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VOLUME 137
NUMBER 227

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **12 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

75¢ 8 38894 00002 4

Obama Nixes Pipeline, For Now



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK
Dr. Dennis Johnson discusses the level of urgency surrounding environmental problems with oil or tar sands in regard to oil pipelines as Dr. Howard Coker (left) and Dr. Benno Wymar (right) listen. The conversation took part as an International Forum at the University of South Dakota.

President Says More Time Is Needed To Study Controversial Canadian Project

BY MATTHEW DALY AND BEN FELLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a politically explosive decision, President Barack Obama on Wednesday rejected plans for a massive oil pipeline through the heart of the United States, ruling there was not enough time for a fair review before a looming deadline forced on him by Republicans. His move did not kill the project but could again delay a tough choice for him until after the November elections.

Right away, the implications rippled across the political spectrum, stirred up the presidential

campaign and even hardened feelings with Canada, a trusted U.S. ally and neighbor. For a U.S. electorate eager for work, the pipeline has become the very symbol of job creation for Republicans, but Obama says the environment and public safety must still be weighed too.

The plan by Calgary-based TransCanada Corp. would carry tar sands oil from western Canada across a 1,700-mile pipeline across six U.S. states to Texas refineries.

Obama was already on record as saying no, for now, until his government could review an alternative route that avoided environmentally sensitive areas of Nebraska — a route that still

has not been proposed, as the White House emphasizes. But Obama had to take a stand again by Feb. 21 at the latest as part of an unrelated tax deal he cut with Republicans.

This time, the project would go forward unless Obama himself declared it was not in the national interest. The president did just that, reviving intense reaction.

"This announcement is not a judgment on the merits of the pipeline, but the arbitrary nature of a deadline that prevented the State Department from gathering the information necessary to approve the project and protect the American people," Obama said in a written statement. "I'm disappointed that Republicans in Congress forced this decision."

Republicans responded unsparingly.

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Pipeline Pros And Cons Debated At USD Forum

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON
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VERMILLION — The same afternoon it was announced that the Obama administration rejected a bid to expand the Keystone pipeline, several university officials appearing at a University of South Dakota forum in Farber Hall Wednesday were debating the consequences of this and similar projects.

Some of their statements were met with opposition from some in the audience, including some representatives of the Sierra Club.

The interaction took place during a forum entitled "Stop Canadian Oil?" and was the latest in a series of International Forums held at USD.

Retired economics professor Dr. Benno Wymar said there are approximately 150,000 miles of pipelines currently in the United States that see little or no trouble in terms of environmental problems, and that they offer one of the safest ways to transport oil.

"There are some oil spills that did take place, of which one is in the Yellowstone River. There was one also in Michigan that took between two and 12 hours to take care of," Wymar said.

Audience member Peter Carrels — a member of Aberdeen's Sierra Club — said the Michigan oil spill was not minor, that it entailed 800,000 barrels of oil entering the Kalamazoo River. He said this could cause a number of serious environmental problems to the ecosystems in and along that river.

"That spill is still being disputed," he said. Audience member Doug Maurstad of Alcester said that despite being only two years old, the Keystone pipeline already has seen leaks due in part to shoddy workmanship and low-grade Chinese steel.

One of these occurred in North Dakota and resulted in more than 500 barrels of tar sand leaking out, he said.

"It's not a case of if it's going to leak, but when it's going to leak, and we don't want it to leak here," Maurstad said.

Economics professor Dr. Dennis Johnson described tar sand as being a dirtier form of crude that contains more carbon.

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
These flags at the Yankton County Safety Center were among many across the state that have been flying at half-mast this week to honor former Gov. Bill Janklow, who died last week at age 72 after a short battle with brain cancer. Funeral services for Janklow were held Wednesday in Sioux Falls following a memorial service held Tuesday in the Capitol rotunda in Pierre.

Friends Offer Final Farewell To Janklow

Janklow: Loyal, Stubborn, Fallible

BY KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Former U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle said Wednesday that at a time in his career when it seemed even his Democratic colleagues were turning their backs, it was a Republican — Bill Janklow — who stood by him.

South Dakota's former four-term governor always thought friendships mattered more than politics, Daschle said in delivering Janklow's eulogy to a crowd of more than 1,000 people.

"Bill Janklow walked into my life when I saw many walk out. He defined the word loyalty," the former Senate majority leader from South Dakota told the crowd at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.

Daschle said Janklow accurately summed up his life and career during his last press conference in November. "I gave a damn about what I did," he said in announcing he had been diag-



Janklow

nosed with brain cancer.

Janklow, who following his four terms as governor resigned as the state's lone congressman in 2003 after causing a fatal traffic accident, died Thursday after a

months-long battle with cancer. He was 72.

His funeral drew politicians, friends, family and everyday citizens from across the state as they remembered a man with the blustery personality who took risks.

Russ Janklow said his father was both generous and argumentative. He said he was happiest when he was water skiing, flying an airplane, watching his beloved Chicago Bears or spending time with his grandchildren.

Janklow's family announced

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Yankton Co. Valuations Up 41 Percent In 2011

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The valuation of Yankton County building permits issued in 2011 was up more than 41 percent compared to the previous year.

The valuation of 209 building permits issued in the county during 2011 was \$14,163,830 compared to \$10,021,325 in 2010.

"Yankton County had a banner year," Yankton County Zoning Administrator Patrick Garrity told the County Commission Wednesday.

It is the third-best showing the county has had since officials began tracking the numbers in 2002. That year, building permits were valued at \$18.6 million. The best year was 2007, when a \$19.1 million valuation was attached to the permits issued.



Garrity

heavy-duty spin-on filter line. The expansion will be a \$28 million investment in Yankton during the next three years, company officials said.

In 2010, commercial developments in the county amounted to a valuation of \$882,000. That number climbed 442 percent in 2011 to

"It's one of the best years we've had in commercial development," Garrity said. "A lot of that is due to Baldwin Filters."

The local manufacturing company announced last September that it will add more than 100,000 square feet to its existing 170,000-square-foot building to create room for a

\$4.7 million. It far exceeds the previous record of \$1.6 million set in 2008.

A report presented by Garrity noted that the number of residential additions in 2011 was up 24.5 percent. Meanwhile, the number of single-family dwelling starts was at 25 units, with an average value of \$198,636.

That number could go up in 2012, Garrity said.

"I think we're going to see good strength in the single-family homes in the residential districts," he stated.

The number of ag structures built in 2011 was up 23.3 percent compared to 2010, Garrity said.

"There are a lot of grain storage facilities

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Sheriff To Hire Deputies For More Overnight Coverage

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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Whenever Yankton County Sheriff Jim Vlahakis makes an appearance at a public forum, there is one question he can always count on being asked: Is it true that there is only one deputy working during the overnight hours?

"It was brought up at every forum and public event during the campaign and since I've been elected," he said. "The answer is, 'At times.' One of my

goals as sheriff was to remedy that for purposes of officer safety."

Earlier this month, the County Commission approved a request from the sheriff for an additional \$77,386 so that two more deputies can be added to his nine-deputy roster. The extra staff will mean that two deputies are working 24 hours a day.

"Right now, during times we think might be busy, we'll try to

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