



# PRESS & DAKOTAN

YANKTON DAILY



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At DakotaDome • 7



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ROB NIELSEN/P&D  
Members of the Yankton Area Summer Band perform during Sunday's winter concert. The band is comprised of volunteer musicians who only practice their music program the day of the concert.

## Music For All Seasons

Yankton Summer Band Finds Its Muse For The Holidays

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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Many bands spend tedious weeks, or even months, practicing pieces for a show. The Yankton Area Summer Band, however, does not.

Sunday marked the final concert of the Yankton Area Summer Band's 2015 season — a winter concert held at the Summit Activities Center Theater at Yankton High School.

Band manager Todd Carr said the band is made up of a diverse group of music lovers. "The band is all volunteer," Carr said. "Everybody that comes today is of every profession, career, and walk of life, so to speak. We've got some middle school students to a 90-year-old that have either been professional musicians (or they) just want to keep playing their instrument."

Carr said Sunday's winter concert — as with all Summer Band concerts — came down to a very simple concept.

"They all come together (Sunday), they practice for an hour," he said. "It's the first time everybody's going to see the music, take a little break and put a concert on at 4 p.m. It's about as simple as you can get."

The band is open to anybody who wants to play and has no set number of musicians. The current setup has been operating since the summer of 1983 and is organized by Yankton Area Arts.

The Christmas concert has been a part of the band's usual schedule of shows since 2000.

Sunday, the band was led by Gwen Van Gerpen who had conducted two previous concerts.

Van Gerpen, who has been playing with the band for more than 20 years, said she's learned a lot from her time in the band.

"It's amazing to work with such fine musicians," Van Gerpen said. "It's always a learning

## Downtown Yankton: Past, Present, Future



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

This sign at the intersection of Third and Broadway beckons northbound travelers on Highway 81 to visit Yankton's downtown district. Like many communities across the country, Yankton's downtown district has seen a loss of businesses and traffic as retail and community growth has shifted away from downtown area. Local officials looking at options for reinvigorating the area are looking to the past to stimulate future growth.

Natives Describe The Vibrancy Once Found Downtown

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part one of three in a series of stories exploring the past, present and future of Yankton's downtown district.

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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At one time, downtown Yankton was the undisputed center of activity for the city.

Today, as retail moves to other areas of town and the city looks to the promise of northward and westward expansion, downtown Yankton stands at a crossroads: continue to be the heartbeat of the city, or find itself whittling away as has been the case in other communities across the country where commerce and residents have largely abandoned downtowns.

But to know the course to take, many residents — past and present — are taking a look back at what the downtown area was to them growing up.

### 'PACKED WITH PEOPLE AND COOL OLD CARS'

Bernie Hunhoff, District 18 state senator and co-founder of *South Dakota Magazine*, which is based on the eastern edge of downtown Yankton, recalls a much more crowded downtown.

"It was packed with people and cool old cars," he told the *Press & Dakotan*. "Mostly I remember it was a busy place and a gathering place. There were four men's clothing stores, a couple of grocery stores, several dime stores and it was packed. Every store was busy and one fed off another. It was just the place to be."

Yankton mayor David Carda told the *Press & Dakotan* there was a greater significance to events downtown.

"I remember as a kid we'd go down there," he said.

### USD

## Grads Told To Be Doers, Not Dreamers

BY SARAH WETZEL  
Vermillion Plain Talk

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota held its 40th annual winter commencement ceremony Saturday where more than 550 graduates were granted degrees.

Jeffrey Holcomb, president and CEO of Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls and a 1982 University of South Dakota graduate, was the keynote speaker at USD's 40th annual winter commencement ceremony, held Saturday in the DakotaDome.

More than 550 graduates were granted degrees.

"It's a great day to be a coyote," Holcomb opened, echoing the sentiments of all in attendance.

Holcomb shared his inspiration for his address which happened to be another graduation keynote speech by Shonda Rhimes entitled "Ditch the dream, be a doer not a dreamer."



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/VERM. PLAIN TALK  
A University of South Dakota graduate wrote the message "Thank you! Mom & Dad" on her graduation cap for the 2015 winter commencement Saturday morning in the DakotaDome.

While at first Holcomb admitted he was confused by that title, he said, after reading it, it made more sense given his personal family history.

"In 1906, my great-grandfather

and his bride had a dream and they were moving to a homestead," he said. "They went out there with the idea that they would build a general store next to the railroad and make their fortune and they were speculating on where that railroad would go."

According to Holcomb, his great-grandparents picked a spot that seemed ideal, but it was much less so when they got there. For one thing, there was no water and their first crop, turnips, failed.

"It was not necessarily the dream that they had," Holcomb said. "To add insult to injury, the railroad went south of there along the river, so they missed that, too. So now what do we do? The dream has to change."

Holcomb's relatives moved onto the Pine Ridge reservation, which had just opened up to settlers, and

USD | PAGE 3

## \$1M Bond Set For Sioux Falls Man Facing Weapons Charges

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — A judge set bond at \$1 million for a Sioux Falls man accused of having illegal weapons and explosives materials in his home.

Darren Kyle Zafft, 29, appeared in court on Friday. He and 35-year-old Jennifer Marie Cash were arrested Thursday on multiple weapons-related charges. Cash's bond was set at \$5,000.

It wasn't immediately known whether either defendant has an attorney. A phone listing for Zafft was not working Saturday, and one for Cash could not be found.

The investigation began after the neighbor of a townhouse noticed a bullet hole in a wall between the two homes on Sunday. The person later found a .22-caliber slug in a mattress. Police said

it's unclear when a gun was fired.

The property manager went into the adjoining house and saw weapons. Police obtained a search warrant and found items to make explosives and more than 100 guns, some of them illegally modified.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens said several of the guns police found had been modified with shortened barrels. He also said all explosive components, such as grenades, were taken out of the home.

The Sioux Falls Police Bomb Squad will be testing the devices to see if they are active, Clemens said.

"This could have been an extremely dangerous situation, especially if these devices had gone off," he said.

### 'Festive Melodies'

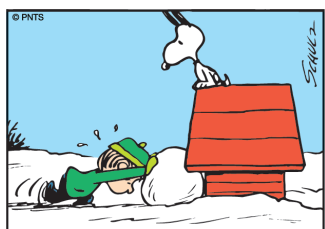


KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Mount Marty College Concert Band presented its holiday performance, titled "Festive Melodies and Sounds of the Season," at Marian Auditorium Sunday night. The band, directed by Scott Olson, played a broad selection of pieces, ranging from classical Christmas fare to marches.

BAND | PAGE 3

### Happy Holidays



Dec. 14  
11 shopping  
days to Christmas

