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BOOTS RESIGNS USD Coach Steps Down • 8

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The Next Challenge



Gloria Pearson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Gloria Pearson was recently named the Secretary of Human Services, where she will oversee all divisions of the Department of Human Services. She previously served 13 years with Ability Building Services in Yankton.

New DHS Secretary Ready To Step Up To Help State

BY ROB NIELSEN
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After 13 years with Ability Building Services (ABS) of Yankton, Gloria Pearson says she is ready for the next challenge in her professional career.

Pearson was announced the newest Secretary of Human Services by Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Friday.

Pearson said she's ready for the new challenge ahead.

"I'm very excited about it," Pearson told the *Press & Dakotan* Tuesday. "I look forward to serving the state of South Dakota and people with disabilities. I feel a lot of good can be done at that level and I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of it."

According to The Associated Press, Pearson has been the executive director of Ability Build-

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GLORIA PEARSON

ing Services, a Yankton community support provider that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, since 2000. Before that, she was executive director of the Community Support Providers of South Dakota, and for 11 years she led a community support

DHS | PAGE 11

Senators Take Up Syria Issue

Boehner's Aboard; Rewrite Would Rule Out Combat Troops

BY DAVID ESPO AND BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama gained ground Tuesday in his drive for congressional backing of a military strike against Syria, winning critical support from House Speaker John Boehner while administration officials agreed to explicitly rule out the use of U.S. combat troops in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack.

"You're probably going to win" Congress' backing, Rand Paul of Kentucky, a conservative senator and likely opponent of the measure, conceded in a late-afternoon exchange with Secretary of State John Kerry.

The leader of House Republicans, Boehner emerged from a meeting at the White House and said the United States has "enemies around the world that need to understand that we're not going to tolerate this type of behavior. We also have allies around the world and allies in the region who also need to know that America will be there and stand up when it's necessary."

Boehner spoke as lawmakers in both parties called for changes in the president's requested legislation, rewriting it to restrict the type and duration of any mili-



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT
Secretary of State John Kerry testifies at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday to argue the Obama administration's case for using military force in Syria on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

tary action that would be authorized, possibly including a ban on U.S. combat forces on the ground.

A new resolution was written Tuesday by Sens. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., and Bob Corker, R-Tenn. It could get a vote by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Wednesday. Menendez is the chairman and Corker is the top Republican on the panel.

"There's no problem in our having the language that has zero capacity for American troops on the ground," said Secretary of State John Kerry, one of three senior officials to make the case for military intervention at the committee's hearing.

Kerry had said earlier in the hearing that he'd prefer not to have such language, hypothesizing the potential need

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TODAY LET'S TALK



Join The P&D Sports Chat From 3:30-4:30 p.m.
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INSIDE



American Profile
Reading, Writing & Farming
Kansas town saves school with agriculture focus

COLD JUSTICE

County Jail Could Cost Taxpayers Little This Year

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
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With a larger-than-usual amount of revenue streaming into the Yankton County jail due to holding prisoners for outside agencies, Sheriff Jim Vlahakis believes the facility could end up costing taxpayers very little this year.

If the jail operation does break even, it will be a first for the county.

"I don't think we'll make money, but we'll come close to off-setting the cost of the jail," Vlahakis said.

The jail budget for 2013 is \$987,558. Vlahakis projects that, if current trends continue, the county could see \$1.02 million in revenue.

"When I first became sheriff, members of the County Commission said, 'We've got this jail that is less than half full, and we'd like to offset some of the expenses,'" he said. "That's what I'm doing."

The facility was built for a maximum of 130 inmates. A record number of 119 prisoners was held on a day last month.

The large numbers are mostly due to a contract the county has with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to hold prisoners. Contracts are



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Jailer Craig Powell oversees movements at the Yankton County jail from the control room. During the last six months, jailers have had a lot more inmates to keep track of due to contracts with outside agencies. The revenue generated could allow the jail operation to nearly break even this year.

also in place to hold prisoners for the U.S. Marshals Service, the Yankton Federal Prison Camp, the state Department of Corrections and nearby counties.

The county holds an average of 60-70 inmates for the BIA and the Marshals Service alone.

JAIL | PAGE 2

Cedar Co. Valuation Soars To \$2B

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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HARTINGTON, Neb. — Continuing its upward spiral, the Cedar County, Neb., assessed valuation has soared \$350 million — from \$1.65 billion last year to \$2 billion this year — for a 21 percent increase.

Cedar County's valuation has doubled in the last four years. The county hit the \$1 billion mark in 2009 but only needed until 2013 to hit the \$2 billion level.

"The last three or four years have been pretty extreme," said Cedar County Assessor Don Hoising. "I have been the assessor since 1995. I don't think I have seen extremes like this until the last few years. Some ag land values have increased 40 percent."

The assessor pointed to one sector fueling the increase in assessed valuation. "It's all pretty much ag land that is driving it," he said.

The demand for farmland remains high, even with the rising costs, Hoising said.

"There is the old saying (about land), they're not making any more of it," he said. "Even with the high rents and everything else, if (farmers)



Cedar County

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YANKTON RECYCLING THIS WEEK:

NORTH

OF 15TH STREET

TOMORROW: Cool Summer Impacts Lake Numbers