

Sheriff

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compared to one in 2011;

- 42 alcohol-related incidents in 2012, compared to 46 in 2011;
- one report of child abuse/neglect in 2012, the same as in 2011;
- 64 civil disputes in 2012, compared to 43 in 2011;
- 20 sex crimes in 2012, compared to eight in 2011;
- 28 disorderly conduct incidents in 2012, compared to 39 in 2011;
- 17 domestic violence incidents in 2012, compared to 20 in 2011;
- 29 drug-related incidents in 2012, compared to 48 in 2011;
- 80 family disturbances in 2012, compared to 49 in 2011;
- 16 firearms violations in 2012, compared to nine in 2011;
- 16 fraud or scam reports in 2012, compared to 15 in 2011;
- 47 harassment incidents in 2012, compared to 41 in 2011;

- nine suicides or attempted suicides in 2012, compared to none in 2011;
- 126 traffic stops in 2012, compared to 94 in 2011; and
- 49 vandalism incidents in 2012, compared to 45 in 2011.

Vlahakis said many of the more serious crimes he considers solved.

“We had 112 thefts, but more than half of those were cleared by arrests,” he stated. “With burglaries, we cleared most of them. And 12 assaults were cleared by arrest. Many of the other assaults were cases where the victim refused to cooperate with authorities.”

The sheriff’s office did have an inmate escape from the jail in 2012, but he was later arrested in Sioux Falls.

Vlahakis also pointed out that there were 158 animal complaints, up from 119 in 2011.

“Most of them were cattle on the roadways,” he stated. “There were a lot more of those, and I think that can be attributed to the lack of food this year because of the dry weather.”

In addition, Vlahakis noted that staff served 3,625 civil papers and

conducted 23 foreclosure sales.

The office was responsible for completing 240 inmate transports, serving 906 arrest warrants and issuing 452 concealed weapon permits.

In the jail, 1,954 inmates were held, which was 26 more than 2011. That led to 54,765 meals being served.

The 24/7 sobriety program administered by the sheriff’s office experienced an increase in usage during 2012.

Staff conducted 35,772 tests, an increase of more than 2,300 compared to 2011.

Vlahakis said he looks forward to being fully-staffed in 2013.

“We added two deputies a year ago, but they’ve been getting trained,” he stated. “This year, we will be able to have a larger presence overnight.”

Currently, the office usually has at least two deputies working until 2 a.m. The additional manpower will enable the sheriff to keep two on duty through the entire night.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](#)

Police

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services available to them, they are more likely to step forward. I think that is reflected here. I hope in future years, if we are doing a good job of supplying resources to our citizens, those numbers will begin to drop.”

When looking at the 2012 activity of the Yankton Police Department, it had 11,942 calls. That was 265 more than the previous year.

Also in 2012, there were:

- 811 adult arrests, compared to 714 in 2011;
- no murders were reported, though a case that was initially reported as an assault later became a murder investigation when the victim died from his injuries;
- one robbery, the same as in 2011;
- four aggravated assaults, compared to nine in 2011;
- 24 simple assaults, compared to 25 in 2011;
- 13 disorderly conduct arrests, compared to eight in 2011;
- 48 petty thefts, compared to 73 in 2011;
- six grand thefts, compared to two in 2011;
- two auto thefts, compared to none in 2011; and
- 186 felony narcotic arrests,

compared to 131 in 2011.

For juveniles in 2012, there were:

- 256 arrests, compared to 299 in 2011;
- 35 curfew violations, compared to 32 in 2011;
- 32 minor in consumption citations, compared to 44 in 2011;
- one rape, compared to zero in 2011;
- no robberies;
- one aggravated assault, compared to none in 2011;
- seven simple assaults, compared to four in 2011;
- 30 disorderly conduct arrests, compared to 41 in 2011;
- two sexual contact/sex offenses, compared to none in 2011;
- seven petty thefts, compared to 27 in 2011;
- zero grand thefts, compared to one in 2011;
- zero auto thefts, compared to one in 2011; and
- 76 felony narcotic arrests, compared to 79 in 2011.

