



# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

VOLUME 138 NUMBER 116

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

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## Congress Returns For Session

### Focus Is On Spending Bill; Farm Bill Still In Doubt

BY ANDREW TAYLOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress returned to Washington on Monday for an abbreviated pre-election session in which it appears likely to do the bare minimum: making sure that the government doesn't shut down.

Almost everything else of consequence, most notably a set of automatic, economy-rattling spending cuts and tax increases that have been dubbed a "fiscal cliff," will get put off until a postelection lame duck session — and maybe beyond.

Top lawmakers unveiled a six-month spending

bill that would finance the government's day-to-day operations until next March to give the next Congress and whoever occupied the White House time to work out a final solution on more than \$1 trillion in annual spending for the Pentagon and other Cabinet departments.

Typically such temporary funding bills, known in Washington parlance as continuing resolutions, or CRs, freeze spending at current levels. But the measure released Monday actually allows for a 0.6 percent increase to every program to keep pace with a slight increase in spending permitted by "caps" set by last summer's hard-fought budget and debt accord.

The 2012 budget year ends on Sept. 30. But not a

single one of the 12 annual agency appropriations bills has become law, requiring lawmakers to step in with the stopgap funding measure to avoid a disastrous partial shutdown of the government.

Just a handful of high priority programs would be awarded larger increases, including a government cybersecurity initiative, wildfire suppression efforts, a drive to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal and processing of veteran disability claims. A popular initiative to repair the dome of the Capitol was left unfunded, however, despite a high-profile push by Senate Democrats.

The House is to vote on the six-month spending bill Thursday, and it appears set to pass easily, even though many tea party conservatives are upset that

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D  
Sister Consuelo Chavez, shown here in a 2006 photo, stands outside Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton. The Benedictine Sister, who died Thursday at age 90 from pancreatic cancer, provided a lifetime of service, particularly for the local Hispanic community.

## Nun's Passing Ends Era For Hispanic Community

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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In 1993, Sister Consuelo Chavez responded to a call for a translator to assist the Yankton Police Department with a Spanish-speaking prisoner.

The call launched her ministry as interpreter for the local Hispanic community. Her work took her to a variety of settings, including schools, medical clinics and legal settings.

The nun's lifetime of service ended last week, when she died Thursday at age 90 after battling pancreatic cancer. She passed away at Sacred Heart Monastery, which she had entered in 1941 and had made her first profession 1943.

The Benedictine Sister, herself of Hispanic descent, understood the area immigrants' needs and worries. Sometimes it was a job or housing. Other times, it was a call in the middle of the night for an emergency.

Emma Padron and her two young daughters considered the nun a true friend to Hispanics such as themselves.

"Sister Consuelo was always looking for ways to help people," Padron said. "She said, if you hadn't helped someone that day, it wasn't full and somehow not lived well."

But Sister Consuelo's ministry wasn't limited to Hispanics, Padron said. "Sister had a love for everyone. Regardless of their race or religion, she would help them out," she said. Sister Consuelo graduated from Mount Marty College and pursued a career in education. She also served as a missionary to Guatemala from 1965-72. After returning, she taught Spanish at MMC from 1973-93.

As a Spanish teacher at Yankton High School, Judy Tereshinski shared a bond with Sister Consuelo.

"Sister Consuelo was a fantastic woman. She gave of herself always — to her Sister community, to her MMC colleagues and to her Hispanic friends and neighbors. She was willing to go the extra mile at any time of day or night," Tereshinski said.

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## County Says No To More Bike Trail Work

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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The Yankton County Commission decided Monday to uphold a decision barring a construction company from finishing a bike trail along Deer Boulevard.

LRC, Inc., of Vermillion was awarded a \$276,000 bid to construct the trail from south of Highway 52 to the Missouri River in August 2010. Work commenced in 2011, and the trail was substantially completed.

However, the County Commission was not satisfied with the end result. One of the largest concerns is soft spots in the base that will likely lead to asphalt failure.

The commission voted unanimously last week to authorize the state's attorney to request a forfeiture of the \$76,000 performance bond for LRC on the bike trail project. Furthermore, commissioners asked that LRC be notified by registered letter that it was not to proceed with any work on the trail after 3:30 p.m. Sept. 5.

Yankton County State's Attorney Robert Klimisch said during a special meeting at noon Monday that he had spoken with Amy Powell, president of LRC. She had told him the company had planned to come today (Tuesday) to do the required asphalt work.

