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## YSD May Use Recruiter

### Firms Invited To Submit Proposals To Assist In Superintendent Search

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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Seeking assistance with its search for a new superintendent, the Yankton School District has put out a request for proposals (RFP) from professional recruiting firms.

Yankton School Board President Chris Specht said that the district has not determined whether it will use

such a firm in its search, but the board believes it needs to look at all its available options.

"We have not done this before," Specht said. "We're trying to do it right and involve as many people in the process as possible because it is such a public position."

YSD Superintendent Joe Gertsema, who has held the position for the past 22 years, announced last



Specht

month that he is resigning effective June 30.

Since the announcement, the school board has been contacted by four firms, Specht said. These include the Associated School Boards of South Dakota and recruiting firms in Vermillion; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Omaha, Neb.

Specht said the board sent the RFP to those four firms in addition to placing the document on the school district's website (www.ysd.k12.sd.us). The deadline for proposals is Jan. 10.

At its Jan. 14 meeting, the school board will review each proposal, Specht said.

"The board will discuss the pros and the cons, and

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P&D FILE PHOTO: KELLY HERTZ  
District 18 Rep. Nick Moser is shown speaking at a legislative cracker barrel in Yankton last winter. Moser is leaving the Legislature after four years in order to pursue a law degree and a masters degree in public administration at the University of South Dakota.

## Judge Releases Records In Murder Case

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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A judge agreed Monday to release the mental health records of a man accused of murdering a Yankton resident last fall.

Darwin Abel Jans, 57, Yankton, has been charged with second-degree murder and aggravated assault in connection with the death of Larry D. Goodman.

Jans was not present at the Yankton County Courthouse and Safety Center Monday morning when Luci Youngberg, his court-appointed attorney, made the mental health records request of Circuit Judge Glen Eng. The Yankton County State's Attorney Office seconded the request.

Youngberg said the records will be needed to complete a psychiatric evaluation at the Human Services Center.

Youngberg said she was told it would be February before the evaluation could commence.

Eng also agreed to release the mental health records of Goodman to the attorneys.

Both men were clients in the Individualized and Mobile Program of Assertive Community Treatment (IMPACT), which assists people with severe mental illness.

On Sept. 19, Yankton police officers responded to an incident at 120 East Third Street near the Sir

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## OBAMA PICKS HAGEL



OLIVIER DOULIERI/ABACA PRESS/MCT  
Former U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel, right, a Republican from Nebraska, is nominated to be Secretary of Defense by President Barack Obama at the White House on Monday in Washington.

## Former Nebraska Senator Is Nominated To Head Pentagon

BY JULIE PACE  
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Digging in for a fight, President Barack Obama riled Senate Republicans and some Democrats, too, on Monday by nominating former senator and combat veteran Chuck Hagel to lead the Pentagon and anti-terrorism chief John Brennan as the next director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Hagel and Brennan, in separate Senate confirmation hearings, will face sharp questions on a range of contentious issues, including U.S. policy about Israel and Iran, targeted drone attacks and harsh interrogation tactics. Of the two men, Hagel is expected to face a tougher path, though both are likely to be confirmed.

Hagel would be the first enlisted soldier and first Vietnam veteran to head the Pentagon.



Brennan

"These two leaders have dedicated their lives to protecting our country," Obama said, standing alongside them and the men they would succeed during a ceremony in the White House East Room. "I urge the Senate to confirm them as soon as possible so we can keep our nation secure and the American people safe."

For Obama, a pair of combative confirmation hearings could turn into a distraction as he opens his second term. But the president signaled he was ready to take that risk.

Hagel, a former Republican senator from Nebraska, has been criticized as hostile toward Israel and soft on Iran. Opponents also have highlighted his 1998 comments about an

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## End Of The Line For Moser

### Outgoing D18 Lawmaker Reflects On His Four Years At The Capitol

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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State lawmakers are congregating in Pierre this week for the beginning of the 2013 legislative session, but for the first time in four years, Nick Moser won't be there with them.

Instead, the former Republican District 18 representative will be engaged with his educational pursuits at the University of South Dakota, where he is pursuing a law degree and a masters in public administration.

"I am enjoying my first-year law classes," Moser told the *Press & Dakotan* recently. "I love learning new things, and law school gives me a chance to learn something new every day. I will miss not being involved in policy-making, but I will really enjoy not being away from my wife, Ginny, and our German shepherd, Zoey, for those two months (that the Legislature is in session)."

Moser was first elected by Yankton County voters to serve in the House at the age of 25, making him one of the youngest legislators ever to serve in Pierre. By the time he was 27, Moser was elected by his peers to be a House Republican Whip, which is a leadership position within the party.

"I was surprised that I won the leadership election because of my age," he said. "It is humbling because you are elected by your peers. It was a whole additional layer of responsibility, but I am thankful that I got to experience it. It was very high pressure, but rewarding, as well."

"I think my age made (serving in the Legislature) more difficult at first, but I found legislators — including both of my colleagues from Yankton — that I could trust and who showed me the ropes," Moser continued. "I think I

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## Flu Season Starts Early, Hard In S.D.

PIERRE (AP) — The flu season has started early in South Dakota, and cases might surpass last season's total of 505.

More than 400 cases have been confirmed so far, compared with just five at the same time last year, according to the most recent data. There also have been three flu-related deaths in the state.

The flu season in South Dakota typically peaks in February, but it's happening earlier this year, State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger told the *American News*. There is no clear explanation for the changes from year to year.

"All we know is it's going to hit in the late fall and winter," Kightlinger said. "It's just almost like the season is coming and we don't know exactly what month, how severe, what virus or how it's going to circulate."

Natalie Braun, a certified nurse practitioner in the Avera Medical Group's clinic in Groton, said she has seen patients with flu symptoms on a daily basis since well before Christmas.

## OH! CHRISTMAS TREES ...



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The holiday season fades from view in many ways, one of which is the disposal of live Christmas trees. The City of Yankton still has this drop-off point set up at the parking lot just west of the Riverside Park baseball stadium; trees can also be dropped off at the transfer station. Discarded trees will be accepted until Friday.

## Mysterious Lights In Sky Are Reported In Yankton Area

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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A resident just west of Yankton claims he has seen unexplained lights in the sky on multiple recent nights.

A male resident along Rainbow Street in Riverside Acres reported to the Yankton County Sheriff's Office at 8:40 p.m. Friday that he had observed an unknown object in the sky.

Sheriff Jim Vlahakis said two of his deputies subsequently observed the light and believed it to be a satellite or, more likely, an airplane due to the flashing red light common on all aircraft.

A message was left by the *Press & Dakotan* at the residence of the individual who reported the light, but it was not returned by press time.

According to Jim Klancnik, the state direc-

tor for the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. (MUFON) who resides in Spearfish Canyon, the same individual submitted a report to the organization's public UFO case files Sunday. MUFON is a Greeley, Colo.-based organization dedicated to the study of unexplained flying objects.

In the report, the man said he was outside around 10:15 p.m. Jan. 3 when he noticed what looked like police lights in the sky to the south of his location.

"The part of the sky I was looking at is a pretty busy flight path," the report states. "On any day at any time of the day, I see planes and, especially, helicopters flying by, usually flying (northeast). This was definitely not a plane or helicopter."

While watching the light, the man said a smaller object appeared to fly out of and

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