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Teams Open Season • 11



Volume 141  
Number 107

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **20 PAGES** | [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

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## Public Forum On Road Levy Set

Meeting Will Look  
At The Pros And  
Cons Of Issue

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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Yankton County citizens are being invited to the Technical Education Center Tuesday to give input on a road and bridge levy.

According to Yankton County Commission chairman Todd Woods, the forum, sponsored by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce, will feature speakers on both sides of the issue.



Woods

"The Chamber of Commerce is putting on the forum," Woods said. "They invited a couple of commissioners and some of the opponents who circulated the petition."

Woods said he was unsure of who'd been invited from the opposition. Attempts to contact the Chamber for comment were unsuccessful.

Commissioner Don Kettering will also be a part of the forum panel.

Woods said the main goal of the forum is to address the levy issue and its details.

"I think there's been a lot of rumors going around and people not quite understanding what this is truly all about," he said. "I want to answer those questions. I want to show them why we need this levy. The amount of funds coming into the county are not keeping up with the costs."

Woods said while there aren't plans to hold more formal forums on the matter, he believes upcoming county town hall meetings around the county will be dominated by the issue.

"I anticipate utilizing the town hall meetings to answer some of these questions," he said. "Right now, this is probably the biggest topic that we have going on in the county over the next 30 days."

He added the most important thing is that people get out and vote.

"I want to encourage everyone to go out and vote. It's very important to vote on this and this is a very important issue," he said.

The public is set to vote on whether or not to opt out of the levy on Sept. 29.

The forum is set for 7 p.m. at the Technical Education Center on Tuesday.

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## Soaring Ambition



ABOVE: Cole Steffen of Crofton, Nebraska, guides his drone during a recent session. Steffen has worked on ways that drones can benefit agriculture and other rural uses. He plans to continue his work as a student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Crofton Drone Enthusiast Pilots New Way Of Agriculture

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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CROFTON, Neb. – Cole Steffen's love of flying has taken off in new directions.

The Crofton, Nebraska, teenager took flying lessons at Chan Gurney Airport in Yankton and made his first solo flight on his 16th birthday. He has held his private pilot's license for two years.

"I've had a passion for aircraft since I was 3. I'm interested in aerospace," he said.

Last December, Steffen developed an interest in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). The aircraft are commonly referred to as drones, although a drone is any automatically operating vehicle, he said.

"My work with drones stems from my passion for flying," he said.

Steffen isn't just creating and flying drones for his personal enjoyment. He's also developing new ways of using the craft to benefit rural areas, including agriculture.

"Working with drones is really cool," he said. "But my dad says, unless you have a formal application for it, it's just toys."

Steffen's work with drone applications for agriculture has already paid off. The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce's Agri-Business Committee cited his work as a major reason for awarding him a Promoting Agricultural Youth (PAY) scholarship.



COURTESY PHOTO

A close-up view of the drone.

Steffen graduated last spring from Crofton High School. This fall, he is attending South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City for a mechanical engineering major. In addition, he intends to work with the college's aerospace program.

While attending SDSM&T, Steffen also plans to continue his work with drones to benefit his home area. "I'm developing technology that's suited for

STEFFEN | PAGE 19

## Local Firm Reaps Drone Benefits

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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It's not his full-time job, but Brian Jensen's love of drones led to an idea.

Would any business in Yankton be interested in using the technology?

That question led to a meeting with Ehresmann Engineering, a Yankton-based consulting and steel fabricating firm for the communication industry. The answer Jensen received was yes, they were interested.

"I thought that would be a perfect application," Jensen said after a Wednesday morn-

DRONE | PAGE 19

## Two Die In Cedar Co. Accident

From P&D Staff Reports

HARTINGTON, Neb. – Two people have died in a two-vehicle Friday afternoon in Cedar County, Nebraska.

The victims were identified as Mollie Schieffer, 22, of Fordyce, Neb., and Bradley Schumacher, 63, of rural Crofton, Neb., according to a news release from Cedar County Sheriff Larry Koranda.

The Cedar County sheriff's office received

ACCIDENT | PAGE 9



COURTESY PHOTO

This South Dakota missionary team is shown in El Salvador taking a selfie in a mountainous region near Jauyua. Some Yankton natives were part of the team.

## SD Team Travels to El Salvador

BY RANDY TRAMP  
P&D Correspondent

A team of 21, high school, college students and leaders from South Dakota went to El Salvador, July 13-23. They partnered with Castillo del Rey (King's Castle) and Don and Terri Triplett, veteran missionaries.

Founded in 1989, King's Castle Ministry's purpose is to raise up an army of young Spirit-filled warriors who would invade Latin America with the simple message that Jesus saves and is coming soon.

El Salvador has gone through much hardship in the last decades. The country has been plagued with gang violence and a majority of the people lives in fear.

Combating this, Leader Annette Roux

says, "Our mission was to go into the neighborhoods and schools to share a message of hope through knowing Christ. We wanted them to know that we were there because God loves each of us so much and He wants to bring us hope and a new life." (Annette has been to El Salvador five times.)

The team distributed packs of rice and soup in areas that had significant poverty. One day, they experienced El Salvador the way Salvadorans commonly travel to work, going via a cattle truck.

They were able to affect more than 5,000 people, working with a team of Salvadorans that served as translators and coordina-

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