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SATURDAY ■ May 9, 2015

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Volume 141
Number 12

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 20 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢



Obama: 'Saved The Best For Last'



PHOTO: BOB MERCER

President Barack Obama waves to the crowd as he prepares to leave Watertown Friday after delivering the commencement address at the Lake Area Technical Institute. South Dakota was the final state in the nation the president has visited since taking office in 2009.

President Makes It All 50 States As He Speaks At Watertown Graduation Event

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

President Barack Obama spoke at the Lake Area Technical Institute graduation ceremony Friday evening as his first visit as president to South Dakota.

That he has now visited all 50 states in the nation as president became the punch line for a joke and the theme for T-shirts snapped up by some of those on his detail and some members of the news media that traveled with him.

"I saved the best for last. To the other 49, I hope you take no offense," Obama said. The president used the trip to deliver a serious message. He called for a community

college education to be as "free and universal" as high school is today.

He said closing one federal tax loophole for the rich could cover the expense.

The cost of attending community college in turn could be "zero" for students willing to work at their education, Obama said.

The Democratic president made his remarks while sharing the spotlight with South Dakota's congressional delegation of three Republicans, whose political party controls Congress.

He noted LATI is one of two community colleges in the nation that have made the top 10 list every year since the start of the Aspen Prize recognizing the nation's top two-year schools.

"This school is leading the way," Obama said.

The ceremony for 720 graduates was held in a full Watertown High School gymnasium.

"I came here because you, the students, inspire me," Obama told the crowd about why he came "to this tiny school in this tiny town."

He called community colleges "vital paths to the middle class for millions of Americans."

The president recognized several students by name including Leanna Waldner, a non-traditional student from Watertown who received a degree in financial services.

"I know there are two little girls here today who are very proud of their mom," Obama said.

The president was on the ground in Watertown for about two hours and 10 minutes.

His white and blue 757 came to a stop at Watertown Regional Airport's main terminal

OBAMA | PAGE 15



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D

Former Yankton High School band director, seen here conducting at his final YHS concert in 2012, will be honored Monday night by the current YHS band when it performs a musical piece specially commissioned in his honor.

The Gift Of Music

YHS Band To Present Musical Tribute To Retired Friend, Teacher

BY JORDYNNE HART

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"There is no greater gift than the gift of music."

After three years of planning, hard work and patience, the Yankton High School band will present a musical tribute to retired YHS band director Ted Powell at the conclusion of the All-School Band concert on Monday, May 11.

The band will give the premiere performance of "Beyond The Cosmos" in Powell's honor.

The concert will be held at the Yankton High School/Summit Activities Center Gymnasium at 7 p.m.

"It is all very exciting and I am completely honored," Powell told the *Press and Dakotan*. "I am anxious to hear it Monday."

Three years ago, current YHS band director Todd Carr mentioned the idea to the YHS Band Boosters of commissioning a piece for Powell.

"There was no disagreement at all, even though it is very expensive to have something like this done," Carr said. "But in my mind, the greatest way to honor somebody is to write music for them."

After getting the approval from the board, Carr searched for a composer to write the piece.

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Late Nun Leaves Legacy At MMC

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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During some free time, Sister Evangeline Anderson and Celia Miner decided to attend a movie while on a fundraising trip for Mount Marty College.

The two women were traveling in California at the time, several decades ago.

"I knew this movie and its actress had been nominated for Academy Awards, so I suggested we go to see it," Miner said.

The film wasn't exactly what they expected. "This was before they had the ratings they do today," Miner said. "Little did I realize it was an XXX-rated movie. When we saw the opening scenes, I was horrified and wondered what Sister Evangeline was thinking of the movie and of me for suggesting it."

The women regained their composure, and Sister Evangeline retained her sense of humor through it all. "Years later, Sister used to tease me and ask, 'So, have you seen any good movies lately?'" Miner said, now able to laugh at the mortifying moment.

The nun's humor and her ability to roll with any situation served her well, including her tenure as MMC president from



Anderson

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Diane Nicholson, president of the Yankton chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and her daughters Melissa Pearson and Traci Andresen, watch as dye placed in the fountain at Fourth and Broadway in Yankton begins to tint the water green. It is being done to commemorate Mental Health Awareness Month

Fountain Water Turns Green In Support Of Mental Health Awareness Month

BY REILLY BIEL
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Motorists passing by the fountain on Fourth and Broadway, Yankton, may do a double-take when they notice that the water has a green tint to it.

This is not due to a belated celebration of Saint Patrick's Day, but to commemorate Mental Health Awareness Month. Green is the color for mental health.

"We're going to make sure to keep it green all month long," said Diane Nicholson, president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for the Yankton affiliate. This was done with permission from Parks and Recreation Director Todd Larson.

The organization's goal is to support people with mental illness and raise aware-

ness that mental health is a disease like any other.

"This illness hits one in four adults in America. Somebody you know is affected by mental health illness," Nicholson said.

"This is the first time we are doing this," she said. "It's right at a busy intersection. People will hopefully be wondering why the water's green and they'll look around and it will get them thinking."

Nicholson hopes the fountain water coloring will help bring attention to NAMI and to mental health issues.

NAMI is frequently active on raising mental health awareness in the area.

On the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m., the local NAMI members meet at Sacred Heart Hospital Pavilion and recently, the

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MONDAY: MMC, USD Hold Spring Commencements

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK
NORTH
OF 15TH STREET