



Mostly Cloudy, Late Snow Possible

9 a.m.: 11 | 3 p.m.: 43 | DETAILS: PAGE 2

WEDNESDAY ■ January 15, 2014



Lincoln Sweeps Yankton In Basketball Action Sports/9

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## Local Building Numbers Wane



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

This 59-unit motel project near 23rd and Greet streets contributed to the estimated \$12.8 million in construction activity that took place in Yankton during 2013. In 2012, the estimated value of permits was just more than \$30 million.

## Yankton's Construction Value Plummets To Lowest Since 1998

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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The estimated value of building permits issued by the City of Yankton in 2013 were at a 15-year low. Meanwhile, the value of those issued by Yankton County continued a multi-year downward slide.

The total estimated value of the 321 permits issued by the city came in at \$12.8 million. In 2012, the estimated value of permits was just more than \$30 million.

The 2013 figure was the lowest the city has recorded since 1998 when the estimated value of the permits was \$11.2 million.

"I think part of the reason (for the sharp decline) was, we started some big projects toward the end of 2012," said Joe Morrow, Yankton's building official. "One of them was the Northern Lights project at

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## Grain Facility Decision Tabled

From P&D Staff Reports

Two zoning requests for the proposed Dakota Plains Ag Center grain facility northwest of Yankton were tabled by the Yankton County Planning Commission Tuesday.

Dakota Plains applied to have the property near Napa Junction rezoned from agricultural to commercial. It also requested a conditional-use permit to build a grain storage facility on the site.

The Planning Commission determined that it would need more information before deciding on the items. Dakota Plains requested that the zoning items be tabled until the documentation can be provided.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to comply with the request.

More information on Tuesday's meeting will be in the Thursday edition of the *Press & Dakotan*.

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## 'The State Of South Dakota Is Strong'

### Daugaard Focuses On Job Training, Strengths In State Of State Address

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota must take additional steps to train and attract people to fill the jobs needed to fuel the state's continued economic growth, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Tuesday in his State of the State address kicking off the legislative session.

The Republican governor said he plans to help school districts offer more technical courses, provide state scholarships for some students at South Dakota's four technical institutes and set up meetings around the state so business and community leaders can discuss ideas for workforce development.

Daugaard acknowledged that a program he started two years ago to pay a company to recruit workers for South Dakota businesses didn't work out well. He said the state will instead renew its focus on a program that seeks to persuade former South Dakotans to return to work in the state, which has the nation's second-lowest unemployment rate at 3.6 percent.

"Our low unemployment is a sign of our economic strength, but it also

## District 18 Lawmakers React To Gov.'s Speech

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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PIERRE — Gov. Dennis Daugaard's emphasis on workforce development during Tuesday's State of the State address can greatly benefit southeast South Dakota, District 18 lawmakers said.

Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton) said he appreciated Daugaard's emphasis on workforce training and economic development. Hunhoff, the House Democratic leader, said he sees many areas of common ground with the GOP governor.

However, Hunhoff also pointed to areas he felt were not addressed in Daugaard's speech.

"So many of South Dakota's workforce development problems are related to poverty," Hunhoff said. "Poor" is not a four-letter word that you heard in the governor's speech. That's a problem challenging our workforce development — addressing poverty, particularly for young people. Are they

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## Rural Utica Church Building Bigger

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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The current Martinus Lutheran Church near Utica is turning 90 years old this year. By this time next year, the congregation plans to be worshipping in a brand new structure on the church's property.

Sarah Schaeffer, church secretary and co-chair of the church's building committee, said the new project was necessitated by the current church's age and a growing congregation.

"The current building we have now is a really neat, old building — it was built in 1924," Schaeffer said. "But the issue we have now — besides the upkeep of an older building — is, we have so many sets of stairs and it gets harder and harder for some folks to maneuver those stairs."

Schaeffer said upgrades to the current building were originally considered but were deemed unfeasible.

"We looked at both building new and also trying to work with the building that we have," she said. "We would've had to build an elevator and do a lot of other things to bring it up to modern standards. The way the (current) building is laid out, there wouldn't be a way to put an elevator in



without adding another structure to it."

