



YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS & RIVER CITY**  
**DAKOTAN**



LCTC Play  
Helps Get  
Yankton  
Into The  
Halloween  
Spirit.  
**RIVER CITY**

f t r Volume 139  
Number 142

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **2 SECTIONS** | www.yankton.net

75¢



# An Army Of Help

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

**ABOVE:** In a final show of solidarity, the operators of farm machinery at Thursday's harvesting bee near Irene line up and march down the field in staggered fashion. About 50 volunteers harvested 400 acres of beans at the Denny Halvorson farm northwest of Irene. **BELOW:** Nancy Halvorson, Denny's widow, shields her eyes from the afternoon sun as she watches the buzz of harvest activity before her. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net).

## Friends, Family Finish Fall Harvest In Halvorson's Honor

**BY RANDY DOCKENDORF**  
[randy.dockendorf@yankton.net](mailto:randy.dockendorf@yankton.net)

**I**f many hands make light work, the fall harvest has become much easier for the late Denny Halvorson's family. About 50 family and friends converged Thursday upon Halvorson's fields northwest of Irene. The volunteer crew quickly finished work on the 400 acres of beans.

Halvorson had battled cancer during the past year. He was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in October 2012, then suffered complications during the following months. He suffered a stroke last August before passing away two weeks ago at age 56.

Despite his uphill medical battle, Halvorson was a fighter who lived each day to the fullest, said friend John Brockmueller.

"We thought Denny would lick (his disease) and do well," Brockmueller said. "But then things popped up and hit him, and it took him really fast."

Thursday's harvesting bee brought out the big machinery. But it was the volunteers' big hearts that truly touched the Halvorson family watching the roar of activity all around them.

Nick Halvorson said his father helped those in need whenever he could. His generosity was repaid during Thursday's harvesting bee.

"It's been humbling (to see the harvest turnout), and we are extremely grateful," Nick said.



The kindness of others has allowed the family to focus on Denny's condition — and then grieve at his passing — rather than tend to the fields during the past few weeks, Nick said.

"This is Day One of our harvest," Nick explained.

In fact, the Halvorsons didn't even need to ask for help with the harvest, Nick said. Family and friends initiated and organized the bee, and word quickly spread about the effort.

Nick expressed amazement at the rapid work during Thursday's harvest, which finished even faster than originally predicted.

"A lot of people have stepped forward to help us. They heard about the harvest, and they are here today," he said. "They started around 10:30 this morning, and they should be done around 3 o'clock. They did a good job of getting it done and getting everything taken care of."

Thursday's harvesting bee isn't the first time that neighbors have helped the Halvorsons with their field work. Volunteers stepped forward for last spring's planting and, given Denny's medical condition, were already planning to assist or take over the fall harvest.

"They have been planning this for three months. Easily, since the Fourth of July," said Nancy Halvorson, Denny's widow.

Thursday's harvest effort resembled an army that took over the fields, located four miles north and two to three miles west of Irene. And like any successful army, the battle plan skillfully

HARVEST | PAGE 11

## Latest Shutdown Casualty: Prime Hunting Acreage

**BY DIRK LAMMERS**  
Associated Press

**SIOUX FALLS** — When pheasant hunters take to the fields of South Dakota this weekend to renew a treasured rite of autumn, they'll have less land to do it on thanks to the federal government shutdown.

Some 150,000 acres in the national wildlife refuge system will be off-limits for the state's annual public lands hunt. It's a scenario being played out across the country, affecting millions of acres that are ordinarily available to hunters seeking antelope in Colorado, ducks in Montana or bears in Alaska.

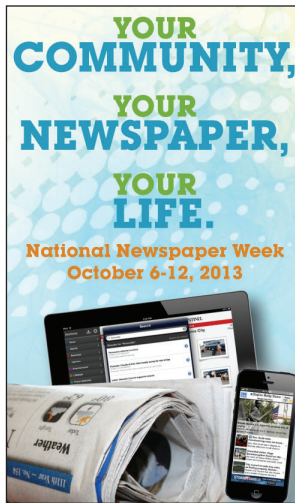
In South Dakota, millions of acres leased or owned by the state will still be available. But the national wildlife refuge system sites offer some of the best cover for upland birds, said Mark Norton, hunting access coordinator for the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department.

"In the grand scheme of things, it won't be a huge amount," Norton said. "But a lot of the waterfowl production areas are in the prime pheasant land of South Dakota. It will be felt by sportsmen, that's for sure."

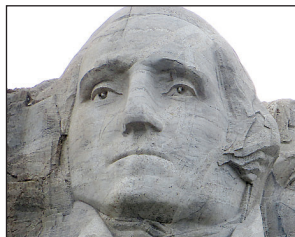
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said this week it was closing its public properties across the country due to the shutdown.

That presents a security risk, outdoors groups say, as just 350 Fish and Wildlife

HUNTING | PAGE 11



**MIDWEST**



**State Considers  
Operating Mt.  
Rushmore ■ 6**

**TONIGHT**



**Join The  
Bucks Chat At  
Yankton.Net**

## MMC SINGS



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Members of Mount Marty College's "Smooth Benediction" performed the Beatles' "In My Life" as part of the school's Fall Choral Showcase Thursday night at Marian Auditorium. MMC's Chamber Choir and Mixed Choir also performed, as did the Yankton Children's Choir, which is an Ensemble-In-Residence at MMC. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net).

## Yankton Provides Training Ground For Law Enforcement

**BY ROB NIELSEN**  
[rob.nielsen@yankton.net](mailto:rob.nielsen@yankton.net)

There are many situations that law enforcement officers never hope to find themselves in. However, a week of specialized training in Yankton is helping officers from around the state prepare to deal with hostile situations.

Lt. Michael Burgeson of the Yankton Police Department said the officers have been put through a number of training drills throughout the week.

"This is grant-funded training provided to us from the Department of Homeland Security," Burgeson said. "We bring in the National Tactical Officers Association to teach (how to deal with) barricaded suspects, high-risk warrant entries, hostage rescue and situations that would require a specialty skill."

Burgeson said a desire to give the officers a new experience with each exercise



ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Members of the Yankton Special Response Team prepare to enter the the Medical Building on the Human Services Center campus during a training exercise Thursday.

has necessitated a rigorous schedule.

"(We've done) hundreds of scenarios," he said. "Every scenario is a little bit different. Every time we go in, something is always different. It's a very physically and mentally demanding workout for these guys, so what we do is change the scenario every time so they have to think

about how they're going to provide their service."

He added that the ultimate goal of the rigorous training is to teach officers how to save lives.

"They're going in with the sole intent of saving someone's life," he said.

This year's Yankton training session included 22 officers from Yankton, Rapid City, Pierre, Brookings and Huron training on the grounds of the Human Services Center.

This is Yankton's second year hosting the training session, which rotates throughout the state.

Burgeson said while the exercises aren't easy, they've had a lot of success with them throughout the course of the week.

"The exercises have gone extremely

TRAINING | PAGE 11