



INSIDE TODAY

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



VOLUME 137 NUMBER 143

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | 12 PAGES | www.yankton.net

75¢ 38894 00002 4

SURVEY: City Seeing Positive Trend With Services

BY NATHAN JOHNSON nathan.johnson@yankton.net

According to a community survey, the overall satisfaction Yankton citizens have with city services increased slightly between 2010 and 2011.

The city had a cumulative score that was 15 points higher this year than in 2010, when it was down 42 points compared to the inaugural year of 2009.

"You definitely like seeing a positive trend versus a negative from where we were at," City Manager Doug Russell said at a recent City Commission meeting during which the survey results were presented.

The biggest increases in satisfaction came in overall quality of police services, maintenance of city sidewalks and snow removal on city streets.

Russell highlighted the improvements, but added that "(three points is) not a statistically significant increase based on the sample size."

None of the questions elicited a similar drop in satisfaction. Each August for the past three years, Russell's office has mailed out 1,200 of the 55-question surveys to random Yankton residents.

"The purpose of the survey is ... to measure trends over time with community satisfaction with municipal services," Russell said.

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AUTUMN AMBIANCE



PHOTO: DAVE TUNGE/DAKOTA AERIALS

The arrival of October has splashed the changing colors of the season across many trees and bushes throughout the region.

GOP Votes To Defeat Obama's Jobs Bill

BY ANDREW TAYLOR AND BEN FELLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON — United against Barack Obama, Senate Republicans voted Tuesday night to kill the jobs package the president had spent weeks campaigning for across the country.

The \$447 billion plan died on a 50-49 tally that garnered a majority of the 100-member Senate but fell well short of the 60 votes needed to keep the bill alive.

The demise of Obama's jobs package was expected, despite his campaign-style efforts to swing the public behind it.

The White House and leaders in Congress were already moving on to alternative ways to address the nation's painful 9.1 percent unemployment, including breaking the legislation into smaller, more digestible pieces and approving long-stalled trade bills.

"Tonight's vote is by no means the end of this fight," Obama said in a statement after the vote.

The White House appears most confident that it will be able to continue a 2-percentage-point Social Security payroll tax cut through 2012 and to extend emergency unemployment benefits to millions of people — if only because, in the White House view, Republicans won't want to accept the political harm of letting those provisions expire.

White House officials are also hopeful of ultimately garnering votes for the approval of infrastructure spending and tax credits for businesses that hire unemployed veterans.

"Now it's time for both parties to work together and find common ground on removing government barriers to private-sector job growth," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said after the vote.

Democrats Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Jon Tester of Montana — both up for re-election next year in states where Obama figures to lose — broke with their party on Tuesday night's vote.

Every Republican present opposed the plan.

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U.S. Ties Iran To Terror Plot

2 Men Charged In Plan To Kill Saudi Diplomat

BY NEDRA PICKLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration accused Iranian government agents Tuesday of plotting to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in the United States and immediately used the thwarted plot to ratchet up sanctions and recruit international allies to try to further isolate Tehran.

Two men, including a member of Iran's special foreign actions unit known as the Quds Force, were charged in New York federal court with conspiring to kill the Saudi diplomat, Adel Al-Jubeir.

"The idea that they would attempt to go to a Mexican drug cartel to solicit murder-for-hire to kill the Saudi ambassador, nobody could make that up, right?" Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Clinton was blunt in saying the United States would use the case as leverage with other countries that have been reluctant to apply harsh sanctions or penalties against Iran.

"This really, in the minds of many diplomats and government officials, crosses a line that Iran needs to be held to account for," Clinton said.

The U.S. criminal complaint said the Iranian plotters hired a would-be assassin in Mexico who was a paid informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and told U.S. authorities all about their plot, which they code-named "Chevrolet."

FBI Director Robert Mueller said many lives could have been lost. But Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, said no explosives were actually placed

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Pipeline Meets Mixed Reviews In S. Dakota

BY DEREK BARTOS derek.bartos@yankton.net

As the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline across the central plains continues to gain attention nationwide, both supporters and protesters of the project in South Dakota are making their voices heard.

The pipeline would transport tar sands oil along a route of almost 2,000 miles from Alberta, Canada, to the Gulf of Mexico in Texas, passing through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Last week, the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced, in conjunction with Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), that it had submitted 4,565 public comments from South Dakota residents supporting the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline.

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Through their backyard

The proposed Keystone XL pipeline would cross Nebraska's Sandhills and parts of the Ogallala aquifer, a major source of fresh water.



Source: TransCanada Corp., Natural Resources Defense Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Graphic: Los Angeles Times © 2011 MCT

Knox Co. Takes Wait-And-See Approach With XL Pipeline

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

VERDIGRE, Neb. — For Knox County, Neb., residents, the prospect of an oil pipeline in a neighboring county is nothing new.

During the past decade, Keystone constructed a pipeline that went through Cedar County, Neb., to the east of Knox County. Now, Keystone has applied to build a \$7 billion XL oil shale pipeline whose route would run through Holt County, Neb., to the west of Knox County.

The Knox County Board of Supervisors hasn't held any formal talks or taken action on the proposed pipeline, said Supervisor Virgil Miller of Verdigre, Neb.

"It hasn't concerned us," he said. "We didn't see it as anything to be gone through to the county for discussion."

For the most part, Knox County residents are apparently taking a wait-and-see approach

OUR TOWNS

Knox County

toward the possibility of another pipeline, Miller said.

"I haven't had anybody bring it up. There isn't anybody (that he knows) strongly against or in favor of it," he said.

Knox County officials and residents have already been through the issue with the first Keystone pipeline going through Cedar County, Miller said.

But this time, the Keystone pipeline has generated more controversy in Nebraska and across the nation. The pipeline, which would run from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, would cut a 300-mile route cross Nebraska, including 92 miles of the Sandhills

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