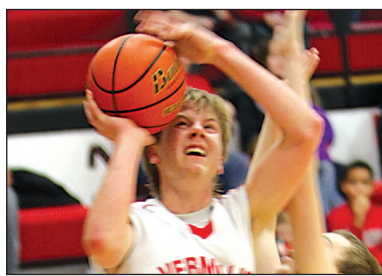




Overcast And Cold

9 a.m. **15** 3 p.m. **19** | DETAILS: Page 2

WEDNESDAY ■ December 30, 2015



Vermillion
 Teams Split
 With Tea Area

PAGE 8



Volume 140
 Number 209

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 12 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢



A Gift Of Time



JOEY AND SARA KOUPAL (center of the photo), along with their family, have donated a CuddleCot and baby basket to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital. The technology is made to help preserve still-born babies so they can remain with the family during the grieving process. Their infant son, Joseph Walter Koupal II, was stillborn at the hospital Sept. 1. Also in the photo are Lori Hoebelheinrich, far left, and Renee Tereshinski, far right, of the Women and Children's Center.

COURTESY PHOTO

Donation Allows Grieving Families More Time After Losing Newborn

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
 alissa.woockman@yankton.net

No one should have to suffer the loss of a child. For those that do, it can be difficult to say goodbye. Recently, a new technology has emerged that allows loved ones something very precious when tragedy strikes — time. A CuddleCot was recently donated to Yankton's Avera Sacred Heart Hospital by a family that recently experienced its own tragedy. This system is a cooling unit that allows a still-born baby to remain with the family while preserving the body during the grieving process.

Joseph Walter Koupal II was stillborn at the hospital Sept. 1. His parents, Joey and Sara Koupal of Dante, wanted to provide the opportunity for other families who have lost their own baby to have as much time as they needed to say farewell. "We weren't given the opportunity to use a CuddleCot," Sara said. "We didn't know anything about one. I hope that (families) choose to use it if they have to, just for the fact that they will have more time — longer than Joey and I did anyway — to say goodbye." The problem is that, in a warm room, the baby's condition can deteriorate quickly. Traditional practices involve transferring the baby back and forth from the morgue to coincide with

COT | PAGE 11

County Looks Back At 2015, Ahead To '16

BY ROB NIELSEN
 rob.nielsen@yankton.net

Last January, the Yankton County Commission saw four new members take the oath of office. With only a couple days left in 2015, commissioners are looking back at a year that included some significant progress and a few roadblocks.

Following Tuesday's regular meeting of the Yankton County Commission, chairman Todd Woods reflected on some of the strides the county has made throughout the year.

"There was a lot of things we did accomplish," Woods said. "We refinanced the Safety Center bond this year. We've got some progress moving forward on road projects. It's been a very busy year."

He also cited progress on the Napa Junction rail park and Dakota Plains grain sorting facility as significant accomplishments.

Woods was one of the four new faces on the commission at the beginning of the year, and he said thanks was owed to veteran commissioner Donna Freng.

"We did a lot of learning on the go," he said. "I really want to thank Donna Freng. We leaned on her a lot for her experience."

He also lauded Auditor Patty Hojem for her guidance and assistance.

Woods said one of the major challenges of the past year has been the failure to find solutions for funding necessary road and bridge repairs on county roads.

"There are always bumps in the road," he said. "We're learning as we go. We all know how difficult it is right now to find money to take care of our roads and bridges. ... We know that's our biggest challenge: How do we take care of these roads and bridges? Money's always short and we still need to find ways to get it done."

The commission had passed a property tax levy in July that would raise \$1.5 million annually that, by state law, could only be allocated

COUNTY | PAGE 11

Huddled Masses

Birds of a feather (in this case, pigeons) flock together atop the smokestack of the Old Brewery in downtown Yankton Tuesday to keep warm on a chilly winter day. Yankton received 5 inches of snow Monday and early Tuesday, giving the city more than a foot of fresh snow in the span five days. Other area snowfall totals as of early Tuesday included: Vermillion, Centerville and Beresford, each with 7 inches; Wynot, 6; Hurley, 5.5; Bloomfield, 4.1; Tyndall, 3.5; Marion 3; and Pickstown 2. For more weather details, see page 2. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Coming Up

New Year's Eve Festivities To Be Held Again In Delmont

BY ELIZABETH "SAM" GROSZ
 P&D Correspondent

DELMONT — The New Year's Eve tradition continues in Delmont this year, in spite of the May 10 tornado that swept through the city.

Each year since 2001 when several beverage sippers gathered in this small southeastern city decided the events of Sept. 11 should be counteracted with a show of patriotism, a New Year's Eve Day parade has been held on Dec. 31. Only two times has the weather caused a cancellation of the event, which now includes lunch, crafts and wine tasting.

This year, the parade starts earlier than in the past: at 11 a.m. from the west end of Main Street where Zion Lutheran Church used to stand and is expected to be rebuilt. Instead, the parade lineup, beginning at 10:30 a.m., will be held in front of the parsonage, which has been rebuilt since the tornado and is nearly ready for the Rev. Brian Bucklew and his family to move in.

"We actually had been thinking about getting rid of the parade," said Darren Fechner, Delmont Non-Profit Development Corp presi-

dent. "But we had a lot of feedback from the townspeople who wanted the parade, so we decided to have that."

It is thought to be the only daytime New Year's Eve parade held in South Dakota.

This year's theme is "Movies," and will be led by parade marshals Mae Gunnare, mayor of Delmont, and her husband, Dick.

"With the events that happened in May, we felt she would be a good candidate for it," Fechner said.

Mayor Gunnare has worked tirelessly since last May to bring the city together to try to recover from the loss of 70 individuals, or about one-third of the town's population. She also has been instrumental in seeking out state and federal financial assistance.

The parade will break with local tradition in that it will make only one pass down Main Street.

"It's a fundraiser for the Development Corporation to help out businesses or maybe get one going now, as we don't have a lot of money now," Fechner said. "Right before the tornado, we decided to start buying some old house and

DELMONT | PAGE 11

University Of South Dakota Billboard Contains Grammatical Error

VERMILLION (AP) — A University of South Dakota billboard with a grammatical error reflects badly on the university and will be replaced, the school's spokeswoman says.

The billboard along Interstate 90 west of Sioux Falls quotes Forbes magazine saying USD is the "Best in the Dakota's," but the apostrophe makes the word "Dakotas" possessive rather than plural.

USD spokeswoman Tena Haraldson told the *Argus Leader* newspaper and KELO-TV that the mistake

was human error — the wrong version of a design got sent to the billboard company.

"We all recognized here when we looked at it that the apostrophe was misplaced," she said. "It was just an oversight that that's the one that was grabbed and put up. It happens."

USD alum Lyndsey Kastein, a strategist at a Sioux Falls marketing firm, told the *Argus Leader* that she's embarrassed by the sign.

"I didn't even learn proper

grammar in college — I learned that in elementary school," she said. "So it's just sort of inexcusable."

After people began talking about the billboard and posting pictures on social media, USD responded with a playful tweet congratulating people who spotted the error and telling them they "passed this grammar quiz."

"Look for our new board soon," the tweet said.

