



Snow Showers Possible Late

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THURSDAY ■ JANUARY 26, 2012



Lancer Women Fight  
Their Way To Victory ■ 8

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

PRESS & DAKOTAN  
**Wedding Planner  
& Bridal Fest**  
Riverfront Events Center  
Downtown Yankton  
**Sunday, January 29**  
Bridal Registration Starts at Noon  
Exhibits Open Noon-4:00pm  
Fashion Show 3:30pm

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## Controlled Substance Bill Passes Sen. Health Committee

BY VERONICA ZARAGOVIA  
Associated Press

PIERRE — Hoping to battle what it calls an epidemic of drug use, a South Dakota health committee passed a bill that boosts the list of controlled substances in the state.

A Senate panel on Wednesday voted to make it a felony to have or sell so-called synthetic marijuana or bath salt drugs. The bill includes an emergency clause, meaning it would become effective immediately upon being signed into law. Its next step is moving on to the full Senate for debate.

Some Health committee members say the drugs' effects are severe enough to warrant felony convictions, but criminal defense lawyer Bob Pesall of Flandreau, S.D., disagreed.

Pesall said a felony conviction is too extreme because it permanently impacts a person's life. People accused of felonies could get barred from military service, risk losing their property, have no access to student loans and get confined to low-level jobs, Pesall said. "We create huge risks of damaging a lot of lives," he added.

But Tom Martinec of the South Dakota Health Department said leaving these drugs on store shelves remains a greater risk. He said five of the synthetic cannabinoids sold over the counter made it on the controlled substances list last year, which helped make them "nonexistent" in the state. He said the same fate should await the rest of them.

"Drugs are scheduled because of their potential for abuse," Martinec said. "Synthetic marijuana is more akin to LSD and other hallucinogens than it is to natural marijuana." Sen. Shantel Krebs, R-Renner,

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## HOW TO INTERPRET A GENOME



COURTESY PHOTO

Assistant professor of biology, Dr. Vicki Geiser, looks forward to beginning the Department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute (DOE JGI) work that will be incorporated into her courses this upcoming semester. The Mount Marty College program was one of only 16 institutions that were awarded a partnership for the research of genomes.

## MMC Chosen As Genome Research Project Partner

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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As the new semester gets under way for Mount Marty College, so does a new opportunity for several of the school's biology students.

MMC was recently chosen as one of 16 undergraduate institutions internationally to participate in an undergraduate research program in microbial genome annotation. The "Interpret a Genome" Program, sponsored by the United States Department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute (JGI), provides students with access to recently sequenced microbial genomes selected as part of the DOE JGI's Genomic Encyclopedia of Bacteria and Archaea (GEBA).

"The idea is that there are thousands of microbes that haven't really been investigated because of the fact that they are either in locations that are a little more obscure or that they haven't in the past made an important impact on humans," said Dr. Vicki Geiser, proposal writer and assistant professor of biology at MMC. "The Department of Energy wanted to look for alternative fuel sources, and microbes can do that in ways people haven't even thought about. They'll undergo pathways to make energy. And the Department of Energy wants to study them to see if there are any of these alternative pathways that can be utilized as an alternative source of energy for humans."

**"They only selected a handful of participating institutions, so the fact that we were selected is outstanding. ... A collaboration such as this allows the students to participate in something cutting edge."**

DR. VICKI GEISER

To study the microbes, the DOE created a sequencing database, Geiser said. However, it needed a little help with the legwork.

"They have all these microbes, but they don't have the manpower to analyze them by themselves," she said. "They also see the benefit of training early scientists about how to do this process."

The program provides students with a real-world opportunity to study complete sequences of microorganisms, with the goal of allowing them to annotate GEBA genomes while learning about genomics and bioinformatics. Students will also have the opportunity to be published for their work, Geiser said.

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## Candidates Consider Future Plans

Petitions Already Being  
Circulated For Some Races

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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With nominating petitions available for many political races and soon becoming available for others, area office holders are beginning to think about their future prospects.

Some have decided to run for re-election, while others have not made up their mind. None of the candidates reached by the *Press & Dakotan* recently had firmly decided they would not be seeking another term.

In Yankton's April 10 municipal election, the seats occupied by commissioners David Carda and Pauline Akland, as well as Mayor David Knoff, will be open.

Knoff said he will probably seek re-election. He was first voted into office during the December 2007 recall election.

"Right now is a really exciting time for Yankton," he said. "The last few years have been subdued due to the economy. We didn't go backwards, but at the same time, I think there is some pent-up demand for retail growth, and the development on the north end of town should be fun to watch. I would like the city to look at where it is and where it wants to be in the future, and plan accordingly."

However, if he does run for re-election and wins another three-year term, Knoff said he would prefer not to be mayor for another year. He is wrapping up his second year in the position.

"That is a self-imposed term limit. New blood is always good," Knoff stated. "If I run and win, and no one else would do it, I would consider it, but I really think it is good for the city to have a new mayor every couple of years. It is not that it is the most important position in Yankton, but it is one that other commissioners should experience."

Carda, who got on the commission at the same time as Knoff, said he has enjoyed his four years on the board and plans to seek another term.

"There's a lot going on in Yankton, from the building on the north end of town to all the projects going on in the south part by the bridge, just to name a couple," he said. "I have enjoyed meeting and working with the different people in the community for the last couple years and look forward to serving again if re-elected."

Not so sure about her re-election plans is Akland, who joined the commission in May 2009.



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## Lions Club Set To Roar At State Conv.

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE  
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If preparation is the key to success, the approximately 150 Lions Club members from South Dakota, North Dakota and Canada coming to Yankton this weekend for the 2012 South Dakota Lions Convention should plan on a very fun weekend.

Carol Becker of the Yankton Lions Chapter is the organizer of the convention. With the help of local chapter personnel including Katherine French and members of the Zone 8 Lions Club's — Vermillion Lions, Alcester Lions, Bon Homme Lions, Beresford Lions, North Sioux City Lions and Elk Point Lions, Becker has been working hard to make this year's event one to remember.

"We will be holding the event at Minerva's and the Best Western Kelly



Inn," she said. "Starting (Thursday) everyone will be arriving and then the full event will kick off on Friday."

Everything from awards banquets, speakers, meetings, entertainment, meals and auctions will be included in the two-day gathering.

"Friday evening we will begin with

a banquet with entertainment — three groups from the Academy of Dance will be performing — and a fabu'less' auction done by the Bon Homme club," Becker said.

"This is a time for fellowship and visiting with other Lions from across the state."

On Saturday, the hard work slated for the convention will begin, French said, with district meetings, exhibits, speakers, awards programs and presentations.

"We have such a great line-up of interesting speakers who will be presenting this weekend," Becker said. "Gloria Schaefer will be one of our featured speakers. Bernie Hunhoff will be talking about South Dakota, and Marty O'Connor will be our other featured guest speaker. In addition,

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This ice hanging down from the Press & Dakotan building shrunk in size a bit Wednesday as warmer, sunny conditions returned to the area after Tuesday night's wintry mix. Wednesday's high reading of 34 degrees was about seven degrees above normal for Jan. 25, marking the return of the balmy winter the area had been enjoying until earlier this week. The forecast calls for a chance of snow showers tonight (Thursday) and early Friday, then clearing out for the weekend. For weather details, see page 2. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



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**TOMORROW:** Yankton High School One Act Ready To Go

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
**NORTH**  
OF 15TH STREET