



Partly Cloudy

9 a.m.: **25** | 3 p.m.: **29** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

Tuesday ■ February 12, 2013

VOLUME 138
NUMBER 245

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

75¢



ERIC VANDEVILLE/ABACA PRESS/MCT
Pope Benedict XVI announced during a mass Monday that he plans to step down on Feb. 28. He is shown here attends a ceremony to mark the 900th birthday of the Knights of Malta on Feb. 9.

Pope's Resignation Shocks Catholics

Benedict XVI Declares He Will Leave Post Feb. 28

BY NICOLE WINFIELD AND VICTOR L. SIMPSON
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — With a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope has done in more than half a millennium, stunning the world by announcing his resignation Monday and leaving the already troubled Catholic Church to replace the leader of its 1 billion followers by Easter. Not even his closest associates had advance word of the news, a bombshell that he dropped during a routine meeting of Vatican cardinals. And with no clear favorites to succeed him, another surprise likely awaits when the cardinals elect Benedict's successor next month.

"Without doubt this is a historic moment," said Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, a protege and former theology student of Benedict's who is considered a papal contender. "Right now, 1.2 billion Catholics the world over are holding their breath."

The Feb. 28 resignation allows for a fast-track conclave to elect a new pope, since the traditional nine days of mourning that would follow a pope's death doesn't have to be observed. It also gives the 85-year-old Benedict great sway over the choice of his successor. Though he will not himself vote, he has hand-picked the bulk of the College of Cardinals — the princes of the church who will elect his successor — to guarantee his conservative legacy and ensure an orthodox future for the church.

The resignation may mean that age will become less of a factor when electing a new pope, since candidates may no longer feel compelled to stay for life.

"For the century to come, I think that none of Benedict's successors will feel morally obliged to remain until their death," said Paris Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois. Benedict said as recently as 2010 that a pontiff should resign if he got too old or infirm to do the job, but it was a tremendous surprise when he said in Latin that his "strength of mind and body" had diminished and that he couldn't carry on. He said he would resign effective 8 p.m. local time on Feb. 28.

"All the cardinals remained shocked and were looking at each other," said Monsignor Oscar Sanchez of Mexico, who was in the room at the time of the announcement. As a top aide, Benedict watched from up close as Pope John Paul II suffered publicly from the

POPE | PAGE 12

Area Catholics Look To Future Of Church

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Pope Benedict XVI's resignation Monday has stunned area Roman Catholics, but they are also looking at a new era for the church with its next pope.

Pope Benedict's announcement marks the first papal resignation in 600 years, which added to the faithful being caught off guard. The resignation marks the passing of an era, said the Rev. Mark Lichter, pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Yankton. "We were all taken by surprise," he said. "I was sad to hear about the resignation, but I do feel it was done with a great deal of thought and prayer."

Catholics are now turning to the selection of a new pope who will lead the church into the future, Lichter said.

"I trust that the Holy Spirit is guiding the church and will provide for our people what is needed for the future of the church," he said. "Who am I to say what the future has in store? I trust in the providence of God."

The pope's resignation has been followed by young Catholics who represent the church's future.

"I think, like most people, we found (the resignation) surprising," said Terry Kathol, principal at Cedar Catholic Junior/Senior High School in Hartington, Neb.

Cedar Catholic students and staff will watch developments unfold in the coming weeks, Kathol said.

"It will be discussed more in our religion classes as the week progresses and we have more



Bingham

Group Ready To Begin Search For Yankton's New Superintendent

BY ANDREW ATWAL
andrew.atwal@yankton.net

The Yankton School District (YSD) school board met with Rick Melmer during its regular meeting on Monday to finalize the district superintendent search.

Board members also discussed next year's budget, which currently projects to have about a \$1.6 million deficit.

Melmer's and Tom Oster's consulting group, Dakota Education Consulting, will be helping the board in gathering candidates for the open superintendent position, as well as eliminating candidates that don't meet the needs of the district.

