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Decision Time



SD Debt Collection Center Bill OK'd

BY BOB MERCER State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Creation of an obligation recovery center to collect debts owed to state government in South Dakota, including state universities and courts, and to collect restitution owed to crime victims won final legislative approval Friday. State senators voted 19-15, as eight

senators switched sides from their previous votes. "I'm not pleased with what's happening, and we need to change it," Sen. Larry Tidemann, R-Brook-

ings, said about the current collections



arrangements. Tens of millions of dollars reportedly are owed. Tidemann cited statis-

tics that showed \$3,201 collected so far this year of \$436,112 of new debts placed with the state's collection contractor. He said \$61,539 was ollected in 2014 of



YSD Looks At Options For Dealing With Aging Crane-Youngworth Facility

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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e dedicate this stadium to the students of by-gone days, who have so often made this field ring with their cheers; to the students of today, who are striving to carry on the glory and honor of their alma matter; to the student of the days to come, who shall still uphold the ideals of Yankton College; to the faculty, whose privilege and joy it is to participate in every phase of student life; to the citizens of Yankton

without whose friendship and loyalty we could not be. To all of these, I do dedicate this stadium in the interest of good sportsmanship, fair play, friendly rivalry, youthful happiness and right living

(Per the Yankton Press and Dakotan Oct. 23, 1926, and Oct. 24, 1926)

With these words expressed by Dr. Alice Kingsbury on Oct. 24, 1926, the concrete stadium at Yankton's Crane Field (later renamed Crane-Youngworth Field) was dedicated.

Nobody could have predicted that the \$8,000 project, created to replace the wooden stadium that had burned to the ground the previous year, for Yankton College would still be in use nearly 90 years later as the home football stadium for the Yankton School District (YSD).

However, it is, and the stadium is showing its age.

"I was at the stadium one day last spring looking around by myself and I happened to be under the stadium," said YSD superintendent, Dr. Wayne Kindle. "I noticed what I thought was a lot of deterioration underneath, so I contacted Chuck Turner, our buildings and grounds supervisor, and talked with him about it. We ended up hiring an engineer to go look at it. We then got the engineer's study back that told us we definitely had some issues with the stadium — we had a structure with issues they felt needed to be addressed in the next 3-5 years.

The results of the original study also recommended that the school district have a second engineering study completed that would take a more in-depth look at core samples and compression samples of the concrete.

'That study came back again saying we were in that 3- to 5year window where we needed to come up with some kind of a plan," Kindle said. "So, we know we need to do something in the next five years. In my opinion, you can't wait until year four or five to do it. Timing is everything, and you are first of all going to need to communicate everything with the public, which started several months ago. Also, you need to let people know what some of the options are.'

Kindle said that process began several months ago with his

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

TOP: Yankton School District Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle is seeking the public's input as the district deals with deteriorating conditions at Crane-Youngworth Field. ABOVE: The stadium, which is nearly 90 years old, is showing structural issues that require either renovation or transplanting football games to Williams Field next to the high school.

\$2,261,205 put with the collector. The 2013 result was \$150,200 collected



from \$2,141,203, he said. The Daugaard administration wanted the debt collection center and fought the entire eight weeks of the 2015 legislative

session's main run to get it passed. The bill, HB 1228, allows for a 20 percent surcharge to be levied on top of the amount owed. The surcharge is intended to pay for the center's operation.

The plan calls for a private contractor to be hired to run the center.

The legislation would allow state government to block driver licenses, vehicle registrations and hunting and fishing licenses for people who owe money and aren't paying.

The House of Representatives voted for the final compromise version 46-23 Thursday.

A conference committee of House and Senate negotiators developed the final version of the bill so that it no longer

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County To Discuss State Lake Issues

BY ROB NIELSEN

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A spillway project at Beaver Dam north of town may have had some effect on the Beaver Lake's, also known as State Lake, ecosystem and adjacent properties — and residents are set to appear before the Yankton County Commission on Monday to discuss their concerns.

District 18 Sen. Bernie Hunhoff said the lake had once been a center of activity for Yankton.

"It goes back to a Works Progress Administration project in the 1930s that provided some jobs locally and the dam was built," Hunhoff said. "In the '40s and '50s it became a really popular recreation area for the Yankton area. That was before the Gavins Point Dam project. It was really a top recreational area with a ball field, a



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Concerns have been raised about State Lake, located northwest of Yankton, following reconstruction work on the dam recently. Some residents say the dam's spillway was built incorrectly, leaving the lake at lower levels. While the lake level is higher now, evidence of weeds from last year can be seen along the shoreline to the right.



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