

County

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fill the cracks," Commissioner Mark Johnson said.

He believes the material was applied too thickly, and it is too heavy for the wire mesh that helps suspend it.

"I'm really uncomfortable with this myself," Commissioner Donna Freng said. "I don't think it's going to do any good. We just keep adding more. The first cracks, we sprayed some more on. The second cracks, we sprayed some more on. Now we're going to spray some more on again?"

"If this is something that Wellf Construction truly feels may work, before I agree to it, I want not only the factory representative but the installer and Kevin Bender from Wellf here," she continued. "If they can convince me that is going to work after they see the ceiling, I'd be willing to give it a try. But they haven't even looked at it, and there are chunks falling down on the ta-

bles. It's crazy."

Klimisch offered to arrange a meeting between the four parties inside the jail to discuss the issue.

"I think it's going to have to be torn down and done differently," Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said. "If I could go back and do it over again, that's what I would have done to begin with. But you try to work with them."

"If it doesn't work ... then it's going to come down," he added. "If we have to do it (by legal means), we will because that's a big cost. In good faith, we thought it was going to work. They told us it was going to work."

In other business Tuesday, the commission discussed a long-standing drainage issue in the Gayville area. Commissioners wanted an update on the situation because a property owner wants to clean out his ditch to better allow water to flow downstream.

However, it is the same drainage ditch that goes through Gayville. It is currently hampered by a collapsed tile system below the community. An effort has been under way to repair the tile,

but it has been held up by a failure to attain funding for the project. The local ditch board hopes it is close to getting federal funding and proceeding with construction, but a quick timeline is not guaranteed.

Several landowners, some of whom have similar drainage problems as the man seeking to clean out his ditch, said it is important to be patient with work along the waterway until the Gayville tile project is finished.

The commission hopes to get an update on the status of funding for the project at its first September meeting.

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Yankton School District hosts...

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School

From Page 1

looking at approximately 950 students. It is just important to get the new year up and running and get things off to a great start."

One thing Kindle mentioned is that the staff will be very familiar to students, as unlike in a typical year, there are very few new faces at the school.

"Sue Adam transferred from the middle school, Adam Tyhurst joins us in the math department and Susan Kniffel is replacing long-time secretary Maxine Hughes who retired at the end of last school year," he said. "By far that is the fewest new teachers on staff in long time. It is very unusual."

At the middle school, principal Todd Dvoracek said the changes are going to be more obvious.

"We have moved away from the A and B sections and instead we are going to build our teams through our new Student Responsibility Block (SRB), a combination of home room and lunch hour," Dvoracek said. "We also are moving from an eight-period day to a seven-period day with 57-minute periods."

Dvoracek said that many of the changes were brought on due to the reduction of both staff and enrollment.

"We are down in enrollment this year — from about 615 last year to about 585 — primarily because last year's eighth grade class was larger than this year's sixth grade class," he said. "But all of the factors combined did force us to do a lot of restructuring and juggling."

Another significant change will be seen in the music department. Rather than having band and orchestra practice every day, they will now be held alternating days with choir.

"We will make it work, and still have a very quality product, but the more hands-on instruction time, the better you succeed," he said. "I think it has been very obvious in the past that we have a superior product here and it shows when you can go to parades and see our middle school band looking as good or better than many high school bands. Unfortunately, the way the scheduling is now, it is going to force students to choose what they want to be involved in at a much quicker pace than in the past."

While Dvoracek stressed students will still have access to the library, he said he is also concerned at how the elimination of the full-time librarian para-professional will affect students.

"We will be making changes as the year goes on trying to find the right system to make the library work," he said. "Maybe it will be having students help in their free time or having volunteers from the community, but it is going to be different and require finding the right solution to help the students."

The loss of the librarian at the middle school is not the only change. He said seventh and eighth grade students will no longer have dedicated computer technology classes, rather it will be incorporated into their core classes. Kathy Wagner moved from the principal position at the middle school to the student services director for the district. Dvoracek moved from assistant principal to principal and the district chose to move to a dean of students rather than hire an assistant principal this year.

"Matt Borchers will be our assistant dean of students," Dvoracek said. "Since we are also losing one of our counselors, he will have counseling duties as well as being there to help keep kids on track."

Other new staff include teachers Kacie Johnson and Riley Smith.

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