



YANKTON DAILY
**PRESS &
DAKOTAN**



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**The Sun Sets
On 2013**



Today, this recent winter sunset, caught in a photo shot north of Utica, also reflects the last light of a fading 2013. On this New Year's Eve, the staff at the Press & Dakotan and Yankton Media, Inc., wishes its readers a happy, prosperous — and bright — 2014. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

Yankton

**City Manager Reflects
On Her Busy First Year**

Nelson Sees Progress Made Since Taking Reins

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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During her first year as Yankton's city manager, Amy Nelson said she gained a new appreciation for the power of partnerships.

"In the past, I admittedly had a more narrow view of the city's role in moving toward community-wide goals," she told the *Press & Dakotan* recently. "What I have been lucky to learn is, not only does the community benefit from partnerships, but that you definitely have a better end result by reaching out to the community to ask for assistance and input."

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AMY NELSON

"(Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle) and I have built upon the partnership between the city and the school district, realizing that community means that a city issue is often times a school/educational issue and vice versa," she stated. "I have worked much more closely with Dr. Kindle than I have with previous school districts, and it has really taught me to look beyond my immediate organization for resources and solutions."

Having served as the city manager of Canton for approximately four years, Nelson was hired by the Yankton City Commission in late 2012. The Ortonville, Minn., native began her duties Jan. 2, 2013.

Nelson immediately set out to familiarize herself with the community.

"The City Commission and city staff have provided a wealth of knowledge that has helped in this orientation process, and the business contacts I've made have also resulted in me developing some strong relationships throughout the community," she said.

Yankton Rotary Club, the Yankton Area Cham-

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Amy Nelson began her tenure as Yankton's city manager Jan. 2, 2013. Looking back on her first year, she said one of the biggest challenges was educating citizens about water system improvements and convincing them it was worth tens of millions of dollars in expenditures.

Yankton County

**Commission Gives OK To
211 Service**

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton County Commission agreed Monday to fund a new call service for citizens that will assist in finding community resources.

Commissioners discussed the possibility of implementing the 211 service a couple times during the past year but didn't want to make a final decision until budget numbers for 2013 were finalized.

With the county's year-end surplus the largest in memory — \$4.7 million — Commissioner Allen Sinclair admitted the commission couldn't argue that it doesn't have the money for the undertaking.

By calling 211, residents will be able to obtain information from the Helpline Center in Sioux Falls on community resources, volunteer services, child care resources, suicide and crisis support, and military and family support.

The cost of the service will be 60 cents per person annually, bringing the estimated expense for Yankton County to \$13,462.

Bon Homme and Hutchinson counties are also looking at implementing the service.

The 211 service originally served the Sioux Falls metropolitan area, and it was expanded to six counties in the Black Hills in 2005.

Lauren Hanson, executive director of the



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A Mother's Dying Wish Realized

SD Woman Moves Wedding To Her Yankton Fiance To SF Hospital For Her Dying Mom

BY CARSON WALKER
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Rather than fulfill her own dream for a January wedding in Mexico, a South Dakota woman held it at a hospital instead to made her dying mother's wish come true.

Delores Vastenhout, 58, of Leota, Minn., died Friday at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, four days after one of her daughters, Nicole, married her sweetheart, Ken Decker of Yankton, in the hospital's packed chapel. The couple had planned to tie the knot Jan. 11 at a Mexican resort.

"We knew there were two things my

mom really wanted this year," Christy Menning, of Hartford, said Monday. "One was to see my sister get married and the second was to have a family Christmas."

On Christmas Eve, which was the day after the wedding, the family brought all the gifts to Vastenhout's hospital room, decorated it for the holiday and celebrated what would be their last Christmas together.

Menning said her mother, though weak and in a lot of pain, was able to take part.

"She wanted to see them open their

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AP PHOTO/THE MENNING FAMILY
This Dec. 23, 2013 photo released by Christy Menning shows, from left, Craig Vastenhout, Delores Vastenhout, and their daughters Nicole Decker, and Christy Menning in Sioux Falls, S.D. Decker moved her wedding from January in Mexico to an Avera McKennan Hospital chapel so her mother, Delores, could attend. Delores Vastenhout, 58, of Leota, Minn., died Friday.

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