

## Veterans Day, '44

#### What Were WWII Vets Doing 70 Years Ago Today?

This article was compiled by David Hosmer of Yankton who is working with Doug Haar to record and preserve some of the accounts and experience of World War II and Korean War veterans.

I ran into Kelly Hertz, who was talking with

Nathan Johnson, at Simply D'Vine recently.

"Can you suggest a veteran to be inter-

viewed for a Veteran's Day article?" Kelly asked. Sure ... "but I have over 75 guys on my mind!" I replied.

**BY DAVID HOSMER** 

For the Press & Dakotan

Then it struck me. What were our Yankton Area World War Two Veterans doing on Armistice Day in 1944 — 70 years ago? (Until 1954, Nov. 11 was referred to as Armistice Day.) These gentlemen and ladies have all been interviewed as part of an oral history project:

• JIM ABBOTT, a member of the 5th Air Force, was a top gunner on a B-24. After getting a two-week leave back to Sloane, Iowa in September, he was making his way to San Francisco, to Hawaii, and then to Samar in the Philippines.

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COURTESY PHOTO On Veterans Day 1944, Gene Bulian of Yankton was training in Texas. Shortly, he would see combat in Europe.

# **Freedom's Price**



## City Not Set For Larger Retail

City Commission Hears Report On Retail Leakage

BY ROB NIELSEN

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While new manufacturing businesses continue to seek Yankton out for location and expansion, the city still has a long ways to go before it begins attracting chain retailers and restaurants.

This was the overall theme of a leakage presentation presented before the Yankton City Commission during their Monday night meeting.

Geoff Dickinson, senior project manager with SB Friedman Development Advisors, said the city's population has been growing. "We've experienced almost six-tenths of a

"We've experienced almost six-tenths of a percent growth over the 2010 census period," Dickinson said. "We're growing faster than the regional market."

Currently the estimated population of Yankton for 2013 was 14,656 versus 56,492 for the region. The primary market (living within 15 minutes) was estimated at 18,976 while the primary market median income was estimated at \$46,448.

Dickinson said this income level can shut down opportunities for bringing in some higher-end retailers.

higher-end retailers. "We're essentially a \$45,000-\$50,000 per year market," he said. "That starts to define the types of retailers that are going to come here. That's not a super high-end income, so if you're a big national retailer that sells highend stuff, they're going to want to see numbers in in the 60, 70 and 80 thousands of dollars. It's a perfectly solid income level, but it does start to close down some options for the highest end retailers."

He said in terms of restaurants, average

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

These Children in Mount Marty College's on-campus day care displayed their patriotism by waving these homemade flags at MMC's Veterans Day prayer service and program at the Cyber Café. Pictured are, from left: Wyatt Clark, Addy Tant, Ivy Diedrichsen, Landen Michal and Gabe Ausk.

### YMS Program Continues Its Tradition Of Honoring Vets

#### **BY SHAUNA MARLETTE**

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The tradition of honoring veterans at Yankton Middle School is one that has become cherished not only by the school, but also by the community.

This year was no different, as the students of YMS shared their observations, talents and stories to express their thanks to those who have served in the military and given them the freedoms they enjoy.

The event featured keynote speaker Brian Allen, the weeknight news anchor and managing editor at KSFY Television in Sioux Falls.

"The one thing I like about our program is, we want our students to be involved — whether that is our orchestra kids, our chorus, our band, student



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Brian Allen, the weeknight news anchor and managing editor at KSFY Television in Sioux Falls, was the keynote speaker at Monday's Veterans Day program at the Yankton Middle School.

council members or our oral interp members," said YMS Principal Todd Dvoracek. "It is not about me getting up and talking the whole time; it is about getting our students involved. Today we had the opportunity to let all of our students get involved. It is just a routine that we continue in order to build up awareness about why Veterans Day is

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### Hunhoff: Keep The Stories Of Veterans Alive

BY JORDYNNE HART jordynne.hart@yankton.net

Keep alive the stories of all the people who paid for our freedom.

That was the challenge that the guest speaker, District 18 State Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, gave to students, faculty and other community members at Mount Marty College's Veterans Day prayer service Monday.

The newly elected District 18 state senator, local journalist and MMC alum spoke of the huge price South Dakota has had to pay for freedom throughout its history. "We lost 534 soldiers in World War I. We lost

"We lost 534 soldiers in World War I. We lost 1,560 in World War II, 554 in Korea, 201 in Vietnam and 20 so far in the Middle East," he said. "And those do not include non-combat deaths from illnesses and accidents."

Hunhoff said that those people couldn't come home, so it is up to us to make sure that those stories are not forgotten.

"Some of these are famous stories — some

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### School Board Looks At Sale Of Land

#### BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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Discussion on what to do with the Yankton School District's surplus land located along the 15th street right-of-way corridor continued Monday night at the November

monthly meeting of the Yankton School Board (YSB).

Board member Jim Fitzgerald suggested that rather than agree to bid the land out for lease per the ending of the current rental agreement, the board should instead consider if it is the right time to sell the property. "I would like the board to



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Fitzgerald

consider selling the land and getting rid of it at this point," Fitzgerald said. "Whoever would buy it would then be responsible for the sewer and gutter costs associated with the proposed public improvement project along 15th Street. Now is the time to have the discussion about selling the property."

He noted that the district's portion of the cost of the improvement plan would be around \$10,000, a cost that would likely not be made up in the selling of the land.

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**TOMORROW:** Yankton County Commisson Faces Transition