



YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN



Northwestern Drops Lancers
Page 8

Volume 140
Number 122

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

75¢



MMC Sees Rise In New Students

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

This school year has begun with some very positive news for Mount Marty College (MMC) - enrollment for true freshmen and transfer students is up.

Paula Tacke, Vice President of Admissions and Marketing, said the number of incoming freshmen even exceeded the school's goal.

"We had a budgeted goal of 104 (true) freshmen this year," Tacke said. "We exceeded that and enrolled 106. That was a 10 percent growth in the number of freshmen we had prior to a year ago."

In addition to the 10 percent increase in freshman enrollment, the school reported an 8 percent increase in transfer students.

She added it was very satisfying to see the students who'd been showing interest in the spring commit to MMC.

"I was really pleased," she said. "Even when we started to see students registering this spring, I felt that we would have a nice little jump in our numbers. But things change sometimes for these students over the summer as well, so I was kind of keeping my fingers crossed that, in fact, we'd see those students enroll - which they did. It was pleasing and we're hoping to continue to press forward and modestly try to grow those numbers each year."

Tacke said this is big news because it's become increasingly harder for schools to bring in new freshmen.

"I've talked to a lot of my counterparts at various colleges and a little bit beyond (about) the challenge that it is anymore to try and grow that traditional freshman and transfer enrollment," she said. "Some of those are dwindling markets and there's lots of different options out there."

Tacke said the increase was largely due to the work the staff has done on recruitment.

"I would attribute a lot to the really hard work of our admissions office - there's no question they have a very personalized style of recruiting," she said. "I think it's been a campus-wide effort to really try to make it a very personalized recruiting relationship we have with those students."

Additionally, Tacke cites the college's ability to compete with others for students.

"We feel we're fairly competitive in what we can do between academic scholarships and athletic awards," she said. "People perceive private (institutions) as being out of touch

MMC | PAGE 13

S.D. Teachers Wanted

Survey Shows Unfilled Teaching Jobs Across State

BY KEVIN BURBACH
Associated Press

PIERRE (AP) — More than 20 percent of South Dakota public schools had at least one unfilled teaching position on the first day of school, according to a statewide survey of superintendents released Wednesday.

Thirty-one district superintendents said in the School Administrators of South Dakota survey said that they had an open position, though that number could be even higher, as about 9

percent of the state's 151 districts did not respond. One district reported having eight openings, while another said it had more than 20.

Education advocates and school officials have been petitioning legislators to address the teacher shortage, citing low pay, relocations and retirements as contributing factors. Last week, a group of education officials suggested creating a 1-cent summer sales tax to go toward increasing teacher salaries.

South Dakota ranks last in the nation for teacher pay with an average of \$39,018 com-

pared with a national average of \$56,103, according to the National Education Association.

About half of the survey respondents said they had four or fewer candidates for open teaching positions in their districts. Fifty-four respondents said applicants turned down a job offer because of a low salary.

At the Estelline district, Superintendent Pat Kranning said they've seen a dramatic decrease in applicants

"For our fifth-grade position to have 11 or 12 applicants, that's unheard of," he said. "Fifteen

TEACHERS | PAGE 13

Challenges And Opportunities

Abbott Gives State Of University Address

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
randy.dockendorf@yankton.net

VERMILLION — University of South Dakota President Jim Abbott can't discuss this fall's final enrollment figures until the Board of Regents releases the numbers next week.

However, he knows he wants to attract more first-time, full-time students. He wants more minorities and international students, and he wants to retain more students and raise the graduation rate.

And along the way, he wants improved support services for all students as they balance their studies, jobs and families.

Abbott shared those priorities Wednesday during his 18th annual "State of the University" address.

"There are challenges and opportunities," he said. "But it's a two-sided coin. Challenges are opportunities."

The USD enrollment has reached 10,000 students in recent years. However, the face of the USD student body has changed greatly, Abbott said.

Rather than the traditional full-time students on campus, today's enrollment contains a mix of on-campus students, those taking on-line and off-campus courses, and students who choose a hybrid experience by mixing the way they take courses.

"They say they want to attend courses at the University, but they vote with their feet," he said. "If there is the least bit of inconvenience, they take courses (other ways). Convenience trumps everything else."

