

Absentee Voting Now Available For Yankton Opt-Out Election

Any registered voter of Yankton School District 63-3 may vote absentee at the Yankton County Auditor's Office located at 321 W. Third Street or Yankton School District Business Office located at 2410 West City Limits Road during normal business hours up to the day of the election. Absentee voters should be prepared to show a valid photo ID or sign a personal affidavit for identification purposes.

For additional information, log on to www.yksd.k12.sd.us/absentee or the South Dakota Secretary of State's website at www.sdso.gov or call the auditor's office at (605)260-4400 ext 0 or school business office at (605) 665-3980.

Voters with special needs are encouraged to contact the auditor's office. The Special Opt-Out Election will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 28, with polls open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Fact

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With the federal dollars allocated in late May, the Yankton School District was able to rehire 10 certified staff (9.5 full-time equivalent [FTE] certified employees).

Those positions included 3.5 classroom size reduction teachers and six Title I instructors.

In addition to the announced reductions of staff, seven employees of the district resigned, either through retirement or leaving the district. Three of these positions were filled for this school year.

The sum total of certified staff reductions for the 2011-2012 school year is 16 FTE.

The breakdown among the district's instructional facilities is:

- The high school has 4.5 fewer FTE certified teachers (math, English, computer technology, Alternative Learning Center and 1/2 FTE family and consumer science);

- The middle school has 6 fewer FTE certified teachers (health, art, foreign language, language arts, science and social studies);

- The elementary schools have 5.5 fewer FTE certified teachers (3.5 FTE Reading Recovery/Title I, a kindergarten teacher at Beadle and a kindergarten teacher at Lincoln).

In addition, non-certified staff positions were cut by 18.5 FTE.

The non-certified staff positions cut included:

- An English as Second Language (ESL)/Librarian and a study hall monitor at the high school;

- A library assistant, .5 FTE assistant principal and .5 FTE counselor at the middle school;

- Four library assistants, 3.5 ESL paraprofessionals and an elementary technical aide at the elementary schools;

- Three custodians and three bus drivers.

According to superintendent Dr. Joseph Gertsema, some of the staff who were not offered new contracts for the 2011-2012 school year were rehired to fill other openings in the school district.

"There is turnover every year at the school, especially in the special education (SPED) para-

professional employees," said Student Services Director Kathy Wagner.

An example of employees being rehired by the district would be the four elementary library assistants whose contracts were not renewed. Each of the four were rehired by the district to fill openings in the SPED paraprofessional needs.

An example in the certified teaching positions would be at the middle school were Gayle Johnson and Michele Andrews who retired from the district.

Those positions were filled by recalling staff that had been among those not offered new contracts due to cuts made by the district.

"What people need to remember is that the cuts were made," said Gertsema. "We have 16 fewer certified teachers on staff, we have 18.5 fewer non-certified staff members this year. In addition, were it not for the efforts of the community to raise funds for middle school sports this year, we would have been reduced by that many more positions."

Q: What will happen to our tax levies if the opt-out fails? Will the Yankton High School/Summit Activities Center bond still come off the books?

A: The school portion of the YHS/SAC bond levy (\$1,005/\$1,000 of property value on all property types) will not be requested in 2013 because the final \$60,000 payment of the bond will be paid in December 2013. (There are four payments remaining — June 2012, December 2012, June 2013 and December 2013.)

This levy will no longer be collected regardless of if the \$1.4 million per-year for two-year opt-out attempt is passed or defeated by the voters on Feb. 28.

If the opt-out fails the tax levies requested by the district will decrease by \$1,005/\$1,000 on all property types.

Should the opt-out be adopted by the voters, the general fund opt-out tax levies collection would begin in January 2013. Because that would coincide with the completion of the school portion of the Yankton High School/Summit Activities Center bond levy, the net result on property taxes would be a decrease of ag property levies by \$0.405/\$1,000; no increase or decrease on owner occupied property levies and an increase of \$1.146/\$1,000 on all non-owner-occupied properties (businesses, rental property, etc.) levies.

Benefit

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"We gather together for the common cause of celebrating our faith," he said. "This (event) makes more people aware of what they are supporting, and it keeps the lines of communication going."

St. Rose has enjoyed a number of improvements because of the Unity Supper, Becker said. Those upgrades include the installation of Smart boards, carpeting in both buildings, the conversion of the old convent into a pre-school and education center, and the dedication of a prayer garden to the School Sisters of St. Francis who formerly staffed the school.

In addition, the new Sycamore home-to-school connection allows parents to go online and check classroom and school information. St. Rose also offers "Pass A Note," similar to instant messaging, and parents can use passwords to retrieve school-related information on their children.

The Unity Supper contains an additional fundraiser for a special need, Becker said.

"Last year, we raised an additional \$3,000 that we used for 2,400 books. It was a huge addition for us," he said. "The kids really enjoy the new books and the wider variety. They see new words and are reading more."

