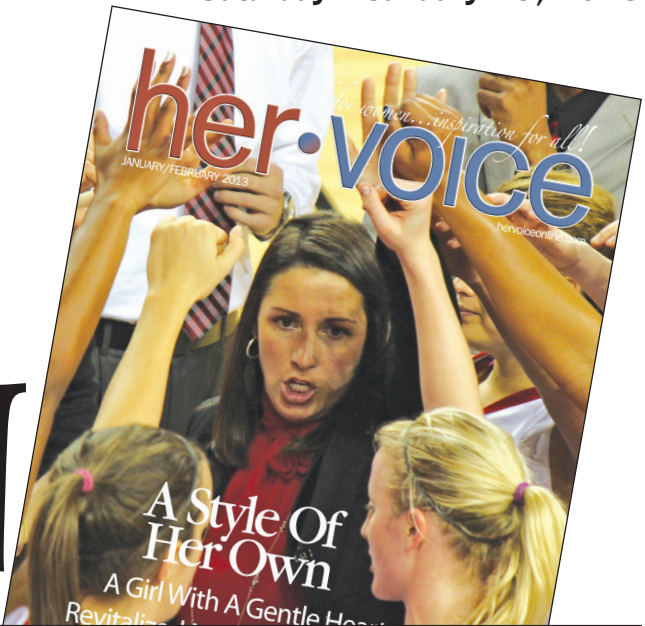




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YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS &  
DAKOTAN**



VOLUME 138  
NUMBER 225

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

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## Yankton County Pistol Permits On The Rise

From P&D Staff Reports

The number of permits issued for carrying a concealed weapon is on the rise in Yankton County.

According to Yankton County Sheriff Jim Vlahakis, the number of permits issued in 2012 was 452. That compares to 357 in 2011 and 329 in 2010.

Sixty of 2012's permits were issued in December and the numbers have been accelerating since then, Vlahakis stated. Approximately 100 permits

were issued so far in January — 40 in the last several days alone.

South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant reported this week that 18,031 permits were issued in the state during 2012. That compares to 15,794 in 2011. Through Jan. 11, the state issued 3,029 permits.

The permits are needed to carry a concealed weapon on your person or in a vehicle. They are not needed to own a pistol; keep it in a home, business or on a property; or visibly carry it.

To obtain a concealed pistol permit, an individual must apply in person at the local sheriff's office. Carrying a concealed pistol without a permit is a class 1 misdemeanor punishable by one year imprisonment in a county jail or a \$1,000 fine, or both.

An applicant must also meet the following requirements:

**PERMITS** | PAGE 14

## Changes Looming On Local Boards

### Lowrie Will Not Seek Re-Election To City Commission

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
[nathan.johnson@yankton.net](mailto:nathan.johnson@yankton.net)

After two terms on the Yankton City Commission, Paul Lowrie said Friday he will not seek re-election in April.

Meanwhile, incumbents Charlie Gross and Brad Woerner will run for new three-year terms.

Lowrie said he feels it is time to focus his energy on other endeavors that he hopes will help the community grow.

"I ran for City Commission under the premise of being the voice and ears for the everyday person," he said. "I feel that I strived to do that continually. I wasn't there for the fun of it. I was there to do the work of the people."

Lowrie operates a publishing company and is also a managing member of the Gurney Redevelopment Group.

The City of Yankton will hold its municipal election Tuesday, April 9.

With Amy Nelson now in place as the city manager and exciting things happening for Yankton, Lowrie said he feels like it is a good time to leave the commission.

"In light of all that, I think it's a great opportunity to have new blood on the commission," he stated. "I'll still be very active in the community. I can use the experience from the City Commission to help advance things in Yankton in other ways."

Gross has more than 18 years of commission experience under his belt and wants to continue that commitment.



Lowrie

**CITY** | PAGE 14

\* \* \*

### Specht Says He Is Leaving The Yankton School Board

BY DEREK BARTOS  
[derek.bartos@yankton.net](mailto:derek.bartos@yankton.net)

When the Yankton School Board meets this summer for the first time for the 2013-14 school year, it will be missing a familiar face.

Chris Specht, who has been on the board since 1997 and currently serves as its president, said this week he will not seek re-election when his term ends this year.

"I've been a school board member for almost 15 years, and I've had a great experience," he said. "I've learned a tremendous amount, but I think it's time to step aside and let somebody else have the opportunity."

Specht's seat is one of two that voters will decide in the school board election April 9.

Fellow incumbent Jim Fitzgerald, whose term also is ending, said he will seek re-election.

Specht stressed that the Yankton School District's budget concerns and two failed property tax opt-outs did not factor into his decision not to run. He said he has enjoyed being involved in the governance of the board while his children have been in the public school system, but



Specht

**SCHOOL** | PAGE 5

## A 'Perfect Storm'



This irrigation system in Cedar County, Neb., is shown working during last summer's heat. On the South Dakota side of the river, water right permits are soaring, and the drought is part of the reason. (P&D File Photo: Kelly Hertz)

## S.D. Water Permit Apps Skyrocketing

BY DEREK BARTOS  
[derek.bartos@yankton.net](mailto:derek.bartos@yankton.net)

As the drought that has plagued much of the nation shows little sign of easing soon, the State of South Dakota is on pace to see a record number of applications for water right permits this year.

Ron Duvall, natural resources engineer with the South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) Water Rights Program, said the current volume of applications is the highest he has seen in his 30 years with the DENR.

The substantial increase began last year, when the DENR received 202 applications, compared to 97 in 2011 and 80 in 2010. This year, the DENR already has 120 applications that need to be processed, Duvall said.

"We have about four to five times as many applications waiting to get processed than we typically do," he said.

As of Friday, 60 of the pending water right permit applications were listed on the DENR website as undergoing public notice, which is required by state law before approval. Of those, 28 were from Clay, Bon Homme, Turner, Hutchinson and Yankton counties — all for the use of irrigation.

While he said the drought is likely the main contributor for the increase in requests to appropriate water, Duvall believes there are other factors involved, as well.

"The other two things that are lining up at the

■ **"We have about four to five times as many applications waiting to get processed than we typically do."**

**RON DUVAL**

**WATER** | PAGE 2

## Locals To Be Part Of NSU's March On D.C.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
[randy.dockendorf@yankton.net](mailto:randy.dockendorf@yankton.net)

ABERDEEN — President Barack Obama won't be the only one receiving worldwide attention during the Jan. 21 inaugural parade in Washington.

The Northern State University marching band of Aberdeen — which features four area students — will also bask in the spotlight. The Marching Wolves include Carrie Pospishil and Schuyler Boyd of Yankton, Kaitlin Buchholz of Tripp and Ellie Wintersteen of Olivet.

Pospishil and Boyd graduated from Yankton High School, Buchholz from Tripp-Delmont High School and Wintersteen from Menno High School.

Northern State didn't learn of its parade selection until just before Christmas, said Dr. Boyd Perkins, the NSU

director of bands. The unit is among more than 40 organizations invited to participate in the 57th inaugural parade.

"The band was selected from more than 2,800 applicants, which is a number about 1,000 greater than usual," he said. "The high number of applicants delayed the announcement of the parade participants, and we didn't get notice of the trip until Dec 18. In that short time, we are trying to raise funds for the trip."

The NSU entourage includes 114 students, four staff and 19 extra paying travelers such as parents, alumni and supporters. Five students with prior commitments cannot make the trip, and several students who graduated in December aren't back for the trip.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Northern State University "Marching Wolves" Band will perform during Monday's presidential inaugural parade in Washington. Four of the band's members are from the Yankton area.

**PARADE** | PAGE 14

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