The church has received all necessary approvals to proceed with construction of the new structure, with plans to break ground once the ground thaws and temperatures rise. According to Schaeffer, the estimated cost of construction is around \$275,000. Of this, more than \$100,000 comes in the form of congregation pledges.

Schaeffer said the project will justify the cost.

"It sounds like a lot of money, but it will really be well worth it," she said. "We want a building where everybody can come worship without physical barriers in the way."

Martinus Church Pastor Dean Schroeder said he's seen excitement within the congregation for the new building.

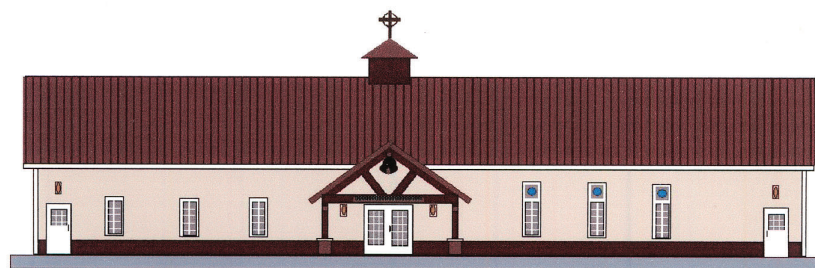
"There's been a really positive attitude among the congregation members and the community," Schroeder said.

Schroeder said a growing congregation not only necessitated expansion, but also helped garner

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ABOVE: The congregation of the Martinus Lutheran Church in rural Utica stands on the steps of their current church building. The church is building a new, larger building on the property with completion expected sometime in the fall. BELOW: A rendering of the south side of the new Martinus Lutheran Church building. The new building includes a sanctuary that has the ability to seat up to 300, a fellowship hall, classroom space and a kitchen. (Courtesy Photos)



## JoDean's Inspections Lead To Action By SDDOH

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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The South Dakota Department of Health (SDDOH) has initiated formal legal action against a Yankton food service establishment following two failed health inspections.

JoDean's, located at 2809 Broadway, received a rating score of 76 with two critical violations during its routine health inspection last September. At its follow-up inspection in December, the business received a rating score of 65 with five critical violations.

The latest scores were recently made available to the public on the SDDOH website at [doh.sd.gov](http://doh.sd.gov).

Generally, a score below an 80 triggers a re-inspection in 60 days to make sure all identified violations have been corrected. When a facility fails a routine inspection and then fails the subsequent follow-up inspection, the SDDOH initiates formal legal action, according to Bill Chalcraft, administrator for the SDDOH Office of Health Protection.

"Inspection score is not the only factor in determining a failed inspection," Chalcraft wrote in an email to the *Press & Dakotan*. "We take the nature and severity of the specific violations into account when determining whether or not a facility has

JODEAN'S | PAGE 3

## State Withdraws \$5M Offer To Northern Beef

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Board of Economic Development canceled a \$5 million loan commitment to Northern Beef Packers on Tuesday.

The arrangement originally was approved Jan. 28, 2010. The board subsequently extended the commitment multiple times.

The board granted its most recent extension at the Feb. 12, 2013, meeting. The commitment was supposed to run through March 1, 2014.

Why the Aberdeen project never received the loan isn't clear. Nor is

why the board ended the commitment some six weeks early after numerous extensions.

The beef plant opened in fall 2012 and closed last year because the business was financially broke.

Northern Beef is one of the South Dakota projects under scrutiny in investigations into a financing scheme known as EB5 that involved business and government officials.

Loans for projects were pooled from immigrants seeking federal visas for them and their families to live in the United States.

Richard Benda was state secretary of tourism and state develop-

ment in the Rounds administration when the state board made the \$5 million state loan commitment to Northern Beef.

As secretary Benda signed a state contract with SDRC Inc., based in Aberdeen, to serve as the EB5 administrator and manager for state government.

Benda subsequently was hired by SDRC after the Rounds administration ended. He went to work as the loan monitor for the Northern Beef project.

The state board granted a one-

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Learn how mental athletes train their brains

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**American Profile**



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TOMORROW: Planning Commission Considers Napa Junction Issues

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: SOUTH OF 15TH STREET