



Partly Cloudy

9 a.m.: **58** | 3 p.m.: **70** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

THURSDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

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## 85-Octane Gasoline Sale Approved In Parts Of S.D.

BY CHET BROKAW  
Associated Press

PIERRE — A state legislative committee on Wednesday approved a compromise version of a rule allowing the sale of 85-octane gasoline in western South Dakota, but not beyond June.

The Rules Review Committee was deadlocked a month ago on whether to approve a state agency's proposed rule permanently allowing retailers in western South Dakota to sell the lower-grade blend. The version approved 4-2 Wednesday means the 2013 Legislature will have to decide whether to permit the sale of the gasoline past June 30.

The rule allows retailers in nine counties to sell it as long as pumps carry a warning label: "Sub-Regular Octane - Refer to owner's manual before fueling."

Octane is a measure of fuel performance, with a higher level indicating better performance. Officials have said 85-octane gasoline is generally intended for use in high-altitude regions such as the Rocky Mountain states.

During an investigation into allegations that some stations were selling 85-octane fuel mislabeled as higher octane gasoline, South Dakota's Public Safety Department earlier this year discovered that state law technically prohibits the sale of 85-octane gasoline. Most car manufacturers recommend that gasoline used in vehicles have a minimum octane rating of 87.

The Public Safety Department, with Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard's backing, passed an emergency rule making 85-octane gasoline legal anywhere in South Dakota until Oct. 7. The department did so to avoid a possible fuel shortage during the summer tourism season in the Black Hills and the rest of western South Dakota, where the low-octane fuel has been used for decades. The rule approved by the Rules Review Committee will replace the emergency rule.

The department's original version of the rule would have allowed the sale of 85-octane gasoline only west of the 102nd Meridian, essentially the western quarter of South Dakota. The rule approved Wednesday replaces the meridian reference to specify that the lower-octane blend can be used in Butte, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins and Shannon counties.

Rep. Shawn Tornow, R-Sioux Falls, who voted against the rule in August, supported it Wednesday, saying it will address the problem until the Legislature can decide what to do about the issue in the long term.

Rep. Peggy Gibson, D-Huron, said she opposes allowing the sale of 85-octane gasoline because it can harm engines.

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## Working Through The Issues

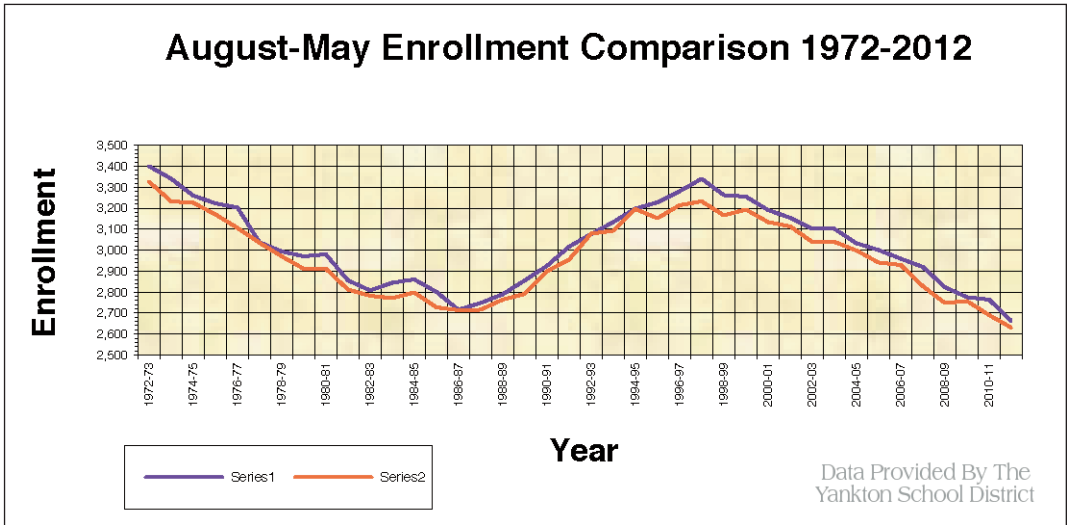
YSD's \$14.9M 2012-13 Budget Represents A 10.6 Percent Decrease From Last School Year

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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The Yankton School District (YSD) school board unanimously approved the operating budget for the 2012-13 school year at its meeting this week.

The 2012-13 general fund budget of nearly \$14.9 million represents a reduction of over \$1.7 million, or a 10.6 percent decrease, compared to the 2011-12 adopted budget. The 2012-13 decrease to the general fund, compared to 2011-12, is primarily due to the utilization of health insurance reserves from YSD's self-insurance fund, in addition to the reduction of positions.

In order to cut back, the district cut three teaching positions, a dean of students position, eliminated fifth grade coaching positions and froze the classified and administrative salaries for the



third consecutive year, along with year two of pay freezes for certified coaching and advisory positions.

