

# Truck

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"It's got a larger pump, it's made of higher strength steel so the load that we can put on the platform is increased," he said. "It's got two water monitors on the end of the platform so we're able to have two elevated water streams versus one."

Another feature of the new truck that has the Yankton Fire Department members excited marks a huge leap in technology over the old equipment.

"The nozzles on the platform actually can be run wirelessly from the ground," Kurtenbach said. "If there's a reason that we can't put a firefighter up in the platform, we can still run the monitors from the ground and direct water to where it needs to go. There's also a wireless camera up on the platform so we can see either roof structures or where the water streams are going, so we can operate it essentially unmanned from the platform."

Yankton City Manager Amy Nelson told the Press & Dakotan that purchasing the new truck was a learning experience for her.

"When we first started out on this journey of looking at the purchase of a ladder truck, one of the questions I asked myself was, 'Wow, how many really tall buildings do we have? Is it a good investment?'" Nelson said. "Through my education — through the volunteers and Tom — I learned the ladder truck has a lot of value, for example, for big box retail stores and getting the water over those big expanses. Also, (there are) our big industrial users that have a large footprint. It's not just about going up; it's also about getting water far enough into a manufacturer or a big box or a big space. I think it's going to be a really nice piece of equipment."



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**Greg Gerner, a contract instructor with Smeal Fire Apparatus, helps demonstrate the features of Yankton's newest piece of firefighting equipment.**

Being the only department in the region outside of Sioux City and Sioux Falls to possess an aerial truck of this type, Kurtenbach said it has a lot of regional importance.

"We've used our current apparatus, and we'll use (the new) apparatus, for mutual aid to other departments," he said. "We've taken this truck to Tyndall and Springfield."

Nelson said the addition of a new piece of equipment does a lot to make both the act of firefighting and living in Yankton safer.

"When there is an incident, we'll have a high-standard piece of equipment and highly trained folks on that piece of equipment and I think that will make our community as safe as we can be," Nelson said. "Those that are operating it have increased safety as opposed to our other truck. The ladder's taller, so we have more abilities for firefighting in those big spaces or tall buildings. I was shown some features that will make rescues safe, both for the individuals being rescued and the firemen."

She added the truck helps benefit people in the city when it comes to insurance rates.

"We also have value with insurance ratings by having certain types of equipment,"

she said. "That keeps our insurance rates lower having the state-of-the-art equipment we have."

Kurtenbach said this week has largely been dedicated to getting the department used to the new vehicle.

"We had a factory consultant come in that did two days of training with our firefighters on the safety features of the truck and how to operate it," he said. "We're going to have some additional training to get hands-on with the truck, drive it, operate the aerial. Hopefully we'll get a day in there that we can flow some water and be able to have the guys actually get their hands on the truck running."

Kurtenbach said the old truck still has more years ahead of it elsewhere.

"The current truck's been sold to the Huron Fire Department," he said. "They'll be taking possession of that at the time we put the new one in service."

Currently, the new truck is still going through tests as the crew trains on it and is scheduled to be considered active on Dec. 1, depending on how training progresses and weather in the coming week.

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

# Snow

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Knox County, Nebraska.

A snow emergency was set to go in effect in the City of Yankton at 1 a.m. Saturday due to large accumulations of snow throughout the day Friday.

According to a press release, the Department of Public Works planned to begin plowing streets at 1 a.m. Saturday. The city asked for vehicles to be removed from city streets by 1 a.m. and remain off the streets until plowing is complete.

Vehicles left on emergency snow routes will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

Around the region, Bon Homme County emergency manager Scott Burgi said he heard reports the Tyndall snowfall amount was similar to the rest of the county.

"Eleven inches is pretty much the norm for accumulated snowfall for around this area," he said. "Several people (were) stuck in the ditch, (but) no accidents that I am aware of."

The NWS office in Omaha didn't post snowfall amounts. However, reports from northeast Nebraska indicated similar amounts to southeast South Dakota.

Cedar County, Nebraska, emergency manager Kevin Garvin, based in Hartington, received unofficial snowfall totals during the day.

"I've heard six inches in several locations on the west side of the county," he said.

Garvin hadn't received reports of any significant storm-related incidents.

Friday's storm claimed one casualty in terms of area events.

The Candlelight Christmas celebration in Hartington has been rescheduled for Monday. The event will follow the original schedule, including the 7 p.m. lighted vehicle parade. The parade will start at the parking lot for Hartington-Newcastle, Cedar Catholic and Holy

Trinity schools. The procession will follow Broadway Avenue until turning onto Main Street.

In addition, the weekend started early for a number of school districts that either cancelled classes or dismissed early.

Friday's snowfall started in the morning and gained intensity during the afternoon. Visibility was reduced to nearly zero, and dangerous driving conditions were reported on U.S. Highway 81 and South Dakota Highway 46.

Friday's weather caused a number of accidents, including one that closed down Highway 46 west of Irene in the afternoon.

The accident occurred just east of 448th Avenue when a vehicle rear-ended another vehicle that was stopped, according to Yankton Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles.

"The vehicles were stopped because of a semi that had pulled over to clear his windshield," Nickles told the Press & Dakotan.

"When the truck started to take off, (it) started to slide sideways into the ditch and was jackknifed."

An ambulance was dispatched to the scene, and one person was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Nickles said everything was slow going, and he noticed a number of other motorists having issues.

"I know our time was nearly 45 minutes to get there," he said of the approximately 22-mile trip. "The weather really slowed everything down. I couldn't believe the amount of cars in the ditch."

