



Mostly Sunny Skies, Cooler
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Relish

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Mt. Marty's Dahlen Wins Top Honor

BY DEREK BARTOS
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For Dr. Larry Dahlen, teaching is all about connecting with students.

However, when he first started his role as an educator more than 20 years ago, establishing that bond wasn't so easy.



Dahlen

Mount Marty College. But as his approach evolved, he found a much better way to reach his students.

"To begin with, I primarily lectured the students and did a lot of writing on a whiteboard, and they didn't get very involved," said Dahlen, an associate professor of nurse anesthesia at Mount Marty College. "Now I ask more questions and really try to make them more active participants," Dahlen said. "And at the beginning of the semester, I try to learn more about them as a person and tell them about me as a person, and I think that helps. I think if they know I'm really interested in them and their learning, that becomes a motivator for them to do well."

While Dahlen said that the increased participation by his students was reward enough, the teacher has been honored even further. Following a nomination by students, Dahlen was recently selected as the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Didactic Instructor of the Year for 2014.

"When one considers that each of the country's 114 nurse anesthesia programs employs five to 10 professors of all disciplines to teach their students, this award illustrates how special an honor it is to be designated as the profession's number one classroom teacher," said Alfred Lupien, MMC director and professor of nurse anesthesia, in a news release. "Our students are extremely fortunate to be able to work with Dr. Dahlen on a daily basis."

Established in 1991, the

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Is Napa Finished?

Officials Have Differing Opinions On How To Deal With Ongoing Development Issue

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The decision of the Yankton County Planning Commission to table discussion of tax increment financing (TIF) options for a grain shuttle facility Tuesday has drawn mixed reactions.

Yankton County Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said that, while he understood why the Planning Commission took no action, he was

disappointed with the outcome.

"I wanted a recommendation," he said. "I wanted something to come out of there so that we could at least give it to (Dakota Plains Ag Center) so we're not sitting on our laurels and not being aggressive."

Jensen's comments were an acknowledgment that the Planning Commission decision casts further doubt upon Yankton County being the future home



Jensen

of the grain facility at the Napa junction. Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) has also proposed using the associated rail loop to develop an industrial park.

"The point is, we want it or we don't," Jensen said. "If we don't want it, then tell them, 'We don't want you.' That's about where we're at. I've always been for it. There is a point where we have to do something, or they will be gone. To me, it's really frustrating. It's one of the most frustrating things I've been involved with in more than 20 years of government."

Commissioners Garry Moore and John Harper

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Making A Video



These Freeman High School seniors collaborated to produce a video on government gridlock that won honorable mention in the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national competition. The FHS group include (front, left to right) Maria Starner, Cole Waldhauser and Nicole Saarie; and (back, left to right) Justin Eisenbeis, Matthew Peterson, Trevor Schaeffer and Grant Preheim. The class is taught by Curtis Sage.

Freeman H.S. Students Win National C-SPAN Honors

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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FREEMAN — A group of Freeman High School (FHS) seniors created a video, but you won't find it on any music channel.

The FHS economics class created the video "Government Gridlock," looking at the bickering that stymies Congress. The effort won honorable mention honors in the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national competition from among a record 2,355 entries.

Entering for the first time, Freeman competing in the high school division of the open class contest. This year's theme was "A Message To The U.S. Congress."

In the video, Cole Waldhauser almost pleadingly seeks answers to Congress' partisan paralysis.

"Where is the activity and progress that our nation so desperately needs? It's not there," he said. However, the Freeman students said there is



hope. They point to Congress' "No Label" grassroots effort, stripping away party labels and working for the common good.

"No labels — it's an extremely radical idea for Congress to think of that," Waldhauser told the *Press & Dakotan*. "But it would represent progress, and it would be great for parties facing gridlock."

The C-SPAN competition attracted nearly 5,000 students representing 46 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Taiwan, and the United Arab Emirates. C-SPAN, a public affairs network, awarded 150 documentaries with prizes totaling \$100,000. Freeman received \$250 for its honorable mention finish.

But the money wasn't the driving force behind

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Petition Seeks Removal Of Freeman Supt.

From P&D Staff Reports

FREEMAN — The Freeman Public School Board has received a petition seeking the removal of Superintendent Don Hotchkiss, according to the *Freeman Courier*.

The petition, which contains 101 signatures, was discussed during Monday night's school board meeting, the *Courier* said. The board said it was not taking any action until following the school district's formal complaint policy.

Chris Eisenbeis, who addressed Monday's meeting, said he had intended for only the board, not Hotchkiss, to see the petition.

Board chairman Darnell Tschetter noted the petition was public record.

In addition, Tschetter cited South Dakota policy stating that grievances with district personnel are to follow a specific course of action.

The procedure starts with a discussion with the employee in question, then a discussion with the employee and superintendent, then the intervention of the board and then, if necessary, a hearing under oath that includes the presence of attorneys after which the board is the judge and jury.

The *Courier* article detailed the interaction between those who sought Hotchkiss' dismissal and those who strongly supported him.

Hotchkiss addressed the petition in detail, talking specifically about issues it raised in seeking his dismissal. Those issues ranged from how he handles

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Carda Ready For New Role As Yankton's Mayor

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Although David Carda has a reserved personality, he believes he will enjoy his new role as mayor of Yankton.

"I'm an engineer, so I don't tend to be really outgoing," Carda said this week after being elected by his peers on the Yankton City Commission to serve as mayor for the next year. "I'm a little bit quieter than most people. I'm not charismatic, but maybe I'll get a little better as time goes."

The Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc., employee has been on the commission for more than six years, and this will be Carda's first stint as mayor. He was originally elected to a 17-month term on the commission during the December 2007 recall election involving two other

members of the board. During Carda's last reelection bid in 2012, he received the most votes of the five candidates.

Carda said he had spoken with commissioners prior to Monday's meeting and expressed interest in being mayor.

"I am glad to do it, and I was looking forward to it," he stated. "I thought I would enjoy the role. I've been on the commission more than six years and saw how the other mayors handled it. I think all mayors are a little different in how they handle things. I'll just be a different twist to it."

Carda takes over for Nancy Wenande, who served as mayor the past two years and was defeated in her recent bid for reelection.

When asked what lays ahead for the



David Carda has served more than six years on the Yankton City Commission and was elected this week by his fellow commissioners to serve as mayor.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

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