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TOMORROW

HEIDEPRIEM: Candidate For Governor To Visit Yankton. * * *



GULF OIL SPILL

Officials: Gov't Cannot Take Over Crisis

White House: Government Does Not Have The Expertise, Equipment

BY ERICA WERNER AND GREG BLUESTEIN Associated Press Writers

COVINGTON, La. — The Obama administration's point man on the oil spill rejected the notion of removing BP and taking over the crisis Monday, saying the government has neither

the company's expertise nor its deep-sea equipment.

To push BP out of the way would raise a question, to replace them with what? Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen, who is heading the federal response to the spill, said at a White House briefing.

The White House is facing

increasing questions about why the government can't assert more control over the handling of the catastrophe, which unfolded after a BP offshore drilling rig blew up April 20.

All of BP's attempts to stop the leak have failed, despite the oil giant's use of joystick-operated submarine robots that can

operate at depths no human could withstand. Millions of gallons of brown crude are now coating birds and other wildlife and fouling the Louisiana marshes.

BP is pinning its hopes of stopping the gusher on yet another technique never tested 5,000 feet underwater: a "top

kill," in which heavy mud and cement would be shot into the blown-out well to plug it up. The top kill could begin as early as Wednesday, with BP CEO Tony Hayward giving it a 60 to 70 percent chance of success.

Allen said federal law dictated that BP had to operate the cleanup, with the government overseeing its efforts.

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SPREADING THE WORD



South Dakota State University President David Chicoine leads the way as SDSU Students' Association President Brett Monson brings ice cream to First Dakota National Bank in Yankton as appreciation for the bank's support of the university.

SDSU Officials Spread Message On Statewide Promotional Bus Tour

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

At South Dakota State University, going NCAA Division I means more than athletics.

The state's largest university has seen a renaissance of its academics, research, building programs and fund-raising, SDSU officials said Monday in Yankton.

President David Chicoine and about a dozen other SDSU representatives kicked off their "SDSU On The Road" bus tour. They hosted a luncheon at JoDean's for the media and local supporters.

The tour is visiting 13 cities in the next five days across southern South Dakota, said Steve Erpenbach, president/CEO of the SDSU Foundation.

"It's important to get around and tell our story," he said. "It's a great story that SDSU has to tell. People want to be with a winner, and SDSU is a winner."

The Yankton stop was sandwiched between a visit to the Southeast Agricultural Experiment Station near Beresford and a tour of the POET ethanol plant in Scotland.

"It's important to get around and tell our story. It's a great story that SDSU has to tell. People want to be with a winner, and SDSU is a winner."

STEVE ERPENBACH

The tour comes amidst a \$1.5 million cut in state funding for SDSU. The university has also seen cuts during the past two years totaling \$621,000 for the ag experiment research stations and \$400,000 for Cooperative Extension.

The cuts make private support even more important, Erpenbach said. In the midst of a national recession and financial meltdown, the university is far ahead of schedule on the "It Starts With State" major fund-raising campaign.

"We set our working goal at \$190 million," he said. "We have raised \$123 million with 17,700 donors, and we're only starting our fourth year. We're only halfway through our campaign." Erpenbach admitted the cam-

paign kicked off during one of the worst economic downturns in recent history.

"The Council of Trustees gave the go-ahead for the campaign. Then came July, August and September," he said of the 2008 economic collapse.

"Had we waited until the fall or spring meeting, we may not have gone into the campaign. Now, you consider everything that has transpired, and we are at 65 percent of our working goal."

The financial support has remained crucial, Erpenbach said. Private donations fund the "Jackrabbit Guarantee" scholarships, which provide \$1,000 a year for four years. Recipients must

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Yankton Enacts New Floodplain Ordinance

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

The Yankton City Commission repealed a floodplain management ordinance Monday and enacted a new one that will ensure the community remains an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program.

"There are no properties that have been added or taken out with this (floodplain) map, so it will be business as usual," Yankton Building Official Joe Morrow said.

No opposition was voiced about the changes during Monday's meeting, which is a stark contrast to the recent experience of the Yankton County Commission.

