



**USD Opens Soccer Season  
Friday At Creighton • 9**

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## Opening Day For YSD

Students Transition From Slothful Summer Into Busy School Year

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The first day of school, which is today, (Thursday) can either spark excitement or terror in the mind of students. Not only is it more taxing than their summer routine, but it is also more structured. Elementary and middle school students can find that change of schedule especially difficult, and no one

knows that better than their teachers.

"Many have had a relaxing summer of activities; however, the schedule is much more laidback," said Webster Elementary school principal Melanie Ryken. "When school begins, we have a scheduled day and most of us aren't used to going to lunch at a certain time, sitting and listening a certain amount of time or even going to the bathroom at designated times."

Luckily, Yankton educators have had many "first days of school" before and they know the easiest ways to transition a child from a lazy summer to a proactive school year.

"The routine of sitting and listening is not as prevalent in the summertime as it is during the school year," said Stewart



ALISSA WOOCKMAN/P&D

**Beadle Elementary's PTA group "Bestie" hosts a Scholastic book fair during Beadle's open house on Wednesday to prepare for the upcoming school year.**

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## Bypass Time?

### Bypass In Long Term Plans, Not Priority

**BY ROB NIELSEN**  
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During the last couple months, there's been a clamor to build a Highway 50 truck bypass around the city of Yankton.



Nelson

But city and state officials say that such a project is not in the cards in the near-term.

Rod Gall, South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) area engineer for Yankton told the *Press & Dakotan* that while

he's aware of recent efforts to raise the bypass issue, there are no plans in place.

"We have heard about it, but at this time, we really don't have any opinion about it at all," Gall said. "It's not in the DOT's plan to do that and it's just a petition by certain people to get that. As of now, the DOT is not going to do anything about that."

A petition in support of a bypass had circulated over the past two months and, according to an email from former state legislator Frank Kloucek (D-District 19) of Scotland, received 750 signatures — many attributed to Yankton County residents.

In a press release sent by the former legislator following last week's meeting of the Yankton County Commission, Kloucek said upcoming plans to reconstruct Highway 50 between Broadway Ave. and Archery Lane are unneces-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**In recent weeks, there has been an effort by some people to promote a Highway 50 truck bypass for Yankton instead of the two-phase Highway 50 reconstruction scheduled to start in a few weeks. However, South Dakota Department of Transportation officials say no bypass plans are on the table in the foreseeable future.**

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### Yankton

## Lists Of City Commission Hopefuls Released

**BY ROB NIELSEN**  
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The Yankton City Commission is a step closer to naming a new commissioner.

Eight letters of application were received by Monday's deadline to fill the spot recently vacated by Brooke Blaaid, who stepped down from the board this month to take a teaching job with the University of South Dakota.

The candidates who submitted letters of intent are Tom Bixler, Chris Svarstad, Dave Spencer, Tony Maibaum, former City Commissioner Nancy Wenande, Tara Gill, Lola Harens and Amy Miner.

City Manager Amy Nelson said she was happy with the response the city received from the community.

"I'm really pleased that there's so many people that want to be involved and are interested in municipal government," Nelson said. "I'm excited to have the appointment made and work with whoever the commission selects."

Nelson said there aren't any additional provisions beyond the candidate letters and that the commissioners will choose from the list.

"The statute doesn't have any requirements associated with (how the commission decides)," she said. "The commission will select someone from that list. The only local process that we put in place is that they submit letters of interest. Each of those individuals submitted a letter of interest to the city commission."

She added that as of today (Thursday), each of the current commissioners have a copy of the letters to look over.

"Those were disseminated so the commissioners have all the letters of interest," she said. "(The commission) will make an appointment and then, at a following meeting, we'll swear that individual in."

Nelson said an appointment

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## Body Found In Missouri River

**BY RANDY DOCKENDORF**  
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ELK POINT — Authorities have located a male body in the Missouri River downstream from where a 19-year-old swimmer went missing Sunday near Elk Point.

However, the body has not been positively identified as the person who has been the subject of the four-day search.

The body was found at approximately 3 p.m. Wednesday, according to a news release from Union County Sheriff Dan Limoges.

The body was located approximately 2 ½ miles south of the area west of Elk Point where the swimmer went missing.

The Union County coroner has made arrangements for the body to be transported to Sanford Health Pathology in Sioux Falls for

identification, the news release said.

If the body is identified as the missing swimmer, it would bring closure to an intense search effort involving both South Dakota and Nebraska crews.

The 19-year-old was part of a group of five swimmers who went to the popular location around 3 p.m. Sunday. The group reportedly decided to swim across the Missouri River to the other side.

Four of the swimmers safely crossed the river. However, the fifth individual became separated and didn't reach the rest of the group. He wasn't wearing a life jacket, according to the sheriff.

A search was launched immediately for the missing swimmer. The effort quickly

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## Task Force: Teacher Shortages Result From Turnover; Not Supply

**BY BOB MERCER**  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Mary Cundy explained to the governor's Blue Ribbon task force on K-12 education Wednesday how the Statewide Center for E-Learning aids South Dakota schools in filling gaps caused by teacher shortages.

But her story also revealed the center at Northern State University isn't always able to give all of the help schools need when they still have teaching vacancies come August start of the school year.

Cundy, who teaches calculus while also serving as the administrator, said she and 15 other teachers at the center taught 24 courses during the past school year for 1,233 students spread across 102

school districts.

Those classes, delivered through video-conferencing and on-line, are free to the school districts, because the Legislature funds the center. But that arrangement also became a limitation in recent weeks, as various school officials asked NSU for help with algebra, algebra II and geometry.

Even if she could have quickly hired the three additional teachers needed, Cundy didn't have a ready way to pay them. The Legislature set the funding back in March and doesn't meet again until January. There wasn't more cash available now to make the three hires, according to NSU President Jim Smith.

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