



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 138 NUMBER 100

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 10 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢ 38894 0002 4

Upgrades Necessary

Majority of Town Hall Participants Favor Sports Complex Expansions

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Feedback gathered Tuesday night during a town hall meeting held to discuss Yankton's sports facility needs overwhelmingly supported upgrading the community's current assets.

Approximately 80 people attended the meeting hosted by the City of Yankton in the main theater at the Summit Activities Center. Planning and Development District III's Greg Henderson moderated the event.

The topics up for discussion included Yankton's current facilities and programming; future facilities and what citizens believe are needed; and questions regarding athletic facilities or future facilities.

Out of more than a dozen speakers, only two questioned the need for more or expanded sports facilities. Many of those who provided input Tuesday are members of various local sports organizations.

Opening the discussion, Henderson told the crowd, "This is your meeting. This is your opportunity to express yourself."

Carol Ebel asked the city to re-examine how it will use the former Human Services Center property it recently purchased. Officials have said they intend to develop the property, thus displacing the Yankton Youth Soccer Association (YYSA) complex that exists there.

"My plea is that the city reconsider closing this soccer complex down to investigate the time and money and love that went into building these fields and this program," she said.

The property has plenty of space to incorporate other sports facility needs, too, Ebel added.

Jeff Wendte of the Yankton Baseball Association (YBA) said Yankton is currently very limited in what sports tournaments it can host. He said the need extends beyond baseball and into soccer, football and other activities.

"Adding more fields would not only benefit those kids but the community, as well," Wendte stated. "If you look at Yankton's facilities for the youth, they are not near what these other (South Dakota) communities have. I think Yankton needs that to draw people into the community."

Those types of assets could also play a role in drawing Yankton High School graduates back to the community eventually, he added.

Tom Stotz of the YBA said he believes there is a perception that if a facility is built, the burden will fall entirely on the taxpayers.

"In my mind, that is just false," he said. "Those of us that have been in the trenches have raised money and know how to raise money. We will share the responsibility of making sure that something gets taken care of."

Chuck Iverson of Mount Marty College said his employer is interested in being involved in the ongoing sports facility discussions because it has needs of its own. He said the college is evaluating many options to address its sports facility needs.

Don Lowrie said he thinks the Parks and Recreation Department should speak with other communities about how they addressed sports facilities needs before the city considers hiring a consultant to look at



Deb Lillie of the Yankton Youth Soccer Association spoke during Tuesday's town hall meeting to address the community's sports facility needs.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

MEETING | PAGE 10



American Profile

* * *

HHS Secretary: 'Encouraging Signs' Seen On S. Dakota Reservations

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Despite health challenges facing Native Americans living in South Dakota, there are many positive initiatives taking place on the reservations to combat disparities, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius said Tuesday.

Sebelius' comments followed a tour of several different programs at schools and clinics on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations. She is making a two-day trip to South Dakota's Indian country, including a visit Wednesday to the Cheyenne River reservation.

"While there certainly are serious challenges and ones we are working with the tribal leaders to address and pay attention to, I think there are also encouraging signs of innovative programs that can have a huge beneficial impact on Native Americans," Sebelius said by phone.

Native Americans in South Dakota have higher rates of some chronic diseases and shorter life spans than non-Native Americans.

Sebelius pointed to the IHS hospital in Rosebud that has been designated as "baby friendly" as a positive sign. The designation means the hospital is focusing on unique baby delivery methods and promoting breast feeding.

Sebelius met with a couple of mothers who had recently given birth, and the secretary said she was impressed by the level of care. It was similar to what her daughter-in-law received when she gave birth 10 days ago, she said.

"The kind of care that is being described here at Rosebud, the kind of training, the kind of materials they are using is exactly what she (her daughter-in-law) had at Tufts (University) in Boston," she said.

HHS | PAGE 10

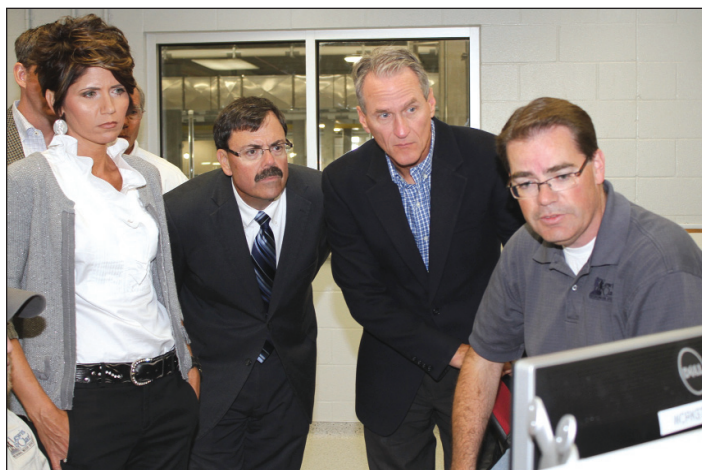


PHOTO BY DAVID LIAS

Rep. Kristi Noem, Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and Gov. Dennis Daugaard listen as Jim Auen, operations manager of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, explains how water distribution is monitored by computer from the control room of the system's new water treatment plant north of Vermillion.