Proceedings to update the county floodplain map resulted in protests from many residents who live along the James River and found themselves added within the document's boundaries. Those with federally-backed mortgages will now have to purchase flood insurance.

Because the new map for Yankton will not have any impact on property owners, its acceptance was met with much less fanfare. It replaces a 1980 Flood Rate Insurance Map.

Morrow said the city has been working with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials for more than a year to complete the updating process.

He told commissioners that the city's floodplain map will now be available in a digital format.

Additionally, the map has updated elevation bench marks. The North American Vertical Datum used in the current map dates from 1929.

"Many of the benchmarks on the 1929 datum have been

destroyed or altered," Morrow said.

The new map will contain 1988 North American Vertical Datum and will reflect the information currently used by most surveyors and engineers.

FEMA has already approved the ordinance that was adopted unanimously by the City Commission Monday and will go into effect July 6. Commissioner Dave Carda was absent from the meeting.

"The benefit is, we will stay in the National Flood Insurance Program," Morrow said. "By adopting an ordinance, paying attention to our flood plain, trying to eliminate hazards — by doing our part, FEMA offers homeowners the opportunity to buy flood insurance. Without an ordinance, that opportunity goes away."

In other business Monday, the commission:

• introduced a wind energy conversion system ordinance that would allow wind towers with a conditional-use permit in Yankton's B-2 Highway Business Districts, Industrial Districts and certain new residential areas when established as a community unit plan. A public hearing on the ordinance has been established for June 14; and

• was told by City Manager Doug Russell that staff from various departments did a good job preparing for the two archery tournaments held at the National Field Archery Association complex last weekend. In particular, he was impressed with how they dealt with a water main issue that could have led to no water for that part of the city during the events. By doing some strategic maneuvering, city employees ensured the area never lost water, according to Russell.

Arrest Made In Connection With Fatal Motorcycle Accident

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

An arrest has been made in connection with a motorcycle accident that resulted in the death of a Yankton man last week.

Nikolas Wuebben, 19, Yankton, was arrested Saturday for reckless driving and racing on a highway.

Authorities believe Wuebben was driving a car that was racing with a Kawasaki Ninja driven by Vince Varilek May 17. Police were called to the intersection of Second Street and Broadway at 3:27 p.m. when Varilek and an eastbound Chevy Blazer driven by 82-year-old Donald Marbach of Yankton collided.

Varilek, 19, was taken to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital by ambulance and then flown by helicopter to Sioux Falls. He was

pronounced dead at a Sioux Falls hospital that evening.

The Yankton Police Department said at the time that speed may have been a factor in the accident.

During an interview with the Press & Dakotan Monday afternoon, Police Chief Jerry Hisek would not disclose how fast an investigation showed Varilek was going at the time of the accident, but he said it was "well in excess of the speed limit."

"We felt we had enough probable cause to make the arrest on racing," he added.

Hisek would not discount the possibility of further charges in the case.

"The remainder of the information regarding the accident has been turned over to the (Yankton County State's Attorney)," he said. "It will be up to them for evaluation."

RTEC, BHSU And DataVator Working Together To 'Go Green'

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE shauna.marlette@yankton.net

The push to go green is everywhere — in the news, politics, fashion, and even technology.

In recognition that the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC), Black Hills State University (BHSU) and DataVator are in a unique position to train future and current technicians in energy efficient and renewable energy industries the State Labor Department has awarded the trio of organizations two grants for training the future workforce of emerging industries.

"RTEC is in a unique position, in that we are

out searching for ways to bring in the educational opportunities the industries of our community will need in the future," said RTEC general manager Josh Svatos. "We are unique in that we can adapt what we offer based on what the need is out there. Between our cooperation with BHSU and working with industry leaders like Scott Sandal of DataVator, we keep searching out ways to help educate the workforce of the area."

The first grant of \$99,767, awarded to BHSU, will create energy management technician training to be delivered in Spearfish and Yankton to

GRANTS, Page 7 please

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