



Partly Cloudy, Showers Late

9 a.m.: **55** | 3 p.m.: **69**

FORECAST DETAILS: PAGE 2



**MMC's Miller
Is A Repeater
On All-GPAC
First Team • 9**

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DEREK BARTOS/P&D

Numerous World War II veterans from the Yankton area took part in a Yankton High School program Monday that was held to connect them with students. Several of those attending were featured in

short documentaries about their wartime experiences. Veterans also met with students during the event to share their memories.

Captain And Belle

Steve "Chopper" and Marlene Johnson were introduced as the 2014 Riverboat Days Captain and Belle Monday at the annual Yankton Morning Optimist exhibition baseball game at the Riverside Park stadium. Steve retired from the Riverboat Days board of directors last year after 25 years, and Marlene also spent many years on the board. The couple has been involved with the annual event since its inception more than 30 years ago. Riverboat Days is set for Aug. 15-17. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



YSD To End School Year May 16

BY DEREK BARTOS

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Summer vacation will begin a little earlier for Yankton School District students.

The Yankton School Board amended the 2013-14 school calendar Monday afternoon, making Friday, May 16, the last day of school for public school students. The board took the action during a special meeting at the YSD administration building.

The final day of school had been pushed back to May 19 to account for a snow day, according to YSD Superintendent Wayne Kindle. However, that is no longer necessary, he said.

"We're short a day, but if you have enough hours

and minutes in your school year, you do not have to make the time up," Kindle said during the meeting. "I did not bring those numbers, but we are well above the required hours and minutes for elementary, middle school and high school."

The amended calendar also includes teacher workdays the following week on May 19 and May 21. A teacher inservice will be held May 20.

During Monday's meeting, the board also entered into executive session to discuss contractual matters. No action was taken.

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Stories To Share

During YHS Program, World War II Veterans Tell Of Their Experiences

BY DEREK BARTOS

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Stories of battle, evading capture and joining others from different backgrounds to fight for one's country filled Yankton High School Monday morning.

The school hosted a "World War II Veterans Program" to show appreciation to those who had served during the war, to connect students with the veterans and to showcase the progress of a local documentary project.

Approximately 50 World War II veterans from the Yankton area took part in the program.

"We are gathered here to honor the men and women who answered their country's call and stood up to be

counted. They served when they were asked to serve," said YHS history teacher Doug Haar. "Today we have the honor of hosting these men and women. It's a rare occasion to have so many all together at the same time."

During Monday's assembly at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre, students were shown two brief documentaries featuring several of the area veterans describing their experiences during the war. Presenters stressed that the videos were not designed to explain World War II, but to introduce the veterans and to offer accurate first-hand accounts of their experiences.

"Too often today, war is seemingly glorified by TV, movies and video games," Haar said. "It's made out to be an adventure. It is not."

The short films are part of a larger project undertaken by Haar and David

VETERANS | PAGE 16

Volunteer Of The Year

Wermers Humbled By Honor

"I do what I do because I love giving of my time to the Sack Pack Program and other organizations in town. Any time I hear that there are kids that are hungry or going without, it moves me to do what I do."

JILL WERMERS

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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For the past five years, Jill Wermers has been part of a community effort to alleviate child hunger in Yankton.

In recognition of her contributions to the Sack Pack Program, the Yankton Area United Way & Volunteer Services named her the volunteer of the year during last week's annual community volunteer celebration.

"It was a huge shock," Wermers said. "Until (Carla Hummel, a Sack Pack Program board member) said my name, I didn't know a thing."

"I do what I do because I love giving of my time to the Sack Pack Program

and other organizations in town," she added. "Any time I hear that there are kids that are hungry or going without, it moves me to do what I do. In Yankton, we're so fortunate to have so many awesome volunteers. Everybody that was up on that stage with me had received the 'Volunteer of the Month' award during the last year and were all deserving. That's what was really humbling for me."

Hummel nominated Wermers for the "Volunteer of the Month" award last year.

"She is a real go-getter and does so much to make it all happen," Hummel

WERMERS | PAGE 16



Jill Wermers was recently recognized as the Yankton Area United Way & Volunteer Services volunteer of the year. She is president of the Yankton Sack Pack Program and also volunteers for Relay for Life, the Yankton Youth Wrestling Club and her church. The Sack Pack Program is set to expand the number of meals it provides to area children during the next school year to more than 400, according to Wermers. (Courtesy photo)



Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. recognizes our nurses during National Nurses Week

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK 2014

ANA
Nurses Leading the Way

MAY 6 - 12, 2014