

# 211

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helplinecenter.org.

Lauren Hanson, executive director of the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton, advocated for the helpline last year as it sought funding from the Yankton County Commission. The cost of the service will be 60 cents per person annually, bringing the estimated expense for Yankton County to \$13,462.

"I think everyone is excited by the service," Hanson said. "A lot of people have questions, and I think people are learning that it is a partnership. It's only going to benefit your program by being in this database."

Besides asking service providers to enter information and view 211 as a partner, Kittams-Lalley said an effort is under way to educate the public about the helpline. Mailings will be sent out to approximately 10,000 households in the two counties, and community presentations will be done.

"(211 is) a 24-hour, three-digit phone number that can be called for any kind of social service or government service information, listening support and also crises," Kittams-Lalley said. "It's a tremendous resource. That's why we hand out magnets. I tell people, 'Hang that on your refrigerator. You never know when you're going to have a family member that needs a mental health support group, shelter or anything related to a social service need.'"

When 211 is dialed, the caller is first asked for a zip code in order to determine what services are available.

"Then we're going to ask the caller what their needs are, whether its food, shelter, mental health needs or a government service," Kittams-Lalley said. "Once we know

what their needs are, we'll look up those resources and give them the phone number, the address, the eligibility requirements or anything they might need."

If the caller seems vulnerable, the 211 employee will keep the individual on the line and teleconference in other professionals to provide immediate assistance.

At the end of each year, the counties will get a report on the calls received at the Helpline Center. That will include information on calls for which no referral could be made. In some cases, the report on unmet needs has resulted in existing organizations expanding their focus or new organizations forming in response to the gap in services, according to Kittams-Lalley.

"We, as a community, can look at that report and see we might not have even realized a certain need was out there, and we can get people around the table and talk about how to address it," Hanson said. "This is a way to make our community better."

Before the phone number can go live, Kittams-Lalley said the helpline must work with area phone companies.

"We have to contact them, and they have to activate the 211 phone number for their service area down here and actually translate it to a 1-800 number," she stated. "When it's translated to that, it rings in to our call center."

Kittams-Lalley said it will be a challenge to get 211 live for Bon Homme and Yankton counties by the first week of February.

"It is very quick, but we really want to get that service out to the residents ... as quickly as possible," she said. "We're working as fast as we can."

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

# Thune

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long process, but I think we're getting close to the finish line."

Another issue discussed with the group was domestic energy policy.

Thune told the crowd that the United States is more than capable of producing its own energy in full.

"One of the things that is going to be a real issue this year in Congress is the issue of energy," he said. "We've got a real competitive advantage in this country, believe it or not. Just a few years ago, 60 percent of the energy used in this country was imported and that's now down to 40 percent. We've become much more energy independent. We're not there yet but we're getting a lot closer than we ever have been before. Because of the developments we've had in this country, if we can support the infrastructure, keep opening up these areas to energy development, I think we can get to a point where the United States produces all the energy we use right here, and instead of having to import that energy, we might be able to export it."

He told the *Press & Dakotan* one of the keys to accomplishing this is making more land available for energy extraction.

"Part of it is opening up some of the lands that are off-limits, and that means the administration's got to be willing to work with the people who want to develop those energy sources and give them permits and leases, he said. "Much of the lands — particularly federal lands — that have tremendous energy reserves are off-limits today, which makes no sense when there is a lot of good development occurring."

He cited North Dakota's recent oil boom as one of the

developments.

"If we could open up some of the areas off the coast that are environmentally safe for development of some of these energy resources, or areas in the interior like Colorado which has enormous reserves that we just don't have access to today, the sky's the limit for what's possible. But it's going to take some leadership."

Thune also said approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline would be a critical boost.

"There are a whole range of things that could happen that would not only get the energy, but get the infrastructure in place to move it," he said. "We keep hearing about some of the stuff that's moving on rail and by truck, but the most efficient and safest way to move it would be through a pipeline and we can't even get that approved at this point."

Additionally, Thune also stopped at Yankton High School to speak with government students on Monday.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at [twitter.com/Rob-NielsenPandD/](https://twitter.com/Rob-NielsenPandD/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/)

# Medicaid

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South Dakota's Medicaid program now covers about 116,000 children, adults and disabled people. The expanded eligibility would add an estimated 48,000 people, mostly adults without children.