The group has been involved in a number of education searches across the state, and currently is helping out with searches with the Wagner and Viborg-Hurley schools.

"We have a broad base of services we'll be providing the district," Melmer said. "We're confident that we can find a good leader for the Yankton School District for the future."

The group will begin advertising for the position within the next few days. Melmer said they have already received some phone calls about the opening and have also made a few calls to people they know who may be interested in the position. Advertising for the position will be done primarily online, as Melmer noted newspapers have not been as effective as websites



Melmer

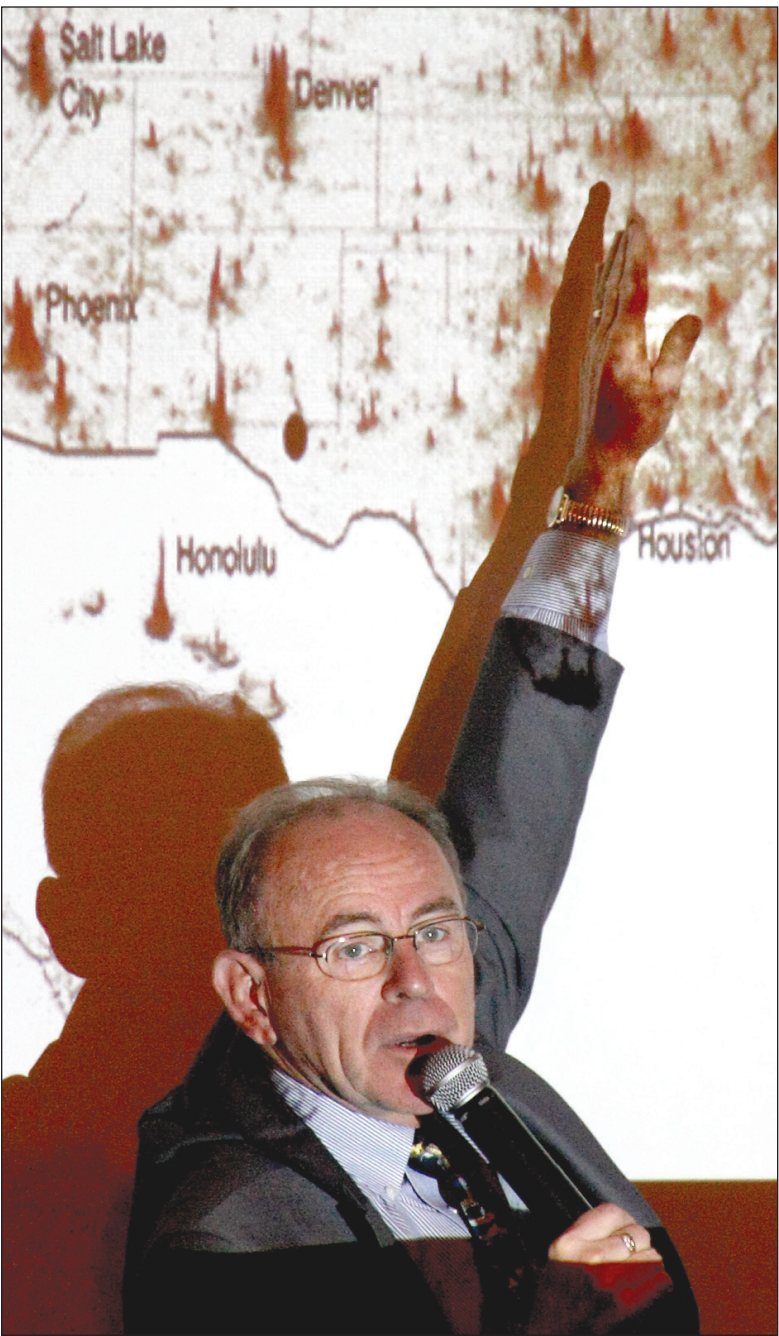
in recent years. Jim Fitzgerald and Kathy Greenway, members of the personnel committee for the school board, will directly assist Melmer and Oster in the superintendent search. "The recruitment phase will begin right away, and we plan on spending a lot of time on the phone over the next few weeks," Melmer said. "In early to mid-March we will begin phone interviews for the position."

