

Assaults

From Page 1A

As of a noon press conference on Thursday no arrests have been made, and the investigation is ongoing.

"In any case like this we are going to talk to anyone with information on the case," Passick said. "That is going to include victims, friends of victims, suspects and persons of interest. We have a need to get as much information as we can so we can provide the best services for the victims we can and ultimately get justice for the victims."

Passick said he believes everyone has been cooperating with the investigation.

He added that through the course of the investigation it has not been determined if the two incidents were related, but due to the timing it is being looked into.

"I think it is an unusual situation that they both occurred in a short amount of time - we don't usually see that," Passick said. "With that said we do experience sexual assaults throughout the year fairly regularly. As to if they are related, I don't know. But it is something we are going to follow up on."

"Based on our assessment of the events and the activities surrounding them, we feel that the community is at no more risk today than it was a week ago," he added.

Passick stated that it is important to continue to provide services to the victims after the report in cases like this. As for if they are in any

more danger because they reported the assaults he could not comment.

University of South Dakota officials said they are very concerned about the two incidents and felt it was in the best interest of students to let them know what was going on, which was why they issued an alert to all students on Wednesday.

"Our first priority is the safety of our students and people in our campus community," said USD President James W. Abbott. "We don't want to panic people, but at the same time we have a responsibility to make people aware of a possible safety concern."

Tena Haraldson, director of Marketing Communications and University Relations at USD said when campus police found out about the incidents on Wednesday, campus officials began the deliberation on issuing the alert.

"We kind of looked at the factors of whether it was a safety concern that the students needed to be aware of and when President Abbott made that decision, the alert was issued," she said. "It is an automatic system that the board of regents has and it goes to whatever devices people have registered with us as their contact devices. It may have in some cases even gone to some parents, because if students have given their parents' number that might be in there, too."

Haraldson said even though the assaults have occurred, she still believes that students are incredibly safe on USD's campus.

"We have one of the safest campuses in the United

States for a state run university," she said. "But we don't want that the lull people into thinking these situations never happen. You have to exercise good judgement. I hope students learn from this that there safety is partly their responsibility, as well. Drugs and alcohol often can impair judgement and lead to situations that you are not in and that we have to watch out for each other. Friends have to watch out for their friends and step in if they see a situation developing. Those are all things that we try to encourage our students to do. We realize that every situation is different, but we hope that this will just make them more alert."

Currently, all board of regent operated schools in South Dakota are in the process of implementing a new Title 9 program on safety, Haraldson said.

"We have a program that the board of regents is implementing where everyone is taking classes learning about Title 9 and about safety," she said. "We will have a consultant coming to campus sometime this school year to look at our policies and procedures to help us meet all the federal requirements, as far as that goes. We are taking steps. We hear about this elsewhere and we don't want to hear about it in Vermillion. Unfortunately, this time we did."

Haraldson added she believes the two victims coming forward was very important.

"If these women hadn't come forward and this hadn't been reported we wouldn't have been able to alert the rest of campus and would not

be able to teach people to be safer," she said. "We can use this to show people that they can call campus police. If they are afraid to do that we have community assistants in every residence hall. We have a counseling center on campus where people can go. They can always call the dean of student's office and she will personally offer assistance to the students who have fears or concerns. She does that on almost a daily basis for different reasons. Just about everywhere you look here on campus, there is someone who can help."

USD officials and campus police will be assisting the Vermillion Police in any way possible, Haraldson said.

Passick added that he did not believe the assaults were tied to homecoming.

"We have nothing to suggest that homecoming week had anything to do with this," he said. "We encourage some baseline precautions. It is the same precautions that we give day in and day out. This is a good reminder to take steps to stay safe yourself. No matter how safe a community is, these types of events occur everywhere. It is a good idea to take the safety precautions seriously. ... The bottom line is just to remain alert, remain alert to anything that makes your gut feel not quite right. Avoid dark areas, use the buddy system and check up on each other. We hope to inspire trust in the justice system. If something does happen to you, something that is not right, we are here as a resource to provide the services we can."

Grant

From Page 1A

long-time leaseholder, the Napa-Platte regional railroad authority.

Dakota Southern also holds the lease on the state-owned line known as the Mitchell-Rapid City or MRC.

The MRC line has been rehabilitated from Mitchell to Chamberlain. The latest project is rebuilding the line from Chamberlain over the Missouri River to Presho.

The decision by the state Transportation Commission on Thursday to invest in the Yankton County project marked the next step by the state Department of Transportation to assist development along the Napa-Platte line.

