



Sunny

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SATURDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

# YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



PREP FOOTBALL: Bucks Bounce  
Brookings; Bloomfield Rolls To Win • 9



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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Gov. Dennis Daugaard is shown speaking at Sapa Extrusions in Yankton Thursday. While in town he also addressed questions from the media about healthcare coverage and related issues.

Daugaard:

## S.D. To Make Health Care Decisions Soon

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

[nathan.johnson@yankton.net](mailto:nathan.johnson@yankton.net)

Decisions related to South Dakota's involvement in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will be announced in coming weeks, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said during a visit to Yankton this week.

"We'll be waiting on some decisions about the (ACA) until after the (general) election so we can see what happens in terms of who is voted in or out," he told reporters while in the community Thursday for events at several manufacturing firms. "Some decisions we can make before then and will."

A decision that will likely be made in the next week is regarding the Essential Health Benefits coverage standard.

The ACA requires health plans offered in the individual and small group markets, both inside and outside of health insurance exchanges, to provide a comprehensive package of items and services. These are called Essential Health Benefits.

States have until Sept. 30 to choose a single benchmark plan.

"Each state will decide what is the bare minimum that must be provided on a health plan," Daugaard said. "We've been looking at that."

The state is also looking at vendors that can offer software to move Medicaid claim payments from a paper form to an electronic form, a transition that is required by the federal government. Daugaard said the work is complex and only a few vendors in the U.S. can do the task, making it challenging to get a competitive bid and to demand quality work.

"The federal government is paying 90 percent of the cost for the software package to do that," he stated. "We're in the process of getting it done, but we're not there yet."

Also to be decided before the November election is whether South Dakota will pursue a state-run health insurance exchange, according to Daugaard.

"Some of the things that will bear upon it is the degree to which we can put together a software package to administer an exchange like

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### CORRECTION

Due to incorrect information provided to the *Press & Dakotan*, there was an error on the list of state aid Baldwin Filters received for its expansion project in Friday's story. The company did not obtain a Revolving Economic Development Initiative (REDI) loan through the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

## TransCanada To Help Fund Area River Events

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

[randy.dockendorf@yankton.net](mailto:randy.dockendorf@yankton.net)

In a surprise move, TransCanada has stepped forward and offered \$2,500 and other resources for three financially-strapped Missouri River events.

In past years, the three events — promoting educational outreach and keeping the river clean — operated on a \$2,500 budget. However, the rapid growth of the activities has organizers looking at upwards of a \$5,000 budget for the coming year.

In particular, the educational festival for grades 7-11 has quadrupled in its four-year history, according to Paul Lepisto with the Izaak Walton League of America (IWL). "The festival just keeps growing, and the costs go up incrementally," he said.

TransCanada representatives Rob Latimer and Joe Mueller attended Friday's planning session in Yankton for the events: the May 3 educational festival, the May 4 river clean-up and the multi-weekend clean boat event — starting May 11 — to battle invasive species.

After learning more about the three programs, Latimer offered the Canadian oil firm's assistance. Latimer, a TransCanada community relations specialist from Omaha, said his company provides funding for projects benefit its service area, including Yankton. The company has run its Keystone pipeline across eastern South Dakota and Nebraska, including under the Missouri River at Yankton.

"We have money from our community investment program across our entire pipeline system," he told Friday's gathering at the National Park Service headquarters. "You (organizers) are running your events on

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

TransCanada spokesman Rob Latimer shows a photo of a 21-foot Packman landing craft, one of six being acquired by the oil company, during Friday's meeting at the National Park Service headquarters in Yankton. On behalf of TransCanada, Latimer offered a \$2,500 donation, use of one or more of the landing craft, and company volunteers for three Missouri River events needing cash, volunteers and water craft.

## City To Consider Sports Complex Consultant

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

[nathan.johnson@yankton.net](mailto:nathan.johnson@yankton.net)

The Yankton City Commission will consider hiring a consultant Monday that would evaluate the community's sports facility needs.

At its last meeting, the commission appointed a committee to evaluate the five proposals submitted by interested firms.

They were: 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.

The committee is recommending that Stockwell Engineers be hired.

It agreed that city staff does not have the experience, time or outsider's perspective that is desired for taking on what could be a multi-million dollar proposal for a new complex and/or upgrades to existing facilities over a long period of time.

"It is not the Cadillac of proposals, but we do not want the Cadillac of sports complexes, either," Mayor Nancy Wenande, a member of the committee, said during a media briefing Friday. "We need something that is efficient and the community could use."

Judging from the past, the question of whether the commission will proceed with hiring a consultant is

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## USD Speaker: 'Are The Pre-Roe Vs. Wade Days Here?'

BY DAVID LIAS

[david.lias@plaintalk.net](mailto:david.lias@plaintalk.net)

VERMILLION — American society's acceptance of abortion has waxed and waned over the decades, from somewhat blind acceptance of the practice in the 19th century, to a growing crackdown on both women and abortion practitioners early in the 20th century.

That's according to Leslie J. Reagan, Ph.D., who presented the 2012 Herbert S. Schell Lecture on the University of South Dakota campus in Vermillion Thursday night.

Before a packed audience in the Al Neuhardt Media Center, Reagan noted public sentiment began growing more tolerant toward the practice in the late 1960s, culminating in the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973 that legalized abortion.

**"Certainly, we are in the middle of a war about women's place in society, equality, sexuality and power."**

LESLIE REAGAN

In recent years, she said, societal trends and the actions of federal and state government officials appear to reflect, once again, resistance to abortion even though it has been deemed a legal medical practice in the United States.

"The law is more than the law alone. The rest of the society (outside of government) makes the law. It enforces it or ignores it, or sometimes may even

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**MONDAY:** Absentee Voting Season Is Upon Us

YANKTON RECYCLING NEXT WEEK:

**SOUTH**  
OF 15TH STREET