



### Spring forward

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday:



NOTE: Hawaii, parts of Arizona do not use daylight saving time

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Wynot Advances To State Championship • 11

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## Something Special



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Sioux Falls athlete Dillon Thundershield, right, gets a "high five" from Judy Miller of Beresford during the opening ceremonies for the 2013 South Dakota Special Olympic State Basketball Tournament, which opened Friday in Yankton. Miller is a state Special Olympics board member. Tournament play is being held at the Summit Activities Center and at the Yankton Middle School.

## Volunteers Make Special Olympics A Success



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Referee Mike Huether, a Yankton native and current mayor of Sioux Falls, offers some words of encouragement to Brookings player Meridath Cody during action Friday afternoon at the 2013 South Dakota Special Olympic State Basketball Tournament. Huether is one of an estimated 250 volunteers involved with the tournament, now in its third year in Yankton. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net).

BY DEREK BARTOS

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Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether was in Yankton Friday, but his appearance had nothing to do with politics.

The Yankton native had returned to his hometown to serve as a volunteer referee for the Special Olympics South Dakota State Basketball Tournament, which the city is hosting this weekend for the third straight year.

"The memories that are created in one weekend are just unbelievable," said Huether, whose voice was hoarse from encouraging athletes while he officiated games with his brother Vaughn. "Vaughn and I were both Yankton Buck athletes, and we had great coaching over the years, and for us to come back to Yankton and help coach these kids is really special."

With 57 teams and 592 athletes, it takes people like the Huethers to make the tournament run smoothly, said Mel Frosch, S.D. Special Olympics sports director.

"It's quite in-depth," she said about preparing for and coordinating the

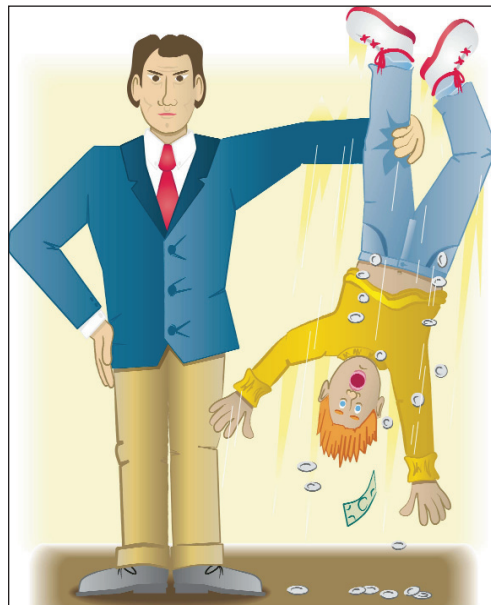
**"That's where these members from the community step in and are fabulous with the support they give. Everybody that comes to the meetings and takes on the responsibility takes it very seriously, and it makes for a good tournament."**

MELANIE FROSCH

event. "That's where these members from the community step in and are fabulous with the support they give. Everybody that comes to the meetings and takes on the responsibility takes it very seriously, and it makes for a good tournament."

Approximately 250 people are volunteering their time this weekend, Frosch said. Volunteers include officials, scorekeepers, scoreboard attendants, meal

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MCT ILLUSTRATION

## Study: Neb., S.D. Have Regressive Tax Systems

Nationally, Poorest Citizens Pay 2 Times The Wealthiest As A Share Of Income

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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Is it fair for South Dakota's poorest citizens to pay 5.5 times more of their income in taxes than the state's wealthiest residents?

Whether it's fair or not, that is the current distribution of the tax burden in the state.

According to a recent study by the Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy (ITEP), South Dakota had the third-most regressive tax system in the United States as of the beginning of 2013. The bottom 20 percent of the state's earners pay 11.6 percent of their income in taxes. The top 1 percent pay 2.1 percent.

"One could rightly say that the rate on poor people in South Dakota is 552 percent higher than the rate on those in the top 1 percent," said Reynold Nesiba, an associate professor of economics at Augustana College. "I think most outside of the top 1 percent of the population would agree that this is grossly unfair and by no stretch of the imagination equitable."

Washington State and Florida have the most regressive systems in the United States, with the bottom 20 percent paying up to six times as much of their income in taxes as their wealthiest counterparts. Illinois, Texas, Tennessee, Arizona,

also

■ South Dakota lawmakers zero in on final budget. **PAGE 14**

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## St. John's Preschool Celebrating 20th Year

BY DEREK BARTOS

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Many years ago, St. John's Lutheran Church in Yankton had a mission — to form a Christ-centered preschool for the community.

"We wanted to prepare children spiritually, socially and academically in their continued education and development," said Susan Buxcel, a member of the church committee that was formed to create the school.

After two years of planning, St. John's Preschool opened its doors in 1992, and has strived to fulfill its mission ever since.

"It's very special that parents can bring their children to a Christ-centered school for their

first experience in education," said Buxcel, who previously served as the director and head teacher for 10 years. "It's a positive experience in school, and then their children are excited about school, and we can send them on to kindergarten with a positive attitude toward education."

The preschool is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, an accomplishment that many schools never reach, said current head preschool teacher Jami Stevens.

"I just think it's a wonderful thing to be a preschool in business for 20 years," Stevens said. "There have been a lot of preschools in Yankton, and there still are. The support from the community, parents and our church has

helped keep our classrooms full, and we have wonderful staff members and volunteers."

The school started two decades ago with 12 students and two classes, Buxcel said. It quickly grew to six classes, with as many as 90 students one year. In 2001, a second classroom and teacher were added.

Today, the preschool has six classes and 69 students of ages 3-5. In addition to Stevens, the school staff includes preschool teacher Christy Hagge and aids Megan McCloud and Stacy Dohrman.

Along with students and staff, technology

SCHOOL | PAGE 2



DEREK BARTOS/P&D

St. John's Preschool head teacher Jami Stevens (left) and former director and head teacher Susan Buxcel are two of the numerous educators that have helped the school thrive since it was formed in 1992. The preschool is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.



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