



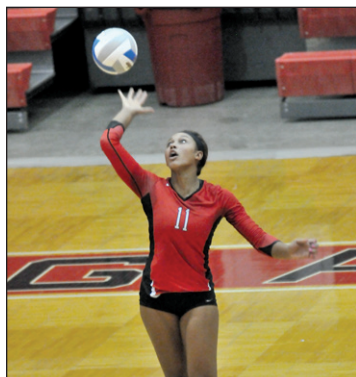
# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 138  
NUMBER 152

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

75¢  
8 38894 00002 4

## INSIDE TODAY



**Gazelles Serve Up A Victory Over Arrows 3-0 ■ 8**



**Romney, Obama Face Off In Final Debate ■ 12**  
\* \* \*

## Threat Against Freeman High School Staff Investigated

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

FREEMAN — Authorities are continuing their investigation into reports that a Freeman High School student allegedly threatened teachers by computer.

The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) is handling the case at the present time, according to Hutchinson County State's Attorney Glenn Roth.

Roth confirmed a basis for the allegation against the student. However, he was still learning more information.

"I haven't received any reports from the law enforcement officers working on it as of this time," he said. "I'm still waiting for a report from the DCI."

Once he received details, Roth said he would decide what action, if any, to take in the matter.

DCI spokeswoman Sara Rabern said she couldn't disclose much

THREAT | PAGE 2

## Wagner Child Death

# Woman Faces More Charges

## In Addition To Death Of Child, Three Drug Charges Added

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

WAGNER — A Wagner woman charged in connection with a child's death this summer now faces additional drug and jail-related charges.

Laurie Cournoyer, 28, already faces charges in the July death of 2-year-old RieLee Lovell in a housing development

just outside Wagner. The youngster was found in a closet, believed to be dead for two days while under Cournoyer's care.

Cournoyer was indicted last week on three new charges, Attorney General Marty Jackley and Charles Mix County State's Attorney Pam Hein announced Monday.

The new charges include:  
• one count of unauthorized posses-

sion of controlled substance (methamphetamine), a Class 4 felony, carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and/or a \$20,000 fine;

• one count of possession of certain unauthorized articles in jail, a Class 6 felony, with a maximum penalty of 2 years imprisonment and/or \$4,000 fine;

• one count of ingesting an intoxicating substance (methamphetamine), a

Class 1 misdemeanor, with a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment in a county jail and/or a \$2,000 fine.

The indictments on the new charges came Friday in First Circuit Court, according to Sara Rabern, the attorney general's spokeswoman. The indictments were handed down at the Charles Mix County courthouse in Lake Andes.

The other charges against Cournoyer

CHARGES | PAGE 3

## WORKING TO GET THE WATER FLOWING



Sen. Tim Johnson and Troy Larson, executive director of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, field questions from media in the foyer of the system's new water plant north of Vermillion Monday.

# Johnson Hopeful Money Will Flow To Lewis And Clark Water System

BY TRAVIS GULBRANDSON  
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

VERMILLION — Sen. Tim Johnson was in Vermillion Monday to get a first-hand look at the progress of a long-term project.

The senator visited the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Treatment Plant that morning, where he discussed both the progress and the future funding of the overall Lewis & Clark project. The plant is located approximately three miles north of Vermillion.

"It's good to see \$56.5 million being put to good use," Johnson said. "We have a long way to go on the entire Lewis & Clark project, but we're more than halfway there in the number of communities served."

The mission of the project is to develop and operate a high-quality three-state water supply system to meet the growing needs of the region.

Approximately \$4.5 million is already set aside in the president's budget for next year, Johnson said.

The majority of future funding may be acquired through

SB 3385, the Authorized Rural Water Projects Completion Act, a bipartisan effort sponsored by Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.).

"It's a bipartisan bill, and we'll see where it comes out, but they need more money quickly," Johnson said. "Without earmarks, that is a hard goal, but we'll see what happens."

"If passed, it would include \$80 million a year for the seven rural water projects currently on the Bureau of Reclamation's plate," said Troy Larson, executive director of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. "Once the projects are finished, this funding sunsets, so it's not a new program, it's simply a way to complete these projects in a more timely manner."

Larson added that Johnson has worked to secure approximately \$15 million in unallocated funds "that hopefully will be held in the final budget bill," out of which the Lewis & Clark project would get a share.

"That's sort of the trickle-down appropriation approach that's in place because of the earmark ban, which unfortunately includes authorized projects," Larson said. "We've advocated long and hard that an authorized project like Lewis &

DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

SYSTEM | PAGE 3

# Community Survey Shows Resident Satisfaction Up

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Yankton residents are generally happier with their community than they were a year ago, according to a recent survey.

