



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Huskers Snap Bowl™
Drought With Win • 7

Volume 139
Number 210

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 12 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢



INSIDE



American Profile

* * *

Is There A Teacher Shortage?

SD Lawmakers To Examine Issue

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The Legislature will debate this year whether South Dakota indeed has shortages of teachers.

A legislative study committee filed a resolution that concludes "teachers are in short supply in this state, and that school districts of all sizes are now struggling to retain qualified teachers and to fill teacher vacancies."

The resolution suggests the Legislature explore tuition reimbursement programs and other programs or policies "that could help attract more good people into the teaching profession in South Dakota, and to keep the good teachers that are already here."

Proof of those points isn't in plain sight, however.

Wade Pogany, executive director for the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, said he and the head of the school administrators organization are working with the University of South Dakota to gather data on the status of teachers.

The state Department of Education doesn't collect information related to open positions in school districts or the number of applicants for



Pogany

TEACHERS | PAGE 12

Citizens Of The Year



Don and Pam Kettering have been named Yankton's 2013 Citizens of the Year by a committee composed of various local civic organizations. They have lived in the community for 38 years and been involved with various organizations during that time.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Ketterings Honored For Their Years Of Service To Community

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

After growing up two miles apart on farms in rural South Dakota and eventually marrying, Don and Pam Kettering ultimately decided to cultivate a life for themselves in Yankton 38 years ago.

During that time, Don has worked with Farm Credit Services of America, and Pam spent more than 20 years with United Way and Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton. Both have been involved with United Church of Christ, mental health issues and various other volunteer efforts.

For their good works, the Ketterings have been named Yankton's 2013 Citizens of the Year by a committee composed of various local civic organizations. The Press & Dakotan is one of the sponsors of the Citizen of the Year award.

"It's an amazing and humbling honor," Pam said of being named one of the Citizens of the Year.

Added Don, "When you think about what's really important in life, this would have to rank up high on the list — when your peer groups acknowledge that you've done something positive in the community."

"Both Don and Pam work tirelessly to serve their church, the Optimist Club, United Way, Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference and many other community events," wrote Betty Viau in her nomination letter for the Ketterings. "They are a real asset to the Yankton community."

Lois Halbur wrote that the couple has touched many more lives in Yankton than most people probably realize.

"They have worked with the South Dakota Community Foundation and generously donated to establish the Children's Mental Health Fund for children in need of mental health care from families with limited resources," she stated. "The United Way and that organization's many agencies have benefited from when the Ketterings identified a need in this community and rallied all available resources to find a way to provide for those in need, such as with the Delta Dental Smile Mobile and Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc."

Don retired from his position as a vice president with Farm Credit

KETTERINGS | PAGE 12

Yankton DOT Lauded With Award

BY DEREK BARTOS
derek.bartos@yankton.net

For a relatively little area office, 2013 was a big year.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation's (SDDOT) Yankton Area office — which is the smallest of its kind in the state in terms of personnel — recently was awarded the Statewide Annual Outstanding Area Construction Award for 2013.

"It's very prestigious for our crew to be recognized with this," said Ron Peterson, Yankton-area engineer for the SDDOT. "They're a very dedicated group of state employees that are very conscientious about our construction projects, and they were well-deserving of this award."

Each year, the SDDOT's Operations Review Team in Pierre visits construction projects in each of the state's 12 area offices to evaluate whether work is being done according to policies and procedures, that specifications are being enforced and that quality of work is emphasized.

"Overall they're verifying that we are doing business as we should and are being good stew-



PHOTO: S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
The Yankton Area Office of the state Department of Transportation was recently honored with the Statewide Annual Outstanding Area Construction Award for 2013. Pictured are, from left: Brian Huber, Joe Sestak, Greg Putnam, Rod Gall, Josh Pavlish, Ron Peterson, Greg Fuller, Orlando Maldonado, Brian Wenisch, Greg Rothschild and Kevin Heiman. Not pictured Justin Foss and Janelle Kribbel

ards of the taxpayers' dollars," Peterson said.

The review team then selects the recipient of the award based on the following criteria:

- performance of the engineer, field crews, technicians, interns and seasonal employees on the project;
- orderliness and complete-

- ness of the project file;
- project documentation;
- timeliness in completing construction change orders and estimates;
- ability to work with the contractor;

AWARD | PAGE 12

New Year's Arrival

Eddy and Diane Gross of Bon Homme Colony welcomed daughter Emily Denae to their family at 1:56 p.m. New Year's Day — the first baby born at Yankton's Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in 2014. Emily weighed 6 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 19 1/2 inches. She will join big brother Eden, 2, at home. There are an average of 600 babies born each year at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital's Women's Center. (Photo: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital)



14 Hurt In Minneapolis Fire

BY JEFF BAENEN
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A billowing fire engulfed a three-story building with several apartments near downtown Minneapolis early Wednesday, sending more than a dozen people to hospitals with injuries — some critical — ranging from burns to trauma associated with falls.

An explosion was reported about 8:15 a.m., and within minutes a fire raged through the building, said Robert Ball, a spokesman for Hennepin County Emergency Medical Services. Paramedics,

amid sub-zero temperatures, responded to find victims on the ground, some with injuries that suggested they may have fallen multiple stories.

"It's not clear whether people were pushed out of the building from the explosion, or whether they fell or jumped out of windows to escape," Ball said.

No fatalities have been reported, but authorities weren't sure whether any residents were still inside the building. Its roof had partially collapsed, making it too dangerous for firefighters to enter

FIRE | PAGE 12

WE DEVELOP WEBSITES

Go to **yanktonmedia.com** to find out more or call your sales representative
PRESS & DAKOTAN 605.665.7811



REGION 2 | MIDWEST 3 | OBITUARIES 3 | VIEWS 4 | LIFE 5 | SPORTS 7 | CLASSIFIEDS 9 | WORLD 11

TOMORROW: The P&D Staff Offers Its Predictions For 2014

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET