

REGION DIGEST

New School Bus Garage To Hold Open House

An open house for the new Yankton School District Administration Building, bus garage and bus shop will be held at 5-8 p.m. today (Tuesday) at the complex, located at 2410 West City Limits Road.

A brief program and ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m. in front of the bus garage.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Public Asked To Respect Painting Work Site

The City of Yankton is advising the public that the Memorial Park water tower will be sandblasted and painted starting Aug. 23 and completion date is scheduled for Oct. 23.

The public is asked to respect the barricades, fencing, and work site equipment that will be located around the water tower and in the park.

The City of Yankton thanks all citizens, disc golf players, and park users for their cooperation.

United Way To Hold Campaign Kickoff Thurs.

VERMILLION — The United Way of Vermillion will hold its 2011 Campaign Kickoff at Market Platz on the corner of Market Main streets at 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26.

There will be live music by Paradise Fears and Mike & Jay. Food and drinks will be available.

For more information, contact Kara Youngworth at 605-624-5354 or u.wv@hotmail.com.

State Fair Mgr., Commissioner Reunion Set

HURON — Former South Dakota State Fair managers and commissioners are invited to a reunion at the 125th State Fair on Saturday, Sept. 4. The reunion will feature a lunch and recognition event on the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage.

All former managers and commissioners are encouraged to RSVP by Aug. 26 by calling 605-353-7340 or e-mailing Shelly Noonan at: shelly.noonan@state.sd.us.

The 125th South Dakota State Fair will run from Thursday, Sept. 2, through Monday, Sept. 6. Pannar Seeds preview night will be Wednesday, Sept. 1.

For more information on events at the 2010 State Fair, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit www.sdstatefair.com or follow the State Fair on Facebook.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

FUNDS

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transferred from one fund to the next.

He stressed that the district is balancing each of the other funds that have been established by state law.

"The state legislators have set the per-thousand tax levies for each of the funds," he said. "Since 1996, those dollar-per-thousand levies have gone down significantly. I think it is worth talking about that, because I think that sometimes the public and the legislators have forgotten this. I have gone out to Pierre and asked, 'Where are we going with this?' I don't know what the plan is and I have never gotten a straight answer."

For example, a home owner in Yankton in 1995-1996 paid a total of \$20.55 per thousand assessed value of his/her home. That same home owner pays \$9.70 per thousand assessed value of his/her home today. However, the majority of those cuts came in the form of general fund levy reductions — from \$16.49 per thousand in the 1995-96 school year to \$3.965 for the 2010-2011 school year.

"Our tax base does continue to grow in our district," Bietz said. "This is a good thing for the district. But, it is our interpretation that when you look at the tax levies in the district against that (tax base) growth, it is decreasing at a rate that is surpassing the growth in the district. So we are seeing less tax

revenue as a result."

The district has been supplementing the state funding with reserves to make ends meet, a process that is quickly depleting the district's cash reserves.

Once the reserves are gone, the district school board will be "forced" to consider pursuing an opt-out, Gertsema said. It's something that the majority of the school districts in the state have already faced.

"We have the same inflationary issues that other businesses face," Bietz said. "Wages go up, cost of purchase services go up; our school board has kept all of that in check. Fortunately, we have a reserve where we can weather the shortfall in the short term, but not for too much longer. It wasn't too long ago that the state was pointing a finger at schools saying we were squirreling money away and that we needed to operate at less margin and less reserve levels. If we had done that, we would be in a real pickle today."

The state per-pupil allocation, which is how the funding is sent to the district, is set at \$4,804.60 per student. This amount is a 0 percent increase over last school year, contrary to state law which says the state must increase the funding by 3 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.

"The premise of the general fund from an operational revenue stance is driven on a variable, and that is the number of students," Bietz said. "So because per-school allocation was frozen last year, we received no new money coupled with a decline in student enrollment. Added to that is we are a full

year behind in revenue cycles from when (the state) takes the count of the student enrollment. Unless we have a sudden influx in the number of students or a raise in the per student allocation, this is not a problem that is going to go away for a while."

According to Bietz, one of two things has to happen as a result of the budget deficit: The district needs to have a reduction in expenditures or an increase in revenue, or both.

"You can only operate at a deficit for so long before you delete your reserves," he said. "The percentage of the budget where we have used the reserves is limited by the rules that the legislators have put in place. We have less ability at the local level to manage those reserves. When you end up in a deficit situation, it is like sitting at the top of roller coaster. You are at the top of the hill and there is no way to stop."

Gertsema added the next course of action is to look at cuts.

"When you look at the general fund budget, if you want to cut, what you are really talking about is cutting people or programs, or both," he said. "If you cut a program, you will be cutting people. There is essentially nowhere else to cut."

Gertsema acknowledged that because of the different funds established by the state, many people in the district question how, for instance, the school can be in construction of new facilities and additions to meet the ADA requirements set by the federal government, and yet be announcing that the district is

short millions of dollars for the fiscal year.

"These capital outlay projects that have been completed the past 25 years, have been done within the capital outlay expenditures," Gertsema said. "The state Legislature has set a max \$3-per-thousand levy, which I think 98-99 percent of the districts in the state collect. These funds are not related to general fund moneys and you can't commingle the two funds. The way the law is set up, you can't transfer funds from the capital outlay into the general fund."

Looking forward, Bietz said he hopes district patrons recognize how well the Yankton School Board has done with the restraints put upon the district by the state.

"I think the message is the fact that the revenue side of the ledger is not shaping up real well," he said. "When you have a revenue problem that has built for a number of years, where the state Legislature has failed to resolve the funding shortfalls faced by districts for numbers of years, when they continue to throw one-time money at the issue and mask it as a solution, they still have not provided a solutions to our long-term issue. That is our overriding issue."

Bietz added, "We are going to have \$563,000 less revenue next year than we do this year, just because of the state funding systems. Every one of our revenue systems is down. When you start with a structural problem and you don't, over the course of time, address the problem, it doesn't fix itself."

EGGS

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Hamburg said the FDA hasn't had enough authority to help prevent outbreaks.

Hamburg said Congress should pass legislation stalled in the Senate that would increase the frequency of inspections and give the agency authority to order a recall. Companies now have to issue such recalls voluntarily.

"We need better abilities and authorities to put in place these preventive controls and hold companies accountable," Hamburg said.

Food safety advocates have pushed for such improvements for more than a decade, as there have been few rules on the books that require companies to make eggs,

along with many other foods, safer. The FDA's authority on the farm is questionable as the agency is often limited to gathering information about a contamination outbreak after people have already been sickened. Investigations into what went wrong come well after the crucial evidence is gone.

FDA's Farrar says the agency has traditionally focused on food manufacturing facilities instead of farms as the agency's authority is muddled and there are few standards in place.

"The farm is just a different environment," he said. "Without those standards we don't have the specific information to say you are in compliance in this area and out of compliance here."

The Obama administration has tried to remedy that with new rules that went into effect in July, just after the current egg outbreak began. The rules, which require producers to do more testing for

salmonella and take other precautions, had languished for more than a decade after President Bill Clinton first proposed that egg standards be toughened. The FDA said in July that the new safe guards could reduce the number of salmonella cases by nearly 60 percent.

Those rules would be bolstered by the legislation, which the House passed more than a year ago but the Senate has not yet taken up. The bill would provide more money to the FDA for inspections and enforcement.

DeLauro said Monday that the absence of oversight and confusion surrounding egg inspections — the FDA inspects shell eggs while USDA inspects processed eggs — could eventually cost lives. She advocated a single food safety agency instead of the current system in which at least 15 agencies have a hand in ensuring the nation's food is safe.

CITY

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Yankton resident Rick Althoff spoke against approving the step increase and the raise for city commissioners in an atmosphere where many of those in the private sector are not getting salary increases and may in fact be enduring salary cuts.

"I think it's very important for you to be sensitive to that," he said. "I think it's very insensitive to even consider a wage increase for the commissioners at this point in time. I feel very strongly that most people go into public service for the purpose of serving the community."

Althoff continued, "I've had some discussion with the city manager about the productivity

of city employees. That doesn't mean the rank and file, necessarily. It means all employees. I really feel we need to have more stewardship and accountability to the dollars we are spending each and every year. I trust that you will take a good, hard look at exactly what the effects of this are and what impact it will have, not only for now, but for the future."

After commissioners had questions about the step plan, he asked whether they really understood it completely.

"I feel comfortable implementing the step plan," Commissioner Nancy Wenande said. "I think it's given employees and the board a clear vision of where we're going. Especially since it's reviewed every three years, it gives us a good understanding that we're staying in the market value for our employees, so we don't have some of

our highly trained employees leave to go someplace else where they can make a better salary because we haven't continued to keep up with the other municipalities."

The commission unanimously voted to approve the step plan adjustment for employees.

In other business Monday, the commission:

- recognized Nick Hines, Mark Schlaefli, Dan Slowe and Yankton Police Officer Monty Rothenberger for their roles in rescuing a man from the Missouri River near Riverside Park in July;
- approved a special events parking request for Ribfest; and
- gave city staff direction to look into drafting an ordinance made possible by a change in state law that would allow golf carts to operate on city streets.