Ceremony Celebrates Gift Of L&C Water

BY DAVID LIAS
david.lias@plaintalk.net

VERMILLION — "We thank you, Lord, for your love in all creation, especially for your gift of water to sustain, refresh and sustain all life."

The invocation of the Rev. Greg Myrmoe of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Beresford, was spoken at the dedication of a well-spring in Clay County following a summer of record heat and drought.

Myrmoe's audience included state and federal officials and scores of people from a three-state region who gathered to celebrate the completion of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System's new water treatment plant, located two miles north of Vermillion along Highway 19.

"It was nine years ago today that we held the groundbreaking ceremony for Lewis & Clark along the banks of the Missouri River," said Red Arndt, Luverne, Minn., chairman of the Lewis & Clark Board of Directors, at the water plant's dedication ceremony, held outside in the large structure's parking lot. "Here we are, nine

years later, finally delivering water."

It has taken over two decades for the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System to reach this milestone. Treated water from the water plant began flowing through the system's distribution pipeline during the last week of July.

Work on a feasibility project for the water system began in 1990. The project was authorized by Congress as a Bureau of Reclamation project a dozen years ago, and workers began burying pipe from the source of the water — a well field near the Missouri River in the vicinity of the Clay County Park — in 2003.

When completed, the Lewis & Clark system will supply water to 15 cities, including eight in South Dakota, and five rural water systems. Water is flowing to seven of those eight communities — Sioux Falls, Beresford, Centerville, Harrisburg, Lennox, Parker, and Tea. Madison is scheduled to receive Lewis & Clark water in the near future.

Missouri River water is also

WATER | PAGE 10

Yankton County Commission Eyes Possible TIF District

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

The Yankton County Commission discussed Tuesday a possible Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district to cover anticipated road costs associated with a proposed \$28 million grain facility at Napa Junction.

The Parkston-based Dakota Plains Ag Center is waiting on the state to grant it rail access for what is being called Dakota Plains Napa Junction. The facility would be located along the railroad approximately three miles northwest of Yankton.

Yankton County Commissioner Allen Sinclair believes the county needs to be prepared with a plan of action sooner than later.

"I expect there will be a firm decision (on Dakota Plains' rail access) in the next couple of months," he said Tuesday.

Currently, Dakota Plains is planning to start construction in 2013 and to complete the project in 2014. The loading point will have the capability to fill 110 shuttle cars within 10 hours. During harvest, the county roads would handle an estimated 400 to 500 grain trucks each day.

At Tuesday's meeting, Commissioner Garry Moore said he would expect Dakota Plains to help finance the upgrade of county roads for its business.



Sinclair

"A multi-million dollar business could contribute (to the improvements)," he said.

Commissioner Mark Johnson noted a road upgrade would cost an estimated \$1 million a mile. Depending on the option chosen for access to the grain facility, the road upgrade would cost a minimum of \$2.5 million and could cost upwards of \$5-8 million, he said.

The county can't afford such a price tag, even in future years, Sinclair said. "In the process, we don't want to let the county sit here and be stuck for roads," he said.

During talks with state Department of Transportation officials, Johnson said he had been told there is no interest on their part in upgrading the county's roads for the elevator.

Meeting with the commissioners last month, Dakota Plains general manager Bill Beukema agreed a joint effort is needed on upgrading the Yankton county roads for a new grain facility. However, he said his company cannot afford to put in new roads itself.

COUNTY | PAGE 10

Fraudulent Asphalt Company Reported In Yankton Area

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

A report was received Monday of a fraudulent construction company in Yankton County.

Residents approximately seven miles north of Yankton told the sheriff's office Monday afternoon that a Little Rock, Ark., company called Road Side Construction approached them earlier in the day about laying a patch of asphalt for \$300. The company claimed the asphalt was left over from another job and they could offer it cheaply.

However, when one of the residents showed up at the property, much more asphalt had been laid than requested. The company

went on to demand payment of \$4,200 for the work.

The residents refused to pay the bill and told the Press & Dakotan that the work was so shoddy they don't expect the asphalt to last long.

Sheriff Jim Vlahakis said it was the only report of such activity his office had received.

"The first thing to ask for is their state sales tax license," he said. "If they don't have one, don't do business with them. If you have questions, call us. We'll be more than happy to check on a company."

FRAUD | PAGE 10

TAKING THE CHALLENGE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Judy Kappel of Yankton, left, takes a body component assessment test while Lynn Mueller of First Fitness explains the readings at the YankTON Challenge Health Fair and Kickoff Tuesday at the Riverfront Event Center. The event featured numerous vendors and exercise demonstrations. It opened the YankTON Challenge, a weight-loss competition featuring area businesses and individuals. The Challenge starts Sept. 4.