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KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
**Yankton City Manager Doug Russell addressed the quarterly meeting of Yankton Area Progressive Growth Monday at the Avera Pavilion.**

## ‘Emotional’ Ties Vital To Community Progress

BY DEREK BARTOS  
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In order for Yankton to retain its talented workers, the community must work on building emotional relationships with those individuals, according to a city official.

“Let’s keep the people that grow up here and have talent and are creative, and make sure they’re here,” said City Manager Doug Russell at Monday’s Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) quarterly meeting at the Avera Sacred Heart Pavilion in Yankton. “They may go off to a different institution, but how are we going to make sure that that attachment is strong enough that they are going to come back? I think one of our goals should be to create the type of community that is engaging and builds an emotional attachment.”

To create an emotional attachment, a city must go beyond just providing a service, Russell said.

“In general, no one really cares about streets unless they’re hitting a pothole. No one cares about their sewer line as long as it does what it needs to do,” he said. “Yet you get to something like parks, and that has more of an attachment to it, more of an emotional component.”

Russell said three things that have been found to impact an attachment to a community are appearance, social offerings and the ability to make a difference.

Appearance includes such things as open space, green space, trails, walkability, benches and entrances, he said.

“It’s those things that create place. As you look at new environments, what they are doing is they are making a lot of things with pedestrian-friendly components. A lot of new developments are ensuring green space and open space are in abundance,” Russell said. “Twenty years ago it was, ‘How can we get as much building in a space as we possibly can?’ Now it’s, ‘How can we most effectively use that space to get as many people in that area as we possibly can?’”

Russell said that while social of-

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## Company To Move Pipeline

### TransCanada Says It Will Steer Clear Of Aquifer

BY GRANT SCHULTE  
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Canadian pipeline developer TransCanada will shift the route of its planned oil pipeline out of the environmentally sensitive Sandhills area of Nebraska, two company officials announced Monday night.

Speaking at a news conference at the Nebraska Capitol, the officials said TransCanada would agree to the new route, a move the company previously claimed wasn’t

possible, as part of an effort to push through the proposed \$7 billion project. They expressed confidence the project would ultimately be approved.

Alex Pourbaix, TransCanada’s president for energy and oil pipelines, said rerouting the Keystone XL line would likely require 30 to 40 additional miles of pipe and an additional pumping station. The exact route has not yet been determined, but Pourbaix said Nebraska will play a key role in deciding it.

The announcement follows the federal government’s

decision last week to delay a decision on a federal permit for the project until it studies new potential routes that avoid the Sandhills area and the Ogallala aquifer as the proposed pipeline carries crude oil from Canada to Texas Gulf Coast refineries.

Debate over the pipeline has drawn international attention focused largely on Nebraska, because the pipeline would cross the Sandhills — an expanse of grass-strewn, loose-soil hills — and part of the Ogallala aquifer, which supplies water to Nebraska and parts of seven other states.

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## FIRE NEAR LESTERVILLE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Lesterville Fire Department responded Monday afternoon to a fire north of the town that claimed a small outbuilding on the property. According to Fire Chief Joe James, the source of the fire was a trash pile that blew out of control. The fire spread to the shed, which apparently contained some smaller items like parts and some hay bales. Firefighters responded to the call and put out the blaze. The fire caused no injuries and did not result in any significant damage, James said.

## Yankton Co. Commission OKs Funds For Aerial Photographic Survey

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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After scrambling to find funds for an aerial photography project that was not placed in the 2012 budget, the Yankton County Commission approved a plan during a special meeting Monday to pay for it.

Although commissioners Bruce Jensen and Donna Freng were absent from the meeting, the commission had previously expressed united support for the project. The only problem was, the need for the undertaking was not brought up until late October, well after the county’s budgeting process for 2012 was complete.

Because the City of Yankton had budgeted to

have aerial photography done of its geography next year, as it does every three years, the county was eager to partner with the municipality to share costs.

