



USD Men's Basketball Wins, Women Fall • 7

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

PHOTOS WITH SANTA Saturday, December 1st 1:00pm-4:00pm LilyCrest 211 W. 3rd Goodie bags for the kids!



VOLUME 138 NUMBER 179

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 16 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢ 8 38894 0002 4

Corps Drawdown Begins

Move Aims To Protect The Upper Missouri River Basin, Will Worsen Low-Water Conditions

BY JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers on Friday began reducing the flow from a Missouri River reservoir, a move expected to worsen low-water conditions on the Mississippi River and potentially bring barge traffic to a halt within weeks.

The Mississippi flows into the Mississippi around a bend just north of St. Louis. One result

of this year's drought, the worst in decades, has been a big drop in water levels on both rivers.

The corps announced earlier this month that it would reduce the outflow from the Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, S.D., to protect the upper Missouri River basin. That drew an outcry from political leaders and businesses downstream, who warned that allowing the Mississippi to drop more could have devastating economic consequences.

Corps spokeswoman Monique Farmer told

The Associated Press on Friday that the reduction began as scheduled that morning. By midday, the flow that had started at 37,500 cubic feet per second had been cut to 35,500 cubic feet per second.

Farmer said plans call for a gradual reduction down to 12,000 cubic feet per second by Dec. 11 because of the drought.

"We're hoping Mother Nature brings some

CORPS | PAGE 16



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

Customers wait in line at JCPenney to purchase their Black Friday deals. Some stores held specials as early as 3 a.m. Friday to begin the Christmas shopping season, making it the busiest shopping day of the year.

Black Friday Shopping Hits Local Stores

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE news@yankton.net

When Marci Albrecht and her granddaughter were deciding where to shop on Black Friday, they decided to try something new. Living in Marion, their options were Sioux Falls, Mitchell and Yankton.

"This is the first time we've come to Yankton for Black Friday shopping," Albrecht said. "The experience has been just wonderful. We didn't have to wait in any lines and we found exactly what we were looking for. We came with a list of items we wanted to buy, and it's just been a really good experience."

Traditionally, Black Friday is the beginning of the Christmas shopping season, and is the busiest day of the year for most retailers.

After watching the evening news and seeing how busy most stores were in Sioux Falls, Albrecht said she wasn't willing to deal with that at 5 a.m. Instead, she and her granddaughter spent the entire morning in Yankton.

"We left Marion at seven, and we were in Yankton by eight," she said. "We decided to go for breakfast, make a whole day out of the shopping and we're going to go out for lunch before we head back. It was still pretty crowded this morning, but we got everything we wanted and most of it was at a discount."

Jim Simpson, a manager for Kmart, said the early-morning deals brought in a lot of traffic with a strong turnout in sales numbers.

"Last year we had a special sale just on Thursday," he said. "This year we decided to try something different, and we had two specials — one at 8 p.m. and then another at 3 a.m. The best response was in the

also

Black Friday Shopping Creeps Into Thanksgiving — Is The Change Permanent? PAGE 14

SHOPPING | PAGE 2

Nelson Set For City Post

New Hire Excited To Bring A Positive Attitude To City Manager's Office

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

There is one question for which Amy Nelson can guarantee her answer.

"I will always give you a 'yes' response when asked if anything can be improved," said Yankton's new city manager, who was hired earlier this month and will begin her duties Jan. 2.

The statement represents Nelson's overall philosophy.

"I manage my professional life very similar to how I manage my personal affairs," she said. "I keep a positive attitude, work hard, smile and don't complain."

It was while growing up in Ortonville, Minn., that Nelson, 35, developed a passion for government and became interested in city management. Ortonville is a town of approximately 1,900 residents on the southern tip of Big Stone Lake.

"The community helped raise me and I've always felt — and still feel — connected to the events, downtown businesses and people in town," she said. "It is that deep sense of community that made me interested in government, and it is what keeps me excited about city management."



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Amy Nelson was hired earlier this month as Yankton's new city manager and will begin her duties in January. She has served as the city manager of Canton for the previous four years. Nelson said she will aim to keep a positive attitude while working hard in her new position.

MANAGER | PAGE 15

Benedictine Sister Is Lauded As 'Living Legend'

BY ANDREW ATWAL andrew.atwal@yankton.net

A Benedictine sister from Yankton was recently named a living legend by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA).

Sister Mary Arthur Schramm was honored at the AANA's annual leadership conference in Colorado last week.

Prior to this year, the ANNA awarded Schramm the Helen Lamb Outstanding Education Award in 1991 and the Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in 2003.

Schramm is a native of Siegel and has been a member of the Sa

cred Heart Monastery since 1952.

"I had been involved with anesthesia for more than 50 years," Schramm said. "I started on job training programs, and I was the one with the college that took the program to academic institutions in 1965, which was a transition until 1970."

She became the first nurse anesthetist and woman to be admitted and complete her Ph.D. in Physiology and Pharmacology at the graduate School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota. While she was there, she helped in developing the curriculum for the program at Mount Marty Col-

LEGEND | PAGE 2



COURTESY PHOTO

Sister Mary Arthur Schramm of Yankton was recently recognized as a living legend the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). Schramm has been a member of the Sacred Heart Monastery since 1952 and now works part time as a receptionist.

YSD Officials React To Election

BY ANDREW ATWAL andrew.atwal@yankton.net

The business manager for the Yankton School District (YSD), said he wasn't surprised when he found out both Initiated Measure 15 and Referred Law 16 were voted down during the election.

"The history in South Dakota has been pretty clear that residents do not want any new taxes," Jason Bietz said. "We were hopeful that tax increase would pass and were somewhat optimistic that it would, but we never made assumptions on budget based on that passing."

Initiated Measure 15 would have increased the tax rate from 4 to 5 percent and split the additional revenue evenly between education and Medicaid. Currently, the state aid for education is adjusted annually by 3 percent or

the rate of inflation, whichever is less.

The measure failed across South Dakota with more than 56 percent of citizens voting it down, while more than 43 percent voted for the bill to be passed. Initiated Measure 15 failed in Yankton County with 55 percent of Yankton County voters rejecting the tax increase.

"We never really had concrete numbers on how much the sales tax increase would mean to YSD, but there were estimates that it could have meant about \$700 per student in additional funding," Bietz said. "Estimates showed the increase tax generating about \$180 million in new revenue,

meaning \$90 million for education. The intent of Initiated Measure 15 was to make up for the funding that was cut two sessions ago."

He added that district officials now must go back to square one, and YSD's budget is still reeling from the cuts that were made a few years ago.

Referred Law 16 was an education reform act that would have established a teacher scholarship program, a program for science and math teacher bonuses, merit bonuses for teachers and a uniform evaluation system. It would have also eliminated teacher tenure.

The law failed across South Dakota, with more than 67 percent of voters rejecting the reforms proposed.

ELECTION | PAGE 16



With you throughout your journey. The Birthing Center at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

To arrange a tour or for more information, contact Women's Services at (605) 668-8221.



REGION 2-3 | OBITUARIES 3 | LIFE 5 | SPORTS 7-9 | CLASSIFIEDS 10-12 | MIDWEST 13 | WORLD 14

MONDAY: County OK's Emergency Measure For Bridge

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK: NORTH OF 15TH STREET