



Yankton Swept By Sioux Falls Washington • SPORTS/8

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



American Profile

VOLUME 138 NUMBER 194

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 14 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢ 8 38894 0002 4

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dec. 12
13 shopping days to Christmas

* * *

Obama, Boehner Trade 'Cliff' Proposals

BY DAVID ESPO AND BEN FELLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a test of divided government, President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner sought an elusive compromise Tuesday to prevent economy-damaging tax increases on the middle class at year's end, conferring by phone after a secretive exchange of proposals.

Details were sparse and evidence of significant progress scarcer still, although officials said the president had offered to reduce his initial demand for \$1.6 trillion in higher tax revenue over a decade to \$1.4 trillion.

There was no indication he was relenting on his insistence — strongly opposed by most Republicans — that tax rates rise at upper incomes.

Boehner sounded unimpressed in remarks on the House floor at midday.

"The longer the White House slow-walks this process, the closer our economy gets to the fiscal cliff," he said, declaring that Obama had yet to identify specific cuts to government benefit programs that as part of an agreement that also would raise federal tax revenue.

The Ohio Republican made his comments well before he and the president talked by phone about attempts to avert a "fiscal cliff," across-the-board tax increases and cuts in defense and domestic programs that economists say could send the economy into recession.

In rebuttal, the White House swiftly detailed numerous proposals Obama has made to cut spending,

CLIFF | PAGE 6

Man Faces Murder Charge

Indictment Made In Connection With October Death

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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A Yankton man has been indicted for second-degree murder in connection with the October death of another Yankton man.

According to court documents, Darwin Abel Jans, 57, Yankton, was indicted Dec. 6.

In addition to the murder charge, Jans is also charged with aggravated assault.

At 4:35 p.m. Sept. 19, Yankton police officers responded to an incident at 120 East Third Street near the Sir Charles Apartments. According to Lt. Todd Brandt, officers found Larry D. Goodman unresponsive as a result of an apparent assault.

Goodman, 59, received extensive medical treatment, but passed away Oct. 6 at the Avera Yankton Care Center in Yankton.

An autopsy performed by Dr. Kenneth Snell, a pathologist at the Sanford Health Pathology Clinic in Sioux Falls, determined the cause of death to be "blunt force injury of head due to assault."



Goodman

Jans was arrested for aggravated assault immediately following the incident and remains incarcerated. He is being held on a \$100,000 cash-only bond, according to the indictment.

In order to prove second-degree murder, prosecutors will have to show that Jans committed an act "imminently dangerous to others ... although without any premeditated design to effect the death of

MURDER | PAGE 3



The Yankton/Missouri River Kamppgrounds of America (KOA) Campground was recently awarded the 2012 KOA President's and Founder's awards, the highest honors KOA campgrounds can receive. Pictured are campground managers Don and Nancy Starzl.

Local KOA Campground Awarded Highest Honors

BY DEREK BARTOS
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A Yankton campground has once again proven its dedication to service.

The Yankton/Missouri River Kamppgrounds of America (KOA) Campground was recently honored with the 2012 KOA President's and Founder's awards, which were presented last month at the KOA annual International Convention in Orlando, Fla. This is the second consecutive year the campground has won the awards.

"It's the two highest awards any campground from KOA can receive, and to receive them both for this year and last year was a nice accomplishment," said Don Starzl, who manages the campground with

his wife Nancy. "It's a nice feather in our hat, and we're really proud of it."

The KOA President's and Founder's awards are presented annually to campgrounds that receive top scores in KOA's annual quality review and high scores in customer service from their campers. Each year, KOA surveys hundreds of thousands of campers about their KOA camping experience.

"Our KOA owners rely on the feedback they receive from our camping guests to make almost instant changes and improvements to their operations," said KOA president Pat Hittmeier in a news release. "KOA owners do a wonderful job of

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Area Schools Monitoring Latest Changes In Lunch Rules

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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So, what's to eat? That question has generated a great deal of discussion in school districts, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued new rules for school nutrition programs.

