

## TUTOR

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and speak or need to improve skills in those areas.

"It's an important service, especially to those who couldn't afford to pay for that type of tutoring," Overseth said. "We don't charge for any of the services and there are no income guidelines that students have to meet."

Kifle has been meeting with YALC tutor Sherrill Port for the past year. Several months ago, she was able to secure a new job because of the improvements in her language skills, she said.

"My husband and I lived in California for a while before we moved to Yankton. It was easier there because there were many Spanish-speaking people and you heard lots of different accents in the community," Kifle said. "Here it's much different. In the workplace, I'm often the only person with an unusual accent."

After her family moved to Yankton, Kifle realized that she was unable to go many places unless her husband was with her because of the language barriers she encountered.

"Now I have a lot more independence," she said.

Kifle is enjoying her work at Sister James Nursing Home. While she's much happier with her job change and progress in learning English as a second language, she's not planning to stop improving her skills.

"I want to earn my GED," Kifle said. "Before I took the job I have now, I didn't really need the GED. Now it would help me do things like understand television programs and read the newspaper. My daughter, who is 7 now, tries to help. She was born (in the U.S.) and knows the language very well."

The effort her voluntary tutor is investing in her learning is greatly appreciated by Kifle. She realizes that time and resources are being donated by her tutor and all the YALC tutors working with individual learners in the community.

"She is so good at making sure I understand everything we discuss," Kifle said. "I push hard sometimes to learn. Not everyone is willing to make that effort to learn English. I know if I don't, I won't be able to reach my goals."

Overseth said YALC's services not only help individuals improve their reading and English skills but make Yankton a better community.

"When you help people learn to read and write, it improves every aspect of their life," she

said. "That's why it's so important for us as an organization to do all we can to promote the services we offer for children, adults and entire families."

In recent months, interest in YALC's "English as a Second Language" program has been gaining interest. Like Kifle, many participants are able to obtain better jobs once they polish their abilities to speak and write English.

"We promote our programs through reading activities with children at Head Start, reading with Mrs. Santa and the Easter Bunny and other reading events," Overseth said. "That's one way we get information into the homes of families who need our services."

YALC is currently working toward building its funding foundation so it's able to provide more services to the Yankton community.

"YALC is a wonderful and needed program in our community," Overseth said. "With adequate funding, we could provide expanded services to those who need literacy tutoring. We always welcome new tutors and students. We also appreciate the support of other members of the Yankton community and surrounding area who understand the importance of reading and writing skills. By working together, we can have a very positive impact on a lot of lives."

More information about YALC and its services is available by contacting YALC Program Coordinator Bev Calvert at 605-665-3048 or visiting the office at 231 Broadway Ave, Suite 11.

## SCHOOL

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Knudson's bill also would give schools no increase next year.

Sen. Sandy Jerstad, D-Sioux Falls, tried unsuccessfully to change Knudson's bill to give schools a 1.2 percent boost in state aid next year. That's the increase they would get if the current formula was followed.

Schools are having trouble hiring and retaining teachers because they leave for higher-paying jobs, Jerstad said. School districts need at least a small increase in state aid next year, she said.

Sen. Jim Peterson, D-Revillo, said he recently hired a 19-year-old farmhand at roughly the same salary as a beginning teacher would get. "Someday South Dakota is going to have to really face the crisis we have," he said.

Knudson said he wishes the Legislature could give more money to schools next year, but the state cannot afford to increase education spending because of budget problems. The Legislature is seeking to cut other programs by about \$40 million to avoid using reserve funds next year, he said.

"I can't think of anything more original to say than times are tough," Knudson said.

The Senate has passed similar versions of Knudson's bill in past years, but the House has rejected them.

## FDA Aims To Rein In Radiation-Based Medical Scans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal regulators will require manufacturers of high-grade medical imaging machines to include safety controls that prevent patients from receiving excessive radiation doses.

The proposal announced Tuesday is part of a multipronged effort to address reports of acute injuries as well as reduce lifetime exposure to radiation, which has nearly doubled since 1980.

The Food and Drug Administration push will focus on high-tech machines such as CT scanners, which allow doctors to make lifesaving diagnoses, but also expose patients to high doses of cancer-causing radiation.

FDA officials said manufacturers should install safeguards on their machines that automatically notify operators if they are using a higher-than-recommended dose.

Regulators are also developing best-practice measures that hospitals and imaging centers will have to meet to retain their scanning accreditation.

A public meeting to discuss the proposals with physicians and manufacturers is scheduled for late March.

The average American's total radiation exposure has nearly doubled in the last three decades, largely due to CT scans and other next-generation imaging tests, according to recent studies.

Medical radiation now accounts for more than half of the population's total radiation exposure; it used to be just one-sixth.

FDA's initiative comes five months after regulators began looking into reports of acute overdoses from CT scanning at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. More than 250 patients there were exposed to excessive radiation, with many reporting losing hair and skin redness. Since then the FDA has launched investigations into similar problems at two other California hospitals.

There is some disagreement over the cancer risk associated with medical imaging, though virtually all medical societies recommend minimizing radiation exposure.

An analysis published last year in the Archives of Internal Medicine estimated 29,000 future cancers could be related to CT

scans performed in 2007.

Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen questioned why the FDA's actions were so long in coming.

Wolfe, who directs the group's health division, also criticized the FDA's "inappropriately tentative" approach to regulation — offering proposals to industry, rather than ultimatums.

CT scans became popular because they offer a quick, relatively cheap way to get three-dimensional pictures that give an almost surgical view of the body. Doctors use them to evaluate trauma, belly pain, seizures, chronic headaches and other ailments.

However, they also carry a higher risk than older scans. One CT chest scan carries as much radiation as nearly 400 chest X-rays, according to government officials.



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## TOWER

From Page 1

that the issue may be more pressing now that wind towers are actually being built.

Mingo noted that requests have been made for wind towers, and the commission has been discussing the issue for approximately two months.

"You don't want to try to adopt an ordinance while you're reviewing requests," Mingo said. "Typically, you want to have the ordinance in place before you have a request coming forward."

Mingo said he has been studying ordinances in other communities to develop the appropriate course of action for Yankton. He is proposing that WECS be considered as conditional uses in commercial and industrial areas. The review process would include references to specific height, setback and noise limitations.

In some communities, developments are being planned with wind towers in mind. However, because of the small size of most lots, it is hard to incorporate towers into existing neighborhoods.

"The issue becomes setback-related," he said. "If you have a 6,000-square-foot lot, it's hard to get far enough away from your neighbors."

So far, Mingo said he has not heard complaints about the wind tower at the car wash.

If an ordinance is introduced at the March Planning Commission meeting, a public hearing will be scheduled for input.

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