This is the fourth year the city manager's office has conducted a community survey, wherein 1,200 random Yankton residents are mailed a questionnaire. This year, 604 surveys were returned.

"The purpose of the survey is to assess the community's satisfaction and to monitor the trends over time," Interim City Manager Al Viereck said during Monday night's City Commission meeting. "It is also to continue the effort to reach out to the community for feedback related to these services."

The survey showed respondent satisfaction with safety in city parks at night and the quality of recreational trails up three points compared to 2011. Additionally, use of trails received a five-point uptick.

"I believe probably a great deal of that is due to the Meridian Bridge and the impact that had on our community," Viereck said.

Eight questions showed increased approval by two points, and 13 questions had a score improved by one point. Meanwhile, 12 questions saw decreases of one point compared to 2011.

"I think what we're seeing is a trend that, overall, the satisfaction by the community is pretty strong," Viereck said. "We do have a few areas we want to work on and we continue to work on."

The survey asked questions about Yankton's quality of life, perceptions of safety, police and fire services, parks and recreation, library services, communication and customer service, streets, and public and environmental services.

Residents gave the overall quality of city services a 76 on a scale of 100. That matches the previous high set in 2010, and is a point higher than 2011.

The overall image of the city received a 75, one point lower than 2011. Additionally, the overall value that respondents feel they receive for their city tax dollars and fees was down one point from 2011 to 66.

"Comments are encouraged, too," Viereck said. "What we'll be trying to do with staff is review these comments to see if there are areas we can improve on."

Commissioner David Knoff challenged staff to find a way to craft the survey to get more specific information.

CITY | PAGE 12

# Economic Development Law Prompts Opposing Views

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

While District 18 legislative candidates found a lot to agree on during a forum Monday, it was on Referred Law 14 that Democrats and Republicans set themselves apart.

The law being referred during this general election would allow for the creation of a Large Project Development Fund. The money for the fund, which would start Jan. 1, would come from taking 22 percent of the contractors' excise tax revenues from the state's general fund.

Candidates were asked whether they supported Gov. Dennis Daugaard's economic development measure during a forum sponsored by Yankton Interchange and the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce at Minervas Grill & Bar.

David Allen, a Democrat and business owner, is trying to unseat District 18 Republican Sen. Jean Hunhoff, who has served as both a House member and senator during the course of 12 years and works in health care.

For the two District 18 House seats, incumbent Democratic Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, a business owner, is seeking a third term. Also vying for seats are Democrat Charlie Gross, a college educator who has served 18 years on



publicans supporting it.

"I see this as an economic development opportunity," Stevens said. "I think we need to be able to provide economic opportunities for our kids, and I really like the types of things this project is trying to encourage."

The South Dakota Board of Economic Development would use money from the fund to provide grants for the construction of projects that, to be eligible, must exceed \$5 million. Examples of projects that could benefit are facilities for testing, manufacturing, power generation, power transmission, agricultural processing and wind energy.

"We can discuss and argue the different aspects of it, but I really am a proponent of economic development," Stevens said. "We

the Yankton City Commission; as well as Republicans Mike Stevens, a lawyer and 22-year member of the Yankton School Board; and Thomas Stotz, a chiropractic physician.

Views on the Large Project Development Fund were split down party lines, with Democrats opposing it and Republicans supporting it.



District 18 Sen. Jean Hunhoff addresses the audience at an Interchange candidate forum Monday while her challenger, David Allen, looks on. The District 18 House and Senate candidates discussed several issues during the forum, many of them dealing with education.

have to have the jobs available for our kids to stay around. I think the alternative is to do nothing. I think that is a worse alternative to what this bill is."

Stotz pointed out that the state does a

FORUM | PAGE 3

## Decision 2012

# Johnson Wants To Continue To Contribute To Area Growth

NAME: Mark Johnson  
EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of profiles on the candidates running for office in Yankton County at both the legislative and county levels. The general election is Nov. 6.

FAMILY: Wife: Michelle; Sons: Zach (20) and Tyler (17)  
EDUCATION/OCCUPATION: Graduate of Irene High School (1985) and Southeast Technical Institute (1988). I am a Registered Land Surveyor and employed as the CADD / GIS Manager at Eisenbraun & Associates, Inc.

IF INCUMBENT, YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: I have been on the County Commission for eight years.

1. Why do you want to be a



Johnson

county commissioner?

I enjoy having the opportunity to contribute to the future of Yankton County and believe that I have a great deal to contribute. In my professional career, I have dealt with the design and planning process of subdivisions and highway projects — issues that are very relevant to those addressed by the Yankton County Commission. I believe these skills and others I have demonstrated while on the commission are important for Yankton County.

JOHNSON | PAGE 3