

Press & Dakotan

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NASCAR The Sport's Hottest Drivers Mug For The Camera With Family. USA WEEKEND

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CLARIFICATION

A story about the Yankton City Commission in the Feb. 9 edition of the Press & Dakotan implied that Commissioner David Knoff abstained from a vote on an assessment project along Douglas Avenue because he is a member of the Catholic Church, which would be affected by the plans. In fact, he abstained because a partner in his law firm, as well as some of his clients, would be impacted by the project and opposed it.

WEATHER

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RECYCLING

River City Recycling Next Week SOUTH of 15th St.



MONDAY

STATE-U: Yankton Girls Set To Face Off Monday Night. * * *



S.D. Revenues Falling Short

Tax Revenues Could Fall Lower Before Discussion Over State Budget

BY CHET BROKAW Associated Press Writer

PIERRE — South Dakota's next budget will be harder to balance because state tax collections are falling even more than was expected just a couple of months ago. Gov. Mike Rounds said Friday.

Rounds said that when he proposed a state budget in December, he expected tax receipts for the current year to be down about 2.7 percent from last year. Based on poor tax receipts last month, revenue is down 6.2 percent for the first seven months of the current budget year, which ends June 30, he said.

The Republican governor noted that the Legislature will get another month's worth of tax data before passing a state budget in March. But if tax collections do not start to rebound, lawmakers will find it much harder to balance next year's budget because expenses keep growing, particularly in the Medicaid program that pays the medical expenses of low-income people, he said.

The sales tax, the state's largest revenue source, did not recover much in December, partly because blizzards kept people home during the Christmas shopping season, Rounds said. Officials hope consumer spending will jump for period after the holiday season.

"The recession clearly is not over," Rounds said. "We really won't see a recovery until the number of people who are back to work starts to increase. We're not seeing that yet."

Rounds in December proposed using \$32 million in reserve funds to balance the state budget for the year that begins July 1. His budget plan would not increase state aid to schools or give pay raises to state employees.

The governor and lawmakers have said they are particularly worried about the budget year that begins in July 2011 because the state will no longer be getting federal stimulus funds to help balance the budget.

The Republican majorities in both the House and Senate have said they plan to cut

BUDGET, Page 13A please



Yankton Miracle player Mikayla Waggoner (23) high-fives her teammates during introductions prior to the Jan. 30 junior varsity girls' hockey game against Sioux Falls at Alcoa Ice Arena. Volunteers have become the backbone of a young Yankton hockey program.

Hockey Night In Yankton!

Organization Of Loyal Volunteers Makes Games Possible

BY JUSTIN RUST sports@yankton.net

There are many reasons why the Yankton Area Ice Association considers itself one big family. For five years now, Yankton has been a hockey town — and for all five years, the games have been put on thanks to volunteers.

"This is an all-volunteer organization," board member Dave Spencer said. "We are all volunteers, and most of us are parents of the kids."

From the gatekeepers to the coaches, everyone that works for the association is donating their time to this frozen cause.

One of the main ways the association attracts volunteers is by having the families who have kids playing hockey sign up for volunteer hours. Spencer said each skating family is asked to work 10 hours per skater.

Those hours start before the year and end after the year is done. "That includes rink set-up before the season starts and rink tear-down after the season is done," he said. "Everyone kicks in. There are people that like to be here a little bit more than everyone else."

Spencer said the organization has 170 families that help out, which gives the organization approximately 300 volunteers.

About 15 people are needed to help run a typical hockey game. Some of the jobs include gatekeepers, concessions, Zamboni drivers, score and timekeepers, officials, penalty box operations, and people who clean up the stands after the game and clean up the locker rooms after the teams are finished with them.



Mike Stoll operates the newly-acquired Zamboni during an intermission break during a Jan. 30 junior varsity girls' hockey game in Yankton. Stoll is one of many volunteers who help run home Yankton Miracle hockey games at Alcoa Ice Arena.

Steve Olesak, who has two sons who play hockey for Yankton, enjoys the volunteer hours.

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Crew Of Area Medical Personnel Set Out For Haiti

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE shauna.marlette@yankton.net



Physical therapist Matt Dvorak, RN Trenton Heinz, Dr. Tom Gilmore, Dr. Dan Johnson, Physicians assistant Jim Frerk and anesthesiologist Mike Campbell as well as anesthesiologist Steve Bunkers (not pictured) make up the group of seven medical personnel from the Yankton area traveling to Haiti to help with medical needs created by the January earthquake that hit the country.

As you read this story, seven medical personnel from Yankton are getting their first glimpse of the devastation that has ravaged Haiti following the 7.0 earthquake that struck a month ago.

"Haiti is a small country, only about 11,000 square miles," said Dr. Tom Gilmore. "To put it in perspective, it is about the same amount of land area as if you drew a line from Yankton to Mitchell to Watertown and back to Yankton. Of that land, about 70 percent is non-inhabitable, but is home to 9-10 million people."

The men making the journey include physical therapist Matt Dvorak, registered nurse Trenton Heinz, Gilmore, Dr. Dan Johnson, physicians assistant Jim Frerk, anesthesiologist Mike Campbell and anesthesiologist Steve Bunkers — the only member of the group from Brookings.

The three-day trip will take the men from Yankton for the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Deschappelle, Haiti, where the group will make up two self-contained surgical teams.

"They are asking for complete teams, including anesthesiologists," Johnson said. "We expect to be working with many open, festered wounds, amputations, and also, to be setting many broken bones that have not been set while more life-threatening injuries were the focus of health professionals immediately following the earthquake."

The hospital is one that Johnson, Gilmore and Dvorak have visited on prior mission trips to the country, but they are still not quite sure what to expect.

"I am sure we will be much busier than we have been in the past," Dvorak said. "It will help that I have worked with their physical therapists in the past and they have had training already so we will be able to get right to work."

Working with the Helping Hands for Haiti non-profit organization, the group members have been preparing to serve, but they never knew when or if the call would actually come.

"Two times now, we thought we had a date to leave, only to

HAITI, Page 14A please

INFECTION RATES 37TIMES LOWER THAN EXPECTED RATES

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