



Breezy, Partly Cloudy

9 a.m.: **43** | 3 p.m.: **50** | DETAILS: PAGE 2

THURSDAY ■ OCTOBER 11, 2012

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

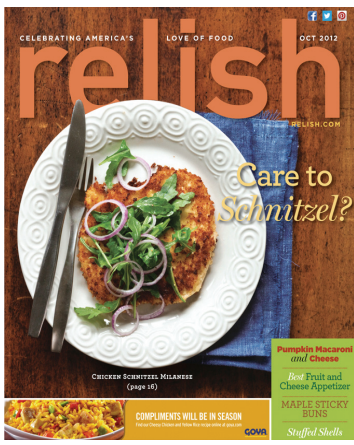
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## INSIDE TODAY



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# USD Projects Approved

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON

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VERMILLION — The state Board of Regents approved a trio of major projects for the University of South Dakota at a meeting Wednesday afternoon in Vermillion.

The regents approved an expansion of the Muenster University Center (MUC), the preliminary facility statement and facility program plan of the USD Science, Health and Research Lab, and the facility program plan of the USD Sports Performance Enhancement Facility Arena.

According to Sheila Gestring, vice president of finance at USD, the MUC expansion essentially will replace the north commons dining facility.

“The expansion will be to the south on both the east and west sides of the existing connector between the library and the facility today,” she said.

The university is looking to add 28,000 square feet of seating space in the MUC, and 31,000 square feet overall, Gestring said.

The north commons dining area has approximately 21,000 square feet, she said.

Gestring said current usage numbers point to the expansion as being necessary, with sales of meal plans being up approximately 30 percent, and retail sales in the MUC increased by 45 percent.

“Students are not just dining in this facility,” she added. “I think what you’ll find around here is, they come in, they dine, they stay and they study. So, this facility we’re finding is utilized most hours of the day, as opposed to the old dining facility. We would find they were using it about three hours of the day extensively.”

According to a document distributed to the board of regents, funding for the expansion will come from operating income and cash from the MUC operations totaling \$4,472,393, and a loan from the auxiliary system totaling \$7,127,607, to be repaid from MUC operations through FY2023.

University President James Abbott addressed the board regarding both the Science, Health and Research Lab and the Sports Performance Enhancement Facility Arena.

The lab is being referred to as “the connector” by USD representatives, Abbott said.

“The point is, we’re connecting the DakotaDome with the arena using this academic space,” he said.

That space will accommodate areas of health sciences including the occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician’s assistant and kinesiology and sports sciences programs.

The “connector” also will provide some much-needed space to DakotaDome employees, Abbott said.

“We don’t have any space in the Dome for any sort of offices anymore,” he said. “We’ve got four people in little



University of South Dakota President James Abbott describes details of facility plans for proposed additions to athletics and academics facilities on the campus, including the addition of a basketball arena near the DakotaDome, the construction of a science, health and research lab, and an outdoor track and soccer complex. Abbott addressed the South Dakota Board of Regents' Committee on Budget and Finance during its Wednesday afternoon meeting in the Muenster University Center.

teeny offices, or chairs, really. This will be a much better use of that space, I think, and it will also provide that connection, because I don’t think we want to have an arena separate from the Dome.”

The connection will be constructed on the south side of the DakotaDome.

According board of regents documents, the lab will be constructed at an estimated cost of \$10,609,000.

Funding for the project will be \$8,695,000 from HEFF binding in FY2014 and \$1,194,000 in donations, the document said.

Abbott described the USD Sports Performance Enhancement Facility Arena as “a 6,000-seat basketball, volleyball, outdoor track and soccer complex.”

According to a Board of Regents document, the project will be constructed at an estimated cost of \$48,178,885, funding for which will come from more than \$14 million in cash donations, a cash pledge from the USD Foundation of \$9,938,559 and athletic revenues of \$3,400,000.

A further \$20,690 will come from debt financing, repaid with a \$20 million Sanford gift, \$2 million from rental agreements and \$8.4 million from corporate sponsorship agreements, the document said.

“No student fee increases beyond the amount needed for utilities are anticipated for construction, operation or maintenance of this facility,” the document said.

All three projects were met with unanimous approval.

## YSD Drug And Alcohol Counselor Makes A Difference

BY ANDREW ATWAL

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Just months after being hired, the new drug and alcohol counselor for the Yankton School District (YSD) has already made significant impacts.

Tiffany Kashas, who was hired as the counselor by Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Service (LCBHS), came to Yankton from the University of South Dakota (USD) where she had served as coordinator of prevention services and a staff counselor for about four years.

Her job at USD focused on prevention-related activities, along with doing some chemical dependency assessments.

Officials at YSD hope Kashas will help curb drug and alcohol use in the school district which increased substantially last year.