With its new library, St. Rose offers an online program that contains 140,000 tests on any book. The school works with comprehension and fluency through its accelerated reading program.

The Unity Supper and grand auction have taken on a special theme in recent years, according to chairwoman Pam Goeden.

"We decided that it adds interest and hopefully fun to have a theme," she said. "We have had 'Celebrating God's Love,' as it is the second Saturday of February and around Valentine's Day. Last year, our theme was tropical and included our first trip raffle to Hawaii. Allan and Irma Arens won the prize and just returned from their trip two weeks ago."

Those attending the Unity Supper are invited to dress for the patriotic theme, said committee member Curt Arens.

"We're asking veterans to wear all or part of their military uniforms if they like, and for others to wear their best red, white and blue," he said.

Doors will open at 4 p.m. with silent auction bidding to begin at that time.

The Saturday evening Mass at St. Rose Church will be celebrated at 5 p.m.

The Unity Supper kicks off with the 6 p.m. social and American Legion Post 128 providing beverages. The catered dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., with the Grand Auction starting at 7 p.m.

Door prizes, cash drawings and games will be held throughout the evening.

The grand auction will include approximately 100 items such as homemade, handcrafted items, as well as trips, tickets, farm supplies, grain and farm and home services. A large silent auction of about 150 items will include men's items, women's items, tools, games, gift certificates, T-shirts, toys and collectibles.

Nearly 40 door prizes will be offered, and cash drawings of \$50 and \$100 will take place.

Becker noted the unique donation of grain for the auction, provided by area farmers. "With grain prices this good, that represents a chunk of money," he said.

Many auction items are donated by parishioners, while some items are donated by area

businesses, Goeden said.

The Unity Supper and auction draw on a tremendous spirit of working together, Goeden said.

Curt Arens agreed, noting the large base of support for the supper.

"More than 300 families, businesses and friends of our parish and school contribute each year by volunteering to help with the event, contributing to our large grand and silent auctions, or purchasing goods and services on the auctions," he said. "It is one big group effort, to be sure."

Becker noted the importance of connecting the entire community through the supper.

"We have had several generations of students who have attended St. Rose. At our school centennial, we honored our oldest living alumnus who was 103 years old," he said.

"We help bridge the gap between the generations. The younger kids realize how lucky they are to have grandparents who put so much hard work into building up this school."

In the same way, the patriotic theme is appropriate for the Unity Supper, Becker said.

"We have a lot of veterans in this area," he said. "Because of their sacrifices, we have the freedom to build and attend a Catholic school."

Advanced tickets are recommended to help organizers plan for the catered meal, but tickets are available at the door if room allows, Goeden said.

Raffle tickets and Unity Supper meal tickets are available at the St. Rose School office, parish office, Steffen Service, Farmers and Merchants State Bank, People's Grocery, Kayton International and Crofton Farm Supply.

For more information about the school, visit online at www.stroseschool.us.

Weather

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the east of us, and that's the cold air that made it to the lower 48. The majority of the cold air stayed up north in Canada," he said.

"As far as winds, we got a lot of west-southwest fetch over the winter time where there wasn't much snow at that time. Then when we did get a northwesterly flow, it wasn't coming over a large snowfield, so we didn't get cooled off too bad."

While that pattern has now been altered, Morin said not to expect a drastic difference in weather.

"Not much is going to change until we have a major shift in the pattern due to something like a La Nina switching to an El Nino," he said. "You're going to have to move the jet pattern around in order for the pattern to change too much. It is a little bit turbulent now, and I say that knowing that we're still getting a great winter temperature-wise, but it's kind of roller coaster — up to the 40s, down to the 20s, up to the 40s and so on. But since it's dry, it's not bothering us that much."

Morin said that "roller coaster" will likely be in effect this week, with highs in the mid-20s today (Tuesday), closer to 30 Wednesday, in the mid-30s for Thursday, back down to the mid-20s Saturday, with a possibility of highs in the 40s again on Sunday.

He added that forecasts as of late have also been subject to change more than usual because of the lack of stability in the area's weather patterns.

"You see indications that something might be coming, but you get three or four more days down the road and then you see that it's not going to pan out. That's been going on all winter," he said. "It doesn't look that unsettled because it's been so mild, but it is kind of an unsettled pattern."

OBITUARIES

Harriet Sternquist

BERESFORD — Harriet Eleanor Berg Sternquist was born in Clay County, South Dakota on September 7th 1921 to parents Victor and Augusta (Norder) Berg. She passed away February 3rd 2012 in Beresford. She left behind the love of her life Orland Leonard Sternquist, whom she married in 1943.



Sternquist

She was born on the Clay county farm her grandfather homesteaded in 1869. She was proud the farm remained in the family for over 140 years and continues to be cared for by her son and grandson. She was the youngest of five and took great glee in reminding her sisters that she thought she was her father's favorite.

