

PRESS & DAKOTAN

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S.D. Voter Registration Deadline Nears

BY DEREK BARTOS
derek.bartos@yankton.net



South Dakotans intending to vote in the Nov. 6 general election who have not registered have only one more business day to do so.

Registrations must be filed by the end of business Monday, Oct. 22. Residents can check their registration status at www.sdsos.gov, and may register to vote at their respective county auditors' offices, driver licensing stations, city finance offices, military recruitment centers, certain Department of Human Services offices and public assistance agencies that administer programs such as SNAP, TANF and WIC.

With several races and issues to be determined early next month, many South Dakotans have made sure to register to vote this year to make their voices heard. According to South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant, there are a total of 523,174 active voters registered in South Dakota as of Oct. 17, with a net gain of 16,300 people to the voter registration list since the beginning of the year.

"In light of the presidential election in 2012, along with so many other important races and ballot questions, I expected a lot of registrations in the run-up to the general election," Gant said in a news release.

In Yankton County, the unofficial number of registered voters as of Oct. 18 is 13,898, up from the 13,592 active voters the county had on May 21, according to Yankton County Auditor Paula Jones.

"We always see a rush of voters as the deadline to register gets closer," Jones said.

Jones said that the deadline rush, while still present, has evened out somewhat since the state opened up absentee voting to all voters in 2006. With the ability to vote earlier, many residents don't wait until the last minute to register, she said.

"When people come into vote absentee, oftentimes they have to (register), update their address or change their party, so that's when they do it," she said.

Absentee voting in South Dakota began Sept. 21. In Yankton County, absentee votes are up compared to previous years, in which totals have ranged from 1,200 to 3,300 votes, Jones said.

"We're well over 1,200 voters, and we're still about three weeks out," she said. "I look for that number to be around 3,500 absentees (by the time of the election)."

Voters can file absentee up until 3 p.m. the day of the election. Residents may vote absentee in person at their county auditor's office. To vote absentee by mail, an application must first be completed. Applications are available at the offices of county auditors and at www.sdsos.gov.

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos

SIMPLY THE BEST



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Diane Twinamatsiko is the 2012 Ability Building Services "26th Simply the Best" recipient. Nominations for this award are submitted by co-workers. Simply the Best is a banquet and conference honoring outstanding Direct Support Professionals. One candidate is chosen from each of the 19 community support providers in South Dakota. Diane was nominated for her exemplary performance as a Direct Support Professional in supporting adults with brain injuries. Diane's day consists of rehabilitative efforts in the form of teaching classes, working one on one with people on cognitive rehabilitation and helping to structure peoples days and routines so that they have meaningful days. Diane was nominated for her positive caring attitude in supporting people with traumatic brain injuries. Diane attended the awards banquet and Green Star Symposium conference in Sioux Falls along with her fellow 'Simply the Best recipients'.

Historical Society Seeks Preservation Input

PIERRE — The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre is preparing for its federal fiscal year 2013 grant application and invites public comment through Oct. 31 on the state's preservation needs and projects.

The SHPO manages the National Register of Historic Places program of the National Park Service in South Dakota. The office relates historic preservation to economic, social and educational state objectives. It surveys, inventories and registers historical properties; and it promotes public awareness and provides technical assistance on their preservation.

Among the questions to consider are:

- What properties or areas need to be inventoried?
 - What properties should be considered for nomination to the national register of historic places?
 - What properties are at-risk or endangered?, and
 - What kinds of technical preservation assistance are beneficial?
- "Public input or responses to these questions will help the program in preparing its annual work plan," said Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society. "And preservation promotes economic development and cultural tourism."

The SHPO Annual Work Plan Suggestion Form may be obtained online at history.sd.gov/Preservation in the right column under "In the Spotlight" or by contacting the SHPO office at 605-773-2907 or shpo@state.sd.us.

Thrivent Dinner And Meeting Slated

Yankton and Bon Homme County Chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutheran annual meeting and dinner will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1009 Jackson, Yankton. RSVP to Joanne at 665-6467 or 660-3391 by Oct. 24.

Elect
★ Jim ★
VanOsdel
Yankton Co. Commission
Paid for by Jim VanOsdel, 207 James Place, Yankton, SD

Hearings

From Page 1

p.m.; Tabor, 3 p.m.; Olivet, 5 p.m.

