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YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



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"I'm really angry. I don't blame Yankton Transit. They could have seen this coming, perhaps, but they got unfairly picked on. As near as I can tell, they were targeted by (the NSTA)."

ROSS DEN HERDER

Transit Changes Create Rough Ride

Adjustments, Computer Glitch Cause Problems For Parents

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Adjusting to changes this week required by a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ruling has not resulted in a smooth ride for Yankton Transit and many parents who depend on the agency to transport their children.

Adjustments made in the scheduling system wreaked havoc Tuesday, according to parents and Velda Bentson, the director of Yankton Transit.

Parents shared stories with the *Press & Dakotan* of some children stranded at school for more than an hour at the end of the day, while others ended up riding on a bus for almost two hours.

"(Tuesday) was the first day back to school from Easter break, and a major roadblock for us here at Yankton Transit," Bentson said. "I understand how a new process can have flaws, but we are extremely embarrassed by how the transit was perceived on that given day. Thanks to a computer glitch in the system, parents were praying for the safe return of their child/children who have been riding and/or waiting far too long on that given day. Our drivers and dispatchers were tested to the core. We have always strived to be a service that the community grew to love. Our drivers and staff are the most caring and safety-conscious people that take pride in the trust that the parents have instilled in us."

Routing improved Wednesday

TRANSIT | PAGE 13A



This is the Yankton Transit headquarters located at 901 East Seventh St. in Yankton. Due to an FTA ruling, the agency had to make changes in the way it operates this week.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Decision 2013

Schumacher: I Have The Vision, Demeanor To Serve Yankton

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of our series of profiles on the seven candidates for the Yankton City Commission. The election is April 9.

NAME: Michael Schumacher
FAMILY: I have one daughter, Leila Schumacher, who is 9 years old and is currently a fourth-grader at Sacred Heart Elementary. My parents are Gary and Linda Schumacher of Crofton, Neb. My Mom works for Ability Building Services and my Dad works for the Trusty Unit with the State of South Dakota.

EDUCATION/OCCUPATION: I attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. I am currently employed as assistant manager with Hy-Vee Fuel Station.



Schumacher

WEBSITE: I have Schumacher for City Commission page on Facebook.

1. Why do you want to be a city commissioner?

I want to be a city commissioner to be able to better serve the people of Yankton. Local officials have the greatest impact on their community. I believe I have the vision, demeanor, and experience to serve the citizens of Yankton. As a community, we face many challenges and, as a community,

SCHUMACHER | PAGE 13A



Berens



Clark



Grond



Kindle



Sittig

Finalists For YSD Superintendent Post Announced

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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And then there were five. After receiving around 40 inquiries for the superintendent vacancy, the search for Yankton School District's (YSD) next superintendent is down to its last remaining finalists.

Those five candidates will all come to Yankton April 11 for interviews with board members, faculty and staff and members of the community. Upon completion of the interviews, the school board will select the new superintendent.

Finalists are:

- Brad Berens, who is currently the principal of Mitchell Middle School;
- Cynthia Clark, who serves as the director of curriculum and assessment at the San Mateo (Calif.) Union High School District;
- Steve Grond, who currently is the superintendent for the Boyden-Hull (Iowa) School District;
- Wayne Kindle, who is the Yankton High School Principal;
- and Bob Sittig, who is the superintendent and elementary school principal at the Baltic (S.D.) School District.

"All of the finalists are quality candidates and we were impressed with their education and training," said Chris Specht, YSD board president. "They're all worthy of interviews."

Board member Jay Williams said officials had a good slate of qualified candidates from which to choose.

"The board selected these five from the list of candidates after reviewing each of their resumes and discussing their qualifications," he said. "All of the candidates submitted answers to a series of questions about how they would approach managing YSD, and I felt as if these candidates had the best answers."

YSD Board, YEA Reach Contract Impasse

From P&D Staff Reports

The Yankton School District (YSD) school board and the Yankton Education Association (YEA) have reached an impasse in contract negotiations.

"Now we will go through the legal process," school board President Chris Specht said Thursday. "The Yankton Education Association and the board are both focused on coming to an agreement."

In a letter published in today's (Friday) *Press & Dakotan*, YEA President Paula Weydert said association members are "saddened" that the negotiation process came to an end when impasse was recently declared.

"The YEA is willing to be an equal partner in any fiscal discussion and solutions concerning budgetary matters that will help YSD," she wrote. "We were disappointed when we were not provided with requested documents and information about fiscal matters, which prevented us from being able to make an informed decision regarding contractual matters."

The board and the YEA will now attempt to reach a contractual agreement through the legal system.

As part of the search for the next superintendent, the school board hired the firm Dakota Educational Consulting (DEC), led by Rick Melmer and Tom Oster.

"The firm really did their homework," Specht said. "They did what the board hoped, and

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), at the top of the photo, leads a roundtable discussion of Wagner and Andes Central educators on the impact of federal budget cuts for early childhood education and other programs.

Wagner Feels Federal Cuts

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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WAGNER — U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) warned Wagner residents Thursday that the federal budget battles will impact a number of local programs.

During his afternoon visit, Johnson met with city and school officials and toured the Wagner VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

At a meeting with community leaders, Johnson — who recently announced he will retire when his term ends in 2014 — said he foresees a prolonged period of financial uncertainty.

"Be ready for the sequestration. It will be tight for a while," he said. "We are due for a 5 percent cut (in federal funds)."

However, he added words of encouragement. "We will get through this and get moving again," he said.

At the school roundtable, Johnson heard from superintendents Susan Smit of Wagner and Darrell Mueller of Andes Central, Wagner board chairman Mike Denker and area educators about the importance of preserving Head Start and other early childhood education programs.

Rick Thaler with South Central Child Development (SCCD) described the success of Head Start partnerships with school districts.

"We used to serve 36 children (at Wagner), and now we are serving 68 with less money," he said. "We are able to provide more services and

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