



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



State Bound!

Bucks Advance With Win • 8

Volume 139 Number 269

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

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Queens Of The Summit!



South Dakota women's basketball coach Amy Williams, holding basketball, and her team acknowledge the fans after receiving the championship trophy from the Summit League Tournament on Tuesday at Sioux Falls Arena. The Coyotes topped Denver 82-71 for their first NCAA berth. For more coverage, see page 8.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Texting Ban Dies In Pierre

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A legislative conference committee couldn't negotiate a compromise Tuesday night on a statewide ban against texting while driving.

The panel agreed 6-0 to give up on the talks.

The full Senate and the full House of Representatives are expected to ratify that report today (Wednesday).

The dividing line was whether cities and counties would be able to keep their present bans and pass new bans tougher than the proposed state law.

Each chamber had passed a texting ban this session. House Speaker Brian Gosch, R-Rapid City, wanted the local bans eliminated, while Sen. Mike Vehle, R-Mitchell, wanted them to be allowed to remain in place.

Eight cities and one county have local bans. Those can remain in effect without legislative action.

"It's my conclusion no bill is better than a bad bill," Sen. Craig Tieszen, R-Rapid City, said.



Gosch

TEXTING | PAGE 2

Yankton County commissioner John Harper discusses one of the points of a proposed Tax Increment District (TID) involving Dakota Plains and Napa junction during a special County Commission meeting Tuesday at the County Government Center. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)



Industrial Rail Park Talks Creep Along

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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The Yankton County Commission ostensibly took a step forward in negotiations with Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) and Dakota Plains Ag Center Tuesday as they work toward an industrial rail park.

But how big of a step remains to be seen.

During a meeting last week, the parties set up a special meeting in order to discuss what it would take to put together a tax increment district (TID) that would be acceptable to the three parties.

However, most of the 2 1/2-hour meeting Tuesday was spent debating the merits of tax increment financing (TIF) and whether any development beyond the Dakota Plains grain shuttle facility would occur if a rail loop is built.

The commission spent a majority of the meeting listening.

"I think what we were hoping to



Freng

get to was a consensus that the company would be comfortable that it was likely the TIF would be approved and adopted after working through the 60- to 75-day process," said Rob Stephenson of YAPG

after more than 90 minutes of discussion. "I think the company would take the risk of starting their project if they thought that was going to happen. It doesn't feel like that's going to happen today."

The commission has already agreed to rezone the property between 436th Avenue and 437th Avenue, and north of Highway 50, from agricultural to commercial, and granted a conditional-use permit to build a grain storage facility on the site.

COUNTY | PAGE 14

Avera Announces \$11 Million Plan To Boost Facilities

BY ROB NIELSEN
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Plans for a replacement facility for the Avera Yankton Care Center (AYCC) were released by officials at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Tuesday. The facility will mean the relocation of the 73 beds at AYCC to the Avera Sister James Center on the Majestic Bluffs campus. This will mean 187 total beds on the campus.

Tony Erickson, executive director of Senior Services, said the project is aimed at building up what the current facility lacked.

"The big component that we are focused on is redesigning a little bit

in areas to fix some of the deficits that we've had in the first design of the Majestic Bluffs Sister James campus," Erickson said.

One of the cornerstones of the project will be the addition of a town center — catering to visitors, residents and staff alike — which will include a deli, a pub, a general store, children's play area, bank, post office and beauty salon.

Erickson said the design boosts the facility's profile when it comes to the level of care it can deliver.

"This design concept, to me, is really going to give us a state-of-the-

avera | PAGE 14

G-V Taking Advantage Of Cross-Sport Experiences

BY DEREK BARTOS
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GAYVILLE — Even though members of the Gayville-Volin girls basketball team haven't previously played in the state tournament, it doesn't mean they lack experience.

The Raiders clinched their first state tourney spot in school history last week, defeating Freeman 44-40 in overtime for the Region 5B

championship. The team will face Sully Buttes at noon on Thursday in Huron.

However, three starters for Gayville-Volin aren't far removed from state-level competition.

Laura Nelson, Genevieve Clark and Megan Hirsch were all members of the Raiders cross country team that placed second at the South Dakota State Cross Country Meet last fall.

G-V | PAGE 2

SPORTS



USD Parts Ways With James • 8

INSIDE



American Profile

8 DAYS UNTIL SPRING

A 2-For-1 Solution!



In regards to its recent "Comics Showdown," the Press & Dakotan has made a decision — or rather, two of them.

For the two preceding weeks, we tested four comic strips to determine a replacement for the "Dick Tracy" strip. We received approximately 80 responses for this test.

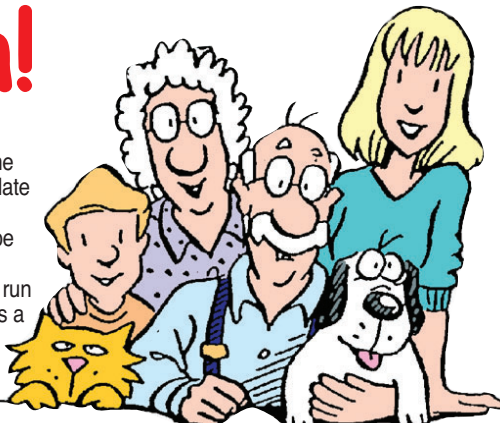
Ultimately, two of the four strips stood out. "PICKLES" was the hands-down winner in the voting, so it will take its place on the P&D's comics page starting Monday.

And so will "HAGAR THE HORRIBLE," which also polled well. We've tested it twice in recent

years and it had a strong showing both times, so we've decided to add this strip, too. We'll do some slight adjusting of the comics page to accommodate the new strip, plus the "DEAR ABBY" and "JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS" horoscope columns.

Also, while we're reworking the page, we will run a larger format of the "PEANUTS" strip, which is a response to readers who were concerned about its small size.

We thank everyone who participated in our survey and our "Showdown."



Printed on Recycled Newsprint
Printed with SOY INK

REGION 2-3 | OBITUARIES 3 | VIEWS 4 | LIFE 5 | MIDWEST 7 | SPORTS 8-10 | WORLD 11 | CLASSIFIEDS 12-14

TOMORROW: Yankton's ABS Takes Step Forward With Latest Accreditation

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET