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**YHS Gymnasts Open Season Vs. Mitchell • 8**

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**Dam Work Resumes**



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Work resumed Monday on the concrete slab below the Gavins Point Spillway west of Yankton. This project is a continuation of repairs which began in 2012. This stage of the repairs will replace substrate in the gravel frost blanket below the slab and make repairs to spillway drains. This project is expected to take several months. The slab was damaged when record amounts of water were released from the spillway during the 2011 flood. The parking area along the north wall is now closed until the work is completed.

**Holiday Staples Loom**

**Sunday's Vespers Will Give Mt. Marty Some TV Exposure**

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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The performers of this year's Mount Marty College Vespers will be singing out to their largest audience yet.

In addition to sold-out live performances this weekend, the event also will be broadcast Dec. 24 on radio and, for the first time, on television.

"We're very excited to be on TV this year," said Kenneth Tice, MMC director of choral activities. "It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase our students and to showcase our chapel — the beautiful space

we have on our campus that we're able to utilize every day at Mount Marty College."

The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery and the MMC music department will present the annual Vespers performance at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday. The free event will be held in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel on the MMC campus.

This year's Vespers performance, titled "The Rose of Christmaside," will include music from classical settings of Marian prayers, contempo-



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Mount Marty's annual Vespers takes place Sunday at the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel in Yankton. Performances are at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., but tickets are no longer available for the annual production.

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**CookieWalk, Parade On Tap Friday**

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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Area residents will have an opportunity to get into the holiday spirit this Friday thanks to the annual CookieWalk and Holiday Parade of Lights and Vendor Fair.

Beginning the day of events is the Riverwalk Committee's fourth annual CookieWalk. Committee Vice President Katie Hunhoff said the event has evolved a lot since its inception.

"We look at it as more than a fundraiser," Hunhoff said. "The community's been so great in helping out and showing up to buy the cookies. I feel it's become more of a community tradition than a fundraiser."

The CookieWalk raises funds for the 15 statues placed annually by the Riverwalk Committee around downtown Yankton and throughout Riverside Park.

The event will be held at the Dakota Theater and runs from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visitors can take a pizza box and fill it with holiday cookies, paying for them by the pound as they leave. Cider and Christmas music will also be provided.

Hunhoff said the idea originated from a fundraiser that used to be held by Avera Sacred Heart Hospital.

"The hospital used to do a really great cookie fundraiser and they ended it the year before we

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**Lawmaker Calls For EB-5 Audit**

**Special Legislative Session Would Be Needed To Authorize Inquiry**

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS — A Democratic state lawmaker wants the Legislature to schedule a special session to authorize an independent forensic audit of South Dakota's participation in a federal investment-for-green-cards immigration program.

Rep. Kathy Tyler of Big Stone City said her House and Senate colleagues will find a copy of the petition on their chamber desks when they arrive in Pierre on Tuesday for Gov. Dennis Daugaard's budget speech.

Tyler said Monday that state investigations into alleged misconduct and the death of a former economic development official have failed to examine South Dakota's participation in the federal EB-5 program and the extent of its oversight of SDRC Inc., a private company contracted to solicit foreign investors.

The South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic has asked the Department of Legislative Audit to conduct a complete audit of the agency from 2009 through 2013, but Tyler said that effort will do little to answer questions about how money flowed through the EB-5 program.

"These audits are not forensic audits," she said during a news conference Monday. "They do not follow the money."  
GOED for years contracted with the privately held SDRC Inc. to administer the federal EB-5 program, in which foreign investors can secure permanent residency for as little as \$500,000. The program helped fund several large projects in the state, including the idled Northern Beef Packers plant in Aberdeen.

Late last month, Attorney General



Tyler

Marty Jackley issued a report in response to Daugaard's request to look into possible financial misconduct before his administration.

The attorney general found that \$550,000 of a \$1 million state grant given to Northern Beef for construction and equipment costs was improperly diverted to SDRC Inc. to pay EB-5 immigration loan monitoring fees. Jackley also found that former economic development director Richard Benda, who became a loan monitor for SDRC Inc., double-billed the state for three flights.

Benda was found dead Oct. 22 with a 12-gauge shotgun wound to his abdomen. Officials have ruled his death a suicide.

Tony Venhuizen, Daugaard's spokesman, said Monday that state officials don't have the authority to audit the complete records of a private company and they have no jurisdiction over a federal program. That's why Jackley has turned over all information to the U.S. attorney and is cooperating with federal investigators, Venhuizen said.

"They have jurisdiction over the EB-5 program, which the state doesn't," Venhuizen said. "They're completely independent of the state. That's who's looking into this at this point."  
Tyler's proposal must have backing from two-thirds of lawmakers for the Dec. 30 session to be scheduled. She said she's asking for a special session because the issue is too important to wait for the regular session that begins in January, when it could get lost in the pile of bills.

"Let's find the problem and let's fix it," she said. "Let's get it taken care of."

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**Yankton Woman Dies From Injuries Sustained In Accident**

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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MENOMINEE, Neb. — An 18-year-old Yankton woman died Saturday as a result of injuries sustained from an accident earlier in the week in northeast Nebraska, according to Cedar County (Neb.) Sheriff Larry Koranda.

He said Destiny Suing was traveling eastbound along 894th Road approximately four miles east of Menominee around 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, when she lost control of the vehicle on the gravel. The vehicle rolled, and she was ejected. Suing was the only occupant.

No seat-belt was used, Koranda stated. Suing was airlifted to Mercy Med-



Suing

ical Center in Sioux City, Iowa, where she died Saturday as a result of injuries sustained during the accident.

In addition to the Cedar County Sheriff's Office, the Nebraska State Patrol and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission responded to the accident.

Suing's obituary can be found on page 3 of today's *Press & Dakotan*.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**



Dec. 3  
22 shopping days to Christmas

**Wildfire Specialist Set To Run For SD Governor**

By The Associated Press

RAPID CITY — A former head of South Dakota's state wildfire agency who left office last year for the private sector says he's running for governor, becoming the first Democrat to do so.

Joe Lowe, 68, was director of the state Wildland Fire Suppression Division from its creation in 2001 until his

retirement in 2012. He now runs an art gallery in Rapid City and leads an emergency management consulting firm.

Lowe started his fire-fighting career in California and was a city councilman and mayor in Mission Viejo, a city of about 95,000 people.

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**Melody Makers**

These fourth graders from Yankton's Sacred Heart Elementary School bring some percussive accents to the class's performance of "Star of Peace" during a Christmas concert held Monday night at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. Students pre-K through grade 4 presented the program, "Twas the Night before the First Christmas." To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net). (Kelly Hertz/P&D)