In addition, postal hearings will be held at noon Oct. 30 at Kaylor and at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 31 at Geddes.

No meetings are scheduled at the present time in Cedar and Knox counties in northeast Nebraska.

The communities hosting next week's meetings are not the only ones affected by the USPS proposal. About two dozen towns in southeast South Dakota and about a dozen towns in northeast Nebraska would see reduced hours.

- In southeast South Dakota, Centerville, Menno, Scotland, Springfield, Viborg, Armour, Avon and Tripp would be reduced to six hours.

Chancellor, Gayville, Hurley, Irene, Jefferson, Lesterville, Mission Hill, Tabor, Wakonda, Delmont, Geddes and Pickstown would be reduced to four hours.

Davis, Olivet, Utica, Volin and Kaylor would be reduced to two hours.

- In northeast Nebraska, Butte, Lynch, Niobrara, Springview, Verdere and Wausa would be reduced to six hours.

Center, Coleridge, Fordyce, Newcastle, Wynot and Kilgore would be reduced to four hours.

Belden, Magnet and St. Helena would be reduced to two hours.

Next week's USPS meetings will look at survey results and offer residents a chance to speak, Nowacki said.

"If a resident did not return their survey by the date specified, it won't be included in the tabulation that is presented at the community meeting," he said.

"However, it will be part of the record and gives the resident an

opportunity to make their concerns known if they can't make it to the meeting. Any comments and questions brought up at the meeting will be recorded as well."

USPS officials will weigh the comments and information before taking action, Nowacki said.

"A week or so after the meeting, we will issue a final decision and post that in the office," he said.

"The changes will not go into effect until at least a month after that posting, and no changes will be made during the holiday period of Dec. 1 to Jan 12."

The changes will impact window service only, Nowacki said. There will be no changes as to when post office boxes can be accessed or to mail collections and delivery services.

"We will also work with communities to expand the use of village post offices in these communities. VPOs are located within an existing business and managed by the proprietors," he said.

"It is possible that a community could have both a regular post office open for 2-6 hours a day and a VPO located within a store where customers could buy stamps and send Priority Mail packages during that business' regular hours."

The USPS proposal has drawn concern not only from affected postal patrons but also from former postmasters.

Dennis Nemmers and Judy Ann Barnard, representing the South Dakota Retired Postmasters, submitted a letter to the Press & Dakotan regarding the USPS proposal. Nemmers and Barnard addressed their letter to communities affected by changes in post office hours.

"As part of the POST Plan, if these post offices do not have a postmaster, the post office hours will be reduced to either two hours per day or four hours per day," they wrote. "Post offices with these hours will not be run by a career postal employee."

The USPS proposal for reduced hours at a large number of post offices represents a change from an earlier proposal to close certain post offices.

The change represents both good and bad, Nemmers and Barnard wrote.

"It is good the post office will be open in your community," they wrote. "It is bad if there is 'no one available' to run the post office for the two hours or four hours per day. This is because the USPS has determined to use 'non-career' employees to run these offices. If there is 'no one available,' the post office will be closed."

The two retired postmasters urged constituents to contact their state's congressional delegation.

"Let our elected U.S. senators and U.S. representative know right now that you and your community members are concerned with what will happen if there is indeed 'no one available,'" they wrote. "Your post office will be closed — period, end of story, without any input or information sharing between your community members and the USPS."

For South Dakotans, the respective websites for U.S. Sens. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) and John Thune (R-S.D.) are johnson.senate.gov and thune.senate.gov. The website for U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.) is noem.house.gov.

For Nebraskans, the respective websites for U.S. Sens. Mike Johanns (R-Neb.) and Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) are johanns.senate.gov and benelson.senate.gov. In the House, the respective websites for Reps. Jeff Fortenberry, Lee Terry and Adrian Smith (all R-Neb.) are fortenberry.house.gov, letery.house.gov and adrian-smith.house.gov.

"It is very important that communities understand that the most important part of the process begins with completing the survey, because that is the information that begins the process and deter-

mines what will be discussed at the community meetings," Nemmers and Barnard wrote.

"Without the surveys, the community meeting will have little meaning at all."