The state commission voted 7-0 to authorize Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist to proceed on the \$6 million loan agreement with the Yankton County Commission.

"We have never done a 100 percent state-fund loan in the past," Bergquist said.

But there have been loans made from a federally funded program "numerous times," he said.

Cargill and Agrex are partners in Dakota Plains Ag

Center, which also has a business at Parkston.

The companies plan to invest \$35 million to \$40 million in constructing a Dakota Plains facility including a loop track for loading trains with grain.

The center also would receive agricultural supplies for area producers.

Tobin Morris of Dougherty and Co. helped put the package together for the county and Dakota Plains.

Yankton County would use a tax-increment financing district to repay the state loan. The terms are 1 percent interest for 20 years, with a 10-year balloon payment.

The loan agreement calls for Yankton County to repay the loan.

Morris told the state commission that Dakota Plains alone won't generate sufficient taxes to repay the county's loan and therefore more development will be needed in the park to raise more from taxes.

If the county can't fully cover the amount, the state commission would take the county's share of state transportation funding, according to the terms discussed Thursday.

Morris said Dakota Plains and the county commission have a memorandum of understanding that calls for the company to finish repaying

the loan if necessary.

State commission members asked many questions but gradually warmed to the state-loan concept Thursday.

"We can build a road and get the money back and build another road," commission member Rod Foulberg of Aberdeen said.

The State Railroad Board routinely makes low-interest loans for rail improvement projects.

State commission chairman Don Roby of Watertown said he now considers the highway loans to be a new policy rather than a new program.

"We're kind of working within existing programs," Roby said. He added that he doesn't expect "a run on the bank" and the Yankton project has good credit behind it.

Roby said the situation involving Yankton County and Dakota Plains regarding who pays for the \$6 million road reminded him of being at the swimming pool.

"Nobody wants to go off the high board first," he said.

The state commission vice chairman, Tim Dougherty of Stouxs Falls, said the loan policy is for people who have no other options.

"The goal here is not to make money. It's to create roads for economic development," Dougherty said.

Commissioner Kyle White of Rapid City agreed with Dougherty.

"This is basically temporary, is the way I'm hearing it," White said. "I like the idea of the project and its regional impacts."

Two members of the Yankton County Commission spoke to the state commission.

Debra Bodenstedt said she decided to run for a seat last year after attending a meeting where the county commissioners considered the Napa junction development.

"What I found at the meeting was embarrassing to me and completely disheartening," Bodenstedt said.

Yankton County voters elected four new commissioners last November. Three incumbents lost.

"We were voted in, in my opinion, to help develop Yankton County," Bodenstedt said.

Another of the new members, chairman Todd Woods, said he's seen "numerous opportunities" leave Yankton in recent years.

Woods said the Dakota Plains matter led to him running for office.

"I see this as an excellent opportunity," Woods said. "I see this project as a great way to develop our community economically, which will benefit our citizens."

Shooting

From Page 1A

received a call from the 300 block of Mulberry St. that a domestic assault had taken place. Upon arrival, officers found two victims — a male and a female — injured in the residence. The victims told officers Angel, who had fled the scene, had perpetrated the assault.

While at the assault scene, Yankton Police Dispatch received a 911 call from Angel who told officers he had committed the assault and intended to kill himself. He told them he had a gun and fired a single round to prove it. Officers then went to Angel's residence nearby and were initially unable to locate him.

At this time, a third 911 call came from a female individual that a male matching Angel's description had attempted to carjack them. An officer called Angel's cell phone in an attempt to persuade Angel to turn himself in following this incident, during which the subject told the officer he

wanted to shoot every police officer he saw and that he wanted to die.

Yankton dispatch then made a request for assistance from any other law enforcement officers in the area. Response included officers from the South Dakota Highway Patrol (SDHP), South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks (GFP) and South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).

Additional YPD officers were summoned to duty, including Foote, who was scheduled to go on duty later in the evening. As officers responded, several sightings of Angel were reported. On two occasions, Angel pointed a handgun at officers — a SDHP sergeant and a YPD sergeant — during which no shots were fired and Angel continued to flee.

The search was eventually reduced to the 300 block of Pine St. in the downtown district. According to the report, at this time, Sgt. Foote and a GFP officer began a foot search within the perimeter. The pair searched a couple vehicles, dark corners and a dumpster in an alleyway behind an apartment building,

Both officers turned to the north as a third officer was trying to tell them something.