The highway was closed for around an hour for the accident. Responders included the Yankton County Sheriff's Office, Yankton County EMS, Yankton Fire Department and Irene Fire Department.

Roads conditions across southeast South Dakota were generally slippery with snow and ice cover, according to the South Dakota

Department of Transportation (SDDOT).

Drivers showed indications throughout the day of struggling to adjust to the first major snowfall of the season.

Southern South Dakota saw significant snowfall and poor traveling conditions Friday morning, with a foot or more of snow expected by the time it tapered off. Tractor-trailers pulled off slow-moving interstates to park for the day, said Bret Brown, a cashier at Roadway Express truck stop in Sioux Falls.

"A lot of people are complaining about it. Nobody wants to be out in it," he told The Associated Press. "Interstates are down to 10 miles per hour, the side streets are blocked and there's a lot of cars in ditches everywhere."

The storm system moved out of the region Friday night, with the NWS predicting improved conditions this weekend.

The forecast calls for mostly sunny but colder conditions and a high of 25 degrees today (Saturday), a low of 13 degrees tonight, a high of 34 degrees Sunday and a low of 24 degrees Sunday night.

The high temperatures should reach 38 degrees Monday and 41 degrees Tuesday.

While the initial major snowstorm has passed, Burgi advises travelers to remain prepared for hazardous driving conditions.

"People should adjust their travel plans according to the road conditions and make sure they have their survival kits and winter gear in their vehicles," he said.

And for the record — it's still late autumn. Winter officially begins Dec. 21.

Press & Dakotan City Editor Rob Nielsen and The Associated Press writer James Nord

contributed to this report.

Follow @RDockendorf on Twitter.

# Lunch

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lunches with a total enrollment of 289. This puts their total rate of free/reduced lunches at 41 percent. This is down approximately 9 percent from its three-year average.

Still, the program provides a much-needed service.

In 1946, under the National School Lunch Act, the National School Lunch Program was established to facilitate those needs. This federally assisted meal program operates in more than 100,000 public schools, private schools and residential child-care institutions. In 2012, this program offered low-cost or free lunches to more than 31 million children daily.

To be eligible for free lunch, a student must be from a household with an income at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty guideline. To be eligible for reduced-price lunch, a student must be from a household with an income between 130 percent and 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline. For the 2015-2016 school year, a family's annual income of at or below \$31,525 is required to qualify for free meals and \$44,863 for reduced meals.

"I had a few families just miss the cut-offs this year by \$100 to \$200," said Sandy Kramer, YSD food service director. "It is hard to have that happen. Now I am having a harder time collecting lunch money for students who

missed the free and reduced."

Yankton School District (YSD) families are required to fill out an application form to determine total household members within the school system and the reported income for all household members. These forms need to be filled out every year as qualifications for income levels are subject to change.

"I believe there are more people who do qualify, but don't realize it or we cannot get them to fill out the paperwork," Kramer said. "If they don't qualify for free, they get reduced. If they miss the cut-off for reduced, they have to pay full price for meals."

However, families can apply anytime during the school year. If their income changes, they can reapply and possibly qualify under the designated income amounts.

Children from families with incomes more than 185 percent of poverty pay a full price, though their meals are still subsidized to some extent. Students eligible for reduced-price meals can be charged no more than 40 cents.

Yankton School District full price meals include:

- Breakfast: \$1.30
- Lunch: \$2.20 at elementary level; \$2.40 at middle school level; \$2.50 at the high school level.

Reduced prices are 30 cents for breakfast and 40 cents for lunch.

For those students that apply for reduced or free meals, they are required to take a full reimbursable meal in order to receive the meal at either a free or reduced price. This meal includes at least three out of the five food groups, with one required to

be a fruit or vegetable.

"Sometimes I have kids who get free lunches and they bring their lunch that day because they don't care for the menu item," Kramer said. "They think they can take just milk, but no."

Students can also not be back-dated on past meal charges. If a family does not happen to qualify for free or reduced meals in the fall and, after a reapplication, does qualify in the spring, they must still be responsible for the previous fall meal charges.

Although current trends suggest fewer families in need of these programs, Kramer knows that there are still students who are struggling every day to get a meal.

"I have a lot of students who have negative lunch accounts," she said. "We try to not let them get so far behind. I have kids brining just change someday to help pay for the lunch."

Recently Kramer began raising funds for needy student lunch accounts that she calls "angel money." But the fund is to be a one-time help and not used continually. She also spends time speaking with administration regarding student accounts to get information home and try to accommodate family situations. Regardless of what a student qualifies for, Kramer plans to help in any way she can to ensure that each child gets something to eat.

"We don't want to ever let kids go hungry," Kramer said. "I wish they would raise the rate to help more people qualify, especially for the reduced."

Follow @alwooc01 on Twitter.

## Jury Finds Man Guilty In SF Murder Trial

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Jurors have convicted a man of first-degree murder in the strangling death and rape of a Sioux Falls woman last year.

The jury in the trial of 42-year-old Christopher Kryger issued its verdict Friday afternoon on the sec-

ond day of deliberations.

Kryger is convicted of killing 56-year-old Kari Anne Kirkegaard, who was found strangled in her bathtub on March 16, 2014.

Prosecutors said DNA and other evidence showed that Kryger raped and killed Kirkegaard. Kryger maintained the two had

consensual sex and that he didn't kill her.

Sentencing was put off to a later date, but the murder charge carries a minimum mandatory life sentence. Prosecutors haven't said whether they intend to seek the death penalty.

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