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## Officials Say State Would Be Ready For Ebola

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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This year has seen the largest recorded outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa. As two American aid workers who'd contracted the virus were returned to the United States for treatment, many people across this country began to question how our health system would handle the virus if it came to our shores.

State epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger said while modern society may allow the viruses spread to the United States, or even South Dakota, the state is prepared.

"The (Ebola) virus hasn't hit South Dakota yet so we haven't had to face it in actuality, but in theory we do," Kightlinger said. "In this day of modern jet travel and global trade, a disease anywhere could be a disease in our own town or our own family or our own state. It certainly could get here — we don't like to say it never could. We're ready as we can be for it."

Currently, the outbreak has been relegated to Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that, as of Aug. 13, there were 2,127 confirmed or suspect Ebola cases with 1,145 deaths in those four countries.

The disease spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids of an infected person.

Kightlinger said precautions

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## Back To School '14



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D  
Beadle Elementary principal Corey Mitzel stands in front of one of the district's new mobile technology labs. The lab, which contains 30 Chromebooks and can be wheeled into different classrooms in the school for use, is part of the Yankton School District's technology plan focusing on preparing students to succeed in a global society focused on technology.



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D  
Korbin Brandt looks over his new first grade classroom at Stewart Elementary during Monday's open house. Brandt who will be in Ms. Zimmerman's class this year joins nearly 1,200 elementary students returning to classes today (Tuesday).

## Yankton's Elementary Schools Roll Out Mobile Tech. Labs

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE  
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As nearly 1,200 elementary students enter the halls of Lincoln, Stewart, Beadle and Webster schools this morning (Tuesday), they and their parents may notice something new sitting in the hallways — mobile technology labs.

Part of the Yankton School District's (YSD) technology plan focusing on preparing students to succeed in a global society that focuses on technology, the new labs feature Chromebooks for the third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students and Apple iPad Airs for the kindergarten, first- and second-grade students.

The new labs have been set up to help students expand their learning, explained Stewart Elementary principal Jerome Klimisch, co-chair of the district's technology committee.

"The world we live in is becoming more and more technology-based," he said. "Our students all have access to technology at home. More importantly, we are preparing them for the jobs of the future. In a lot of cases, we are preparing them for the jobs of the future that don't even exist right now, and the majority of them are going to have to know how to use technology."

YSD piloted the Chromebooks across the district last school year, and this year is expanding it in the schools.

"We have found the kids jump right in — they love it," Klimisch said. "When we piloted the Chromebooks last year in the schools, we just had so much success with them in the classrooms that we were finding we needed more access to them."

Beadle Elementary principal Corey Mitzel said district's target is to get to a 2:1 ratio so students have access to the labs.

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## 7 Vermillion Schools Stand At Nearly Full Staff

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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VERMILLION — With the new school year starting, the Vermillion School District has filled nearly all of its teaching positions.

The Vermillion school district generally meets the challenge of keeping its teaching staff at full strength, said school board president Chris Esping.

"You have heard about teacher short-

ages in the news a lot," she said. "We don't have it as bad as other districts, so we are fortunate."

However, it went down to the wire in some cases this year. The district still needs a half-time art teacher at the middle school as well as two debate coaches.

The art position remains open, but the Vermillion district will offer art classes with a temporary instructor until a full-time instructor is hired, Superintendent Mark Froke said Monday.

"We will start the year with a substitute teacher who has a strong art background, which includes the ownership of her own art gallery," Froke said. "She also conducts student workshops in art education."

At the recent school board meeting, Froke provided an update on the art vacancy.

"We are still looking for an art teacher."

## A Plunge At The Pool

Taylor Kotschegarow of Yankton watches as her dog Spike paddles along during the fifth annual Pooch Plunge, held at the Fante Memorial Park Swimming Pool. The plunge is held each year after the pool closes for the season. Proceeds go toward the care of Heartland Humane Society and Homeward Bound Rescue's shelter pets. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net/](http://spotted.yankton.net/). Also, check out video from Monday's plunge at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/). (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



## 'Survivor's' Hoffman To Show Teachers 'Survival' Skills

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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VERMILLION — When it comes to sharpening their survival skills both on the job and in life, Vermillion School District faculty members will hear from an expert.

South Dakota native Holly Hoffman, who competed on the CBS reality series "Survivor," is sharing her story during this week's staff in-service training, according to Superintendent Mark Froke.

"Sanford and the Dakota Hospital Foundation have arranged for the appearance of Holly Hoffman as a motivational speaker," Froke said.



Hoffman

Hoffman has remained a popular speaker, appearing in Yankton as part of the Celebrating Women program sponsored by the Press & Dakotan. She has given audiences an insight into her motivation for competing on the show as she sought new challenges in her life. She has described the selection process and the actual filming of the show itself.

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