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## Sports



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### 75th Annual Sturgis Rally Sees Huge Increase

BY JAMES NORD  
Associated Press

STURGIS — It will take some time and tallying before official attendance numbers for the 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally are in, but bikers and officials who've packed the small Black Hills town in western South Dakota say it's one of the largest rallies they've ever seen.

Attendance projections for this year's rally, which runs through Sunday, breached 1 million people — which would be a huge jump from the current record, an estimated 633,000 people who flooded Sturgis at the 60th rally in 2000. State and local officials have reported indications that this year is outsized, including heavier traffic, higher vehicle counts and more fatal accidents.

Sturgis police Chief Jim Bush, who has worked nearly 40 rallies in the town of roughly 6,900, said he can see that Sturgis and the surrounding area are bustling with more visitors than usual.

"I'll still say it not (the biggest), it's going to be darn close to the biggest rally we ever had," Bush said.

Preliminary South Dakota Department of Transportation counts released Tuesday put the number of vehicles entering the Sturgis rally over the weekend at nearly 40 percent higher than last year. Pedestrians often outpaced the mass of bikers inching toward the main downtown rally area on Wednesday.

Tony Mangan, a spokesman for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety,

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## Celebrating A Second Chance



The Yankton County Drug Court held a graduation ceremony Wednesday for four individuals who have completed the rehabilitation program. Pictured with Judge Tami Bern (second from right) after the ceremony are, from left: Robert T., Kraig M., Josh H. and Kelly F.

KELLY HERTZ/P&D

### Local Drug Court Honors Four Who Compete Program



South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David E. Gilbertson was the keynote speaker at Wednesday's Yankton County Drug Court graduation.

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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Four people made what they hope is their final appearance in a Yankton County courtroom Wednesday afternoon in front of a packed house of spectators.

Unlike most court proceedings, the mood was much more celebratory — this marked the second Yankton County Drug Court graduation.

The Yankton County Drug Court has been in operation since 2013. The program helps non-violent offenders with chemical dependency issues by utilizing regular court appearances, counseling, regular drug testing and attendance at 12-step meetings for at least 18 months.

Magistrate judge and Yankton County Drug Court judge Tami Bern said it's by no means easy.

"Our graduates will be the first to tell you that it was not easy — they'll be the second and third to tell you this was not easy," Bern said. "Having a whole team of people up in your business for a couple of years is not something that a lot of people can take. These people have complied with curfew checks,

**"Having a whole team of people up in your business for a couple of years is not something that a lot of people can take."**

TAMI BERN

COURT | PAGE 11

## Pipeline Debate Grinds To End

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The hearing is done on the permit for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline through South Dakota but a decision won't be coming before November.

Opponents of the pipeline argued Wednesday that TransCanada proved only six of 107 permit requirements could be met.

But the state Public Utilities Commission ended the nine days of hearing by denying the opponents' request for dismissal and asked that arguments about specific conditions be made in final written briefs.

TransCanada received a state permit in 2010 but hasn't started construction. The company is waiting for approval from President Barack Obama to pierce the U.S. border.

State law requires that after four years of inactivity the permit holder certify that the permit conditions can still be met.

The pipeline would carry petroleum products from tar sands in Alberta through Montana and South Dakota into Nebraska, where it would connect with the existing distribution system.

PUC member Gary Hanson said the burden of proof was on the company to get the permit but there isn't a similar burden of proof to certify.

Hanson said that if the commission decides all of the conditions can't be met, the company still has the right to continue returning for up to three years to show proof on those items.

"They can have several shots at this," Hanson said.

PUC chairman Chris

PIPELINE | PAGE 2

## Duathlon Offers Recreational Fun For Kids

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN  
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Summer is winding down, and as another school year approaches, kids will get one last chance to relish in the last two weeks of summer vacation when Yankton's Parks and Recreation Department will host the annual Yankton Duathlon on Friday at Riverside Park.

"We've seen that other communities are doing actual full triathlons, so we just wanted to try to do something similar

here," said Tracey Grotenhuis Superintendent for the Department of Parks and Recreation.

This competition is for youth ages 6-15 years. The event is free and open to participants from Yankton and the surrounding area. Coordinators do require participants to bring their own bicycle and to wear a helmet while biking. Everyone involved is also encouraged to bring a water bottle. Registration forms can be found at the Summit

DUATHLON | PAGE 11



COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton's Recreation Department is set to host the third annual Yankton Duathlon this Friday at Riverside Park. Kids ages 6 - 15 will be separated into three different age groups and take part in both biking and running events. Those still interested can register at the Summit Activities Center. Participants must wear helmets.

## Ponca Powwow Celebrates Dedication Of Nature Trail

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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NIOBRARA, Neb. — The Ponca Tribe will honor its culture this weekend with both a powwow and the grand opening of its new educational trail.

The tribe's 22nd annual powwow will be held Friday through Sunday at the Ponca Community Grounds, located 4 1/2 miles

southwest of Niobrara, Neb. Grand entries are set for 7 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Meals will be provided to all in attendance an hour before each grand entry.

"We usually have around 300 dancers, and sometimes we get as many as 500 spectators," said Randy Teboe, the tribal director of



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