



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



USD Brings Holocaust Exhibit To Campus • 1B

VOLUME 138 NUMBER 161

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | TWO SECTIONS | www.yankton.net

75¢ 38894 0002 4

Yankton Tabs Nelson As New City Manager

Canton City Manager Will Be First Woman To Hold Position

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net



Amy Nelson was announced as the new city manager of Yankton Thursday during a news conference at City Hall. She is currently the city manager of Canton.

The City of Yankton announced Thursday afternoon that the current city manager of Canton will assume that position here beginning Jan. 2. Amy Nelson, 35, has been the city manager of the Lincoln County community of approximately 3,000 residents for the past four years. The announcement of Yankton's first female city manager came during a news conference at City Hall with many city department heads in attendance. "Yankton is on the cusp of great things, and I can't wait to roll up my sleeves and get involved in them," Nelson stated. "I'd like to thank the City of Yankton for selecting me, and I'd also like to let the public know that I will work hard to achieve the goals of the community." Nelson is a native of Ortonville, Minn., has a bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University-Moorhead and a master's degree from Minnesota State University-Mankato. She has worked in a couple states in positions that include downtown development director and senior community planner prior to becoming the city manager of Canton. Nelson has also been employed by the Brick Industry Association. Mayor Nancy Wenande said the commission wasn't worried about the fact that Yankton would only be Nelson's second city manager job. "Her just having served as the city manager for four years really was minimized by the fact she had so much other experience to bring to the table," she said. "Through all facets of the interview process, the (City Commission) was impressed with Amy's high level of professionalism. She was able to showcase her skill set

through a variety of successful community initiatives. Amy has taken some calculated risks over her career that have reaped great rewards."

In July of this year, the Canton Industrial Park was approved as the first South Dakota

NELSON | PAGE 3A

S.D. Dems, Daugaard Argue Over 'Pay To Play'

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

The South Dakota Democratic Party and the Gov. Dennis Daugaard administration are at odds over whether there is a "pay to play" culture in Pierre that benefits the dominant Republican Party. Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D-18), the House Minority Leader, believes the numbers speak for themselves. "Even though it's impossible to determine how much money the state is giving away in the name of economic development, it's now clear corporate welfare recipients are giving hundreds of thousands right back to Republican leaders in Pierre," Hunhoff said. He and the South Dakota Democratic Party reviewed grants awarded through the Revolving Economic Development and Initiative (REDI) fund between 2007 and 2011, as well as the Futures Fund from 2000-2010. Research into other sources of economic development funds was prevented, according to Hunhoff, by a lack of transparency and open records. The research identified \$329,968 in political contributions to Republicans from corporate directors who received more than \$29 million in state grants. Hunhoff is calling for legislative reforms that would prohibit political contributions that appear to be payback for economic development grants or the awarding of a state government contract. He first made the accusation during a news conference earlier this month. Hunhoff said he doesn't blame the corporate officers of companies for getting as much assistance as they can. "But the politicians should be watching out for the best interests of the state's taxpayers," Hunhoff stated. "The corporate recruiters and politicians are salesmen, and salesmen will give away whatever it takes to make a deal — even when the deal doesn't make good sense for the folks paying the bill."

PAY | PAGE 10A

Survey Suggests Economic Slump Looming In Midwest

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Another economic slump may be developing in the Midwest and Plains states, according to a survey of business leaders released Thursday. The Mid-America Business Conditions index is based on monthly surveys of business leaders and supply managers in nine states. It includes a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth while a score below 50 suggests decline for that factor.

The overall index dropped to 46.5 last month from 50.4 in September, the report said. It was 57.2 in June but fell below 50 in the following months. "Surveys over the past several months point to slightly negative growth for the next three to six months," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey. "However, as in (the) past months, two states with significant dependence on energy, North Dakota and Oklahoma, will continue to expand at a positive pace while the rest of the region pulls back."

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota. While business leaders' responses indicated an economic slump was ahead, they expressed more confidence in October than the month before. Last month's business confidence index jumped to 58.0 from September's very weak 44.7. "Despite less favorable business conditions for their own firms, supply managers are more positive about the

overall economy in the months ahead," Goss said. He said drops in the national unemployment rate and upturns in the U.S. housing market were boosting the economic outlook of those who responded to the survey. In the October survey, the supply managers were asked to gauge the likelihood of a 2013 recession. The survey report said that 23.4 percent who responded said they

SURVEY | PAGE 10A

Yankton Police Seek Suspect In Robbery

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

The Yankton Police Department is seeking a suspect in the Wednesday night robbery of a local business. According to a media release from police, a man with a firearm entered the Prairie Pumper Convenience Store at 909 Broadway Avenue at approximately 11:41 p.m. Wednesday and demanded cash from the clerk. The suspect is described as approximately 6 feet tall with a heavier build. He was wearing dark-colored pants and a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt. The man fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured during the incident. It's at least the second time the Prairie Pumper has been robbed in recent years. At around 11 p.m. Sept. 5, 2011, a suspect entered the store, confronted an employee and took an undisclosed amount of money before fleeing. No arrest was made in connection with that incident, and police said Thursday they have no reason to believe they are linked. Anyone with information regarding the Wednesday robbery is asked to call the Yankton Police Department at (605) 668-5210, or the confidential Crime Stoppers number at (605) 665-4440.

Cedar County Entrepreneurs Share The Joys Of Small Business

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

HARTINGTON, Neb. — While their peers were looking for their first big job, Tim and Jason Schmit decided the best employer was — themselves. The Randolph, Neb., brothers, only in their 20s, have created Schmit Home Solutions. In less than two years, they have created a business that handles remodeling, tiling, concrete, landscaping and cabinetry projects. The Schmits shared their success story at Thursday's "Area Business Conference" in Hartington. The day-long event featured service providers, educa-

tional sessions and panels with successful Cedar County entrepreneurs such as the Schmits. A family business truly represents a commitment, the Schmits said. "My dad asked if I was sure (about the business)," Jason said. "He said, 'You just started a partnership with your brother, and now you're married. It's the same thing.'" Owning a business together tests the relationship, the brothers admitted. "There are days, it doesn't pay to yell, swear or cuss," Jason said, shrugging his shoulders.

BUSINESS | PAGE 5A



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
Randolph, Neb., brothers Tim (left) and Jason Schmit share their experiences as small business owners while still in their 20s. The Schmits were panelists at Thursday's Area Business Conference (ABC) in Hartington, Neb.

WE DEVELOP WEBSITES!

Go to **yanktonmedia.com** to find out more or call your sales representative **PRESS & DAKOTAN 605.665.7811**

