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## State Sides With YSD In Impasse

BY DEREK BARTOS

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After months without a solution, negotiations between the Yankton School District (YSD) and the Yankton Education Association (YEA) over teacher contracts appear to be nearing an end.



Fitzgerald

The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (SDDLRL) has offered its recommendations on the matter following its Sept. 25 fact-finding hearing. The hearing was requested by the YEA when the two sides failed to reach an agreement this summer.

"Some of those final issues were still open, and the (SDDLRL) basically sided with the school board, saying they thought what we were doing was appropriate," said school board president Jim Fitzgerald.

According to the SDDLRL report the *Press & Dakotan* received Monday, the issues presented to the department included, but were not limited to, the following:

- The YEA has proposed increasing salaries 3.5 percent to address the salary freeze experienced during the previous two contract years. The district has proposed a 2.25 percent increase due to current financial concerns, also noting that YSD salaries are currently competitive. The bachelor's degree base salary was the highest in the state last year, the master's degree base salary was eighth and overall average teacher salaries were sixth.

- The YEA claimed an informal understanding was breached when YSD changed insurance costs and benefits without its input. The YEA

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
**Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton) dons a historic hat to during his appearance at Yankton's Rotary Club Tuesday to promote the community's involvement in South Dakota's 125th anniversary celebration.**

## Having A Ball

### Yankton Set To Host Event Nov. 2 To Kick Off South Dakota's 125th Anniversary Celebration

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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The Yankton kick-off for a year-long celebration of South Dakota becoming a state 125 years ago will be a ball, and organizers hope a lot of people join in the fun.

A 125th Birthday Inaugural Ball will be held at the Riverfront Event Center in downtown Yankton Saturday, Nov. 2.

"It's really cool to do something like this in Yankton on such short notice. People have come together

so well," said Rep. Bernie Hunhoff (D-Yankton) during an appearance at the Yankton Rotary Club meeting Tuesday. "We couldn't do it without the can-do attitude of the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce."

Hunhoff is part of a state committee appointed last summer by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to plan events for the quasiquintennial.

He said prior to attending one of those committee meetings, Yankton resident Kay James suggested that, as the "Mother City of the Dakotas," Yankton should

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## Corner Crash In County



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
**Emergency responders were called to an accident around 4 p.m. Tuesday when a vehicle heading east on 309th Street allegedly ran a stop sign and collided with a vehicle traveling along 451st Avenue north of Gayville. According to the Yankton County Sheriff's Office, two adults and a juvenile were taken to the hospital. In addition to the sheriff's office, Gayville Fire and Rescue, the Yankton Fire Department and the South Dakota Highway Patrol were at the scene.**

## Local Groups Provide Mental Health Services, Advocacy

BY ROB NIELSEN AND

NATHAN JOHNSON

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Mental health service providers from around the Yankton area are hoping this week's observance of National Mental Illness Awareness Week (also known as National Mental Health Awareness Week) will serve as a teaching tool for the citizens of Yankton.

MaryBeth Kafka, a child and family therapist at Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services

(LCBHS), said the main goal of the week is to help people learn more about the issues associated with mental well-being.

"(The week's purpose) is to get the word out about mental health for a better understanding," Kafka said. "A mental illness can effect anyone."

Added Ric Compton, the South Dakota Human Services Center (HSC) administrator, "It can't be emphasized enough how important mental health is to overall health and well-being. It's such a critical

issue, not only for people's health but their overall outlook. There are a lot of ways to look at mental health, and I think the mental health wellness aspect of it is not always looked at in the same was as other aspects."

LCBHS provides a multitude of health services for the greater Yankton area, Kafka said. With additional facilities in Vermillion and Lake Andes, it serves seven counties. Services include drug and alcohol counseling, children's services, outpatient services and

the CARE Club program, meant to give individuals with mental disabilities a chance to come to together in a group setting to improve consumer and coping skills. LCBHS also administers the Cedar Village Assisted Living Facility, opened in 2003, which provides permanent housing for individuals made homeless due to severe mental illness.

Compton said one of the biggest challenges he sees for patients is

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## Strombeck 'Blasts Off' The Airwaves

### Wins National Radio Award For Single Stream Webcaster

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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Colin Strombeck has won a national radio award and developed an international following, but you won't find him anywhere on the dial.

The Tripp native and University of South Dakota graduate serves as the founder, program director and president of The Blast Ministries and The Blast.FM, an Internet-only station based in Sioux Falls. He founded The Blast Ministries in November 2005 in preparation for the Jan. 1, 2007, "blast-off" of TheBlast.FM at the stroke of midnight.

He operated the station out of the basement of his home until Easter weekend 2009, when it moved to the Falls Church that his family attends. If all goes as planned, Strombeck plans to "blast off" next Jan. 1 with a second progressive Christian music Internet radio station.

Last month, the Blast won international honors in Orlando, Fla., at the RAIN Internet Radio Awards. The Blast won in the category



COURTESY PHOTO

**Tripp native and University of South Dakota graduate Colin Strombeck, who founded the BLAST.FM Christian radio station, displays the trophy that his Internet-only station received during the RAIN Internet Radio Awards in Orlando.**

of "Best Single Stream Webcaster."

At first, Strombeck nearly didn't enter the competition.

"We had been trying to win the award for four years. We finished in the top five in 2011

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## Union Co. Fatal Crash Holds Unknown Cause Of Death

From P&D Staff Reports

ELK POINT — A Canistota man was found dead after his semi-truck left Interstate 29, traveled through a cornfield and came to rest on a gravel road in Union County, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Gerald Fry, 66, was traveling southbound on Interstate 29 when, for an unknown reason, his 2011 Volvo semi-truck left the roadway to the left. The vehicle crossed the median and north bound lanes of the interstate highway and entered a cornfield to the east of Interstate 29, five miles north of Elk Point.

Once in the cornfield, the semi-truck traveled for approximately one mile before it encountered the steep ditch embankment of 473rd Ave. His semi-truck crossed the gravel road and the trailer became high-centered, bringing the vehicle to rest.

Fry was wearing a seatbelt. It appears Fry may have suffered from a medical emergency prior to the crash, which was possibly the cause of the crash, according to the patrol's news release. Fry was deceased when medical emergency first responders arrived at the scene.

An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death, according to authorities. No further information is immediately available.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating. Union County Sheriff's Office Elk Point Police Dept. and Elk Point Fire and Rescue assisted.

## SPORTS



### Gazelles Fall To Huron In Four Sets ■ 8