He added that he expects the district to receive about 30-40 applicants for the position, with a handful not being qualified right off the bat. Plans are to close the application phase around March 15.

Melmer and Oster plan on surveying district faculty members, administrators and community members on the qualities they want in their next superintendent. They also plan on meeting with board members around March 26 on the applicants they interviewed on the phone, and who should be brought in for in-person interviews. "We recommend doing all of the in-person interviews on the same day," Melmer said.

He added that the decision on who

SEARCH | PAGE 10



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Dr. Sidney Goss, a senior lecturer in the South Dakota School of Mines, discusses census data and population trends during his keynote address at the annual meeting of Yankton Area Progressive Growth Monday at Minervas.

Speaker:

Population Awareness Needed For Growth In Yankton County

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

If Yankton County is to have economic success in the future, a sociology professor said Monday that the business community needs to pay attention to the area's aging demographic trends.

Throughout most of the Great Plains, population has been on the decline for decades and that trend is expected to continue, according to Dr. Sidney Goss, a senior lecturer in the South Dakota School of Mines' Social Sciences Department. "I don't think we'll see radical changes (in that projected trend)," he told the investors assembled for the annual meeting of Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG).

Yankton County is an exception to the larger regional trend in that it experienced a 3.6 percent increase in population between 2000 to 2010. That translates into 632 people. Of those, only 154 were due to in-migration from another location.

However, if you look at the surrounding Nebraska and South Dakota counties that make up Yankton's labor shed, population de-

creased by 2,068 people between 2000-2010.

"We need to be aware of population trends so we know what's happening and can plan for it," Goss said. "Every community will make different plans depending upon what fits them best. Here in Yankton, you've got extraordinarily strong plans for moving into the future, creating jobs and creating wealth."

Earlier in the meeting, he had heard YAPG officials talk about the \$2.2 million YES! capital campaign that will help fund economic development efforts during the next five years.

"In the Yankton labor shed, which picks up about five counties in South Dakota and 2 1/2 in Nebraska, you have some population shifts you can take advantage of," Goss said. "For example, if you're moving off the farm because there isn't enough room for you and Yankton has a great job for you, there is a solution to everybody's problem."

He said a shrinking population can make sense in areas dominated

YAPG | PAGE 10

City Mulls Sponsorship, Naming Rights Policies

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Faced with questions about naming rights and sponsorship opportunities, the Yankton City Commission decided Monday to formalize the process that allows private parties to assist with funding municipal projects and amenities.

The naming and sponsorship rights were classified into several categories.

The first are Type A and Type B sponsorships.

The Type A sponsorship allows a private party to provide support for a park amenity. For example, a decorative bench can be sponsored for

\$1,000 or a drinking fountain for \$1,200. A small recognition plate will be placed on the item to show appreciation for the sponsor.

The Type B sponsorship applies to a memorial tree. For \$500, a tree will be planted and a granite marker will be placed at ground level with the name of the sponsor.

Such opportunities have been available in the past, according to Parks and Recreation Director Todd Larson.

"We want to get it standardized so we have some consistency," he said.

The Parks and Recreation Depart-

CITY | PAGE 10

STICKING WITH IT

Percussionist Layne Droppers of the Yankton High School Symphonic Band adds some aerial theatrics as he performs the drum solo "Scud Attack" during Monday night's Solo and Ensemble Concert at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Droppers, a junior, has been named to the South Dakota All-State Band. The Symphonic and Concert bands performed, while the individuals and groups played in between numbers. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

