

## YANKTON DAILY L'RESS & DAKOTAN

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**Our Annual Spring Car Tune-Up Section • 13-15** 





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This Highway Department dump truck heads down Broaway Ave. in Yankton Tuesday while sleet falls on the community. A major spring storm brought rain, ice, sleet and snow to the region, prompting local officials to sand streets and highways. At least one accident attributable to the icy conditions was reported, but there were no injuries.

# Spring Storm Wallops Plains

Weather Forces Closures Throughout South Dakota

**Decision 2013** 

## **Incumbents Shine In Local Voting**

Gross, Woerner, And Blaalid Win In Yankton City Race

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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The Yankton City Commission will have two familiar faces and one new one when it reorganizes in May.

During Tuesday's municipal election, voters selected incumbents Charlie Gross and Brad Woerner to serve another three years. Brooke Blaalid will fill the seat left open by departing City Commissioner Paul Lowrie.

Gross received 1,008 votes, or 28.34 percent. Woerner garnered 804 votes, or

22.6 percent. Blaalid received 770 votes, or 21.65 percent. Four other candidates

were also vying for the

Schumacher received 156

votes, or 2.78 percent. Thomas Bixler received

76 votes, or 2.14 percent. Yankton has 8,836 reg-

istered active voters. Of

those, 1.436 cast ballots.

putting turnout at 16.25

percent. That compares

to 27.1 percent and 22

percent in the previous

Gross said he was

honored to be re-elected.







This will be his seventh full term on the commission. He was also once appointed to fill out a vacant term. "My biggest concern

two years.

right now is the water issue and how to finance it," he stated.

Challenges faced by Yankton's water treatment and intake systems could end up costing the city an estimated \$28 million.

Woerner said he was happy to have been re-elected to a second term. Echoing Gross, he said the biggest

issue for him will be the water situation. "It needs the most immediate attention," Woerner stated. Other items to be dealt with in the

next three years include a possible sports complex, recycling and the development of the Human Services Center property owned by the city.

Blaalid said the municipal election was her first race.

"I'm really excited to serve the community," she stated. "I'm so humbled that the community trusts me to lead. I want to thank everyone for coming out and voting, as well as the other candi-

CITY | PAGE 16



Poll worker Mary Ellen Bowes uses a scanner to validate the identification of a voter Tuesday afternoon at the Kiwanis 4-H Ice Arena in Yankton. It was the first time that the ice arena was used as a polling center in Yankton.

#### Yankton School Board

### Fitzgerald And Carda Prevail

BY ANDREW ATWAL andrew.atwal@yankton.net

Sarah Carda and incumbent Jim Fitzgerald won the two open Yankton School District (YSD) school board

Voter turnout was at just 13.6 percent this year. In 2012, voter turnout was 24.5 percent, while in 2011 they were 17 percent.

"I assume the winter weather might have played a factor in the low turnout," said YSD business manager

Fitzgerald received nearly 41 percent of the vote (1,235 total votes),

while Carda received more than 37 percent of the vote (1,126)votes). Duane "Butch" Becker came in third with nearly 14 percent of votes, while Wayne Wurth came in fourth with almost 8 percent of votes.

Fitzgerald "With the three-year term on the school board, I hope to get back to the basics," Carda said. "I want to be able to say that YSD provides the best education for students and kids in the community.'

She added that superintendent in-



"huge."
"YSD has not had a lot of opportunities for a change in leadership for a lot of years," Carda said. "It's a

terviews, which will be

held Thursday, will be

major time, and a good time to make changes Carda

and to move forward." She stated that she will not come to the YSD school board with an agenda, and will take time learning the ropes and budget in order to make the best

**SCHOOL** | PAGE 11

### Storm Wreaks Havoc With Area Races

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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Even before the polls opened Tuesday, area city and school elections faced a major challenge — the storm that raged across South Dakota and Nebraska.