Kashas

“Kashas has been available from day one of school as a resource person for our students and parents,” said Yankton High School (YHS) principal Dr. Wayne Kindle. “I know our students and parents appreciate having a valuable resource like her at our school. She is available for us to use at any time if the need arises.”

Some components of the new drug and alcohol prevention program at YSD includes designing alcohol, drug and tobacco curriculum aimed at helping students resist pressures to use substances and correcting misperceptions about them; a parent program that includes parental education and informational meetings; individual and group counseling; and

school-wide activities and promotional materials to increase the perception of the harm of substance abuse.

Officials chose the program after finding out how much success it had in the Sioux Falls school district.

“Some of the goals of the program are to build a rapport with students, staff, parents and the community,” Kashas said. “We also hope to increase awareness about drugs and alcohol and how they affect us as humans.”

She added that students appear to be responding well to the prevention education series curriculum through great discussions and the learning they have done.

Funding for the counselor came from the

**COUNSELOR** | PAGE 3

## S.D. Panel Rejects Plan To Record Closed Meetings

BY CHET BROKAW

Associated Press

PIERRE — A task force seeking ways to make South Dakota government more open on Wednesday rejected a proposal that would have required state and local boards and commissions to record closed meetings.

However, the Open Government Task Force endorsed other proposals to clarify the open meetings law and make some government documents public. One recommendation would make police mug shots of accused criminals public.

The task force’s recommendations now go to Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Attorney General Marty Jackley, who appointed the panel to propose changes in laws dealing with open meetings and the availability of documents.

Daugaard and Jackley will decide whether to introduce the panel’s recommendations as bills in the next legislative session opens in January. Proposals rejected by the panel are also likely to be introduced by individual lawmakers, said Tony Venhuizen, chairman of the task force and the governor’s communications director.

“I think we’ve done some good work,” Venhuizen told the panel as it wrapped up its work.

Task force member Dave Bordewyk, general manager of the South Dakota Newspaper Association, said the panel made good progress in opening up government, but more remains to be done in opening government documents and making sure boards and commissions do not close meetings for illegal reasons.

“One of the things from my perspective that came out of this is we have a long way to go in many areas,” Bordewyk said after the meeting.

The 33-member task force included representatives of news organizations, state officials, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and officials

**MEETINGS** | PAGE 3

## Regional Incident Management Team Debated In Northeast Neb.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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WAYNE, Neb. — Rather than wait for a major disaster, several northeast Nebraska counties are discussing the possible formation of a regional incident management team.

The arrangement amounts to the sharing of emergency resources, according to Wayne County Sheriff LeRoy Janssen. He also serves as Wayne County deputy emergency manager and spokesman for the effort.

The rapid spread of a disaster, or the vast area affected by such calamities, make multi-jurisdictional efforts necessary, Janssen said.

“These kind of incidents don’t care about county borders,” he said.

The counties discussing the regional team are members of the Northeast Nebraska Planning, Exercise and Training

(PET) region. The group includes Knox, Pierce, Madison, Antelope, Cedar, Wayne, Cuming, Stanton, Thurston, Dixon, Dakota and Burt counties.

The Northeast PET region is made up of mostly emergency managers, law enforcement members, health department officials, and fire and medical representatives.

This summer’s fires in north-central Nebraska showed the need for a strong multi-county effort, Janssen said. For example, the regional incident management team could have the coordinated communications and record-keeping systems for keeping track of personnel and resources.

“With those kinds of fires, you may have 100 agencies on site,” he said. “This (agreement) would help keep track of the people and equipment.”

**RESPONSE** | PAGE 7

## AVENUE OF FIRE



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Lesterville firefighters got a 2-for-1 call Wednesday morning. A grass fire was reported about two miles south of Lesterville along 430th Ave. at approximately 11:15 a.m., and it was initially reported to be burning in both ditches. When firefighters arrived, they found the fire in the eastside ditch located across from the cemetery, but the fire in the westside ditch was located a couple hundred yards to the north. Gusty southern winds at that time may have pushed the sparks from one ditch into another. Breezy conditions are expected to continue today (Thursday), but a chance of rain enters to area late Friday and Saturday. For weather details, see page 2.

**National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**  
Let's work together to raise awareness of breast cancer and the importance of early detection.

**Paint Yankton Pink on Monday, October 15, 2012**

For every Press & Dakotan employee that wears pink on Monday, October 15, 2012, \$5 will be donated to the Yankton Area Cancer Survivorship Program. We invite all area businesses to join us in donating \$5 for every one of their employees that wears pink. For More Information Please Contact: Tonya Schild, 665-7811.

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**TOMORROW: YHS To Offer 'An Evening Of Culture'**

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
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OF 15TH STREET