



# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

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## Gertsema Officially Resigns



Yankton School District superintendent Dr. Joe Gertsema addresses the Yankton school board and the audience in attendance Monday after formally submitting his letter of resignation to the board. In the background, school board member Kathy Greenway looks on. Gertsema announced last week he plans to resign effective next June 30, which will be exactly 23 years after he took over as the district's superintendent. The school board accepted his letter of resignation by a unanimous vote.

### Superintendent Slated To Step Down Next June

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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The Yankton School Board accepted the resignation of Yankton School District superintendent Joe Gertsema during its regular monthly meeting Monday night.

Gertsema, who has held the position for the past 22 years, announced last Friday his intentions to resign effective June 30, 2013.

"The board is certainly very appreciative of Dr. Gertsema's 22 years of dedicated service to our district and to our community," said school board president Chris Specht. "There have been many positive projects and initiatives that have been completed under his tenure and his leadership. Student achievement and staff leadership have always been primary focuses of his, and for that we are very appreciative. We wish Joe nothing but the best, along with his family."

Reflecting on his time at YSD, Gertsema said he was proud of his and the district's many accomplishments, including the addition of facilities such as the YHS/Summit Activities Center, upgrades in technology to allow for better teaching and learning activities, the quality of the district's staff and, most of all, the level of student achievement.

"The thing that has really driven me, contrary to what some people may think, has always been the kids," he said. "Without the students here, we don't need to be here tonight."

JOE GERTSEMA

## Storm Brought Little Drought Relief To The Region, Climatologist Says

From P&D Staff Reports

BROOKINGS — The weekend blizzard, which dropped between 5 and 10 inches of snow on much of eastern South Dakota won't have much of an impact on drought conditions in farm country, says Dennis Todey, State Climatologist.

"The blizzard will do very little for soil moisture because soils were frozen or near freezing prior to the storm," Todey said in a press release issued Monday.

Some portions of the state received up to 10 inches of snow from the storm, although the southeast corner of the state received very little snowfall.

Because the snow from the weekend storm was fairly liquid, Todey says when it does melt, it may contribute about 1 inch of soil moisture. With most of the snow falling in the eastern half of the state, Todey adds that central and western South Dakota farmers who planted winter wheat did not benefit from the storm.

In addition to visibility issues during the storm, Todey says the storm creates challenges for many cattle producers who will have to pull grazing cattle off corn and soybean fields and move snow out of feedlot pens.

For personal safety, Todey encourages South Dakotans to watch the National Weather Service Web site, weather.gov or National Oceanic and Atmospheric



ELIZABETH FLORES/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT Elizabeth Bushnell, of Minneapolis, clears her car of the snow after she picked it up at the Minneapolis Impound lot Monday.

Administration weather radio for winter storm updates and both National Weather Service and Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network, cocorahs.org, for latest snow totals.

For more information and climate updates, visit iGrow.org.

## Yankton River Events To Mark Milestones In 2013

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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The three Missouri River events at Yankton are marking major milestones next spring, led by the river clean-up's 10th anniversary.

In addition, major plans are in the works for the education festival, which looks to set a new record with more than 500 students, and the Clean Boat Event which has kept invasive species out of Lewis and Clark Lake.

The organizing committee met Monday, showing excitement for all three events as they prepare for the final push in the coming weeks.

Last spring's river clean-up collected about 3.5 tons of debris, which likely set a record for the event, said Ranger Dugan Smith with the National Park Service (NPS).

"We expected more garbage after the flood in 2011. But even in the six years before that,

we were getting at least a couple of tons each year and were averaging about three tons a year," he said.

"If you add all the stuff over the last 10 years, that's a lot of garbage, and it's still being collected."

The Missouri River Watershed Education Festival has quadrupled in four years, from about 100 students the first year to 425 last year, said Mary Robb with the City of Yankton.

"And Vermillion wasn't able to attend last year. If they return next year, we may be looking at 525 students," she said. "We have gone with two stations for many of the presentations, so the groups don't get too large."

Meanwhile, the Clean Boat Event has been successful in what it has kept away — invasive species that latch onto boats and equipment to find their way into new waterways.

"The goal, when we started, was to raise

RIVER | PAGE 9

## 3 FRENCH HORNS



KELLY HERTZ/P&D Members of the Yankton Middle School's sixth grade band are shown performing at the YMS holiday band concert Monday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. The fifth-grade band, comprised of students from the various public schools in Yankton, performed, as did the seventh- and eighth-grade band. The program included seasonal and non-seasonal tunes. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

## Groveland Park Named To S.D. Rock And Roll Shrine

From P&D Staff Reports

SIoux FALLS — A popular Tyndall music venue has been selected for induction into the South Dakota Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Groveland Park is among four facilities that will be inducted into the shrine during ceremonies set for April in Sioux Falls.

Other facilities being inducted include the White Eagle Ballroom of New Effington, Horatios of Brookings and Lyal's Music Store of Lake Preston.

Ten bands will be inducted: the Roselles Brothers Band, Burch Ray & the Walkers, The Velaires, 7 Sons, Lads of Sherwood, Trashmen, Ma's Boys, Hursmen, Nickel Bag of Soul and Outer Limits.

Individuals to be honored in 2013 are promoter Dick Matousek, Sioux City, Iowa; DJ Ray Durkee, Aberdeen, winning the Lifetime Achievement Award; and the late Lloyd Nerland, Huron, winning the Spirit of the Music Award.

The event will be held April 13, 2013, at the Ramkota Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls.

Details, tickets and V.I.P. tables are available for reservations online at www.SDRRMA.com.

CITY | PAGE 14

### SPORTS



Gazelle Gymnasts Top Wagner In Season Debut • 7

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dec. 11  
14 shopping days to Christmas

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## City Studies Resource Officer For Schools

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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After hearing that Yankton is the only school district of its size in the state without a school resource officer, the City Commission decided Monday to allow the police department to pursue funding for such a position.

Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen said his department has been involved in discussions for approximately a year with the Yankton School District and Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health about the need for a school resource officer.

"From those initial conversations, the high school hired their substance abuse counselor that started in August," he stated.

However, it has been a struggle to find funding for a school resource officer.

Paulsen said that may change

SCHOOL | PAGE 14



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REGION 2 | WORLD 3 | OBITUARIES 3 | SPORTS 7 | SANTA LETTERS 10 | CLASSIFIEDS 12 | MIDWEST 13

TOMORROW: Local Campground Wins National Honor

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
NORTH  
OF 15TH STREET