neuro-psychologist) gave me the test and he was smiling at me having me do this and this and this and this, and I thought I was feeling pretty good," Ellen said. "Well, he said to call my husband over and he'd like to talk

MCVAYS | PAGE 5A

A Year In The Making

Thorough Research Sends YHS History Students To Nationals

BY DEREK BARTOS
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Several Yankton High School history buffs are ready to flex their academic muscle on the national stage.

Following their work in the year-long National History Day education program, nine YHS Advanced Placement students have made it through district and state rounds to qualify for the national contest. The competition will be held June 15-19 at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

"There was a lot of hard work put into it, and it feels good to have the time you spent on it rewarded," said YHS junior Adam Walter, one of the national qualifiers. "It'll be a fun experience, seeing the other exhibits and competing at a higher level."

The goal of the National History Day program is to engage students in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics, according to the organization's website. Utilizing their research throughout the year in a variety of topics, students can enter the contest by producing dramatic performances, imaginative exhibits, multimedia documentaries, websites and research papers. The projects are then evaluated at local, state and national competitions.

YHS students competed at the state competition on April 23 at South Dakota State University in Brookings. Entries that earned first or second place and two superior ratings qualified for the national competition. Those were:

- "Nine is the Loneliest Number: The Rights and

HISTORY | PAGE 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

Shown are the Yankton High School students who placed at this year's state History Day competition, held April 23 at South Dakota State University in Brookings. Those who placed first or second with two superior ratings qualified for the national contest June 15-19 at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

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TOMORROW: Nebraska Set For Election Day

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET