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South Dakota

Exchange Insurance Above National Average

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — South Dakota residents will pay more for health insurance than people in surrounding states under the federal exchange, according to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report released Wednesday.

Average premiums for the lowest-level plan for a South Dakota family of four with an income of \$50,000 will be \$141 a month after tax credits. The national average is \$95 a month.

To the north, North Dakota residents would pay \$111 for the same coverage, while Nebraska residents will pay \$113 and Wyoming residents will pay \$81.

Melissa Klemann, assistant director of life and health insurance for the South Dakota Division of Insurance, said officials are still analyzing the report, but she's surprised the state would have higher costs.

"Our rates have always been very competitive to any of our surrounding states," Klemann said.

Enrollment in the online marketplaces, or exchanges, opens next week. The federal government is running the marketplaces in South Dakota and 35 other states.

According to the report, South Dakota residents will have an average of 32 qualified health plans to choose from, compared to the national average of 53.

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CORRECTION

In the Wednesday edition of the *Press & Dakotan*, the name of Michael Stuart was misspelled in a story about his alleged involvement with a stolen car and subsequent arrest. The *Press & Dakotan* apologizes for the error.

YHS Spots The Spirit



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

It's homecoming week at Yankton High School, and Wednesday's theme of "Disney Character/Superheroes Day" turned into a canine celebration of sorts. Principal Jennifer Johnke and her staff dressed in honor of the movie "101 Dalmatians," but it was realized later that members of the YHS volleyball team also took on that movie for their costumes. So, the two groups of puppies got together for this photo, with Johnke (bottom left) in the role of Cruella De Vil. (Sophie Drotzmann also played Cruella for the volleyball team.) Homecoming festivities continue tonight (Thursday) with the coronation at 7 p.m. at the YHS/Summit Activities Center main gym, with the annual parade set for Friday afternoon.

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Jim Fry went to work prepared Wednesday morning. His resignation letter was ready and signed in the pocket of his blazer.

The Legislature's Executive Board was scheduled to receive the official audit report and recommendations from a review by National Conference of State Legislatures

staff regarding the performance and management of the Legislative Research Council (LRC).

Fry spent 13 years as director for the Legislature's non-partisan, professional staff. That was the second-longest tenure by a director, behind only predecessor, Terry Anderson, who served 18 years before taking a similar post for the Wisconsin Legislature in 2000.

Fry, 65, decided he would end his

career after reading the NCSL report. The board's operations subcommittee met for two hours in closed session Wednesday morning to discuss the report.

Fry gave his resignation letter to the board's chairman, Sen. Ryan Maher, R-Isabel. Maher began the main meeting at 10 a.m. by announcing Fry's decision. His retirement was to take effect Oct. 11.

The full board met for several

hours in closed session. At mid-afternoon three members — Maher; Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg; and Rep. Lance Carson, R-Mitchell, the board's vice-chairman — went from the meeting room on the fourth floor of the Capitol downstairs to the LRC offices on the third floor.

There they informed Fry they

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Legislators Concerned About Plan For Hwy. 50

D18 Contingent Sends Letter To DOT Detailing Issues

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Local legislators are questioning the South Dakota Department of Transportation's (SDDOT) plans for reconstruction of Highway 50.

In a recent letter to Joel Jundt of the SDDOT, Sen. Jean Hunhoff (R-Yankton), Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton) and Rep. Mike Stevens (R-Yankton) request that the agency make adjustments to better accommodate pedestrian and motor traffic between Broadway Avenue and Burleigh Street.

"The proposed construction would remove three feet on both sides of the highway, narrow the width of the lanes and install a turning lane," the letter states. "With more information being made available, all of us are hearing from citizens who object to the plan, and we agree."

Highway 50, or Fourth Street, will be reconstructed from Broadway Avenue to Burleigh Street in 2015. The following year, the reconstruction will occur from Marne Creek to Archery Lane. The estimated cost of the project is \$7.8 million.

According to the current plans, Broadway Avenue to Burleigh Street will become five lanes with a continuous left turn lane in the center.

Also, while the traffic signal at Highway 50 and Douglas Avenue will be replaced, the plans



Hunhoff



Hunhoff



Stevens

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Legislature Shakes Up Its Top Staff

BY BOB MERCER
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USD Speaker Addresses Israeli-Palestinian Coverage

BY ROB NIELSEN
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VERMILLION — Alison Weir told an audience there's more to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than most Americans know during an International forum at the University of South Dakota Wednesday.

"We get a great deal of Israel-Palestine reporting in the media," Weir said. "Sometimes we get more reporting on this issue than some local issues of significance. I feel less often we learn about the American connection."

Weir, executive director of "If Americans Knew" and pres-

ident of the Council for the National Interest, told the *Press & Dakotan* that she has been no stranger to controversy as she's travelled the country speaking on the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

"There's always been an effort by Israeli partisans to defame me," Weir said. "To misrepresent who I am and what I do and to try and prevent people from having the chance. Usually once a talk is announced, they have not been able to get it cancelled, but it's disappointing they



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
Alison Weir, who draws controversy in lectures discussing Israel and Palestine, spoke Tuesday at an International Forum held in Farber Hall on the University of South Dakota campus.

WEIR | PAGE 19

Yankton Preparing For Manufacturing Week Events

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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How does Yankton's manufacturing sector touch you?

That's the story local organizers hope to tell during South Dakota Manufacturing Week Sept. 30 to Oct. 4. The theme chosen by the community is "Manufacturing — It Touches Everyone."

National Manufacturing Day was originally designated as the first Friday of October last year and will be celebrated Oct. 4 this year. It is aimed at expanding the general public's knowledge of manufacturing.

This year is the first time South Dakota will recognize the event, and it has decided to designate the entire week.

A local manufacturing committee consisting of representatives from the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC), the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation and several manufacturers arranged for the variety of events that will take place in Yankton.

"We have been pushing for recognition of Manufacturing Day and designating a whole week since February because we have so many manufacturers in Yankton," said Carmen Schramm, executive director of the Chamber. "We thought it was important and worked with the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the

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