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YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS & DAKOTAN**

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# Monday Mobile Home Fire Leaves 4 Homeless

From P&D Staff Reports

Four people were left homeless after a fire gutted a mobile home west of Yankton Monday. According to the Yankton Fire Department, a report was received at 11:48 a.m. of smoke coming out of the roof of a mobile home located on Mack Drive, just off Deer Boulevard. When firefighters arrived at the scene, heavy smoke was pouring from the structure. The mobile home was gutted by the blaze, which is believed to have been caused by

combustible materials located near a wood-burning unit and the chimney. Assistant Fire Chief Larry Nickles said one of the residents of the home had just left about 10 minutes before, indicating that the fire may have already been moving up through the walls and ceiling. There were no injuries reported, but Nickles said at least six pets died in the blaze. The Red Cross was summoned to assist the residents, who had no insurance. Yankton County EMTs and the sheriff's department also responded to the call.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Firefighters work to enter a mobile home that began late Monday morning west of Yankton. The structure was gutted, leaving four people homeless. At least six pets died in the fire.

# School Hires Firm For Supt. Search

Company Contracted To Assist In Regional Hunt

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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The Yankton School District (YSD) school board approved Dakota Education Consulting (DEC) as the firm to lead YSD's search for a new superintendent. The decision was made at a special school board meeting held Monday at the administration building. DEC is headed by Tom Oster and Rick Melmer, both of whom had previously served as the South Dakota Secretary of Education. Melmer currently serves as the dean of the School of Education at the University of South Dakota, while Oster is the superintendent of the Sioux Valley school system in Volga. "Oster and Melmer run an independent search firm that helps school districts search for administrative personnel to help fill open positions," said school board president Chris Specht. "In their proposal, they clearly pointed out that superintendent vacancies throughout South Dakota over the last 15 years have been primarily filled through people living in, or from, South Dakota, so we felt as if we didn't need a national search firm." Specht added that the school board looked out how to fill the position in both the most efficient and economically reasonable way. Based on this, the board decided that the hiring DEC to lead the search was the best option. The cost of the contract with DEC is \$8,000. "The price includes all of their travel and all of the advertising they do," Specht said. "If the

**also**  
■ YSD Officials Don't See Local Need For A 'Sentinel.'  
**PAGE 2**

# The Rivers At Mid-Winter



PHOTO: DAVE TUNGE/DAKOTA AERIALS

The mouth of the James River can be seen emptying into the sediment-laden Missouri River east of Yankton this past weekend. The drought, entering its second year, has impacted both the James and Missouri rivers.

## The Dry Winter Is Reinforcing The Drought's Impact On The Missouri, James Rivers

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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Winter has hit the midway mark, and officials say the continued drought is taking a toll on the James and Missouri rivers. "Unless there is a drastic change in winter and then a major spring thaw, I can't foresee us having an issue at all with flooding," said Dave Bartel, manager of the James River Water Development District (JRWD). However, never say never when it comes to weather and river conditions, Bartel said. "Mother Nature may fool us," he added. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) released Monday the following James River conditions at southern stations: • At Yankton, stage of 9.8 feet and flood stage of 20 feet; • At northern Yankton County, stage of 2.4 feet and flood stage of 12 feet; • At Scotland, stage of 4.37 feet and flood stage of 13 feet. The USGS released similar figures for the Missouri River, show-

RIVERS | PAGE 11

**Wednesday!**

50

■ Join the PRESS & DAKOTAN for a special NCAA Signing Day chat at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday with Midco Sports broadcasters Jay Elsen and Tom Nieman. To take part in the conversation, check us out at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## Super Bowl Nurtures Super Dreams

EDITOR'S NOTE: A portion of this story was inadvertently omitted from Saturday's Press & Dakotan. We are publishing the story here in its entirety. We apologize for the inconvenience.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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The Rev. Rick Slattery can remember the exact day when his heart was broken as a teenager. It wasn't because a girl spurned him. His hurt was caused by a football team that left him and his fellow Baltimore residents. Slattery, now a pastor at Calvary Baptist in Yankton, vividly recalls the images from nearly 30 years ago, when the Baltimore Colts literally moved to Indianapolis overnight.

"People in Baltimore watched news reports March 29, 1984, that the Colts left town in the middle of the night. We saw images of Mayflower vans driving away from the Colts' facilities," he said. "I was a high school sophomore, and it was a traumatic thing for me and other fans. There are people in Baltimore who, to this day, won't use Mayflower moving vans." Those bitter memories of abandonment were replaced with the joy of the arrival of the Ravens franchise in 1996 and an NFL title with a win in the 2001 Super Bowl. Now, Slattery is hoping history repeats itself when the Ravens meet the San Francisco 49ers in Sunday's Super Bowl game. Slattery shows his passion for the Ravens at

BOWL | PAGE 5

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