Harriet attended Dalesburg Grade School. Her grandfather donated the school's site because it was "necessary for the education of the children." She was baptized and confirmed at Dalesburg Lutheran Church. She attended University High School and received a teaching certificate from the University of South Dakota. She then returned to Dalesburg Grade School to teach. She also taught at the Newdale School. She went on sabbatical to marry and raise four children on the family farm. Her children's education was always important to her.

One of her frequently recalled memories was a trip to the East coast to perform for the King of Sweden with her brother Harlan and the Dalesburg Band. She continued to play her oboe and years

later resurrected the Dalesburg Band at the annual Midsommer picnic.

She remained active in all aspects of Dalesburg Lutheran Church teaching Sunday school, working with the Couples Club and served as chairwoman of the WELCA. She and Orland loved the Midsommer picnic and would dress in their Swedish costumes for the event. They were active in the Friends of Midsommer organization and enjoyed socials and birthday parties with all the neighbors. She returned to USD and was the first in her family to earn a bachelor's degree. She taught grade school in the Beresford School District for 18 years. She loved her students and that love was reciprocated. Former students frequently approached the family at the Bethesda Nursing Home cafeteria and informed her family that she was a wonderful teacher.

After retirement, Harriet and Orland spent 28 winters in Texas. Along with their friends from the Dalesburg community, they found new friends from other parts of the Midwest. With many friends in the same place it was more like the Dalesburg community had moved to Texas to evade the cold. Harriet would play the piano and Orland would sing. They enjoyed camping. They were outgoing and made many friends at those campgrounds near and far. They taught their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren various card games and many life lessons on their camping forays.

Anyone who came to their house was offered a cup of coffee. In later years as Alzheimer's stole her from her family, old habits remained. On one occasion when she was still living in their Beresford

home she needed to go to the hospital in the early morning hours. Ambulance personnel were called to their home and with them came police and firemen who congregated in the living area. As they bought her from the bedroom to the living room, she saw the men and turned on the gurney and said "Orland, put the coffee on. We've got company."

She is survived by the love of her life, Orland Sternquist. Her four loving children are Sheridan (Phyllis) Centerville, Alan (Elaine) Pleasanton CA, John (Nancy) Yankton, and Brenda Haslett MI. Her six grandchildren are Jeff (Karen) Sternquist, David (Michelle) Sternquist, Jodi (Rob) O'Keefe, Jill Sternquist (Jason Nelson), Corrie Sternquist and Gavin Witter. Her six grandchildren are Megan Sternquist, Mallary Sternquist, Brianna Sternquist, Mason Sternquist, Easton & Xavier Nelson. She has one great-great granddaughter Natalie Sternquist. Her two sisters-in-law are Wilma Holmstrom of Robbinsdale MN, and Arla Roduner of Alcester, she also has many nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Harriet is preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Doris Bangs & Hazel Imbrecht and two brothers, Ben & Harlan Berg, and one sister-in-law Marion Sternquist.

Funeral services will be held 10:30 AM, Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, rural Vermillion with burial to follow at the church cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday from 4PM to 8PM with family present from 6PM to 8PM and a prayer

service at 7PM at Wass Funeral Home in Beresford.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 7, 2012

Gene Burns

WAUSA, Neb. — Gene R. Burns, 75, of Wausa, Neb., died Friday, Feb. 3, 2012, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Thabor Lutheran Church, Wausa. Pastor Samm Johnston will officiate with burial in the Magnet Cemetery.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at Thabor Lutheran Church, Wausa with a 7 p.m. Masonic service.

Aina Wamberg

WAUSA, Neb. — Aina Wamberg, 103 of Wausa, Neb., died Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, at Golden Living Center in Wausa.

Funeral services are pending at Brockhaus Funeral Home, Wausa.

Alice Frasch

MENNO — Alice H. Frasch, 83, of Menno died peacefully Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, with the Rev. Leon Schulz officiating.

Visitations is one hour prior to service at the church. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery.

Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, is in charge of the arrangements.

BOARD OF TRADE

CHICAGO (AP) — Grains futures traded mixed Monday on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Wheat for March delivery rose 7.75 cents to \$6.6850 a bushel; March corn fell 0.25 cent to \$6.4425 a bushel; March oats rose 12.75 cents to \$3.27 a bushel; while March soybeans rose 0.50 cent to \$12.33 a bushel.

Beef and pork futures also traded mixed on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

April live cattle rose 0.10 cent to \$1.2750 a pound; March feeder cattle fell 0.33 cent to \$1.5412 a pound; while April lean hogs fell 0.37 cent to 88.55 cents a pound.

LOTTERIES

MONDAY'S RESULTS

2 BY 2: Red Balls: 6-16, White Balls: 7-10
MYDAY: Month: 1, Day: 4, Year: 45

PICK 3: 2-2-1

PICK 5: 08-11-31-32-36. Estimated jackpot: \$162,000



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