



INSIDE TODAY

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75¢



## Snowstorm Buries Much Of Region **Snow Plowed**



The man clears off the clogged sidewalk in front of the Dakota Theatre in downtown Yankton Friday afternoon after a storm dumped up to a foot of snow across parts of the area. A snow emergency has been declared for Yankton, with street crews scheduled to begin work early today (Saturday).  
KELLY HERTZ/P&D



PHOTO: METRO GRAPHICS

## Area Schools Show Decreased Numbers In Federal Aid For Student Lunches

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN  
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For some kids, a school lunch is more than just a break in the school day.

It may be their biggest and most nutritious meal of the day. Because of tight family budgets, parents may not be able to afford the full extent of school meal programs.

For many years the federal government has provided opportunities for families with lower incomes to supply their children with regular school meals at a reduced or free price.

More recent data indicates that, although this continues to benefit multiple students across the United States, local schools are seeing decreased rates of families who need to be on the reduced/free lunch program. This slight drop could be due to lack of knowledge about the program and the details of filling out the required paperwork.

They also sometimes make mistakes in filling the application out.

Of YSD's 2,691 currently enrolled students, 779 of them are on a free lunch program and 187 are on a reduced lunch program. This means that 36 percent of YSD students are on either a reduced or free meal program. That total is down 3 percent from last year's free/reduced rate. The rate for all public schools in South Dakota is currently at 42.5 percent.

Other local South Dakota schools rates have also decreased in the amount of students they have on the free/reduced lunch program.

Bon Homme School District has a total of 135 students on free meals and 40 students on reduced meals. Of the 484 students enrolled, approximately 36 percent of Bon Homme School District students are participating in the reduced/free meals program. Although similar to YSD's percentage rate for the year, that total shows a decrease of approximately 23 percent from the previous year.

Gayville-Volin School District is also down in its numbers with 118 students on free and reduced

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## Parts Of The Area See More Than A Foot Of Snow

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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It was only the first major snowfall of the season, but Friday's storm may be one for the record books.

Yankton was hit by up to 12 inches of snow east-south-east of town, unofficially tying the record for Nov. 20. The original record for that date in Yankton was set in 1975 - a 40-year mark.

And Yankton wasn't even the highest total in the region as of Friday night.

The National Weather Service (NWS) reported 18 inches at Tea, 17 inches at Harrisburg and 16 inches at Marion and Sioux Falls. Other totals included 12.5 inches at Centerville, 11 inches at Tripp and Tyndall, 9 inches at Vermillion, 8 inches south of Armour, 7 inches south of Corsica, 6.5 inches at South Sioux City, Neb., and 5 inches at Salem.

The Weatherology website reported 8.5 inches in

SNOW | PAGE 8A

## Fire Department Receives New Truck



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Yankton firefighters trained earlier this week on the department's newest acquisition: a Smeal Fire Apparatus 100-foot rear mount aerial truck. The truck, which is expected to be commissioned for use by Dec. 1, gives the firefighters greater capabilities when battling fires either in tall buildings or across wide areas.

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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The Yankton Volunteer Fire Department is the owner of a brand new Smeal Fire Apparatus 100-foot rear mount aerial truck that will serve as a valuable asset both in town and beyond the Yankton city limits.

The new truck replaces a 1989 Grumman ladder truck.

Yankton Fire Chief Tom Kurtenbach told the *Press & Dakotan* there are a number of areas where the new truck is an upgrade over the old equipment.

"Probably the biggest thing is the safety features that are built into this apparatus that we don't have

in the other one," Kurtenbach said. "There's a lot of different safety interlocks that prevent things like the truck tipping over because the jacks might not be deployed fully on one side of the truck. ... There's times we can't get all four outriggers all the way deployed. With the old truck, you would be able to rotate off to the side that you don't have full extension on the outriggers and you could actually, potentially, turn the truck over. This one won't allow you to do that."

There are other features to help keep firefighters safe as they use the equipment.

TRUCK | PAGE 8A

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