



Thunderstorms Likely

9 a.m. **68** 3 p.m. **77** | DETAILS: Page 2

WEDNESDAY ■ September 23, 2015



Lincoln Spoils Home Finale For YHS • 7

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

Volume 141 Number 127

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

75¢



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton County Commissioner listens in during a discussion on the state of bridges across the James River during Tuesday afternoon's commission meeting.

Complaint Investigation Turns Up No Wrongdoing

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

The Yankton County Commission didn't violate any open meetings laws in the process of setting a commission vote on the road and bridge levy for July 15 nor have any laws been broken in the publication of tax rolls.

This was according to Rob Klimisch, Yankton County States Attorney, during Tuesday's regular meeting of the County Commission.

"I reviewed the statutes and I also talked to the attorney general's office, and told them and showed them everything regarding information that was discriminated and what's occurred," Klimisch said. "Our office came to the conclusion that there's been no violation. In addition, we talked to the attorney general's office and they came to the same conclusion."

Accusations had been levied by an area resident that the commission had broken open meetings laws when announcing a special meeting in July to meet a deadline for a vote on a proposed road and bridge levy. It was also alleged that the commission had further violated the law in how it posted tax rolls online.

Klimisch said the open meetings accusation had to be handled by another county attorney.

"Regarding the open meetings claim of a violation, what happens when you have a violation claim — I, as the attorney for Yankton County, am not able to review the information or check the information," he said. "The typical response is to turn it to another state's attorney. I did turn it over to (Clay County State's Attorney) Teddi Gertsma — which I have on other issues. ... Basically, I just got a response today that the Clay County review of our open meetings (situation) was not a violation of the open meetings statute."

In a written report dated Tuesday, Gertsma wrote the following: "My investigation finds that the Yankton County Auditor properly posted the notice of the July 15, 2015, meeting and properly posted on the Yankton County website a copy of the agenda for the July 15, 2015 special meeting. ... I find the Yankton County Commission did not commit an open meeting violation on July 15, 2015."

Commission chairman Todd

COUNTY | PAGE 10

Platte Deaths Lead To Finance Inquiry

Suspected Murder-Suicide Came After State Pulled Contract

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — State officials confirmed Tuesday that authorities are now investigating the finances of a Platte man who allegedly killed his wife and their four children before shooting himself last week.

Scott Westerhuis was business manager for Mid Central Education Cooperative based at Platte.

Tony Venhuizen, the governor's chief of staff, revealed Tuesday that the cooperative last week lost a major grant intended to help American Indian children try college after high

school graduation.

The shootings and a fire at the family home happened before sunrise the next day.

Venhuizen said that on Wednesday, Sept. 16, state Education Secretary Melody Schopp informed the cooperative's leadership that her office wouldn't use the cooperative any longer to manage a \$4.3 million federal GEAR UP grant.

Firefighters responded to a blaze in the early hours of Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Westerhuis home in rural Platte. The bodies of Scott West-



Jackley

erhuis and his wife, Nicole, and their four children were found in the remains of the house.

Nicole Westerhuis also worked for the cooperative.

State Attorney General Marty Jackley announced late Monday, Sept. 21, that the initial investigation indicated Scott Westerhuis used a shotgun to kill his wife and the four children.

Jackley said Westerhuis then killed himself with a shotgun.

"I can confirm there are no other suspects," Sara Rabern, a spokeswoman for the attorney

PLATTE | PAGE 11

On The Fast Track



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Construction work continues on a new outdoor track complex at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. The facility, which will be ready for the 2016 outdoor season, features a nine-lane, 400-meter track that coaches are already calling one of the finest in the Midwest.

USD Invests In New Running Track

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

VERMILLION — At the University of South Dakota, there was the DakotaDome for indoor track. But no on-campus options for outdoor track.

That was the scenario facing Dave Gottsleben when he was hired as men's track coach at USD in the fall of 1984.

His only option was to haul his athletes across town to practice at the Vermillion High School track. And that remained Gottsleben's — and his team's — only option for the next 31 years.

"We've had a good collaboration all these years," Gottsleben said.

While it was far from an ideal situation, there was nothing USD could do. The Coyotes didn't have an outdoor track complex of their own. No place to call their own. No home meets in the spring.

That is all about to change. Work has quickly progressed on USD's new \$5.5 million outdoor track facility, which will boast a nine-lane, 400-meter, NCAA-certified track and field events inside the complex which will be ready for action after the new year. The unofficial christening of the complex will come

in May 2016 when USD hosts the Summit League outdoor track meet.

And considering what USD's track programs have already accomplished — thanks in large part to the DakotaDome — without their own outdoor facility, the impact of the new complex can understandably be hard to fathom, according to sophomore Brooke Ireland.

"Now we're bringing that same thing outside," said Ireland, a Sturgis native.

"I think it speaks to how this program is growing. It's the start of a whole new cycle for us, in recruiting and in competing on the highest level."

BROOKE IRELAND

women's programs have long been successful without their own outdoor track.

Women's head coach Lucky Huber — entering his 22nd year — has guided USD to 10 indoor conference titles and six outdoor titles, while Gottsleben has led the men to 21 total conference championships.

Sure, maybe most of those league titles have come in indoor meets, but perhaps the new outdoor track will eventually even out those numbers.

TRACK | PAGE 10

SD Revenue Hikes Bring In More Funding For Roads And Bridges

BY JAMES NORD
Associated Press

PIERRE — South Dakota has raised at least \$20 million more for road and bridge funding since a package of tax and fee hikes went into effect earlier this year, and Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office said Tuesday he is confident the measure will meet initial fiscal expectations.

Revenues were up at least \$20 million from April through August over the same period last year, according to rough figures from the Department of Revenue. Projections pegged the infrastructure package at bringing in about \$85 million in its first year through fuel taxes, fees and other assessments. Most of the measure went into effect April 1, including a 6-cent hike in gas taxes.

"The Governor believes this is on track with what we hoped and is pleased that we will be maintaining and improving our highways and bridges," spokeswoman Kelsey Prichard said in a statement.

During a legislative oversight panel meeting Tuesday, Department of Revenue Secretary Andy Gerlach said the agency would provide lawmakers with more information in the future about the infrastructure package revenue.

"It's too hard to know, but I think we're definitely seeing an increase, and I think we'll see more of a positive increase as we go forward," Gerlach said in an interview. "I don't know if we'll get to the \$85 (million), but we'll get more money in the highway fund, I guarantee you that."

Department of Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist told lawmakers on the Government Operations and Audit Committee that the extra funding has come in too late to impact this year's construction season.

The additional funding will allow officials to complete more construction projects that need to be finished without having to

REVENUE | PAGE 10



with Event Speaker Julie Clark

FREE Wine Tasting

Saturday, Oct. 17th
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



REGION 2 | OBITUARIES 3 | MIDWEST 3 | VIEWS 4 | LIFE 5 | SPORTS 7 | CLASSIFIEDS 9 | WORLD 12

TOMORROW: National Drug Take-Back Day Set

YANKTON RECYCLING FOR THIS WEEK
SOUTH
OF 15TH STREET