



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Area Youth Baseball Teams Hit The Field Tuesday • 7

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The Westside Athletic Field, located near the Dakota Territorial Museum in Westside Park, has been put up for sale by the Yankton County Historical Society. The board purchased the property in 2007 from the Yankton School District for expansion purposes, but decided to sell the field after the opportunity arose to move the museum to the Mead Building.

History Up For Sale

YCHS Puts Westside Athletic Field On The Market

BY DEREK BARTOS
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One of the state's oldest track and athletic fields has become the newest path for raising funds for Yankton's Mead Building Project.

The Yankton County Historical Society (YCHS) recently decided to proceed with its sale of the old Westside Athletic Field property, which sits adjacent to the Dakota Territorial Museum in Westside Park.

The YCHS originally purchased the property from the Yankton School District in 2007, hoping to expand its oper-

ations near its current location. However, when the opportunity arose to renovate the historic Mead Building to use as the future home for the museum, the historical society decided to sell the field at a later date.

Work on the Mead Building project began in 2012 with restoration of its roof, which was completed early last year. The renovation is currently in the next phase, which is focusing on the repair or replacement of the building's windows and doors, as well as addressing lead paint concerns.

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Snowpack Levels Less Than Expected

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Although mountain snowpack in the Rockies was well above average for the year, it still fell short of what had been expected. Jody Farhat, chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Missouri River Basin Water Management Division told a USACE conference call Tuesday.

"As expected, runoff during the month of May was above normal due to the above average snowpack," Farhat said. "Based on the amount of snow that has already melted, it appears that the total volume of runoff from the mountain snowpack will be somewhat less than we previously forecast."

Snowpack above Ft. Peck Dam in Montana reached 132 percent of normal and 140 percent of normal between Ft. Peck and the Garrison Dam in North Dakota. Less than 25 percent of the peak accumulation remains.

Scott Dummer, development and operations hydrologist with the National Weather Service Missouri Basin River Forecast Center, said the peak has passed and the threat of flooding due to snowpack has greatly decreased.

"The mountain snowpack peak for the 2014 runoff season has passed," Dummer said. "With the exception of a few locations on the North Platte River — which exceeded moderate flood levels — all mountain snow melt flooding was in the minor category. As we continue to lose mountain snow, the threat of significant flooding due to rain on snow events

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'Riding With A Reason'



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

A group of Belmont University students and their support staff from Nashville, Tenn., make an overnight stop in Yankton on Tuesday as part of their cross-country bike trip to raise funds for a Honduran school. The group includes (left to right) James Richfield, Dr. Wayne Kindle of Yankton (as an overnight host), J.D. Hartwig, Jefferson Brown, Brennon Mobley and Jenkins Brown. The bikers are headed for Sioux City today (Wednesday).

Students Wheel Across U.S. To Benefit Honduran School

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Brannon Mobley, James Richfield and J.D. Hartwig hold 147 million reasons for biking across the nation. The Belmont University students, based in Nashville, wanted to spend their final summer together doing something special. They decided on a bike ride, but they wanted to do more than log miles and catch scenery.

They formed "Riding With A Reason" earlier this year, teaming up with the 147 Million Orphans organization. The non-profit group was founded in 2009 by two Tennessee mothers seeking to meet the critical needs of orphans in Honduras, Haiti and Uganda, as well as orphans in the U.S.

They left Seaside, Ore., on the Pacific Ocean, May 15

and expect to arrive around July 10 in Washington, D.C. They spent Monday night in Pickstown and Tuesday night in Yankton.

"We're not professional riders. We have trained since last October," Hartwig said. "The first day of this trip, we went 80 miles. The longest we had gone before was 63 or 64 miles. This week, we traveled 113 miles from the Winner to Pickstown, and then 63 miles from Pickstown to Yankton."

In particular, the Belmont students are raising funds for a new school in the Honduran village of Mt. Olivos. They noted the new school will benefit the entire region, not just orphans.

"Honduras needed a school, and that struck a chord

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INSIDE



American Profile

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Report Calls Out Judges In Disability Claims

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid complaints about lengthy waits for Social Security disability benefits, congressional investigators say nearly 200 administrative judges have been rubber-stamping claims, approving billions of dollars in lifetime payments from the cash-strapped program.

Four of the judges defended their work at a combative congressional hearing Tuesday. They said they follow the law.

"I've seen their ailments, I've seen their pain, right in front of me," Judge Gerald I. Krafsur of Kingsport, Tennessee, told the House Oversight Committee.

Krafsur approved 99 percent of the cases he decided from 2005 to 2013, according to a new report by the Republican staff of the Oversight Committee.

Lifetime benefits average about \$300,000, according to the report, so Krafsur's cases will lead to nearly \$1.8 billion in benefits.

Tuesday's hearing comes as Social Security's disability program edges toward the brink of insolvency. The trust fund that supports the disability program is projected to run out of money in 2016. At that point, the system will collect only enough money in payroll taxes to pay 80 percent of benefits, triggering an automatic 20 percent cut in benefits.

Congress could redirect money from Social Security's much bigger retirement program to shore up the disability program, as it did in 1994. But that would worsen the finances of the retirement program, which is facing its own long-term financial problems.

By the time disability cases reach an administrative law judge, the claims have been rejected at least once and often twice by workers in state offices.

House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., was incredulous that so many judges

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Youth Project Puts Spotlight On Car Accidents, Day Care

BY JORDYNNE HART
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South Dakota is ranked third worst in the nation regarding accidental deaths. Could this be due to the state's driving age?

This issue along with many others concerning South Dakota's youth were addressed at a KIDS COUNT briefing Monday at the Technical Education Center in Yankton. The briefing focused on local and state children's policies and programs that are in desperate need of legislative support.

The main source of these accidental teen deaths are caused by car accidents. Jennifer Cline, executive director of South Dakota

Voices for Children, spoke to that issue.

"Most of these deaths are due to car crashes," she said. "So a main focus would be working with our younger drivers and making sure that they have enough time behind the wheel with an adult before going out on their own."

Carole Cochran, director of South Dakota KIDS COUNT, added, "It's not the age of the driver we want to change. It's the education."

South Dakotan families are affected by the policies that the state government establishes. KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E.

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Carole Cochran of the University of South Dakota's Beacom School of Business and director of South Dakota KIDS COUNT, discusses some statistics involving safety and accidental deaths during a program held earlier this week in Yankton.