The two officers then noticed Angel walking towards them from the north. Angel raised his arm with a handgun pointed in their direction and aimed at one of the officers.

Angel ignored verbal commands and, at 9:57 p.m., Foote fired a single round at the suspect, striking him in the lower right abdomen. After securing the weapon, officers rendered medical attention until an ambulance could arrive. Meanwhile, Foote was taken to the police department to await DCI agents and the start of the investigation.

Foote was placed on administrative leave for the investigation, which included interviews with and toxicology screens of the suspect, Foote and other officers involved.

The conclusion in the report was that Foote acted appropriately in the situation.

Angel was charged with four counts of attempted murder in the first degree, four counts of aggravated assault against a law enforcement officer and one count of aggravated assault. The

charges of attempted murder and aggravated assault against a law enforcement officer each carry a 25-year maximum sentence with up to \$50,000 in fines each, while the separate aggravated assault charge carries a 15-year maximum sentence with up to \$30,000 in fines.

During his arraignment Sept. 14, Angel pleaded not guilty.

YPD Chief Brian Paulsen told the *Press & Dakotan* Thursday that the report came out as he'd anticipated.

"We were pretty confident from the start that it was a justified shooting and that DCI would do a very thorough report," Paulsen said. "We're glad that they were able to assist us."

Paulsen added that Foote is doing well and he will be back on patrol soon.

"He's been on administrative duty working within the office," he said. "He'll start working his way back up to the street and working a squad just like he had been prior to the event."

Follow @RobNielsenPandD on Twitter.

Governors Make Friendly Bet On Game

BISMARCK (AP) — North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple and South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard have made a friendly wager on the outcome of this weekend's football matchup between North Dakota State University and South Dakota State University.

If SDSU wins, Dalrymple will make a \$100 charitable donation to the Children's Home Society of South Dakota.

If NDSU wins, Daugaard will make a \$100 donation to the Imagination Library early childhood reading program.

The Bison and Jackrabbits square off at 6 p.m. Central time in Brookings, South Dakota. The game will be televised on Midco Sports Network, NBC North Dakota and ESPN3.

Former Police Chief Pleads Not Guilty

BURKE (AP) — A former police chief in South Dakota has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in the 2009 death of his fiancée.

Defense attorney Clint Sargent says a trial date for 63-year-old Russell Ray Bertram hasn't been set.

Bertram served as Harrisburg police chief until 2004.

Bertram was indicted for killing 26-year-old Leonila Stickney after officials initially believed she died in an accidental shooting.

The Division of Criminal Investigation took over the inquiry as a cold case in 2010.

Sara Rabern, a spokeswoman for Attorney General Marty Jackley, has said the discovery of additional evidence by a cold case investigator led to Bertram's arrest, but she has declined to provide any details.

Survey Gives Sign Of Midwest Slowdown

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A second straight monthly survey of nine Midwest and Plains states shows signs that the regional economy is slowing down, according to a report issued Thursday.

The overall Mid-American Business Conditions Index dropped to 47.7 last month, compared with 49.6 in August, the report said.

"The strong U.S. dollar and global economic weakness are having a negative impact on manufacturers and businesses linked to manufacturing in the region," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey. He also said weak crop prices and energy prices have harmed the regional economy.

Economic optimism for the next six months, as reflected by September business confidence index, fell to 47.7 from 52.4 in July.

The survey results from supply managers are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The regional employment gauge plunged last month to 42.6 from 52.0 in August.

"Industries and areas dependent on agriculture and energy are experiencing cuts. For example, metal producers and agricultural equipment manufacturers continue to report job losses," Goss said.

The new export orders index also dropped, hitting 42.4 in September, compared with 50.0 in August. The import index for September increased to 48.9 from August's 47.9.

"The strong U.S. dollar, making U.S. goods less competitively priced abroad, and a weaker global economy hampered new export orders for the month," Goss said. "On the other hand, weaker regional growth and lower oil prices again pushed the import index below growth neutral for the month."

Director Of Rally Is Stepping Down

STURGIS (AP) — The director of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is leaving her job with the city.

Brenda Vasknetz says she's exploring new options after working for 27 years with the city, the last seven as director of the annual rally. Her last day with the city is Oct. 12.

The annual rally draws hundreds of thousands of people to western South Dakota's Black Hills. It celebrated its 75th anniversary this summer.

City Manager Daniel Ainslie says Vasknetz has done an admirable job working through the challenges that the rally presents.

