



Yankton Fury Red Wins State Softball Title • **PAGE 7**

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Four Injured In Sunday Accident



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Four people were injured in this accident that involved at least two vehicle Sunday afternoon about six miles west of Yankton on Highway 52. The accident occurred at approximately 3:20 p.m. Reports at the scene indicated that at least two people involved sustained life-threatening injuries. No other information was available at press time. The South Dakota Highway Patrol is overseeing the investigation. Other responding units included Yankton County ambulance and emergency management, the Yankton Fire Department and the Yankton County Sheriff's Office.

Legislators Call For Special Session To Talk Education Funds

By The Associated Press

PIERRE — Several Republican state lawmakers are pushing for a special legislative session to address education funding and the teacher shortage in South Dakota, but GOP leaders say it's unlikely to happen.

Rep. Elizabeth May, who is among six legislators who called for the special session Thursday, said she plans to send letters on Monday asking other state lawmakers if they want the session. The Republican from Kyle has criticized a task force of lawmakers and others that has been studying South Dakota's education funding because it has excluded discussion of the costs of the state's adoption of the Common Core educational standards.

Rep. Brian Gosch and Sen. Corey Brown,

the Republican legislative leaders, said it's unlikely there would be enough support to call a special session. A spokeswoman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in an email that there's no consensus around a policy proposal that would typically lead to a special session.

May said that all costs associated with education funding should be considered. That includes the price tag of Common Core, which she said should be accounted for in the "crisis of the funding situation that we are facing in the state of South Dakota."

The math and English standards were devised by the National Governors Association and chief education officers from states. The goal is to raise expectations and to ensure

that students nationwide are learning skills in the same grades.

Daugaard and Republican legislative leaders in February announced the creation of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teachers and Students amid calls to boost teacher pay. It is tasked with ensuring that South Dakota maintains a high level of student achievement and teaching excellence and with coming up with a funding system to support them both.

"We are also not talking about standards, curriculum, Common Core. They're very important subjects in relationship to our kids, but they are not within the scope of this

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On The Right Track

Local Rail Authority Proposal Headed To The State Level

BY ROB NIELSEN
Rob.nielsen@yankton.net

After months of proposals and fine tuning, a basic agreement for a Yankton County regional rail authority has been set up between the Yankton City Commission and Yankton County Commission.

However, County Commissioner Debra Bodenstedt told the *Press & Dakotan* that there's still plenty of work to do before the group meets officially.

"We have to wait 20 days after (the minutes have been) published," Bodenstedt said. "Then we have to package up that agreement and other documentation of public hearings and send them to the Secretary of State. Then the Secretary of state verifies us and then sends us paperwork back stating that."

Following verification, she said the board will meet for the first time.

"The next thing we do is call our first meeting, elect officers and get bylaws going," she said.

The push for a Yankton County regional rail authority began this spring at the County Commission level. The rail authority will be a conduit for federal funds to help aid in rail and rail-related projects within the authorized zone — in this case, Yankton County.

The Yankton County regional rail authority will consist of Commissioner Bodenstedt and Commissioner Don Kettering from the county, Yankton City Manager Amy Nelson and Commissioner Chris Ferdig representing the city, and Jeff May of Kolberg-Pioneer, Inc.

Nelson added that there will be a lot of other



Bodenstedt

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Southeast CASA Expands To Bon Homme County

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The volunteers of Southeast CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) have been helping children in Yankton County through exceptionally difficult court cases since 2012. As of this month, that service has been extended to Bon Homme and Clay counties — and this is only the beginning of the group's expansion.

Sherri Rodgers-Conti, program director for Southeast CASA, told the *Press & Dakotan* that the group, officially organized in October 2011, was ready to move forward.

"In 2012, we started assigning volunteers who had been trained as child advocates to active abuse and neglect cases in the court system, and we were only doing that in

Yankton County to start with," Rodgers-Conti said. "Now we are at a point where we feel that, not only are we experienced enough to expand our services, but we also feel that there is enough community recognition of what we do and enough community support financially for what we do."

Rodgers-Conti said the expansion became official earlier this month.

"We decided that this spring, we were going to work on expanding to Clay County and Bon Homme County," she said. "As of July 1, we are in both counties as well as Yankton County. We now serve the children in three counties."

She added that this expansion has been anticipated since the very beginning.

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A Shady Operation



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Shade was at a precious premium for cattle across the region Sunday as temperatures soared into the upper 90s, abetted by high humidity. These Yankton County cattle took up practically every square inch of shade available during the humid afternoon. The high temperature at the Yankton airport Sunday was 97 degrees, with the dew point reaching 75 degrees. More hot conditions are anticipated today (Monday), but this time with the wind switching from the northwest. There is also the possibility of smoke from Canada's wildfires also returning to the area. For weather details, see page 2.

Concert Fulfills Dying Sioux Falls Child's Wish

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A concert planned by a 9-year-old terminally ill girl in South Dakota will allow her to fulfill her wish of helping other children.

The *Argus Leader* reports the event planned by Rebekah Spader, of Sioux Falls, raised enough funds Saturday to help at least one ill child.

Rebekah was diagnosed with a genetic nerve disorder at age 1. She was later diagnosed with a bone marrow failure disorder.

Rebekah survived a transplant, but her family decided against a needed second one. Her father, Tony Spader, says the family chose to "celebrate" her life.

CLARIFICATION

The two men were not identified in Friday's photo of the James River Water Development District (JRWD) meeting in Yankton. They were JRWD board members Dan Klimisch from the Yankton area and Frank Amundson from the Huron area.

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TOMORROW: School Board Considers Inspecting Facilities

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OF 15TH STREET