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**Former Tourism Sec. Found  
Dead Near Lake Andes**

PIERRE (AP) — A former South Dakota state tourism director has died of a gunshot. Richard Benda was Secretary of Tourism and State Development from 2006 to 2010 under former Gov. Mike Rounds.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard put out a statement Tuesday saying Benda was found earlier in the day near Lake Andes, in southeast South Dakota. Daugaard expressed his condolences to friends and family.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says it's standard procedure to investigate such a death. He says there will be an autopsy and investigators will collect evidence from the scene and interview any witnesses to determine if it was an accident, suicide or a crime.

Jackley says the body was found at a grove of trees.



Benda

# The Rain Game

## Recent Moisture Slowing Corn, Soybean Harvests

BY DIRK LAMMERS  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Weeks of rainfall in the Dakotas have been slowing this year's corn and soybean harvests, as farmers are being forced to wait for their muddy fields to dry out.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest crop reports show that South Dakota farmers have harvested 75 percent of their soybean fields, while the harvest was 54 percent complete in North Dakota. Last year at this time, soybean crops in both states were fully harvested.

Scott Gauslow, who farms 2,500 acres of corn and soybeans about 25 miles south of Fargo, N.D., said he hasn't been able to get into his muddy fields for about two weeks. Gauslow, chairman of the North Dakota Soybean Council,

said farmers are dealing with equipment getting stuck in fields.

"It's just been continuous rain," Gauslow said. "It's not conducive to harvest."

Last week's precipitation left about 2.4 days of fieldwork in North Dakota and 2.5 days in South Dakota, according to the reports.

The corn harvest also is lagging behind last year's pace and the five-year average. The harvest was 31 percent complete in South Dakota, while North Dakota's corn harvest has reached 14 percent. In North Dakota, much of the state experienced a hard frost on Oct. 15, and temperatures for the week averaged 2 to 6 degrees below normal.

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## U Officials Respond To Taunting Incident

From P&D Staff Reports

VERMILLION — In response to an incident during the University of South Dakota's (USD) homecoming parade earlier this month, USD President James Abbott said Tuesday that the school will not tolerate insensitive remarks and rude treatment of minority groups on campus.



Abbott

Abbott joined the USD President's Council on Diversity & Inclusiveness co-chairs Beth Boyd and Jerry Yutrzenka in issuing a statement after the council met to

hear from American Indian student Alexis Oskolkoff. Oskolkoff had previously informed the school that students on a float at the Oct. 5 parade taunted her and her 9-year-old son for their tribal dance regalia.

"The University of South Dakota supports an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, appreciated and recognized as a source of strength," the statement said.

Oskolkoff, 30, a senior majoring in anthropology and Native Studies, told the *Argus Leader* newspaper last week that the students made an inappropriate comment and gestures regarding her and her son's race.

"(My son) was really upset," she said. "You could tell it hurt his feelings. I shouted at them so they stopped. I mean, I'm used to having racial things said to me. But when it comes to my son, I put my foot down."

Boyd and Yutrzenka said in a

## Fixes In The Works



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The Auld-Brokaw Trail south of Yankton's wastewater treatment plant was damaged a couple years ago when a sinkhole formed over an outfall pipe. City officials hope the trail can be fixed next spring.

## Yankton's Infrastructure Flood Plans Taking Longer Than Expected

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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Yankton's plans to build a lift station, an outfall pipe and repair a recreational trail have taken longer to materialize than expected, according to the city's environmental services director.

Kyle Goodman said the projects have been delayed while the details of the Highway 50 reconstruction project are finalized.

Late last year, the City of Yankton was awarded \$2,069,600 by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) through its Disaster Relief Opportunity Program. The program is aimed at creating resiliency against future flooding events and, in this case, was in response to the Missouri River flood of 2011.

As part of the agreement, Yankton must provide a 20 percent match equaling \$517,400.

The city applied for the money in order to improve the outfall piping system from the wastewater treatment plant and replace two lift stations along East Highway 50.

Rather than restoring the outfall pipe with a standard one, Goodman said it will be improved with a box structure that will allow valves to be shut. It will also have temporary pumps to let water out.

The collapse of the soil around the outfall pipe a couple years ago has disrupted the recreational trail south of the wastewater treatment plant.

The high water levels in 2011 also led to sink holes near the city's two aging lift stations along East Highway 50. Additionally, the structures had capacity issues.

A single, larger lift station will be built near Vishay-Dale Electronics.

"Until we can bid the lift station project, we can't bid the outfall pipe," Goodman said. "If we're going to cut some funding on anything, it's going to be on the outfall pipe."

He said the expected cost of the outfall pipe came in higher than anticipated.

"We're not sure where the forced main from the lift

PLANS | PAGE 12

## Slowed Hiring Likely To Linger

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The uncertainty and weakness that hung over the U.S. job market in September before the government shut down aren't going away.

Employers will likely remain slow to hire as long as the economy struggles to accelerate, consumers limit their spending and Congress keeps putting off a resolution to a budget fight that will resurface early next year.

Just a few months ago, many economists predicted that hiring would pick up by year's end as the effects of tax increases and government spending cuts that kicked in this year faded.

No longer. The September jobs report made clear that hiring isn't strengthening. It's slowing.

Employers last month added 148,000 jobs, a steep drop from the 193,000 gained in August. From January through March, job growth averaged 207,000 jobs a month. For April through June, the average was 182,000. For July through September, it was just 143,000.

"We had assumed that the headwinds would dissipate, but in fact they didn't," says Doug Handler, an economist at IHS Global Insight.

What's more, the 16-day partial shutdown of the government, which began Oct. 1, will likely further depress hiring for October. That's because government contractors and other companies affected by the shutdown imposed temporary layoffs.

And the budget battles that led

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## Oktoberfest To Be Celebrated In Menno

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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MENNO — It's time for Oktoberfest in Menno. This Saturday the town will be hosting its annual ethnic celebration of food, music and dancing Saturday Oct. 26.

The event will take place at the Menno School Auditorium. The meal will begin at 6 p.m. with a live band, the Bumble Bees, taking the stage around 8:30 p.m.

The organization tasked with setting the event up is the Sodak Stamm Germans from Russia Heritage Society

(GRHS). Group president Gary Jerke said the festival, celebrating it's 30th year in Menno, started off small.

"It started many years ago with just a small gathering with some homemade foods," Jerke said.

Today the celebration routinely attracts nearly 500 patrons each year.

Jerke said there has been a lot of evolution in the Oktoberfest celebration in Menno. At one point it was even used to help teach German youths from beyond the recently fallen Iron Curtain.

"We had groups from Germany that

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## Crunch Time



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

One person was reported injured in a two-vehicle accident on Highway 81 north of Yankton at approximately 7:45 p.m. Tuesday night. This car sustained heavy damage to its rear end and wound up in the ditch on the west side of the road. The Yankton County Sheriff's Office, firefighters and emergency responders were on the scene. No other information was available at press time.

## INSIDE



## American Profile

