



Partly Cloudy

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Gun Debate Set For Pierre

Lawmaker Drafts Proposal To Allow School Staff To Carry Guns

BY AMBER HUNT
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — As residents of Newtown, Conn., began burying the 20 children and six adults killed in Friday's school shooting, a South Dakota legislator is drafting a bill that would allow teachers, administrators and even janitors to bring guns to school.

Rep. Betty Olson, R-Prairie City, told The Associated Press on Monday that she believes armed school personnel could have mitigated the Newtown massacre.

"Those children and teachers, that was like shoot-



Olson

ing fish in a barrel," Olson said. The bill wouldn't require school personnel to be armed, she said, but it would allow those who have concealed weapons permits to bring their firearms into the building. She plans to present the proposal during the state's annual legislative session, which begins Jan. 8.

State officials said it likely wouldn't be the only gun-related bill proposed. "There is legislation relating to guns in South

Dakota almost every year. The sad events in Connecticut make it likely that there will be new proposals" in the 2013 session, Tony Venhuizen, a spokesman for Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said in a statement emailed to the AP.

The state's 105 legislators have until Jan. 28 to introduce bills.

Olson's will surely be met with opposition. Senate Democratic Caucus Chairwoman Angie Buhl said Monday that she doesn't think the answer to gun violence is more guns.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Flutist Cynthia (Miller) Swan and pianist Kathleen West, along with organist Marilyn Nyberg, are performing Thursday's "Bach's Lunch" concert at Trinity Lutheran Church. A former professional dancer, Swan has survived breast cancer, but her treatment has left her hands and feet with an intense burning sensation.

Raising Money With The Mind

Community Quizzes Yankton Students For Fundraiser

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Yankton's Beadle Elementary School gym was alive with the sound of education Monday.

Students from kindergarten through fifth grade filed through the facility from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and met with approximately 130 community volunteers as part of the Mindcore Marathon.

The volunteers — which included parents, business leaders, politicians and others — sat with students on an individual basis and asked them questions. The kids have spent weeks studying the questions and getting people to pledge money based on how many questions they answer correctly.

Kindergartners had 50 questions to answer, while the other age levels had 100.

"We're celebrating their intelligence and how smart they are," said DeeRhonda Anderson, a special education teacher who served as chairman for organizing the event. "The questions are taken from our curriculum and also from the Common Core standards that are used on our tests in the spring. It's not just 100 mindless questions that don't mean anything. They are all very important for the kids to remember and use."

Examples of questions asked included, how many stars are on the U.S. flag, what are the three branches of government and who are the South Dakota representatives in Washington?

Anderson said she imported the idea to Yankton after witnessing it in Sioux Falls. She volunteered to ask questions during a Mindcore Marathon in which her nieces



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Volunteer Becky Lefdal coaxes an answer from one of the Beadle School students involved in Mindcore Marathon, held Monday at the Yankton elementary school. The students raise money in the marathon by getting pledges for every correct answer they give to questions put to them by the volunteers. Money from the event will be used to purchase computer software for the school.

Children's Author Shares Her Ideas With Students, Parents



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Fremont, Neb., children's author Julia Cook addressed parents about book publishing and self-esteem among children during a presentation held Monday night at Yankton's Beadle School gym.

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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When Julia Cook was a school counselor in Fremont, Neb., she needed a way to explain to her students why tattling is wrong. The result was "A Bad Case of Tattle Tongue," her own book explaining the five tattling rules so kids could know the difference between tattling and when to talk with a teacher.

Cook has now published 41 children's books, has traveled to 42 states presenting her ideas to 806 different schools and her book sales have exceeded \$3 million.

Cook shared these same ideas in Yankton on Monday at Beadle Elementary school.

Cook, along with her dogs Angus and Jake, met with Beadle students

from grades K-5. She read some of her books to the younger students and spoke with older children about what it's like to be a writer and how they can address issues they face in their daily lives.

Ana Schurman, the school counselor at Beadle Elementary, said the students were excited to meet the author of books widely used in the school as a teaching tool.

"She is phenomenal, and it's been fun to see how she works," Schurman said. "She is a great inspiration for school counselors. Her books are on the kids' level and really connect with them."

After spending the day meeting with children and faculty members,

AUTHOR | PAGE 7

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dec. 18
7 shopping
days to Christmas

Heavy Snow, High Winds Expected This Week In Nebraska, Iowa

BY MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Residents across eastern Nebraska and western Iowa should prepare for the season's first significant snow later this week, with weather forecasters calling for up to half a foot of snow and gusty winds.

A large winter storm is expected to hit Nebraska midday Wednesday and move

into Iowa by Wednesday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

Heavy snow coupled with 15-30 mph winds could make travel in those areas dangerous, said Weather Service meteorologist Van DeWald, based in Valley just east of Omaha.

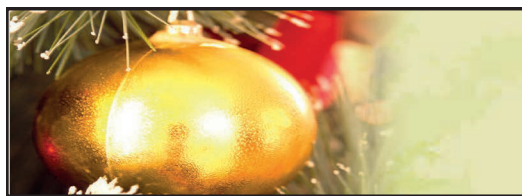
Eastern Nebraska can expect several inches of snow, while western Iowa could

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STRINGS FOR THE SEASON

Yankton's Elementary School Orchestra presented its winter concert Monday night at the Yankton Middle School Lecture Hall. Musicians from Beadle, Lincoln, Stewart, Webster and St. Benedict elementary schools and Sacred Heart Middle School performed a variety of seasonal tunes, ranging from "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells" to "Joy to the World." To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Merry Christmas

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