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Volume 140
Number 158

The Dakotas' Oldest Newspaper | **14 PAGES** | www.yankton.net

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GEAR UP Review Identifies Changes

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The state Department of Education released a consultant's report Wednesday suggesting changes to help more American Indian students with their parents' support decide to pursue college or technical school after high school.

The Government Research Bureau at the University of South Dakota conducted the evaluation of the South Dakota GEAR UP program for the department.

State Education Secretary Melody Schopp requested the review after questions arose about management of the program by Mid Central Education Cooperative at Platte.

The report's executive summary said:

"There were several challenges that were noted including increasing the integration of SD GEAR UP into the rest of the schools, administrative and teaching staff turnovers, students competing priorities—es-

UP | PAGE 12

Public Plans



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle addresses audience members in a public meeting Wednesday discussing the results of the Crane Youngworth/Williams field community survey. The results are a collaboration of adults and students over the past few months. This community input, along with the pending results of a comprehensive facilities study, will decide where the Yankton School District will make improvements in both athletic and educational facilities.

Kindle: YSD Improvement Process Taking Detailed Steps

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
alissa.woockman@yankton.net

Yankton School District's Crane Youngworth/Williams Field survey results are part of a much larger plan for future analysis, school officials said Wednesday.

YSD held a public meeting at the Yankton High School theatre to report the results and provide an opportunity for community members to discuss those results.

The results were first released at the October school board meeting and have been available online for public viewing.

Wednesday's public meeting reiterated those results and informed community members of the school board's next steps. This includes conducting a comprehensive facilities study to be presented at the April school board meeting by the architectural firm TSP.

Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle reassured audience members of YSD's efforts to include the public in the coming decisions.

"The important piece of all this is that we are going to take our time doing it," he said. "We are going to go building by building and we are going to have a lot of input."

The importance of this study stems not only from decisions regarding athletics, but also concerns of educational facilities.

Beadle Elementary School is reaching 90 years old, he noted. The other elementary schools are also aging. There have been multiple improvements done in all of these buildings over the years, but Kindle knows there is nothing wrong with taking an extra look.

"We are looking at some ages facilities," he said. "We have done a really good job so far

SURVEY | PAGE 12

Is SD In The Slow Lane?

Economy's Slow Growth Is Not Promising For State

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The pace quickened a tad for South Dakota's economy during recent months, after slow growth for the past year, state government's chief economist said Wednesday.

Jim Terwilliger told members of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers that state sales tax revenue was up 5 percent so far for the 2016 fiscal year that began July 1.

That was better news after a sluggish fiscal 2015 that ended June 30 with sales tax revenue up 2.2 percent.

Terwilliger is a member of the state Bureau of Finance and Management staff that is gathering information for Gov. Dennis Daugaard to make his 2017 budget recommendations.

The governor's budget speech to the Legislature is scheduled for Dec. 8.

Terwilliger said the 2017 budget would have a deficit of \$32.6 million if nothing changed from where it stood Wednesday. That won't be the final proposal the Legislature gets.

"We've got about three weeks left," he said.

Right now the 2017 recommendations call for a 2.1 percent increase in state payments to health care providers and an inflationary increase of 0.3 percent in state aid to schools.

The governor also plans to support a \$5.3 million buy-down of tuition for resident students at the state universities and public technical institutes.

Helping offset slow growth in the economy would be a \$21 million reduction in state government's share of Medicaid payments.

A task force appointed by Daugaard to study

ECONOMY | PAGE 12

Yankton

NPS Seeks Public Input On Properties

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public input — without much success at this point — on managing three pieces of NPS-owned property in northeast Nebraska.

NPS officials have received little one-on-one contact so far during this week's public forums. Only five people — including three media representatives — attended Wednesday's presentation in Yankton. The same number attended Tuesday's open house and presentation in Wynot, Nebraska.

The final open house will be held from 5-7 p.m. today (Thursday) at the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion. The formal presentation begins at 5:30 p.m.

The National Park Service opened its 30-day comment period Oct. 20 and will take emails or written comments until Nov. 18.

"We really want to hear what people think," said NPS biologist

Brian Korman of Yankton.

The Missouri National Recreation River (MNRR) proposal covers Green Island, Bow Creek Recreation Area and Mulberry Bend, located within Cedar and Knox counties. The management plan would cover 60 acres at Green Island, 205 acres at Bow Creek Recreation Area and 31 acres at Mulberry Bend.

"This (plan) addresses only these 300 acres that the NPS has title to," Korman said. "We're getting questions about other sites, but this (proposal) doesn't address public or private lands not owned by the National Park Service."

The current process should benefit the public in a number of ways, said MNRR Superintendent Rick Clark.

"We've owned the property for about 10 years," he said. "Now, we're looking at short- and long-



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

National Park Service biologist Brian Korman discussed management proposals for three area properties — Green Island, the Bow Creek Recreation Area and Mulberry Bend — during an open house at Yankton Fire Station No. 2 Wednesday.

NPS | PAGE 12

New Group Wants To Work In Tandem With Onward Yankton

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

Startup Yankton is looking at how it can contribute to the goals of Onward Yankton's big idea and pitching its services to the group.

Startup founders Ben Hanten and Tony Maibaum were on hand during a meeting of the Onward Yankton committee Wednesday to offer their input on helping the Onward project's goal of making Yankton a center of entrepreneurship.

"Startup Yankton is an entrepreneur-led group and we hope to kind of put some meat to what (Onward Yankton is) hoping to accomplish with making Yankton the capital of entrepreneurship," Hanten said.

He said one of the keys is defining just what an entrepreneur is.

"Entrepreneur — itself, the word has some problems," he said. "People wonder if they fit into that world, so we think we need to come up with a basic definition of what an entrepreneur is. For us, we've said anybody who's been in business, or is starting a business, — that business being five years old or less — has less than 50 employees and has the potential to scale."

ONWARD | PAGE 12

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TOMORROW: River City Serves Up Some Spooky Tales

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