"For the current budget implemented by the board on Monday, we have made efforts at reducing the budget," YSD business manager Jason Bietz said. "The source of our problems is in the general fund, as it related to the cuts that were

implemented a couple years ago by the legislature."

Bietz added that YSD officials are constantly evaluating how many students they are serving and the ways in which they can be served more efficiently.

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## Libertarian VP Candidate Visits USD

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D  
Libertarian Party vice presidential candidate Jim Gray emphasizes one of his party's stands during Wednesday's visit to the University of South Dakota campus in Vermillion. Gray also fielded questions from the audience and stayed for media interviews.

VERMILLION — With the November election less than two months away, a major party's vice presidential candidate spoke Wednesday at the University of South Dakota.

But the speaker wasn't Democrat Joe Biden or Republican Paul Ryan.

Instead, Libertarian vice presidential candidate Jim Gray, a former California judge, spent about two hours on the USD campus. Former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson is running as the presidential candidate.

The Libertarians are running to win the White House, not just to make a statement, Gray said. "We aren't looking for any moral victories. We are running to win," he said. "This is a perfect storm, and we have the most qualified person running for president."

Libertarians offer a sharp contrast to current GOP and Democratic policies, Gray told the USD audience. "We stand for financial responsibility and social tolerance," he said.

On the domestic front, Gray said the Libertarians would balance the federal budget in 2013. They would slash federal spending nearly in half, abolish the Internal Revenue Service and federal income tax, and enact a 20 percent national sales tax with a \$200 voucher to cover the first \$1,000 in spending each month.

GRAY | PAGE 14

## Medical Leader Visits Yankton To Hear Local Physician Concerns



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D  
Dr. Robert Allison, an internal medicine physician from Pierre, became president of the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) recently. He met with members of the SDSMA's Yankton Medical District at Yankton's Minerva's Grill and Bar Wednesday evening to discuss issues important to them.

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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With the medical field undergoing a variety of changes, Dr. Robert Allison hopes to provide a voice for physicians affected by the transformation.

Allison, an internal medicine physician from Pierre, became president of the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) in June. He met with members of the SDSMA's Yankton Medical District at Yankton's Minerva's Grill and Bar Wednesday evening to discuss issues important to them.

"It's been going good so far," Allison said of his one-year term.

One of the topics of discussion slated for Wednesday's meeting was the SDSMA advocacy agenda for the next year.

Among the focus items are:

- improving public health by making sure South Dakotans have access to high quality and affordable health care;
- expanding access to health

care, with special emphasis on rural and economically-challenged areas;

- improving quality and patient safety through a balanced framework that implements quality improvement initiatives and performance measures for treating major diseases;
- reforming medical liability through legislation that caps non-economic damages;
- increasing Medicaid reimbursements in connection with inflation and utilization increases;
- reforming Medicare physician payments by repealing the program's sustainable growth rate and replacing it with a system that reflects increases in practice costs;
- enforcing a scope of practice where only physicians will practice medicine and non-physician responsibilities will be limited; and
- supporting increased funding for medical education.

ALLISON | PAGE 10

## Sioux Falls Manager Died Trying To Protect Employee

BY DIRK LAMMERS AND KRISTI EATON  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Worried about an escalating conflict, Amanda Connors drove up to the door of the hair salon she managed and confronted her employee's boyfriend, who had just kidnapped his two kids after being hit with a protection order and domestic violence arrest.

The heroic decision cost Connors her life, but the mother's was spared.

Police said Connors was leaving the Sioux Falls salon Tuesday afternoon when she saw Tyrone Leeson Smith, 38, with the kids in the parking lot. She phoned the store from her car to warn her employees, including Smith's girlfriend, then pulled her car up. Smith exchanged words with Connors as he stood in the Cost Cutters doorway before fatally shooting Connors in the head.

As her red sedan accelerated into a parked SUV, Smith ducked inside, fired another shot and then zip-tied his girlfriend and

her three co-workers.

A half hour later, Smith let the employees go and put a bullet in his head, police said.

"I personally don't think his intent was to go to that scene and to kill Amanda," said Sioux Falls police Chief Doug Barthels. "It was unfortunate that it happened the way it did."

"Frankly, I kind of see her as a hero."

The escalation between Smith and his live-in girlfriend began Sunday evening when Smith was arrested on a domestic assault charge. He walked out of jail Monday after pleading not guilty. Heidi Weber was granted a temporary protection order barring Smith from coming within 500 feet of her, their 7-week-old son, their 17-month daughter, her 9-year-old daughter and their home.

Smith's third ex-wife, Delana Austin of Madison, said Wednesday that she had tried to warn Smith's girlfriend, police, prosecutors and judges about him.

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**TOMORROW:** Area Residents Deal With Drought

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
**SOUTH**  
OF 15TH STREET