The city will begin searching for a new rally director in the coming weeks.

Supreme Court Agrees To Hear Appeal

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Attorney General's Office says the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear its appeal on a ruling that would let the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska collect a liquor tax on business owners in the northeast Nebraska city of Pender.

A three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in May upheld a federal district judge's February ruling that said Pender is inside the Omaha Reservation and subject to the tribe's liquor regulations.

Those regulations require licenses for businesses that sell alcohol and a 10 percent tax on alcohol purchases. A group of Pender retailers sued in federal court in 2007, arguing that they should not be subject to the tribe's regulations, because the land upon which their businesses sat is not part of the reservation.

Crews Clean Up Contaminated Sites

COLUMBUS, Neb. (AP) — A \$3.4 million cleanup effort has begun at three sites linked to groundwater contamination in Columbus.

As of Wednesday morning, one of three buildings had already been demolished. Prudent Technologies, based in Kansas City, was hired as the main contractor, will continue working with local contractors to demolish the other buildings over the coming weeks.

The remediation project is the result of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordering the city to control a plume of tainted groundwater that originated more than 30 years ago on the former dry, cleaner properties, the *Columbus Telegram* reported.

The families of Ernest Aune and Gloria Lippert wish to express our sincere gratitude to our family and friends for all your many acts of kindness since the loss of our dear loved ones. For all the cards, memorials, flowers, food that was brought to our homes, words of comfort and especially for all of your prayers, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

A special thank you to The Hansen Funeral Home of Irene and to the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home of Yankton for your compassion and guidance in making arrangements and coordinating times so we could have Dad's and Gloria's services on the same day. You helped to make this overwhelming time for our family more bearable. Thank you to Pastor Mark Ostrom of Calvary Lutheran Church in Irene for Dad's lovely service and the men and women of the congregation who served the great lunch. Thank you to Pastor Rod Veldhuizen of Riverview Reformed Church in Yankton for your many visits with Gloria and Dean while Gloria was in the hospital and nursing home. You and all of her church family were a very important part of her life. Thank you for the beautiful service and to all that brought food and worked in the kitchen to serve a lunch fitting for "the Queen of Cooking" and to Mike McDonald for your special music at Dad's and Gloria's service.

There will never be enough words to thank the staff of Avera Yankton Care Center for the excellent care that Dad and Gloria received while in your care. A special thank you to Peg and Megan for the compassion showed to Gloria and our family as you cared for all of us while she was in hospice. To all of Gloria's friends and family who visited many times a week, brought gifts, called and sent cards in the two short months she was sick. You gave her so much more... you gave her love, hope, laughs and great conversation, which meant more than you'll ever know.

God Bless you, Dorothy, Mary, Nancy, Dave, Dean, Jessine, Amy, Allen, Denny, Jan and all of our families.

Two limbs have fallen from our family tree. We keep hearing their voices that say, "Grieve not for me. Remember the best times, the laughter, the song. The good life we lived while we were strong. Continue our heritage, we're counting on you. Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through. Our minds are at ease, our souls are at rest. Remembering all, how we truly were blessed. Continue traditions, no matter how small. Go on with your lives, don't worry about falls. We miss you all dearly so keep up your chins. Until the day comes we're together again."

Colleges In Rapid City, Yankton Planning Building Projects

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Two colleges on opposite sides of South Dakota are planning building projects.

In Rapid City, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is starting work on a \$6 million upgrade to its chemistry building. In Yankton, officials recently launched a \$750,000 fundraising campaign to create an alumni center for Yankton College on the third floor of an existing building.

The renovation of the School of Mines Chemical and Biological Engineering Building will include classroom and lab upgrades, new labs and a new

glass facade. It's being financed mainly through student tuition.

"Students love the feel of a new or renovated building," applied biological sciences student Jin Kim told the *Rapid City Journal*. "It really allows students to really gain experience in a new lab setting."

Yankton College hasn't held classes for decades, but it still functions as a staffed and incorporated nonprofit with a board of trustees and a president.

An alumni and education center would be used to store memorabilia and provide space for reunions. The

fundraising is being coordinated by the Yankton College Alumni and the Yankton County Historical Society, which already have raised more than \$325,000, according to the *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan*.

"Our major goal is to take occupancy as soon as possible, to continue moving our treasures from where we are now, and then making the process of moving in just like moving into a new home," said Joan Neubauer, president of the historical society and chairwoman of the Yankton College Alumni board of trustees.