Unlike post office closings, the community is being asked to make one of four choices, the former postmasters said.

"Possibly, communities feel none of the choices are acceptable, but only the first choice (of reduced hours) keeps the post office open," they wrote. "It is extremely important that customers complete the survey as it will determine if the office stays open or not."

The first offices will be reduced Nov. 17, they noted, with the next offices starting Jan. 12, 2013, until all vacant POST Plan offices have had the changes implemented.

"After your USPS/town meeting, write down any questions you have that did not get answered," Nemmers and Barnard wrote. "Send the original copy to the USPS Dakotas District Manager, the USPS Western Area Vice President and to the closest local state office of both U.S. senators and your U.S. representative. The addresses of the South Dakota congressional delegation are listed in local newspapers."

The mail addresses are as follows:

USPS Dakotas District Manager, PO Box 7500, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7500; Phone: (605) 333-2604

USPS Western Area Vice President, 1745 Stout Street, Suite 1000, Denver, CO 80299-5000; Phone: (303) 313-5100

The information in the letter is provided by Retired South Dakota Postmasters, Nemmers and Barnard wrote.

"Let us do together," they added, "what we cannot do alone."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

OBITUARIES

Rita Bourret

Funeral services for Rita Bourret, 68, of Tyndall will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23 at St. John Lutheran Church in Tyndall with Rev. Dean Schroeder officiating. Visitation will be held on Monday from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall, with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Burial will take place at a later date in the Tyndall Cemetery. Rita passed away on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Good Samaritan Society of Tyndall. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com

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Goglin Funeral Home

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



www.goglinfh.com

IN REMEMBRANCE

Earl Pinkelman
9:30 AM, Saturday
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Hartington

Helen Kaiser
10:30 AM, Tuesday
St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
Tabor

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644



WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

Helen (Zitka) Kaiser

Helen (Zitka) Kaiser, 89, of Yankton and formerly of Tabor died Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, at Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, with the Rev. Joe Forcelle presiding and Monsignor Carlton Hermann concelebrating. Burial will be in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery, Tabor.

Visitation is 2-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 22, at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton, with a rosary at 4 p.m. and a vigil service/rosary at 7 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the Mass at church on Tuesday.

To send an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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AMBER LARSON

Family Memorials
by Gibson

Katherine Mary Logan Thank You

August 30, 1916 - October 5, 2012
We would like to extend our deepest appreciation for the cards, memorials, flowers, food, mass offerings, visits, phone calls & prayers during this time of loss of our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, aunt, & friend, who will be missed dearly.

We give special thanks to Dr. Fanta for her compassion & care that helped ease her pain. To family & friends for their tender loving care. For the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home, their services were greatly appreciated. To Fr. Ken Lulf of St. Benedict Church, for the beautiful visitation, mass & burial services. Thank you to the pallbearers, honorary pallbearers & gift carriers. The pianist & choir for the beautiful music, and for the funeral committee who worked so hard on a delicious lunch. Thank you again, for the gracious acts of kindness & may God Bless You all.



Mother, we love you & will always be grateful for the sacrifices you made for your family. God Bless You. The special memories of you will live forever in our hearts.

Marlene & Fred Schmidt
Lavone & Harold Wuestewald
(the late) Kathleen & Richard Huss
Marlin Logan & Lauren Rogers

Advancing our Commitment in Yankton
TRUST

Dr. Craig Smith will now see patients in Yankton every Monday

A specialist in sports medicine and general orthopedics, Dr. Smith provides non-surgical treatment of musculoskeletal injuries and pain. He completed his family practice residency in Sioux Falls and a fellowship in sports medicine at Ohio State University. Dr. Smith is the former team physician for SDSU athletics and is the current team physician for the Sioux Falls Storm indoor football team.

Orthopedic Institute has gained a reputation as the region's most trusted name in comprehensive orthopedic care. We're happy to have another gifted specialist, Dr. Craig Smith, who has been taking care of patients in the region for over 20 years, join our team to help that bond of trust grow even stronger.

Dr. Smith will start to see patients in Yankton on Monday, Nov. 5. To make an appointment, please call 1-888-331-5890.

MORGEN SQUARE, SUITE 106, YANKTON, SD | WWW.ORTHOPEDICINSTITUTESF.COM



The One To Trust