



Comedian Robin Williams  
Dead At Age 63 • 14

YANKTON DAILY  
PRESS &  
DAKOTAN

f t r Volume 140  
Number 91

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 14 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢



# Focus On Housing

## YAPG Exploring Need For More Affordable Housing

BY ROB NIELSEN  
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

With more jobs coming to Yankton, the need for more affordable housing in the area has grown. This housing need is what Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) hopes to begin addressing in the coming months. YAPG President John Kramer told the quarterly YAPG investors luncheon Monday the issue of affordable housing is paramount in the eyes of employees of Yankton businesses.

"In the first part of this year, we had the opportunity to visit our 30 primary-sector companies," he said. "(We asked employees) what's the number one employment issue and it was housing that was stressed very highly." Citing a survey recently completed by YAPG projecting 500-600 new jobs coming to the area during the next five years, Kramer said the biggest housing challenges include the number of apartments, purchasable properties between \$95,000 and \$125,000 and sin-

gle-family homes between \$150,000 and \$180,000. Dave Mingo, Yankton community development director, said the need for housing is growing across the board, citing a housing analysis recently completed by YAPG. "It was determined that we need housing in all classes," Mingo said. "There was no area where we have an excess of housing



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Yankton Community Development Director Dave Mingo discusses Yankton's housing needs during Monday's quarterly meeting of Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG).

HOUSING | PAGE 13

### INSIDE



Area Teams  
Continue In State  
Baseball  
Tournament • 8

\* \* \*

Township  
Boards Take  
Flooded Lands  
Fight Into  
Their Control

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

Farmers with flooded lands are using their elected township boards to legally shut down many miles of public roads in Day County this summer. The 66-foot wide strips are returned to the adjoining landowners to become private property. The strategy is to reduce or prevent people's ability to launch boats from public rights of way for recreational use of floodwaters over private lands. The road vacations began in May and continued every month since then, reaching at least five townships so far. The latest round came Monday with public notice from Webster Township that its board of supervisors received petitions seeking two segments of roads be vacated. By vacating rather than closing the roads, the land returns to private ownership. Members of the public such as anglers, hunters and trappers could face criminal trespassing charges if they don't get permission to travel over private property to reach the waters. If a road is only closed, however, people generally could still walk on it or fish from it, unless otherwise prohibited by law or ordinance. The pattern of vacating roads is unfolding in Troy, Val-

LAND | PAGE 3

## Grazing In The Grass



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
It isn't just campers, boaters and bicyclists who extensively use the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton: This fawn was spotted nibbling on some grass in the park recently, mostly unconcerned about the traffic going by (or the photographer who stopped to get this photo). The traffic that day was relatively light, but may well pick up this weekend with Riverboat Days and in the weeks to come as our all-too-brief summer season winds down.

## Technology, Communication Highlight YSD Strategic Plan

BY KELLY HERTZ  
kelly.hertz@yankton.net

Technology and communication were big components of a five-year strategic plan unveiled Monday night to the Yankton school board. Yankton School District superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle presented an overview of the plan, which was created from input and feedback received from individuals both within the school system and from the community. "We spent a lot of time on this," Kindle said, citing administrative staff, teachers, school board members and more than 800 people who participated in an online survey. "We spent a lot of meetings putting this together. We think it's a workable plan. ... It's really a working document, but it gives us an opportunity for us to do some things I think we've been thinking about for a while." Some goals included enhancing career and technical education opportunities, as well as science, technological, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programming;



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Yankton School District superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle presented a five-year strategic plan to the Yankton school board Monday night. The plan was unanimously approved.

expanding the integration of technology; and building stronger relationships within the district and with the community. Technology figured prominently in

several issues, including communication with the parents and the media. But Kindle also emphasized that enhancing basic communication between all parties is essential. "When we can get everybody on the same page and sincerely listen, it can do a lot for resource building," Kindle said. Several concerns expressed by the community were addressed within the plan. For instance, Kindle noted that several people believed the school district puts an inordinate amount of focus on athletics. "I don't necessarily agree with that totally, but that's certainly a perception of some people," he admitted. Thus, one of the "belief statements" guiding the plan is that school officials make sure "the educational experience is well balanced between academics, fine arts and sports." Kindle also acknowledged that there were concerns about some of

SCHOOL | PAGE 13

## City Supports Fountain For Park

BY ROB NIELSEN  
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The Yankton City Commission approved \$1,450 to help complete a beautification project in conjunction with Keep Yankton Beautiful (KYB). A water fountain, set to be placed in Memorial Park, will be available for both humans and dogs and include a garden around it. The total cost will be \$7,000-\$8,500, the majority of which will be borne by Otto Ulrich Trust as well as Bruce and Carol Meyers as a memorial to their daughter, Stacey, who passed away two years ago. The city will provide the funding necessary to connect the fountain to the main water line. The funding for the water line will come out of the city's bed, board and booze (BBB) tax fund. Commissioner Jake Hoffner hailed the partnership with KYB. "I think this is a good example of working together with private organizations in a proportional manner," Hoffner said. "It's a win-win." The project is anticipated to be finished this fall. The project passed 8-0 with one abstention from Craig Sommer. Another matter that received approval was to apply for a \$50,000 grant for the replacement of playground equipment in Riverside Park. Todd Larson, director of Parks & Recreation, said the current equipment is hard to find spare parts for and that new equipment could set Riverside apart from other area parks. "It'll be taking the old playground out which we can no



Hoffner



Larson

FOUNTAIN | PAGE 13

Share Your Riverboat Days Experiences With Us  
Tweet About Your Riverboat Days Fun Using The Hashtag #RBD14. If We Like Your Tweets, We'll Share Them With Our Readers.  
Follow Us On Twitter At @pressanddakotan