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Tim Johnson  
South Dakota First

Sen. Tim Johnson, shown with his wife Barb during a press conference in Vermillion Tuesday, said his decision to not seek re-election means no campaign planning. "That will be strange," he said, his remarks drawing laughter from the capacity audience in the Al Neuharth Media Center on the USD campus. "I've planned for elections 36 years in a row, and it's now time to give it up ... I'm certain that I can get over it."

DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

Full  
Circle

Johnson Comes Home  
To Vermillion To  
Announce Retirement

BY DAVID LIAS  
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Sen. Tim Johnson ended weeks of speculation Tuesday. Standing before reporters and well wishers, with his wife Barb at his side, he announced during an afternoon press conference that he would not be seeking a third term in the U.S. Senate. "I will be 68 years old at the end of this term and it is time for me to say good-bye," he said. "I will not be running for re-election to the United States Senate in 2014 or any other office."

"I look forward to serving the remaining two years as the country is facing difficult times on many fronts and I will work every day to find a bipartisan solution to these challenges," Johnson said, reading from a prepared text. During a question-and-answer session with reporters following his formal remarks, Johnson noted that the time is right for him to step away from public office when his term ends in 2014.

The senator said he will not let up his pace of work during the remainder of his U.S. Senate term. "I am on the Banking Committee, and that will remain a priority with me," he said. "The Lewis & Clark Water System and the Mni Wiconi Water System are two key things that deserve to be built."

Johnson said he also believes deeply in K-12 education, higher education and Head Start, and will continue to work on issues involving health care, notably the continuation of the Affordable Care Act.

When his term ends, "(n)ext comes the opportunity to do other things," Johnson said. "Those other things involve living in South Dakota and working with my kids and grandkids."

Johnson has held political office since he was elected to the state Legislature in 1978 while practicing law in Vermillion.

"I've won 12 elections in a row — four in the state Legislature, five in the United States House of Representatives, and three in the Senate, including some very tough campaigns," he said. "But I have maintained moderation. I won the middle in my campaigns, and I left the left-wing and the far-right wing alone. I can't win them anyway, but I am proud of my record and I'm proud of the moderation that I've brought to South Dakota."

Age isn't the only element that factored into Johnson's decision to not seek a fourth term.

In December 2006, Johnson suffered bleeding in the brain caused by a cerebral arteriovenous malformation, a congenital

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TIM JOHNSON



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Jennifer Kline, executive director of South Dakota Voices for Children, speaks at a briefing Tuesday on legislative bills introduced this winter that impacted children. The briefing also featured Carole Cochran, project director for South Dakota Kids Count who talked about the dangers facing underprivileged children in the area.

Officials:  
More Children  
In S.D. Facing  
Dangers

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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Officials from South Dakota Voices for Children and South Dakota Kids Count were in Yankton on Tuesday to brief community members about the dangers faced by underprivileged children.

Carole Cochran, project director for Kids Count, said South Dakota ranks 17th overall in the country in terms of child well-being. The data comes from several key areas for well-being, including education, health, economic factors, safety and demographics.

"The data we get helps us determine the magnitude and scope of the problems children in the state face," Cochran said.

The poverty rate for children under age 18 in the state was 19.4 percent in 2010, compared with a national average of just under 22 percent. There are a total of nearly 39,000 children under 18 in South Dakota living in poverty.

In Yankton County, the poverty rate is 5 percent for families and people whose income has been below the poverty level in the last year. The South Dakota estimate for this rate is 9 percent.

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Gant Says Voting Centers  
Growing In Popularity

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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With voting centers being used in the upcoming joint Yankton City Commission/Yankton school board election, Secretary of State Jason Gant anticipates the system will only grow in popularity.

Sioux Falls and Yankton are the only municipalities utilizing the relatively new voting method this spring, according to Gant. The secretary of state spoke Tuesday during a Yankton Rotary Club meeting at the Hillcrest Golf and Country Club.

"There are a number of other cities that wanted to get in on it, but then they ended up not having an election," he stated. "We're seeing a lot more interest coming for the June 2014 primary."

Under the voting center system, voters are no longer restricted to casting a ballot at the polling place within their precinct. A ballot can be cast at any polling station.

During the April 9 election, voting centers will be located at JoDean's Steakhouse and Lounge, the Yankton County 4-H building and Yankton City Hall.

Yankton County was among the first to use the voting center system when election officials utilized it during the 2012 general election.

"Once we've implemented the system, especially here in Yankton, we have had such a



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant spoke to the Yankton Rotary Club Tuesday.

great response from citizens," Gant said.

Although he foresees the system being used more widely across the state, Gant is doubtful that the Legislature will eventually mandate voting centers and do away with precinct voting altogether.

"I don't want the Legislature to dictate to the local governments how to run these elec-

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Decision 2013

Carda: Issues Go Beyond Budget

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of a series of profiles on the candidates for the Yankton school board. The election is April 9.

NAME: Sarah Carda

FAMILY: Husband: David (Kolberg-Pioneer), Children: Sam, 10th grade; Lucas, 8th grade; and Anna, 3rd grade.

EDUCATION/OCCUPATION: Vice President and Dean for Student Affairs at Mount Marty College

1. Why do you want to be on the Yankton School Board?

I would like to be on the School Board because education is critical to our community and the future. I am committed to providing my own children and others the best education possible. Parents need to get involved and stand up for what is best for the children of this district otherwise our children are the clear losers.



Carda

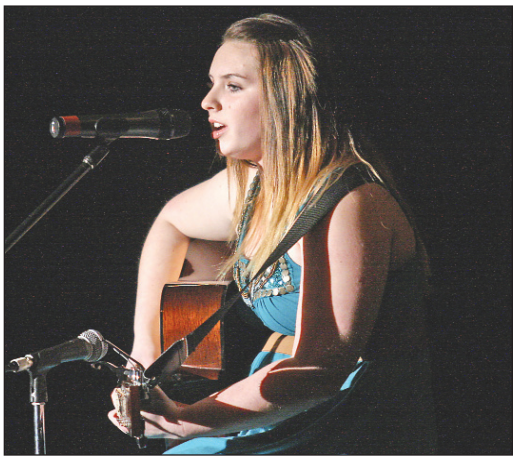
2. How would you address the budget shortfall at YSD? Would you ever consider supporting another opt-out attempt?

I think it would be foolish to say I would not consider every option available. It would not be my intention to vote for an opt-out unless other all options are exhausted. The issues facing the Yankton School District must go beyond the financial is-

ssues and the negativity surrounding the opt-out issue. All districts are grappling with financial difficulties. It is imperative to focus on providing the best education possible at the most reasonable costs. All cuts have impacts. Cutting middle school activities resulting in dropping enrollment, increasing class size has resulted in taxing teachers and a risky delivery system.

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IDOL-ING ALONG



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton High School sophomore Rachel Orton sings and plays guitar while performing at the annual YHS Idol fundraiser, held Tuesday night at the Summit Activities Center theatre. The talent show was presented by YHS Competitive Cheer. A chili feed preceded the event, with money raised going to the Children's Miracle Network. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.