



YANKTON DAILY
PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 138
NUMBER 283

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

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Usage Plan For Old HSC Buildings In The Works

3-Phase Proposal Being Developed

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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An effort is under way to develop a proposal that would put the former South Dakota Human Services Center (HSC) campus to use, according to a historic preservation consultant.

"We're working with stakeholders in the Yankton community and region to develop a proposal for the Human Services Center campus that matches the state's goals there. We want the campus be a productive part of the Yankton and state economy," stated Rich Jensen of Dakota Preservation in Sioux Falls. "The state no longer needs these buildings or the property. We understand that. We're working on a proposal that will bring this property back into service. We want to put these buildings back to work."

Jensen was hesitant to get into the details of the proposal with the *Press &*

Dakotan, but said it will be presented to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office when complete.

"The exact process for how these buildings would be brought back into service can't be said at this point," he stated. "That's going to depend on our dialogue with the state."

"The state no longer needs these buildings or the property. We understand that. We're working on a proposal that will bring this property back into service. We want to put these buildings back to work."

RICH JENSEN

the HSC campus and appropriates \$6 million to carry out that work.

Daugaard's plan calls for the demolition of 13 structures and an effort to preserve four others.

The "South Dakota Human Services Center Old Campus Stewardship Plan" outlines the specifics of Daugaard's three-phase vision.

A bill passed in the Legislature this year authorizes the Department of Social Services to dismantle, demolish, preserve or rehabilitate buildings on

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STATION TO STATION



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Jesus (portrayed by Blake Cwach) is shown being crucified while guards Nate Stephenson (left) and Justin Leader look on during a presentation of the "Living Stations of the Cross" held at Sacred Heart Middle School's Link Auditorium Wednesday. The Holy Week program, performed by SHS eighth graders, depicted the 14 Stations of the Cross depicting Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection. The words projected on the screen in this scene are the lyrics of the song "You Loved Me Anyway" by Sidewalk Prophets. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

BID Preps For Tax To Commence In April

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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Yankton business officials are getting prepared for the first month of the \$2-per-night tax to be charged for stays at certain hotels within the city.

The Business Improvement District (BID) group, which met on Wednesday, includes hotels within the Yankton city limits that have 25 or more rooms. Smaller hotels can also volunteer to be included in the group.

The hotel tax, which will begin this April, will be due on the 20th of each month, with an electronic spreadsheet for hotel operators expected to be on-line soon.

"With the on-line spreadsheet, you can fill out everything you need on the computer," said Dave Mingo, community development director, who attended the BID meeting. "All hotel operators would have to do after filling it out would be to mail it in."

After receipts are collected, the BID will establish a budget within the next several months and update it in time for each meeting.

Also on hand for Wednesday's meeting was Lisa Scheve of the Yankton Convention and Visitors Bureau. She spoke about a program that was started by the bureau which established an incentive and event fund.

"The goal of the fund is to be able to get large tournaments and other conventions here," Scheve said. "The money we have in the fund helps us get incentives on the table for the officials to want to have their events here."

Convention and Visitors Bureau officials were able to get approximately \$5,000 from the city for the fund in previous years, but they are not asking for money this year.

"Ultimately we want more large groups to come here, and more people to stay for a longer time while they're here," she said. "If they stay longer, they'll likely be spending more money during their stay, which is good for everyone."



Mingo

Decision 2013

Fitzgerald Set To Face Challenges

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of a series of profiles on the candidates for the Yankton school board. The election is April 9.

Name: Jim Fitzgerald
Family: Wife — Sheila, Children — McKenzie, Kelsey, Matthew
Education/Occupation: Doctor of Chiropractic
Years of Experience: One 3-year term.



Fitzgerald

Why do you want to be on Yankton School Board?

The Yankton School District is facing some challenging times, with three years of service on the School Board; I feel I am in a good position in terms of understanding the functions of the district. We've made a lot of progress and plan to continue making strides toward our educational duties and budgetary issues. I strongly believe in education and making contributions to the community. I believe in parents being involved with their children and I feel, I have an additional commitment having children in the school district.

How would you address the budget shortfall at YSD?

Currently, there is about a \$1.5 million shortfall for the 2013-14 budgetary year. We have some financial resources in the

FITZGERALD | PAGE 12

Nebraska

Lawmakers Mull Statewide Water Plan

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — A Nebraska lawmaker is pushing for the state to develop a long-term plan to manage its water resources.

Sen. Tom Carlson of Holdrege is proposing a state task force that would identify water-project needs, map them out, and rank them by importance. Carlson could present his bill to the full Legislature on Thursday.

The bill was introduced in the wake of a summer drought that stressed

farms, ranches, cities and private wells.

Carlson said the summer drought has increased awareness of water-scarcity problems in eastern Nebraska, which is less arid than the western part of the state. He pointed to Lincoln, which imposed water restrictions over the summer in response to the drought.

"I think it's brought about an attitude change," Carlson said. "It's easier to talk about now, because people by and large will agree our supply isn't unlimited. So let's make sure we're managing it well."

Carlson is recommending a 28-member task force, which would report to

the Legislature by Jan. 31, 2014.

The panel would include all 16 members of the state's Natural Resources Commission, the director of the Department of Natural Resources, and Carlson, the chair of the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee.

Ten others would be appointed by the governor. The appointed members would have to represent public power, irrigation interests, cities, agriculture, manufacturing and outdoor recreation.

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

Niobrara school officials are requesting a bond measure to replace the current high school building, shown here last fall, which was built in 1916. The new building would be connected to the existing elementary school, which would also be renovated. The special election for the bond is April 9.

Bond May Move Niobrara School

BY DEREK BARTOS
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NIORBARA, Neb. — While the schools in Niobrara were able to survive the 2011 flood and their battle with Mother Nature, officials know they are slowly losing the war with Father Time.

With a high school building that is nearly 100 years old and other buildings that are more than 50 years old, the school district is requesting a bond measure not to exceed \$9.995 million over 25 years to help with building replacements and renovations.

The special election for that bond is April 9. "What we're trying to do is renovate our existing elementary and gymnasium building and connect it with a new middle school, high school and preschool," said Niobrara schools superintendent Margaret Sandoz. "There would also be renovations done to our bus barn and shop area, as well."

Niobrara's school board started evaluating the situation with its aging buildings roughly five years ago, Sandoz said. After considering only



Knox County

money into a building that will never be ADA- or life safety code-compliant just doesn't seem to be that appealing," she said. "So the option to utilize a bond to go forward with a new building that could be compliant really appealed to them."

Sandoz added that the school district has also seen an increase in enrollment during the past five years. Niobrara currently has 166 students K-12 with 19 children in its preschool, and it appears the upward trend will continue, she said.

"That is another reason we are looking for ren-

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