



Above Average Temperatures

9 a.m.: **57** | 3 p.m.: **74** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

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Inside Today



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Secretary of State Jason Gant displays a Yankton County sample ballot during a voter information meeting on Wednesday. The meeting discussed the changes to the election system for this fall.

Yankton County Voting Changes Discussed At Area Meeting

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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About two dozen likely voters gathered at the Yankton County Government Center on Wednesday for an informational meeting about the changes in the election system this fall.

County Auditor Paula Jones said she is excited about the modifications Yankton County will undergo this election season thanks to changes in state law and to the new technology.

The biggest change voters will notice is that they are no longer restricted to casting a ballot on election day at the polling place within their precinct. With the new voting center system in place, a ballot can be cast at any of the seven polling stations across the county.

The voting centers will be at:

- Yankton City Hall, 416 Walnut St.
- Yankton Middle School, 2000 Mulberry St.

- JoDean's Steakhouse and Lounge, 2809 Broadway Ave., Yankton
- the Rock House, 31120 Quarry Drive, Yankton
- Gayville Community Center, 404 Washington St., Gayville
- Broomtree Farm, Bishop Carlson Lodge, 29827 Ave. Irene
- the Lesterville Fire Hall, Lesterville.

The other old polling stations will no longer be open on election day.

"It's going to be new to all of us, but I think it's an exciting concept," Jones said. "I think voters will appreciate the ease with which they can vote."

VOTING | PAGE 2

SD: No Insurance Exchange

State Defers To Feds For Operation

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota will not set up its own health insurance exchange, instead deferring to the federal government to operate and pay for a key component required by the federal health care overhaul, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Wednesday.

President Barack Obama's health care law requires that each state have such an exchange, an on-line marketplace where patients and small businesses can shop for health insurance among competing plans. The federal government will directly operate and fund exchanges in states that

choose not to operate their own.

Daugaard said South Dakota will join other states that have chosen not to run their own exchanges. About half the states apparently will let the federal government run exchanges, at least initially.

"After extensive research and analysis, it has become very apparent that operating our own exchange will simply not work for South Dakota," Daugaard said in a written statement.

After the Supreme Court upheld the health law in June, Daugaard said the state wouldn't implement any part of the law until at least after the November



Daugaard

election in the hope that a new president and new Congress would overturn it. The state faces a deadline of Nov. 16 to let federal officials know whether it would operate its own insurance exchange.

On Wednesday, the governor said annual operating costs for a state-operated exchange would be too expensive, costing between \$6.3 million and \$7.7 million.

"The federal law requires exchanges to be self-sustaining by 2015, which means we would either have to charge a fee to South Dakota citizens using the exchange, or increase taxes, neither of which I am willing to do," Daugaard said.

Kirk Zimmer, chief executive officer of

EXCHANGE | PAGE 11



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) smiles while addressing Doug Haar's Advanced Placement (AP) government class at Yankton High School Wednesday afternoon. The topics of discussion ranged from the new federal policy for school lunches to civic involvement.

Thune Gives YHS Students Some Food For Thought

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Even though it was well into the afternoon, Sen. John Thune learned Wednesday that lunch was on the minds of Yankton High School (YHS) students.

The Republican South Dakota senator visited teacher Doug Haar's advanced placement (AP) government class for more than an hour to talk about the job of being an elected official and answer student questions. It's something Thune has done at YHS in previous years.

Questions ran the gamut from the effects of vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan's proposed Medicaid plan to whether filibusters are needed. However, it was when YHS principal Dr. Wayne Kindle brought up the new federal guidelines mandating healthy school lunches that students become the most animated.

The issue seemed to bring home to the approximately 30 students the effect federal rules can have on their lives.

Among the requirements are an 850-calorie limit, milk that is nonfat or low-fat, one cup each of fruit and vegetables, 2 ounces of protein and 2 ounces of grains per day.

"What do you guys think of it?" Thune asked.

The teens expressed dissatisfac-

tion with the new guidelines. One commented on how food and money are being wasted because students do not like some of the food being served.

"Is pizza still a vegetable?"

Thune joked before addressing the matter more seriously, saying it was an example of people in Washington, D.C., doing something that affects many people's lives.

"I understand that somebody is always well-intentioned in what they are trying to accomplish — in this case, trying to make us healthier," he stated.

Ultimately, the senator did not endorse or condemn the healthy lunch rules.

But with that in mind, Thune pivoted to the issue of health care in the United States.

"One of the ways we could get insurance costs down in this country is incentivizing people to do the kinds of things that keep people healthy," he said. "We don't do nearly enough of that. Incentivizing is always the best way. If there is a financial incentive for certain types of behavior, people tend to respond to that incentive."

Thune also took the opportunity to ask the students what they would like to see federal representatives working on in Congress.

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6th Annual Menno Band Day Set To March

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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MENNO — This Friday, hundreds of musicians will take to the streets of Menno.

Twenty-one bands will descend on the Hutchinson County community for the sixth annual Menno Band Day. After completing the street marching competition, the bands will gather to watch exhibitions by the University of South Dakota's "The SOUND" marching band.

It's a role that Menno band director Gwen Wenisch relishes, despite the rigors of putting together such a major event.

"I think it's a great event that a lot of people come into town for," she said. "It shows that the Menno community is supportive of music just as in athletics."

The parade starts at 10 a.m. with the Menno Wolves Marching Band leading the way. Middle school bands will start the competition, followed by Class "B" and then Class "A" schools. The SOUND will provide the last performance of the parade.

Upon the parade's conclusion, everyone is invited to

the Menno High School football field for a field performance by The SOUND. Immediately following USD's performance, winners will be announced for each class.

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Wenisch sees the Menno Band Day producing tremendous benefits for the young musicians.

"In regards to the kids, I think this event is great!" she said. "It's nice that the kids hear firsthand from the judges how they performed. And they can ask questions as well, if there is time with the judges. It's also a great learning experience for kids to see what other bands are doing — especially bands from schools comparable in size to their own."

The experience becomes even more meaningful with the appearance of a university band such as The SOUND, Wenisch said.

"The college-level groups that perform each year just top it off," she said. "Music is an activity that can be a life-long activity. And the college kids show that music

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COURTESY PHOTO
The University of South Dakota's "The SOUND" marching band will be the featured at Friday's sixth annual Band Day festivities in Menno. Several area high school and middle school bands will also be on hand and competing in various categories.

Electrical Fire Sparks Problems At Area Motel

From P&D Staff Reports

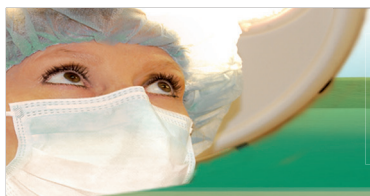
An isolated electrical fire at a Yankton hotel wound up causing some big problems Wednesday.

At approximately 4 p.m., firefighters were summoned to the Kelly Inn on E. Highway 50 when an electrical fire was reported in one of the work rooms. The flash fire caused one person to be transported for medical attention with unknown injuries.

However, the blaze forced the evacuation of the 110-room Kelly Inn, which was full due in part to today's (Thursday) TransCanada disaster drill training. It was deemed necessary to find other accommodations for the guests, but since most of the other motels in town were also full, it created logistical problems.

Yankton Assistant Fire Chief Larry Nickles said there were some lodgings available at the lake. If need be, some individuals may be transported to Sioux City for housing.

Nickles added that the evacuation went very well.



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