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Volume 141  
Number 121

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

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# Highway 50 Project Nearing Start

**Yankton: Low Bid For First Phase Of Reconstruction Project Comes In Near Estimate**

BY ROB NIELSEN  
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One more piece in the puzzle necessary to driving the Highway 50 reconstruction project Yankton forward is falling into place.

A bid of \$5.8 million for phase one of the project — Broadway Ave. through Marne Creek — from D&G Concrete Construction of Sioux Falls is awaiting final approval from the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT).

SDDOT project engineer Greg Rothschadl

told the *Press & Dakotan* he anticipates the contract will be finalized shortly.

"The Transportation Commission has not awarded the contract yet," Rothschadl said. "That is going to happen here in the next week or so, but we don't see there being any problem with it because it was so close to the engineer's estimate."

Rothschadl said the engineer's estimate for the segment was \$5.6 million and that the project received three total bids.

He added that some work may start soon. "There is possibly some work that could

start this fall," he said. "They might do some traffic signals at (the intersection of) Second St. and Broadway Ave. We'll have some temporary traffic signals there. Also, there's a pipe that goes across Burleigh St. on the south side of Highway 50 down to Marne Creek that they can do this fall yet. That would be the only work this fall."

The main part of phase one of construction is set to begin in the spring of 2016.

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Bashir Abdalkreem, shown here during last Saturday's Yankton High School football game in Sioux Falls, arrived in Yankton when he was in elementary school. He and his family moved from their native Iraq after a series of family tragedies: His mother was shot six times in 2004 but survived, and his brother was killed and father kidnapped during a home invasion in 2006.

## 'I Don't Want To Live In The Past'

But For One YHS Student From Iraq, The Past Has Defined His Outlook On The Future

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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**B**ashir Abdalkreem describes his life as a "mystery." The memories — many of them disturbing — are clear, but there remain so many unknowns. Who shot his mother? Who killed his brother? What became of his father? "Some parts are cut out, and you don't know," the 17-year-old Yankton High School senior said. "You have to guess."

Abdalkreem, who was born in Iraq and moved to Yankton before his fifth-grade year, doesn't mind sharing his story. It's part of who he is, he said. Sure, there are questions he would like to eventually find the answers to, but he's also had to move on with his life.

"I asked God, 'Why? Why did this happen?'" said Abdalkreem, who is a football and wrestling standout at YHS. "It's part of life. Things happen. If it's meant to be, it's meant to be."

Yet, for Abdalkreem, his past is marked by tragedy.

He was 7 years old when his mother, Mayasa Abass, was shot by terrorists in front of a U.S. military compound in Iraq in 2004. She was hit by six rounds — three times in the arm and three in the stomach — but survived.

Abdalkreem was just 9 two years later when his brother, Amen, was killed and his father was kidnapped and never seen again.

The remaining family members — Abdalkreem, along with his mother and two sisters, Banan and Sarah — fled to Syria before moving to the United States.

Nearly a decade has passed, and while Abdalkreem has shared his story with church groups in Yankton as well as his football teammates, he has tried to move on from those horrific memories.

"When I was younger, it was very hard for me," he said. "Sometimes you have to forget; can't totally forget, but you have to move on."

"I don't want to live in the past."

For those who have gotten to know him and who have embraced his family, Abdalkreem's story is certainly hard to comprehend.

"He's gone through more in his 17 years than most people will in a lifetime," Yankton football coach Arlin Likness said. "And most people wouldn't want to go through what he's gone through."

**Bashir Abdalkreem**

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### Tax Revenue During Rally Up 76 Percent Over 2014

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota officials say the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally this year not only brought in hordes of people, but plenty of money, too.

The South Dakota Department of Revenue says tax revenue collected from this year's rally is up 76 percent compared to last year.

So far the state has collected more than \$2.4 million during the rally period. That's up from almost \$1.4 million a year ago.

There were 1,438 vendors in the Black Hills during the rally and temporary vendor sales totaled over \$33 million. The previous record for number of vendors during the rally was 1,393, which was set in 2005.

This year's Sturgis rally was the 75th annual gathering in the Black Hills and was estimated to be one of the busiest on record.

### Crofton City Officials, Former Clerk Reach Agreement Over Funds

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF  
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CROFTON, Neb. — Crofton city officials have begun what they consider the healing process after discovering the misappropriation of funds.

At Tuesday night's meeting of the Crofton City Council, City Manager Charlie Gail Hendrix announced a settlement has been reached with former city clerk Nancy Foxhoven and her lawyer, Norfolk attorney Ron Temple.

"We expect the agreement will be finalized in 10 to 14 days," Hendrix said. Hendrix anticipates more details will be released once the parties finalize the agreement.

The exact amount of the misappropriated funds hasn't been announced yet.

At Tuesday's meeting, the council also released a list of recommendations that included spreading



Crofton, Nebraska, city councilmen Chad Reifernath (left) and Steve Kuehler discuss business during Tuesday night's meeting.

financial responsibilities among different city offices rather than allowing the concentration of financial duties with one person. The city is also looking at reforms in its financial reporting, software, auditing and training procedures.

In addition, the council approved the raising of the city mill levy to 50 cents per \$100 of assessed val-

uation. The 4-cent increase would amount to a \$40 tax increase for a home assessed at \$100,000.

City officials also talked about the impact that the financial recovery process could have on planned city projects. The city has been collecting historical

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with Event Speaker **Julie Clark**

New Location!

**Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>**  
NFAA Easton Archery Complex

Advance Tickets Only \$20

Tickets available at Yankton Hy-Vee and the Press & Dakotan  
Doors Open at 11:00 am  
Lunch Served 12:30pm-1:45pm  
Speaker 2pm • Booths Open at 11am