When it came to citations in 2012, there were:

- 1,335 traffic citations, compared to 1,300 in 2011;
- 102 driving under the influence citations, compared to 101 in 2011;
- 43 driving under revocation citations, compared to 27 in 2011;
- 57 careless driving citations, compared to 48 in 2011;
- 261 speeding citations, compared to 265 in 2011;

- 60 stop sign violations, compared to 81 in 2011;
- 44 open container violations, compared to 41 in 2011;
- 57 underage consumption (18-20) violations, compared to 97 in 2011;
- zero liquor violations/furnishing alcohol to a minor, compared to 19 in 2011;
- 209 suspended, expired or unlicensed driver citations, compared to 193 in 2011; and
- 37 misdemeanor drug violations, compared to 24 in 2011.

Paulsen said anti-narcotics efforts will be increased in 2013.

“It’s something we’ve been working on,” he stated.

Also, the department is holding its first 10-week Citizens’ Academy this year. Members of the public have been invited to attend the course and learn more about how the police department works.

“It’s part of wanting to make what we do more transparent,” Paulsen said. “There is no reason that we can’t bring in members of the community and show them what we do, how we do it and what governs us. I don’t think many citizens have a true understanding of what we do as police officers. They may have ideas from movies and television that aren’t accurate. We want to change that.”

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Scott

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In effort to maximize related options across town for the weekend, Healthy Yankton and the Summit Activities Center (which houses the Yankton Parks & Recreation Department) once again coordinated, O’Connor said.

“We’ve been doing our weekend for a long time, but this was a better fit to put it all together,” she said.

Two fitness centers in Yankton — Avera Sacred Heart Wellness Center and the Summit Center — are offering dollar-day passes all weekend in addition to fitness classes, while Anytime Fitness has a promotion of 20 percent of any new membership.

“This is the time of the year when people really think about that kind of stuff,” O’Connor said, referencing New Years resolutions. “This is a cheap way to try them out, and maybe you’ll end up liking it.”

On Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., various organizations will have information booths set up at the Summit Center. The NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Complex will hold a youth tournament as well as free zumba and Tae Kwon Do demonstrations.

Other events throughout the weekend are geared toward introducing the public to opportunities available in Yankton, O’Connor said.

“The goal is to get people active, and to keep it low cost or free, as much as possible,” she said.

Staying active is a big part of working toward a goal, whatever it is, Scott said.

“My focus is being motivational in ways that can be tangible, not fluffy,” she said. “Sometimes people think about success as some elaborate thing, but it’s your daily life. When you think about being successful, it’s something you are trying to live daily.”

While the general message remains the same, each speech is tailored to the group, Scott said, referencing the stop at Yankton Middle School and the public presentation at Mount Marty.

“With the one age group at the middle school, children go from seeking their parents’ approval to now needing peer approval,” Scott said. “It’s all about that they can, they must and they will make smart decisions.”

It’s much the same when it comes to the Saturday basketball clinic, she said.

“Developing skills is obviously important, but you also want them to have fun,” Scott said. “Working hard toward your goal is a tangible way to demonstrate how hard work pays off.”

A full list of weekend activities can be found at [www.healthyyankton.org](#), or by calling Todd Larson with the Parks & Recreation Department at (605) 668-5231.

Though it can be hard to gauge actual attendance throughout the weekend, O’Connor said the number of events has consistently increased.

“It’s grown every year,” she said. “From the events we’ve been able to see in person, and just from the responses we get, it seems like it’s been well attended.”

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter

Fernandez

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Fernandez will draw the winning tickets during Saturday’s games. Winners need not be present to claim their prizes.

“We know there are a lot of needs, and we have been giving the money to Albert as we collect it,” said MMC athletic director Chuck Iverson.

They may battle on the field, but other Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) softball teams are supporting Fernandez, according to Iverson.

The athletic director cited two examples. Morningside College of Sioux City raised \$500 at a game, while Concordia University of Seward, Neb., sent a card of encouragement and support with a \$200 check to help in the fight.

“I’m sure that Albert has received support from all over the conference in a number of different ways,” Iverson said.

Fernandez expressed appreciation for the support from GPAC members.

“From Day One, it’s been one of the most professional conferences,” he said. “Not only are they good at what they do, but they are great people. There are a lot of friendships with the coaches over the years.”

The support is not limited to GPAC members, Fernandez said. “We also heard from the College of Saint Mary (in Omaha) and (head softball coach) Chuck Brewer, who is in Mount Marty’s hall of fame. The coaching family has really reached out,” he said.

