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# **YSD Schools** No Longer **Polling Stations**

BY ANDREW ATWAL

andrew.atwal@yankton.net

Due to security and logistical concerns, local city and county officials have decided to no longer use Yankton

schools as polling stations.
The Yankton County Commission discussed the development Tuesday after being made aware that a decision was made by election officials to remove Yankton Middle School (YMS) from the list of polling stations.

During the general election of 2012, Yankton County, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, piloted the epollbook and voting center concept. By virtue of the new concepts, there is less of a need for as many precincts and voting centers.

"With the new concept in place, voters in a jurisdiction can go to any voting center to cast their ballots," Yankton School District (YSD) business manager Jason Bietz said. "At a polling place, they will sign in through the e-pollbook

and the polling center will have record of them voting. This replaces the need

Following the Sandy Hook school shooting in December, Bietz met with Yankton County Auditor Paula Jones and city Finance Officer Al Viereck to discuss safety concerns with the use of schools as polling places.

During their meeting, officials agreed that the city and school elections in the spring should also use the polling cen-

ter concept in order to save money.

"As part of the meeting, we all evaluated logical polling sites. The concerns we have for some of the sites include accessibility, being single story and having sufficient access to restrooms, Bietz said. "This gets us down to only a handful of eligible places to use as potential polling centers.

Officials came to the conclusion that YMS and Lincoln Elementary School were not ideal polling centers because

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#### SPILLWAY UNDER CONSTRUCTION



This aerial photo shows the construction under way on the Yankton County bridge and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks dam spillway along 302nd Street at Beaver Lake, also known as State Lake. The lake was drained last year and will be filled again in 2014. The drainage project is the first of its kind in the state, and officials with the GF&P hope the process will result in improved water quality and better fish stock at the lake.

## Yankton County Records **Land Sales** Record

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Yankton County set a record in 2012 for the value of land sales, according to Register of Deeds Brian Hunhoff.

That figure rose to \$81.29 million, beating the previous record of \$78.76 million set in 2007. Last year's land sales were valued \$8 million higher than in 2011.

Certainly, ever increasing farm land values were a big factor (in the 2012 sales total)," Hunhoff said. "We're also seeing an increase in real estate activity overall.

The month with the most activ-

ity was December, he stated. 'We had \$16 million in sales during December alone, and a lot of those were big farm sales," Hun-hoff said. "A contributor to that was the worry about the federal 'fiscal cliff' and how that was going to unfold in January. Some people were selling because they didn't know what was going to happen to the taxation of that sale in 2013."

The record was accompanied by a decline in the number of liens and foreclosure actions in the county.

There were 897 county liens, down 164 from the previous year. State, federal and mechanic liens numbered 179, down 41 from 2011.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Bruce Viau is shown preparing a culinary creation during last year's Gourmet Guys event at the Yankton Community Library. This year's fundraiser will be held Saturday.

# 'Gourmet Guys' Dishes Up Fifth Year Of Fun, Food And Friends

**BY DEREK BARTOS** derek.bartos@yankton.net

The Yankton Community Library (YCL) will be serving up a way to help it with its needs this weekend.

The Friends of the Library is holding its fifth annual Gourmet Guys at 6 p.m. Saturday at the YCL at 515 Walnut. The benefit features eight area chefs offering a taste of a variety of foods.

"The evening is just good food, enjoyable music and a lot of socializing," said library director Kathy Jacobs.

This year's Gourmet Guys are Andy Bryan, Shane Gerlach, Jeff Martyka, father/son team Wendell and Daric

Mortensen, Todd Rothenberger, Bruce Viau and Gerald Dobrovolny.

Viau has been a participant all five years, Jacobs said, and six others have previously been involved with the event. That amount of experience should help make this year's benefit even more enjoyable, she said.

"They know what people appreciate tasting, and it will give people more choices," she said.

The menu includes black bean, sausage, sweet potato soup; creamy jalapeno ranch dip; no-bake key lime cheesecake bars; St. Pat's bowtie pasta; cappuccino chocolate swirl cheesecake with Oreo crust; minestrone; cranberry

cherry reduction for pork loin; cioppino with a crostini topped with saffron aioli; kolaches; chili; nacho potato soup; and homemade chips with homemade salsa.

Despite only getting a sample of each dish, diners will be offered plenty of food, Jacobs said.

"People get a whole meal just in tastings. No one has ever left hungry," she said with a laugh.

The Henricksons band will entertain diners throughout the night. Jacobs

said the bluegrass music is a great fit for the evening. "It's relaxing and it's just kind of a

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#### S.D. Legislature

### **Expanded Prenatal Care Plan Rejected**

BY CHET BROKAW **Associated Press** 

it was unnecessary.

PIERRE — The South Dakota Legislature rejected a plan to provide government-funded prenatal care to more low-income women Wednesday after officials from Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office said

The Medicaid program run jointly by the state and federal governments provides prenatal care to South Dakota women earning up to 133 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The state Senate had passed a bill that would have raised the income limits to cover women earning up to 140 percent of the poverty level, but the House refused to accept the Senate version of the

A negotiating committee of

three senators and three representatives was appointed to seek a compromise. But the negotiating committee recommended that the bill be killed after House Republicans said they could not support the proposal. The House later voted 61-3 to kill the measure.

The measure's main sponsor, Sen. Jean Hunhoff, R-Yankton, said prenatal care should be provided to more women because it would reduce the number of babies born with severe health problems. The bill would have cost the state an extra \$464,000, but Hunhoff said the additional prenatal care for an estimated 139 women a year would have saved an estimated \$450,000 in care for babies born with health problems.

Deb Bowman, a senior adviser to the governor, told the legislative negotiating committee that

the change was not needed because women who would have been covered by the bill will be able to get government-subsidized insurance beginning next January under the federal health care overhaul. The most people can pay for that subsidized insurance is 2 percent of their income, she said.

Sen. Deb Peters, R-Hartford, said she believes the state should have provided money to cover the additional low-income women for the rest of this year until the subsidized insurance is available.

Sen. Billie Sutton, D-Burke, argued that the change should have been made because a single woman earning 140 percent of the poverty level is only making \$16,086 a year.

"That's not a lot of money, folks," Sutton said.

### **SMOKE BUT NO FIRE**



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton firefighters responded to a report of a fire at the Upper Deck in the 300 block of Broadway Avenue at 9:10 p.m. Tuesday. Smoke was seen coming from the ceiling. Officials blamed the smoke on a roof-mounted heating/cooling unit that overheated. The business was evacuated for a short time while firefighters inspected the structure for any other possible hot spots.



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