Monday’s special session was held solely to hammer out a budget solution.

Responsibility for funding the project was placed upon the department of equalization and the planning and zoning office, which are the primary users of the aerial photography, or pictometry, among county departments.

When the county last partnered with the city in 2009 to have high-resolution aerial photography done, the money came from Yankton

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## Following Disruption, YSD Board Sets Forum

### Citizen Ejected From Meeting; Public Forum Slated Dec. 10

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE  
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An ongoing dispute between the Yankton School Board and a Yankton citizen came to a breaking point during Monday night’s monthly meeting.

Rick Althoff, who has attempted to address the board without being on the agenda for the past several meetings, once again stood up and interrupted the meeting to address the board Monday night. Vice president Chris Specht, who was acting board president in the absence of president Kathy Greenaway, asked Althoff to be seated. When he refused, Specht asked off-duty Yankton police officer corporal Dean Larson to escort Althoff from the premises.

“We have endured meeting after meeting of interruptions and I felt that somebody needed to take a step to try to end that constant interruption,” Specht said afterward. “We will have a discussion with the necessary folks to decide what the next steps are, if any.”

An attempt to reach Althoff following the meeting was unsuccessful.

Subsequently during the meeting, the board scheduled the first of its public meetings to discuss the state of the district’s budget and a potential second opt-out attempt. The meeting is set for 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, in the Administration Building board room.

“I think this goes back to the public forum we had prior to the initial opt-out,” Specht said. “I think there have been folks that felt like the board didn’t share enough of the budget information, that we didn’t share enough of the information relative to the cuts. We are trying to be as transparent as we can relative to our budget, relative to personnel within the district, activities and what we are able to offer with the funds available to the current funding situation.”

Specht said the opportunity to visit with the public and make available the information that the public is asking for is vital to the district.

However, he said he is not sure what to expect from the meetings.

“I know we have heard that folks want to talk to the school



Althoff

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## City: Repair Work Begins On Sinkhole

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Repairs are commencing on a sinkhole caused by summer flooding along the Missouri River, the Yankton City Commission was told Monday.

The sinkhole at the municipal wastewater treatment plant was created when high ground water caused the main sewer line at the facility to shift. It connects the primary and secondary phases of treatment.

“We are proceeding with that repair,” City Manager Doug Russell said. “We may do some temporary ones to get us through the winter and then do the full repair next spring.”

As the concrete pipeline shifted, it

broke in several places.

Feimer Construction of Yankton has been hired to do the repairs.

Russell said the Federal Emergency Management Agency has agreed to fund the project, as well as several others in the city related to flooding.

In other business Monday, the City Commission approved a group health insurance plan through Avera Health for city employees. Rates will rise 5.55 percent in 2012 compared to 2011’s rate. On a similar note, a Delta Dental plan was approved for employees that will increase rates by 5.9 percent in 2012.

Also Monday, the commission:

- approved the purchase of a Volvo ECR88 Mini Excavator from Nuss Truck and Equipment of Burnsville, Minn., for

\$84,685. It will replace a skid steer loader that was previously used to load and compact solid waste material into transfer trailers;

- approved final payment for a project that replaced a gate opener at Chan Gurney Airport;

- approved an agreement with the South Dakota Department of Transportation to appraise land parcels on the north side of Chan Gurney Airport that were involved in a land exchange with a neighboring property owner; and

- was told that there were 92 applicants for a code enforcement position. Interviews will begin Nov. 28, and plans are to have someone hired by January.



## KEEPING AN EYE OUT

Students from Yankton’s Stewart Elementary School offered some tips on buccaneering during the musical program “How To Be a Pirate,” held Monday night at the Yankton High School/Summit Activities Center theatre. The program followed the young, would-be swashbucklers on their recruitment practices (including taking on Principal Jerome Klimisch as a new crewmate) and their search for buried treasure. The program was directed by Lori Leader, with Kathleen West providing accompaniment. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net). (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

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