



# 50 Project On Hold

## Officials Reviewing Lone Bid After It Came In Above Estimate

BY ROB NIELSEN

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A day after fielding bids for the Yankton Highway 50 project set to begin this April, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) has put the project on hold temporarily.

SDDOT area engineer Ron Peterson told

the *Press & Dakotan* that the hold is due to the nature of the single bid submitted. The DOT and City of Yankton need to discuss the matter.

"(We had) one bid and it came in high for both the highway project and the city utility project," Peterson said. "Our people in Pierre are reviewing the estimate, reviewing the bid



Peterson

and they'll be talking to the city and other parties in the department over the next week or so and getting decisions made. It's on hold for a week or so."

Peterson said the lone bid on the project came from D&G Concrete Construction of Sioux Falls for \$11.7 million on the highway portion, which had an \$8.8 million estimate.

He added that now the plan is to recheck the numbers and the bid to decide whether to accept it or not.

"We're going to review the bid and the

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ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Jeanne and David Haas pose with one of the Roger Haas Youth Basketball Tournament t-shirts they helped to distribute at a past tournament. The Haas' have volunteered at every Roger Haas Tournament — now named the Hansen-Haas Memorial Basketball Tournament — since its inception in 1991.

## Right On Target



Area emergency responders load up vehicles during Thursday's security briefing to check out the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) complex. The complex will host hundreds of overseas visitors during the World Archery Youth Championship from June 8-14.

RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

# World Archery Event Tackles Security

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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When it comes to protecting archery contestants from around the world, Yankton area first responders want to remain on target.

A security briefing Thursday at the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) Easton Field Archery Center complex brought together law enforcement, firefighters and other emergency personnel. They are preparing for the influx of up to 1,000 teenage contestants, their coaches and spectators for the World Archery Youth Championship, set for June 8-14.

NFAA president Bruce Cull welcomed the first responders, walking them through the building and taking them on a tour of the outdoor competition site.

"We want to make this experience as good as it can be," he said of the world

championship.

Thursday's briefing covered everything from security and safety procedures to medical emergencies, fires and inclement weather. At one point, the discussion included air space and dealing with the presence of planes and even unmanned aerial vehicles.

In addition, the briefing took into account the wide variety of cultures, languages, religions and food preferences that will be found among the contestants, staff and spectators from around the globe.

The world archery tournament has drawn the attention and cooperation of state officials. Thursday's briefing included Steve Pluta with the South Dakota Department of Public Safety's Office of Homeland Security.

Pluta said he was impressed with the coordination of regional resources for the June event.

"This (tournament) is a huge event, and this is a world-class facility," he said of the NFAA center. "Kudos to the agencies and their planning for the archery tournament."

Any large event brings its logistical concerns, and an international event with overseas visitors brings unique issues, Pluta said. In addition, the authorities need to plan how the event will affect the local community, he noted.

However, hosting an international event also brings tremendous opportunities, he said.

"This is a phenomenal event and recognizes South Dakota," he said. "The key thing is to plan so the athletes, staff and community have a safe event."

Yankton deputy fire chief Larry Nickles noted the community has hosted large events such as Riverboat Days, which

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## Roger Haas Youth Tourney Volunteers Reflect On Years Of Service, History

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of the Press & Dakotan's monthly series spotlighting occupations, tasks and duties in our coverage area.*

BY ROB NIELSEN

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The Roger Haas Youth Basketball Tournament has been a staple of springtime in Yankton since 1991. This year, the tournament will take on a new name — the Hansen-Haas Memorial Basketball Tournament to recognize the late Dale "Ole" Hansen who helped to organize the tournament.

But while the name of the tournament may have changed, some of the faces volunteering at the yearly event have remained the same.

One of those faces is Milo "Buddy" Hovland who has volunteered every year since 1991.

Hovland said he's done it all.

"When we started, we were in every little gym, nook and cranny — City Hall, the Middle School, every little spot," Hovland said. "I happened to get Stewart School. We would set up the gym, which involved taking all of the desks out of the (gym) and storing them. We'd put everything up on the stage, push the refrigerator with all of the milk out, we'd clean all of that stuff out of the gymnasium. ... We'd set up workers, scorekeepers, refs, people to stand out front. At that time, we just took donations, we didn't charge. ... As years went on and we grew, some of us started to smarten up a bit and delegate a lot of that."

Hovland said one of the big differences he's noticed the growth of the volunteer base.



**ON THE JOB**

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## SD Video Lottery Starts To Show Higher Play

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Net machine income from video lottery terminals is running more than 7 percent higher than at a similar point one year ago, members of the South Dakota Lottery Commission learned Thursday.

The performance for July 1 through mid-March is also ahead of the 2 percent growth that was forecast.

"We're getting more revenue out of fewer machines at fewer locations — is that correct?" asked Doyle Estes, a commission member from Hill City.

"Yes," replied Norm Lingle, the lottery's executive director.

As of March 14, there were 8,946 of the privately owned terminals running at 1,381 es-

tablishments. The numbers for one year earlier were 9,058 terminals at 1,404 establishments.

State government receives 50 percent of the money left after winnings are paid.

Based on the results so far this fiscal year, lottery officials estimate the state treasury would net \$98.43 million. For the 2014 fiscal year, the total was \$91.61 million.

More of the modern slot machine-style machines are being used. They gradually are replacing the obsolete VLC 8700 terminals that have been the backbone of video lottery for a quarter century.

However 6,712 of those "legacy" games are still operating.

The Lottery Commission members have

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## 'Junior' Achievement



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Students at Yankton's Sacred Heart Middle School dipped into a world of fantasy when they presented Disney's "Aladdin Jr." at Link Auditorium Thursday night. The musical tale of the princess and a peasant boy, who gets a helping hand from a genie, was presented through a special arrangement with Music Theatre International in New York. It featured a large cast with special costumes and a lot of singing and dancing. To see more images from this event, visit [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

## Test Too Hard For Aspiring SD Teachers

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Almost half of aspiring teachers in South Dakota are flunking a required certification exam, and education leaders are pondering whether the test is too hard.

South Dakota public school teachers must pass certification exams to teach, including content-specific tests for particular subjects, such as math.

The *Argus Leader* reports the abysmal passage rate for math teachers started a couple of years ago when the certification exams and scoring requirements were updated.

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