



ESD Tennis Tournament Opens In Yankton Monday • 7

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Roundabout Reaction

Nebraska DOT Holds Roundabout Project Meeting In Crofton

BY MARK MAHONEY
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CROFTON, Neb. — Members of the public were certainly engaged during a Monday meeting hosted by the Nebraska Department of Transportation (DOT) about a rural roundabout project in Cedar County.

About 70 people attended the Nebraska DOT's community engagement event held at the Crofton (Nebraska) City Auditorium, where officials with the state agency shared information during presentations and answered questions about how roundabouts work, how and why they improve

safety and traffic flow and what the potential installation of one to the east of Crofton means for the region.

The Nebraska DOT has proposed an approximately \$7.4 million transportation improvement project — the planned construction of a rural, single-lane roundabout next year — at the intersection of U.S. Highway 81 and Nebraska Highway 12, located about 10 miles south of Yankton. Officials with the state agency also shared information and answered questions about this significant road reconstruction during the meeting.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), a roundabout is a one-way, circular intersection without traffic signal equipment in

which vehicles flow around a center island. The FHWA considers roundabouts a proven safety countermeasure because they can substantially reduce crashes that result in serious injuries or death.

The purpose of the Nebraska DOT's roundabout project at the junction of Highways 81 and 12 is "to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes, improve the reliability of the transportation system and perpetuate the mobility of the traveling public," according to a legal notice from the state agency.



MARK MAHONEY/P&D

Mick Syslo, the Nebraska Department of Transportation's deputy director of engineering, talks to Legislative District 40 Sen. Barry DeKay during a Monday meeting hosted by the state agency in Crofton, Nebraska, about a rural roundabout project.

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DAVID LIAS/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Susan Tuve told University of South Dakota graduates Saturday that during her years of involvement with the USD Foundation, she met many individuals who valued the education they received at USD and who wanted to give back. "Because of them, there are now scholarships and opportunities on this campus for you and for those who follow you," she said. "I hope you, too, will give back with your time, knowledge, and resources."

USD: At Commencement, Tuve Urges Grads To 'Give Back'

BY DAVID LIAS
For The Plain Talk

VERMILLION — Susan Tuve told graduates of the University of South Dakota Saturday that her education at the Vermillion campus helped her advance in her career in trust and investment banking, even though she faced setbacks simply because she is a woman.

"The year I graduated, the Vietnam War was raging. Men had walked on the moon in July of that year. The economy was in recession," she said. "Jobs we had hoped for were nonexistent."

Tuve, of Vermillion, was keynote speaker at the university's 139th annual commencement exercises, held May 9 in the Sanford Coyote Sports Center on the USD campus.

She considered attending graduate school, but her parents, who had financially

supported her undergraduate education, told her she would have to get a job to pay for her graduate studies.

"I got a job in a bank in the trust department. I started at the bottom and worked my way up, retiring as a senior vice president. My education did not spare me from professional disappointments," she said. "At one point, I was denied a promotion because I was a woman. But my education provided the tools for me to redirect when faced with challenges, adapt to a changing world, be a discerning consumer of news, focus on what is important, and serve and care for others."

Tuve said her four-year degree provided her time to take classes outside of her major field of anthropology and explore new interests "which I hope has made me a more curious and engaged person."

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YSD Board Hears About Security Efforts In Strategic Plan

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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During the last two years, the Yankton School District has taken many steps to upgrade safety for students and staff throughout the buildings, the school board learned Monday night.

The board heard updates on its five-year goals, known as the Forward 2029 Strategic Plan. The reports covered three different areas: school safety, student achievement and family and community engagement.

Matt Decker, assistant principal at Yankton Middle School (YMS), spoke about the first area and the priority placed on safety and security. The committee includes Yankton High School (YHS) Assistant Principal Shaun Streyle and school resource officers (SROs).

"There is nothing more important than school safety, and I would say all of us on our committee really bought into this and feel really great passion and ownership of school safety," Decker said.

Decker commended the SROs — saying he needed to "brag" about them — for their daily presence and actions, going beyond the call of duty.

Last week, one of the SROs provided his annual analysis of year-to-date incident data, Decker said. The data looked at illegal activities occurring in the building.

In addition, the SROs complete annual training and are part of national and state organizations, the principal said. He credited the officers for acting on illegal activities in the school and providing deterrence.

"They play a major role in the safety of all our students," Decker said.

The second objective deals with safety protocols. Those programs include School Safety Night and the "I Love U Guys" Foundation's program for crisis response and post-crisis reunification.

"Earlier this year, we developed on our website a school safety tab, which I think is so

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Decision 2026

Auch Sets Sights On County Post

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of profiles on the Republican candidates for Yankton County Commission. The primary election day is June 2. Early voting is underway.

- NAME: Julie Auch
- OCCUPATION/FAMILY: I am

a business owner in Yankton, and my husband Gary and I farm in the northwest corner of Yankton County, where we raised our four children and are now blessed with eight grandchildren.



Auch

• PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: I currently serve as your District 18 State Representative, where I have remained committed to the principles of God, Family, and Country. As a lifelong resident of Yankton County and a graduate of Yankton High School and Mount Marty College, I understand the values and traditions that make Yankton County such a special place to live and raise a family.

• Why are you running?

I am running for the Yankton County Commission for one simple reason, to stand up for the people of Yankton County -not the over-paid bureaucrats, not the special interest, and out-of-touch decision makers. I have attended numerous Yankton County Commission ses-

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City, YPD Laud YHS Students For Work On Training House

BY JAY GRAVHOLT
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Some young builders from Yankton High School were recognized at Monday night's Yankton City Commission meeting.

Students of Yankton High School (YHS) Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Bret Johnson recently built a mock training house for the Yankton Police Department's training exercises. The students built the "house" in the basement of the Public Safety Center, where the old Youth Center used to be.

Yankton Police Chief Jason Foote in-

troduced Johnson and the students to the commission and explained what a gift this was to Yankton taxpayers.

"I just wanted to recognize the building trades class and the welding class," Foote said. "Mr. Johnson, with their assistance and Yankton School District assistance, were able to save us a significant amount of money in providing a mock training house. Our average bids were about \$46,000. But, when it's all said and done, we're going to pay about \$800 for this building that these kids took the time to build before the end of

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YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS

ROBERT
GLEICH

For Yankton County Commission

I would appreciate your
VOTE on or before June 2

Paid for by Bob Gleich for Yankton County Commission