



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 138
NUMBER 231

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **20 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢



School Gun Bill Advances

South Dakota Legislature Approved Bill To Allow School Districts To Arm Teachers And Other Faculty Members

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE (AP) — A deeply divided South Dakota legislative committee approved a bill Friday that would allow school districts to arm teachers and other personnel with guns to protect against attacks like last month's school shooting in Connecticut. The Education Committee voted 8-7 to send the measure to the House after extensive testimony and

debate in hearings over two days. Supporters said school boards need the option of arming teachers, administrators or volunteers to protect against attacks, particularly in rural districts where no law enforcement officers are stationed in school buildings. But opponents — including organizations representing school boards, teachers and administrators — said putting guns in schools could make them more dangerous because it could lead to accidental shootings or other problems if students

get their hands on teachers' guns. Rep. Dan Kaiser, R-Aberdeen, a police officer, said the Legislature should trust local school boards to decide whether to have armed personnel in school buildings. Kaiser and other supporters said law officers often cannot get to a school to stop intruders from shooting people. "When push comes to shove, the only way in reality to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," Kaiser said. The bill was opposed by the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, the South Dakota School Ad-

LEGISLATURE | PAGE 3



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton Resident Todd Van Maanen was recently honored as the South Dakota Pork Producers Council 2012 Honorary Master Pork Producer. The award is given to someone who actively supports the South Dakota swine industry.

Man Recognized As 2012 Master Pork Producer

BY DEREK BARTOS

derek.bartos@yankton.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of the Press & Dakotan's monthly series spotlighting occupations, tasks and duties in our coverage area.

Growing up around farming in northwest Iowa, Todd Van Maanen saw the value of livestock production.

Now, as a professional engineer and the vice president and co-owner of Eisenbraun & Associates in Yankton, he is doing his part to support agricultural growth throughout the state, the country and the world.

"(Agriculture) is my passion," Van Maanen said. "I grew up with it, and now it's part of my business. We're always looking for rural economic development in South Dakota, and livestock production is one of the best things we can do."

As part of his work for the civil engineering firm, Van Maanen has been actively involved in the design and permitting of more than 150 livestock facilities throughout South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. He also has managed the design of facilities in the Ukraine and China.

In recognition of those contributions, the South Dakota Pork Producers Council recently honored Van Maanen as its 2012 Honorary Master Pork Producer. The award is given annually to someone who is not directly involved in pork production but actively supports the swine industry in the state.

"Without his support, we would not



PORK | PAGE 12

Soles For The Soul

Local Effort Supplies New Shoes To Children In Need Of Footwear

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

The little boy and girl, brother and sister, sat side by side in chairs on the far side of the Yankton Middle School gym.

They watched intently as adults took off the youngsters' socks and shoes, then washed the children's feet in a small plastic tub of soapy water.

The "Samaritan's Feet" project, providing shoes for needy children, included the Biblical re-enactment of washing feet. In this case, the siblings guardedly put their feet into the tub.

"Ooh, my water is warm," the little girl said, her brother nodding with similar approval.

The volunteers caressed the small feet, ever so carefully soaking and soaping each toe before rinsing and drying off the feet.

Then came the real treat — fresh white socks and a new pair of shoes. The siblings' eyes grew wide. They squealed with delight, jumping off their chairs and racing around the gym, slowing down only to pivot and turn direction.

The scene was repeated over and over Friday afternoon, as children filled the 10 stations. They hopped off their chairs with fresh socks and shoes, carrying their old socks and shoes home in a sack.

Yankton native Taylor Specht, a sophomore at South Dakota State University in Brookings, organized Friday's distribution at the YMS gym. By the end of the session, nearly 150 youngsters received the shoes and socks.

"It's all for the glory of God," she said.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Taylor Specht and her grandfather, Dean Specht, of Yankton wash the feet and provide new socks and shoes for a youngster at Friday's "Samaritan's Feet" shoe distribution. Taylor Specht, a sophomore at South Dakota State University in Brookings, was inspired by SDSU men's basketball coach Scott Nagy's work with "Samaritan's Feet" and organized the Yankton project serving around 150 children.

Specht said she was inspired by SDSU men's basketball coach Scott Nagy and his "Samaritan's Feet" work. Nagy won the national award as the 2012 "Barefoot Coach of the Year," raising awareness and funds for shoes by coaching at least one game barefoot.

"I saw Coach Nagy and Graham Gibbs of 'Samaritan's Feet' last year," she said. "I also saw Coach Nagy go shoeless at a game, almost exactly one year ago."

Samaritan's Feet International was founded in 2003 by Nigerian born Manny Ohonme and his wife Tracie. Ohonme and Gibbs attended Friday's distribution in Yankton.

For her project, Specht solicited \$3,000 in donations, which she forwarded to Samaritan's Feet for purchasing shoes.

"Yankton has the Sack Pack program (for distributing weekend meals), so they worked with that demographic in finding who needed shoes," she said.

Specht also sought volunteers, including members of the Yankton High School girls basketball team.

"We have 40 volunteers, not counting people like

SHOES | PAGE 20



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The owners of Meredith's Jewelers stand in front of their business and the sign that was given to them by the Elgin Company, which made railroad parts.

A Sign Of The Times

Historic Downtown Landmark Restored To Original Form

BY ANDREW ATWAL

andrew.atwal@yankton.net

A downtown Yankton landmark has been restored.

Terri Cash, owner of TeMari Designs, will be moving into the location once occupied by Meredith's Jewelers on third street in downtown Yankton. Meredith's had a sign with a clock on it and Cash decided the clock was too much of a landmark to take down.

"I didn't just want to take down the old sign and put up another one, so I had the old sign and clock redone with the store name," she said. "The clock has been a part of downtown for a long time and I wanted to keep it there."

Cash said the location made her want to move her business downtown.

"I always wanted to be downtown and the tradition of a jewelry store being in this location will continue," she said. "There will have been a jewelry store here since about 1910."



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Terri Cash, of TeMari Designs, stands in front of the newly restored clock and her new sign on third street in downtown Yankton. Cash is set to move her business into the former location of Meredith's Jewelers on February 1.

CLOCK | PAGE 2

County Commissioners: Medicaid Expansion Worth Looking At

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

nathan.johnson@yankton.net

When it comes to expanding Medicaid in South Dakota, members of the Yankton County Commission said this week that the Legislature needs to look seriously at the option.

"A legislator commented over the weekend that if the state does not adopt Medicaid expansion this year, those costs can easily be shifted to hospitals and counties," Commissioner Garry Moore said during the commission's annual goal-setting session this week. "Our budgets are at the breaking point right now. It's irresponsible and reckless on the part of any legislator to suggest the counties can absorb those costs. It's as simple as that."

Counties and hospitals currently pay the costs associated with those who cannot afford care. South Dakota's catastrophic county poor relief funds for medical services and procedures in 2011 were

MEDICAID | PAGE 12

Yankton, We Are Your
CorTrust Bank
2405 Broadway | 668-0800 | www.cortrustbank.com
110 Cedar | 665-6423 | Member FDIC | ID 405612

Banking The Way It Should Be
Make Banking At CorTrust Your New Years Resolution