OBITUARIES

Frances Petersen

Frances "Frankie" Kay (Masterson) Petersen, age 63, of Yankton, SD passed away Wednesday, August 18, 2010 at the home of her daughter in Chalmette, LA on August 18, 2010. Mrs. Petersen's body was cremated.

Memorial services will be held Wednesday, August 25, 2010, at Riverside Park Shelter # 3 at Yankton, SD at 11:00 a.m. There will be a visitation with the family starting one hour prior to the service at 10:00 a.m.

The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, is in charge of arrangements.

Frances was born November 15, 1946 in Winner, SD to parents Paul (Sr.) and Agnes (Nieman) Masterson. Mrs. Petersen attended elementary school in Ocoma, SD moving to Yankton, SD with her parents in 1965 and remaining in the Yankton area most of

her life. She was a daycare provider. She attended the Yankton Baptist Church, was a lifetime member of the VFW in Yankton, and had been a recovering alcoholic for 28 years.

Mrs. Petersen enjoyed crocheting, playing cards, dice games, camping and quiet drives by the lake. She enjoyed kids and especially her grandson Benjamin — just saying his name would make her smile and light up.

Honorary Pallbearers are Benjamin Trip Nelson of Chalmette, LA, John Masterson, Jr. of Gayville, SD, Robert Masterson, Jr. of Chester, SD, William Nelson of Sioux Falls, SD, Jennifer Masterson of Gayville, SD, Anjelica Pick of St. Helena, NE, Douglas Kleinschmit, Jr. of Sioux Falls, SD, Lucus Kleinschmit of Sioux Falls, SD, Erik Kleinschmit of Sioux Falls, SD, Kyle Mueller of

Sioux Falls, SD.

Those left to cherish her memories are her daughter, Amanda Petersen and her fiancé Michael Breece of Chalmette, LA, grandsons Kaden Joseph Simon of Little Rock, AR and Benjamin Trip Nelson of Chalmette, LA. Brothers and sisters: Sharon Roberts of Crofton, NE, Mary McHenry of Yankton, SD, Cindy & Jerry Hill of Spokane, WA, Angela & Melvin Welch of Sioux Falls, SD, Melissa & George Ridgway of Sioux Falls, SD, James & Linda Masterson of Chester, SD, Paul & Marilyn Masterson of Post Falls, ID, John Masterson and special friend Maureen Lee of Gayville, SD, Robert & Karen Masterson of Chester, SD, Richard & Barb

Masterson of Baltic, SD; and a number of nieces and nephews too numerous to mention. Others who she cherished were Connie Erickson and her son Ronnie Erickson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a sister, Paula Masterson.

The family requests memorials preferred.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 24, 2010

ECOWATER For All SYSTEMS Your Water Needs
LINDSAY WATER COND.
209 E. 3rd, Yankton 605-665-7471

RESTAURANT
DAILY SPECIALS
MONTH
Mon-Sat 11am-2pm
\$6.25
Yesterday's Cafe
23rd & Broadway • Yankton
665-4383

IN REMEMBRANCE
Jean L. Wilkinson
11:00 AM, Tuesday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
Yankton
William "Bill" Voracek
10:30 AM, Wednesday
Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
Yankton
WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME
FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICE, INC.
605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com
WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC.
HARRINGTON, COLORADO, CROFTON
402-254-6547

CAR WASH
Thursday, August 26th • 1-6pm
All proceeds go to Haiti
Free Will Donation
Employees of Sapa will be hosting this car wash to show support for victims of the devastation in Haiti.
sapa: Shaping the future

Dakota Dance Association
announces auditions for...
The Nutcracker Ballet
Saturday, August 28th
Yankton High School Theatre
Registration 8:00-8:30 a.m.
Auditions begin at 9:00 a.m.
• Must be 2nd grade-12th grade to audition.
• Parent signature required at auditions.
• \$15 costume maintenance fee due at auditions.
• Please wear dance attire and dance shoes, hair in a bun.
• Male roles available in all age groups.
Performance Dates:
November 26, 27 28
For more information on auditions or if you are interested in becoming a member, please contact:
Lynn Moser.....665-7014
Lynn Hiltunen.....664-4326
Lisa Huber.....660-9862
Shawna Hatch.....665-3848
Carolyn Golden.....665-6420
Or e-mail dakotadance@iw.net

Affirmation
A funeral service is a public way to express private emotions, and a time to affirm all a loved one meant to our lives. Talk to our caring staff about making a meaningful remembrance.
And be assured of a ceremony with sensitivity, compassion and respect.
Kevin P Opsahl
Funeral Director
Tami Keller
Funeral Director
Sensitivity, Compassion & Respect
Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.
PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton
Memorial Resource Center, Tyndall • Memorial Chapels, Taber, Menno & Tyndall
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