"I wanted this in front of the County Commission again to see if anybody wanted to reconsider having them get on the bike path and get this thing finished," Klimisch said. "My theory would be that everybody knows we're not going to get anything done this year unless they're the ones who finish it up. I know that, historically, they haven't complied with the requirements of the contract, and that's why we're where we are today. Giving them through the end of the week wouldn't (do) any harm to us. It could only be beneficial to us to have them finish it out. There would be no payments until we are satisfied."

Powell didn't return a message left by the *Press & Dakotan* at her office by press time Monday.

Commissioners were not as sure as Klimisch that no harm would be done by letting LRC return.

As part of the State of South Dakota's involvement in the project, it is stipulated that asphalt can't be placed after Sept. 15. The reason for that is the high temperatures that are ideal for placing asphalt.

"My feeling is, for the time they have, (LRC) are going to come in, rush to fill it, pack it and spray it," Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen said. "Then we're back to square one, and we're probably not going to be satisfied."

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## ON STRIKE



E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Teachers from Peck Elementary School protest outside a press conference by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel at Maranatha Church, a site hosting for the Safe Haven program, in Chicago, Illinois, Monday. Thousands of Chicago teachers walked off the job Monday over a contract dispute about evaluations and job security. For more coverage, see page 3.

## City Appoints Committee To Examine Sports Complex Consultant Proposals

BY NATHAN JOHNSON  
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The Yankton City Commission established a sub-committee Monday to examine the proposals put forth by five consultants for a sports complex feasibility study.

In July, the commission put out a request for proposals from consultants as a new home is sought for the Yankton Youth Soccer Association fields currently on Human Services Center property. The possibility of expanding the amount of space for other sports is also being considered.

The five firms that submitted proposals are: Stockwell Engineers of Sioux Falls with

a \$57,600 bid; RDG of Des Moines, Iowa, with a \$75,000 bid; FEH of Sioux City, Iowa, with a \$69,000-\$92,500 bid; Johnson Consulting of Chicago with a \$64,975 bid; and C,S & L International of Minneapolis with a \$79,000 bid.

Commissioners Charlie Gross, David Knoff and Craig Sommer, as well as Mayor Nancy Wenande, volunteered to serve on the committee. Interim City Manager Al Viereck and Parks and Recreation Director Todd Larson will also be involved. The group will read through the proposals to determine what services are being offered for the money and make a recommendation to the full City Commission.

"We're anticipating that we will bring this proposal forward for action on the evening of Sept. 24," Viereck said.

Judging from the past, the question of whether the commission will proceed with hiring a consultant is not a foregone conclusion. When deciding whether to put out a request for proposals, the measure was narrowly approved with a 4-3 vote.

During a media briefing Friday, Wenande said she believes the commission has an open mind on the sports complex issue and is trying to do its due diligence.

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ANDREW ATWAL / P&D

Devin Warren, Unit Director of the Yankton Boys and Girls Club spoke to the YSD School Board about expanding the relationship between the Club and YSD going forward. The Boys and Girls Club is hoping to have more facilities within YSD in the future.

## School Board OKs 2012-13 Budget

BY ANDREW ATWAL  
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The Yankton School District (YSD) school board unanimously approved the operating budget for the 2012-13 school year at its meeting on Monday.

The 2012-13 general fund budget of nearly \$14.9 million represents a reduction of over \$1.7 million, or a 10.6 percent decrease, compared to the 2011-12 adopted budget. The 2012-13 decrease to the general fund, compared to 2011-12, is primarily due to the utilization of health insurance reserves from

YSD's self-insurance fund, in addition to the reduction of positions.

In order to cut back, the district cut three teaching positions, a dean of students position, eliminated fifth grade coaching positions and froze the classified and administrative salaries for the third consecutive year, along with year two of pay freezes for certified coaching and advisory positions.

"All of those things really contributed to a big reduction in the general fund budget," said YSD Superintendent Dr. Joe Gertsema.

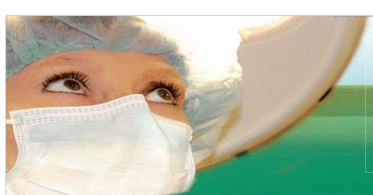
Jason Bietz, YSD Business Manager, added the budget has been

able to stay afloat by the district utilizing the health care reserves.

In addition to the general fund budget, the 2012-13 special education fund budget is a 2.8 percent decrease from the adopted 2011-12 budget. Like the general fund budget, the cuts come due to the utilizing of health insurance reserves.

"It's important to note that we are not funding health insurance out of the general fund budget," YSD School Board President Chris

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TOMORROW: Wagner Facilities Celebrate Ribbon Cutting

YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:  
**SOUTH**  
OF 15TH STREET