People earning up to 138 percent of the poverty level — \$15,451 for a single person or \$31,809 for a family of four — would be covered by an expansion. The federal government would fully cover those added to Medicaid rolls through 2016, and the state's contribution would rise in stages to 10 percent of the costs by 2020.

Federal officials earlier rejected Daugaard's request that South Dakota be allowed to expand Medicaid eligibility only up to 100 percent of the poverty level because those over that mark can qualify for subsidized private insurance. He has said he likely will renew that request.

Rave said he could back a plan to expand Medicaid to those who need it most, for ex-

ample a single mother working two part-time jobs to support two children. The kids likely are already covered by a Medicaid program but the mother might not qualify for Medicaid and cannot afford private insurance, he said.

"I think most South Dakotans would go: 'Gosh, that seems the right thing to do. Let's figure out a plan to do that.'"

Lust said both sides in the debate have compelling arguments. Expanding Medicaid would help low-income people, but the state also has to consider whether the federal government can afford to pay for the expansion, he said.

The best solution would be to cover those most in need of insurance, Lust said.

"Unfortunately, the federal government has prohibited that kind of flexibility. I'm hopeful that will change," Lust said.

Rep. Susan Wismer, D-Britton, said she hopes South Dakota will seek a federal waiver to at least partially expand the program, suggesting the expansion could be passed with the provision it would be stopped if the federal government failed to meet its promise to pay for it.

# Omaha

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day morning, but there's difficult work ahead.

"We've got tens of thousands of pounds of concrete, reinforced concrete and steel," Kanger said. "This is a very significant rescue operation."

Authorities don't know what caused the blast, but Kanger noted that there were no hazardous chemicals at the three-story plant. International Nutrition makes products that are added to livestock and poultry feed to make them more nutritious.

The second and third floors of the plant collapsed on top of the first floor as key structural supports failed Monday. Kanger said firefighters were able to rescue five men initially, including one that had to be cut out of the debris.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will determine the cause of the accident, but Kanger said the investigation could take weeks.

The explosion knocked

out the lights in the building and sent workers scrambling for safety.

Nate Lewis said he was on the first floor when he heard the explosion. The building went dark, so the 21-year-old used light from his cellphone to make his way across the production floor and outside.

"I was a production line worker, although I don't know if I want to be that anymore," said Lewis, who's worked there for about four months.

Jamar White said he heard a loud crack and looked up to see the back wall of the building collapsing.

"I ran at least 150 feet," White said. "I ran far enough to make sure nothing else would keep falling."

Afterward, White said, he could see inside the third floor where at least two co-workers were screaming for help.

There appears to be structural damage to the top of the building, which sits in an industrial area just south of Interstate 80, which bisects Nebraska's largest city. There are no residences nearby and the other industrial buildings nearby weren't evacuated

after the explosion.

Diane Stout said she'd heard from her husband, a manager on the plant maintenance crew, so she knew he was OK. The workers all know each other well, Stout said, so she was hoping to hear good news about friends there.

White's wife, Sarah White, said she was at home with her four children when her husband called her after the explosion.

"I could hear the panic in his voice," she said. "But he said he was OK." She said he'd been watching trucks unload from outside the building when the blast occurred.

"That's where he works every day. That could have been him," White said.



PRESS&DAKOTAN

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We will be featuring our annual "Beautiful Baby Contest" in print and online on **Wednesday, February 26, 2014.** If you or someone you know has a child we would love to include them in our feature!

To enter, simply submit your photo and entry form with a \$10 submission fee by **Monday, February 17.**

First place winners in the following categories will receive a framed winners print and prize.

1) Newborn-6 Months

4) 25 Months-4 Years

2) 7-12 Months

5) Multiple Births

3) 13-24 Months

Submit Entry To:  
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan  
319 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD 57078

**Entry Deadline:**  
**Mon., Feb. 17, 2014**

Category # \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Winners will be selected by the staff of Yankton Media Inc. Employees and family members of Yankton Media Inc. are ineligible to win.  
\*Submission of this form authorizes the publication of child's photo in this contest in print and online at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).  
Submission fee (\$10) must accompany entry form to be valid.

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