The new rules' supporters cite the need to fight childhood obesity and to offer better nutrition in school lunch programs. Opponents say the changes take away local control, don't provide an adequate amount of food for many students and don't recognize the differences in individual calorie and nutritional needs.

In response to public feedback, the USDA recently relaxed its requirements and is allowing more meat and grains in meals.

Hutchinson County schools, along with other districts across the state, have worked to comply with the USDA rules. They are now watching the impact of the relaxed standards.

Tripp-Delmont superintendent Lynn Vlasman noted his district needed to take actions to accommodate the new USDA requirements.

"As a small school, we have sent our lunch program staff to a couple of pretty extensive trainings to implement the new requirements," he said. "The implementation has had costs associated both with the training and extra paperwork for compliance. Those costs come out of

OUR TOWNS Hutchinson County

the program, impacting our budget negatively, and the extra time and work have had a detrimental impact on staff morale."

Vlasman said he isn't convinced the new regulations will provide the results desired by USDA officials.

"There are serious health problems related to obesity, but the school lunch program prior to the changes was not a contributing factor and, even with the changes, will not be a solution to the problem," he said.

Tripp-Delmont officials have received some comments about the amount of food currently served under the new regulations, Vlasman said.

"Our district has had some of the older students, particularly those out for sports, make comments about being hungry at the end of the school day and then going into their practices that way," he said.

"We will need to monitor and take feedback as we go along to see if the changes will improve that situation."

Parkston superintendent Shayne McIntosh welcomed the recent changes in USDA regulations.

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Yankton Superintendent Pleads Guilty To DUI

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
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Gertsema

VERMILLION — The Yankton School District's superintendent was sentenced in Vermillion Tuesday morning for a charge relating to an arrest in October for driving under the influence.

Joseph Gertsema pleaded guilty to first-offense DUI, and was fined \$350. He will have to pay an additional \$170 in court-related costs, as well.

Magistrate Judge Tami Bern also revoked Gertsema's driver's license for a period of 30 days.

"I'm glad it's over, and I look forward to spending Christmas with my family," Gertsema said following the hearing.

Gertsema's court appearance comes on the heels of his resignation as superintendent, which the Yankton School

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Yankton To Join In On Obstacle Course Craze

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Nathan Johnson/P&D
Matt Stone, left, and Rob Klimisch are organizing the Lewis and Clark Adventure Race set for May 11. They are seen here along a creek at the Lewis and Clark Scout Camp that runners may be trudging through as part of the challenge.

With more than a million people competing in obstacle course races last year, a couple of local organizers will be bringing the fitness trend to Yankton next spring.

After attending such events where thousands of people were competing, Rob Klimisch saw an opportunity to create a fun, family-friendly activity and also raise money for youth programs in the area.

He recently partnered with Matt Stone to organize the Lewis and Clark Adventure Race set for May 11. It will be held at the Lewis and Clark Scout Camp located 10 miles west of Yankton.

"The nice thing about the Boy Scout camp is that it is a natural setting for a race like this," Klimisch said. "A lot of the obstacles are already there."

Klimisch is the Yankton County state's attorney. He also coaches women's tennis at Mount Marty College.

Meanwhile, Stone operates Stone Wealth Management and is active in Boy Scouts of America.

The two men plan to create a nonprofit organization that will use the proceeds from the adventure race to assist various youth activities in the Yankton area.

"Besides the event being fun, it's a good way to support the community and activities that foster the development of children," Stone said.

The Lewis and Clark Scout Camp will allow for a wide variety of challenges, he stated. They are still putting together a list of ideas that will have to receive final approval from the Sioux Council, which oversees the camp.

Possible events could be shooting clay targets, going through an obstacle course that includes a climbing wall and rotating stream, canoeing and running through a stream.

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