In fact, the spring storm forced postponement of the Freeman school board election until April 16. In that race, incumbent LaVerne Diede and challengers Dan Waldhauser and Cory Schrag will vie for two seats on the board.

In addition, results in the Niobrara, Neb., school bond election were not

available Tuesday night because of the weather. Superintendent Margaret Sandoz said the figures would be available today (Wednesday) for the bond measure, which would not exceed \$9.995 million over 25 years for school replacements and renovations.

For cities and schools that proceeded with their election, the weather challenged voters in getting to the polls. However, voter turnout hit at least 30 percent in most area elections. The turnout broke 50 percent in some places, even with only one race on the

Among city councils, Scotland was

guaranteed a new mayor and Springfield was guaranteed a new councilor (along with two new members who filed unopposed). Pickstown and Mission Hill also picked up new councilors.

Among the area schools, the Menno board will seat two new members as both incumbents lost their bid for an-

The following are results from area elections:

LESTERVILLE — Incumbent Muriel Pratt defeated challenger Karen Frangenberg 41-11 for a three-year term

AREA | PAGE 11

From P&D and AP Reports

A powerful winter storm lumbered across the Upper Plains Tuesday, bringing rains, ice, sleet, snow and words of advice stay home and keep off the roads.

We need to hunker down," Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether said Tuesday after-

noon. "This one is going to last a while."

An early spring storm walloped South Dakota earlier Tuesday with rain, thunder, heavy snow and strong winds, downing large tree limbs and cutting power to thousands of homes and businesses.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued statements urging drivers to be cautious on the roads and to make plans for possible power outages. Interstate 90 was closed between Rapid City and Sioux Falls Tuesday evening. Transportation officials will determine which, if any, stretches can reopen Wednesday

"Spring storms are not unusual, but they can be very dangerous," said Greg Fuller, operations director for the Transportation Department. Up to a foot of snow fell in southwestern North Dakota on Monday, causing several vehicle accidents.

Schools closed across the state, as did some city and county offices. Secretary of State Jason Gant reported that more than two dozen cities and school districts informed him they were delaying elections for a week. Only personnel deemed essential were required to report to Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City. Spring construction projects were halted in some

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office issued a statement saying state government offices were open in Pierre but urging people to call ahead before visiting.
"State employees, like other South

Dakota residents, are digging out from the storm," the statement said.

On the positive side, the storm did bring some badly needed precipitation to the Yankton area. As of 6 p.m. Tuesday night, the Yankton airport had received 1.26 inches of moisture, which began arriving as rain late Monday night. It turned to ice early Tuesday morning before shifting to sleet and light snow at about 3 p.m. that afternoon.

Yankton was also experiencing thunder early Tuesday night.

At press time Tuesday, the Yankton area was under a winter storm warning through 7 a.m. Thursday, with gusty winds and up to 8 inches of snow possible before the system finally exits the area.

School was called off at Yankton Public School for today (Wednesday).

Also, the Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition (MSAC) canceled all activities Tuesday in Yankton, according to MSAC executive director Sandy Stockholm. The cancellations include the business meeting and the annual membership meeting with a presentation by Tim Cowman of the Missouri River Institute (MRI) in Vermillion.

The Vermillion public meeting for the Proposed Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Areas that was scheduled for today has been moved to 1-3 p.m. Thursday at the Vermillion Public Library. There is no change for the meeting scheduled in Niobrara, which will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Lutheran Fellowship

South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant was in Yankton for Tuesday's election, and he told the *Press & Dakotan* he believes it was a historic day due to the number of postponed elections.

Of the approximately 100 elections slated, 27 were postponed until next Tuesday, according to Gant.

Statewide, it was a wild day," he stated. "I'm not aware of any time when we had so many (elections) close. There have been one or two in the past because of a water main break or something. But it's

**STORM** | PAGE 11





TOMORROW: Remembrance Walk For Brianna Knoll Slated Saturday

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: