



Partly Cloudy And Warm

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Pink Edition

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YANKTON DAILY

PRESS & DAKOTAN

MONDAY ■ OCTOBER 15, 2012



Yankton Captures State Soccer Championship • 8

VOLUME 138
NUMBER 145

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

75¢ 8 38894 0002 4



Yankton School District teachers Michele Fleer (left) and Judy Tereshinski share more than a bond as educators — they were both diagnosed with breast cancer this year. They are providing an example as survivors and also the importance of early detection.

Survivors

2 Yankton Teachers Discuss Battles With Breast Cancer

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

Judy Tereshinski and Michele Fleer both taught in the Yankton School District, but they hadn't known much about each other. Now, they will share a bond the rest of their lives.

The two women were diagnosed with breast cancer this year. Tereshinski's case was discovered in the early stages, while Fleer suffered a more aggressive form of the disease that was spreading quickly.

In both cases, the women credit detection that caught the cancer before it created even more damage. They also credit a tremendous support system in the schools and community, along with outstanding medical care in Yankton and Sioux Falls.

Fleer, a second-grade teacher at Stewart School, was stunned to learn she had cancer. She had received a clean bill of health only two months earlier.

"I had had my mammogram last December, and I was diagnosed as clear," she said. "Then, in February I had a suspected growth and they

conducted a biopsy. They found I had cancer, and it was more aggressive and fast moving."

The disease's progress devastated her.

"On March 12, I was diagnosed, and on the 19th they had surgery," she said. "It had grown (in the one week) between my biopsy and my surgery date."

Fleer then underwent chemotherapy from April through July. After her initial round, she was given a two-week break before alternating weeks of chemotherapy. She will continue to see her oncologist every three months.

"I had 'chemo buddies' who went with me, taking me to my treatments," she said. "The first four rounds (of chemo) were three hours each, and the last four rounds were four hours each."

Tereshinski, who teaches Spanish at Yankton High School, showed no signs of breast cancer prior to its detection. She also had no family history of the disease.

"When I was told that I had cancer, I panicked. The first thing on my

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YHS Set To 'Dig Pink' Tuesday

BY ANDREW ATWAL
andrew.atwal@yankton.net

Although many schools across the state don't directly teach their students about breast cancer and ways to prevent it, they do bring up the topic in other ways.

One of the big reasons why Yankton High School (YHS) officials do not bring up the topic much in its classes is because health classes were cut out of the budget several years ago.

"We don't do anything specific at YHS regarding the teaching of breast cancer in and by itself," said YHS principal Wayne Kindel. "Breast cancer awareness and education has been a national focus for a number of years and high school students are very aware of this health concern."

YHS students and faculty members still participate in fundraisers to help raise money and awareness about the disease.

"Over the past several years, we have done a number of fundraisers at high school for breast cancer awareness, prevention and education," Kindel said. "We have also provided some families resources raised by our staff and student body."

At the YHS home volleyball match on Oct. 16, there will be another example of how students and faculty come together to raise awareness and funds to fight the disease. The YHS volleyball team will participate in



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* * *



These Mount Marty College statisticians show their support for MMC's recent "Think Pink" volleyball game and benefit.

MMC's Breast Cancer Benefit Gets Personal

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

The fund-raising efforts for Breast Cancer Awareness Month held special significance for a pair of Mount Marty College volleyball players.

Beyond simply selling T-shirts to raise money for the Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center, Tina Rowbotham and Roxy Ross were doing their part to help family members afflicted with different forms of cancer.

Each has a family member — an aunt in both cases — receive the bad news during the season, leaving the players to battle family concerns on top of volleyball and academic responsibilities. That's where the team's annual "Think Pink" initiative really helped.

"I've always supported it, but it didn't affect me like this," said Rowbotham, a senior setter, whose aunt, Amy, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

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Seen here with the new Hologic's Selenia® Dimensions® 2D full-field digital mammogram machine at the Yankton Medical Clinic are, from left: Karissa Bromley, Sheri Goeken, Jill Potts-Griess, Rachele Kuehn, Paulette Dreesen, Bev Karstens and Board Certified Radiologist Dr. Will Eidsness. Not pictured is Jen Kreber-Torsney.

YMC Spotlights New Full-Field Device For Mammograms

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

New equipment at the Yankton Medical Clinic is increasing patient comfort while reducing the time needed to get a mammogram.

It is the first facility in the community and among the first in the United States to offer Hologic's Selenia® Dimensions® 2D full-field digital mammograms.

"We've been a very good, comprehensive breast care center for many years," said Dr. Will Eidsness, a radiologist at the Yankton Medical Clinic. "The addition of this technology continues our tradition of providing the best care we can for Yankton and the surrounding communities."

The 2D mammography system offers sharp breast images with low-dose radiation, an ergonomic design providing patient comfort and a flexible platform designed to support advanced mammography applications.

"The speed is good, as well as the patient comfort," Eidsness said. "And there is no doubt that it is a great image."

The machine was obtained in September, and it was first put to use around Sept. 20, according to Eidsness.

The Yankton Medical Clinic points out that breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women, ex-

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