The situation provides challenges when recruiting and retaining students, Abbott said. It also changes the dynamics of campus life.

"The vibrancy of the campus depends on the undergraduate students," he said. "You just



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D
University of South Dakota President Jim Abbott delivers his priorities Wednesday during his 18th annual "State of the University" address on the Vermillion campus.

"The vibrancy of the campus depends on the undergraduate students. You just need to stand at the (Muenster University Center) at 11 o'clock, 12, 1 or even 3 or 10 (o'clock) to see how full it is. You see how much they enjoy it."

JIM ABBOTT

need to stand at the (Muenster University Center) at 11 o'clock, 12, 1 or even 3 or 10 (o'clock) to see how full it is. You see how much they enjoy it."

The student vibrancy can be found elsewhere on campus, Abbott said.

"We had 1,700 (students) signed into the wellness center on the first day of school," he said.

The number of USD first-time, full-time undergraduate students had risen by approximately 250 students from 2009 to 2013, Abbott said.

"Suffice it to say, increasing the number of first-time, full-time undergraduates is critical," the president said.

USD | PAGE 13

Grant Gives Road Project A Boost

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

A Yankton road project meant to aid one business' expansion and facilitate more industrial growth on the north side of town has received a boost.

The city's plan to extend Douglas Ave. and improve Wilson Rd. was approved for a \$500,000 Local Infrastructure Improvement Grant by the Board of Economic Development with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED).

Community Development Director Dave Mingo said the project would lengthen Douglas Ave. to Wilson Rd. and upgrade Wilson Rd. to Broadway Ave.

The total cost of the project is \$2.7 million.

Mingo told the *Press & Dakotan* Wednesday a major part of the Wilson Rd. improvement stems from Wilson Trailer's expansion plans.

"It's based on ... providing them better access to the plant for their shipping and employee access," Mingo said. "Right now, they're on an unimproved, dead-end (road) situation."

In a GOED press release Tuesday, city manager Amy Nelson said this will be a huge benefit for Yankton's industrial development.

"This award, along with the city of Yankton's investment, is a big step toward furthering our economic development goals," Nelson said. "This is an exciting growth opportunity because completion of the project will help support the expansion of one of the city's largest manufacturing employers. It will also help retail and aviation-related industries on the north side of Yankton."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in the release that maintaining infrastructure is critical to development.

"The approved funding will go toward constructing a road designed specifically for industrial use," Daugaard said. "And these funds will alleviate safety concerns, such as narrowness, surrounding the existing road."

In addition to aiding Wilson Trailer, the project is also hoped to facilitate growth on a piece of land between Wilson and Menard's, currently owned by

ROAD | PAGE 7



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

High yields are expected for Cedar County, Nebraska, crops, however, harvest is expected to later than normal thanks to the cool, wet weather that has been experienced much of the summer and fall.

Cedar County Expects Later, Wetter Harvest

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
shauna.marlette@yankton.net

Farmers in Cedar County, Nebraska can expect a potential delay of harvest up to 2-4 weeks this season, pushing harvest into mid-November, due to the cool, wet weather that has been prevalent this summer.

Jim Jansen, University Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) Extension agent, said the wet, cool summer provided a great growing environment for ear fill, but at the same time has not provided the heat units needed to finish the plants and dry them for harvest.

"Crops are just behind in the county," Jansen said. "Both corn and



Cedar County

soybeans are behind where they would be expected to be at this time of

year. The delay is due to the wet, cool, cloudy weather we have been experiencing."

According to the UNL website Cropwatch, Cedar County — specifically the Hartington area — has received more than 150 percent the normal amounts of rain seen in a season with 28.19 inches of rain recorded this year compared with a normal average of 18.83 inches per season. That

trend has continued in the last week when 1.2 inches of rain was received, against the normal average of .78 inches. With more rain predicted for next week, experts say that trend will continue.

Adding that he wasn't sure if there would be enough heat units available to dry the crops in the field at this point, Jansen said that based on what he is seeing in the fields of the county, there will be a lot of drying going on after harvest.

"The wetter, cooler temperatures are going to force our local coops and farmers to spend more time drying the

CEDAR | PAGE 13