On the job and elsewhere, the MMC admissions staff has sought to support Fernandez in all needed ways, said admissions director Jill Paulson.

“Ultimately, we are just so happy to have him back,” she said. “I think

he is just doing his best at this point to work his way into this new reality. Life is different in so many ways for him right now.”

Fernandez has drawn strength from contact with his athletes, Paulson said.

“Albert is diving right into his preparations for softball this spring, and I think his girls give him a great sense of focus and motivation,” she said. “He also has not lost any of his charm with prospective students. He’s been visiting with some of our prospective softball students visiting campus and leaving an great impression with them, as always.”

Fernandez expressed pleasure at reuniting with his team. The squad competes Saturday at an indoor tournament at South Sioux City, Neb., with the team’s first official game March 1.

“They’re a very talented group,” he said. “They really came together as a team last fall. They are really playing together and showing good chemistry.”

Fernandez has handled the transition back to campus well, said assistant coach Amanda Volgarino.

“Albert looks wonderful, and he has been doing well,” she said. “Getting back into his regular routine has been somewhat of a slow process because he is feeling slightly fatigued, but he makes strides every day.”

The head coach’s return has provided a tremendous boost to the team, Volgarino said. “We are ecstatic about having him back and just being able to drop by his office and say hello and talk softball,” she said.

The team looks forward to the upcoming start of the season, Volgarino said.

“The enthusiasm (Fernandez) brings to the table has been unreal,” she said. “It’s been such an inspiration for me to see as a coach, knowing his struggles, but I’m confident in his attack.”

Sophomore player Michaela Bunde noted Fernandez’s concern for his players.

“I want to visit ‘Coach’ the first

week back, and the first thing he did was stand up and give me a hug, as he did with all the players that could go visit him in his office,” she said.

Fernandez was pushing himself hard in preparing for the season, she said.

“He was busy working on our softball schedule for the semester and told me he felt like he wasn’t getting enough done,” she said. “I told him that he was doing way more than anyone would have expected him to do after all he’s been through in the past few months. He is such a humble person and never makes excuses for himself.”

In fact, Fernandez goes out of his way to downplay his struggles, Bunde said.

“He describes his cancer as just ‘something he’s dealing with right now,’ as if it were a common cold. He refuses to let it affect us and what we do,” she said. “As much as he would hate to know it, it does affect us because he is someone we all care about deeply — but thanks to him, it’s in a good way. He doesn’t let negativity into his mind.”

Another sophomore player, Lauren Orwig, welcomes Fernandez’s presence on campus.

“When he was in Texas, we received texts and updates from his Caring Bridge (website), but that was hard,” she said. “Now he tells us he is OK, and we can see it. I think it makes the team feel better and more comfortable.”

Fernandez’s battle has put life into perspective for the team, Orwig said.

“The season is exciting, but it is certainly not the most important aspect of our lives,” she said. “That lesson hit home to us all this year and has brought us to be better people and players.”

“That’s exactly what ‘Coach’ would want us to be: strong, motivated, young women that work hard in academics, athletics and life.”

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](#)





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Yankton’s Home Team!



PRESS & DAKOTAN 2013 Beautiful Baby Contest

We will be featuring our annual “Beautiful Baby Contest” in print and online on **Wednesday, February 27, 2013.** If you or someone you know has a child we would love to include them in our feature!

To enter, simply submit your photo and entry form with a \$10 submission fee by **Monday, February 18.**

First place winners in the following categories will receive a framed winners print and prizes from the following sponsors: Photography by Jerry, LilyCrest and JCPenney.

- 1) 0-12 Months
- 2) 13-24 Months
- 3) 25 Months-3 Years
- 4) 4-7 Years
- 5) Multiple Births

Beautiful Baby Contest 2013			Submit Entry To: Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan 319 Walnut Street Yankton, SD 57078 Entry Deadline: Mon., Feb. 18, 2013
Category # _____	Age: _____	Date of Birth _____	
Child’s Name _____			
Parents Name _____			
Address _____ Phone _____			
<small>Winners will be selected by the staff of Yankton Media Inc. Employees and family members of Yankton Media Inc. are ineligible to win. *Submission of this form authorizes the publication of child’s photo in this contest in print and online at www.yankton.net. Submission fee (\$10) must accompany entry form to be valid.</small>			



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